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Inside:   **3** The Yemen Times investigates Bin Laden's family roots in Yemen  **5** Photo Essay: Elections take over Taiz  **7** A passage to hope: Women and international migration

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Do you think that the kidnapping tribesmen are taking advantage of the elections fever to get away with their demands?
 I don't know (6%)
 No (25%)
 Yes (69%)
 This edition's question:
 Do you think that the recent deaths caused by rally stampede would affect the GPC's presidential candidate's popularity in the coming elections?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
 Go to our website at:
 yementimes.com/#poll
 and have your voice heard

Ibb stadium death toll expected to reach 118

A stampede and collapsing walls caused the deaths of more than 62 Yemenis in Ibb, mostly men, during a presidential rally Tuesday.

**By: Nashwan Dammaj
 Yemen Times Staff, and Agencies**

IBB, Sept. 13 — The number of casualties resulting from the Ibb Sports Stadium presidential rally potentially could reach 118, according to the head of Ibb's criminal investigation department. The staggering number of people, whose weight fences couldn't handle, caused portions of the stadium wall to collapse, crushing those below.

Led by Ibb's governor, the local council authority has launched an investigation into the incident. According to Yemen's Saba News Agency, President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued a statement wherein he declared the deceased martyrs of democracy and ordered YR 1 million in financial aid given to their families.

He also instructed the state to cover the medical expenses of all those injured, in addition to compensating them with certain monetary amounts. Dedicating YR 25 million for such

medical care, the government announced that the campaign rallies will continue.

Up until Wednesday night, confirmed deaths numbered 62: 38 reported at Al-Thawra Hospital and 24 at Nasir Hospital. Six bodies were transported from Ibb's Al-Thawra Hospital to Taiz due to lack of space in local morgues.

What really happened
 More than 200,000 people were crammed inside and around the stadium,



Dead bodies scattered at the hospital yards.

whose maximum capacity is 10,000. Movement in and out of the stadium was restrained because only two of four gates were open — one for men and the other for women. "The place was very crowded. We barely could breathe and of course those big posters and banners made the situation worse," one attendee said.

Thorough security measures were taken as citizens entered the stadium, with grid bars installed to limit movement and allow checking for weapons. Such measures weren't removed in time for citizens to exit the stadium, so men hastily began climbing the 1.5-meter walls to get out. The weight of the men scaling the walls caused some segments to collapse, crushing those below and causing the deaths of more than 40.

This happened a few minutes after Saleh finished his campaign speech, when the crowd began moving and caused a stampede. Moreover, the rushing masses exiting through the open gate uprooted the security grids, thus creating an opening in the ground approximately two meters deep.

The opening beneath the surface increased due to an old water channel buried underground. Some men who



While transporting some of the deceased to the hospitals.

fell into the opening died instantly, while others were taken to the hospital in critical condition. A statement from Ibb's provincial government put the death toll on Wednesday at 51, with more than 230 injured.

Hospitals and medical care
 President Saleh briefly visited hospi-

tals where the dead and injured were transported, becoming angry at their miserable conditions. Official sources said he urged hospital management to provide the victims their utmost care.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing children and teenagers among the bodies brought to hospitals from the stadium.

Continued on page 2

3,000 bombs destroyed in Aden

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

ADEN, Sept. 13 — Yemeni authorities in Aden destroyed 3,000 old bombs collected from Badr, Tariq and Hadid Mountain military camps in the desert near Lahj governorate's Al-Waht district.

All camps situated within Aden city were emptied of old bombs, which were collected at five points. According to Aden Governor Ahmed Al-Kuhlani, the collected and destroyed shells amounted to 3,000.

He also mentioned that Aden authorities are working on ridding the camps



Jabal Hadid while burning last Wednesday.

of all old shells, stressing that last Wednesday's explosion at a munitions storage on Hadid Mountain was caused by heat.

The incident claimed the lives of three individuals: two women and an elderly man. Additionally, the blast

destroyed a nearby mosque, a building in Al-Muala and a house in Khour Maksar, as well as numerous other houses in various areas of Aden.

Al-Kuhlani added that authorities are financially compensating those affected by the incident, with damages being estimated by a field committee.

It isn't the first time explosions have occurred on Hadid Mountain, as similar explosions rocked the area following the 1994 Civil War. The cause of the most recent explosion hasn't been determined yet, but some attribute it to poor storage conditions, heat, weapons friction or an electrical fault.

More time for the kidnapers

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Sept. 13 — Yemeni authorities will give the kidnapers of four French tourists more days to free the hostages, official said on Wednesday.

According to Khaleej Times, who quoted an official who speaking from the southeast region where the four hostages are held, the government is avoiding the use of force to free the French hostages.

"We don't want to use force immediately. We can give them two or three days to negotiate in order to release the hostages peacefully," the official said.

The remarks came after the warning by the kidnapers saying they will kill the tourists and the Yemeni translator if the government uses any type of military force to free them.

The four tourists, all men, were abducted by armed members from the Al-Abdullah Bin Dahla tribe on Sunday in Shabwa province 300 km

from Sana'a.

The same clan kidnapped a German diplomat and his family last December.

According to a local newspaper the four tourists were in a convoy of foreign tourists when armed gunmen blocked their vehicle and took them hostage. They were taken to Rasad region, the stronghold of the al-Abdullah tribe, in a mountainous region difficult for vehicles to reach.

The kidnapers are demanding that five members of their family be released from jail in exchange for the release of the tourists.

According to local authorities the kidnapping was a result of the failure of government authorities to fulfill their promise to release the jailed members last year in exchange for the German family.

The jailed tribesmen are being held over a blood feud against members of a rival tribe in the same region, media sources quoted officials.

Local authorities have so far said they will only comply with these demands after the presidential elections next Wednesday.

One of the leaders of the al-Abdullah tribe, Mallah Ziyara, said the tribe was surprised by the kidnapping, which was carried out by some members "who do not represent the tribe." He added the kidnapers were warned force would be used against them if the tourists were not released.

Elderly tribesmen began mediation efforts with the kidnapers immediately after the announcement of the kidnapping. In addition, President Ali Abdullah Saleh chose his former defense minister, Abdullah Ali Elaiwah, to head a committee for talks between the government and Al-Abdullah tribe. The source said the negotiations also include deputy education minister Abdul-Aziz bin Habtor and Dr. Naser al-Awlaqi.

Continued on page 1

JMP denounces fund exploitation, legal violations

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, Sept. 11 — A Joint Meeting Parties press conference last Thursday at Yemeni Socialist Party headquarters in Al-Safiah area in Sana'a reviewed election developments thus far by focusing on the ruling party's undemocratic practices, violations committed and illegal use of public funds and media, displaying documents and checks revealing ruling party infringements.

Described as brief yet important, the conference kicked off with a speech by JMP media official Mohammed Qahtan, who highlighted the importance of coalition between the main opposition parties, considering them the creators of national change at all levels.

He also pointed out some General People's Congress violations of the

recent agreement of principles, hinting at the Faisal Bin Shamlan campaign procession's interception at the entrance to Dhamar city.

Soldiers at a newly established checkpoint at the Dhamar city entrance intercepted the JMP presidential candidate's procession, refusing the entry of Bin Shamlan's assigned bodyguards, who only were allowed to do so after some dignitaries intervened. Further, Bin Shamlan supporters and crowds weren't allowed into the stadium where the rally was being held, according to a Sept. 7 press release.

Qahtan also declared true democracy is nonexistent in Yemen and highlighted the need for patience in this respect.

"We still have to wait. Yemenis hope to overthrow the existing regime, so we must seize the opportunity without caring too much about obstacles," Qahtan



JMP officials at the conference.

asserted.

He also pointed out the importance of peaceful struggle because using power to face tyrannical regimes has proven unsuccessful, hinting at the 70-year

experience of leftist, national and Islamic forces, whose armed encounters with oppressive systems resulted in the former's victory.

Continued on page 2

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In brief

Taiz

Ambitions With No Borders program
Sept. 9 — The National Cultural Centre for Youth, in collaboration with UNDP, Microsoft and Telecommunication and Information Technology program, launched the Ambitions with No Border program last week. The project aims to raise youth participation, enhance abilities and create jobs. The project will set up an electronic library, aiming at providing the youth with knowledge. It will involve more than 2000 youth in Taiz, Mukalla and Hodeidah.

Al-Jawf

Human rights center opens
Sept. 12 — A new center for development and human rights was established in Al-Jawf. It aims to create infrastructure in the government and to enhance the social awareness among people and to combat revenge. The center concentrates on tourist development and to cultivate young men and women about human rights issues and to stand against violence and assaults.

Sa'ada

Women's legal rights
Sept. 9 — A second session on legal protection and advocacy for women prisoners discussed women's rights in the Yemeni Constitution and Islamic sharia law. Organized by the Yemeni Women's Union in Sa'ada, the session discussed women's rights concerning inheritance, Yemeni legislation and methods to make women aware of their rights in Islam. Participants discussed obstacles women face in development, as well as the status of women prisoners and violence against them.

Sana'a

Brain and nerves surgery
Sept. 11 — Dr. Jorn-Andre Horashek delivered a lecture highlighting the importance brain and nerve surgery Sept. 7. He described partial treatment using modern means to through reach the brain via a small hole in the skull for surgery and scanning. The lecture targeted doctors and specialists in the hospital.

Fish species prevented from export

The Ministry of Fish Wealth announced postponement in exporting eight fish species over the next three months to meet local market needs. The ministry stated that fish species prevented from export decreased from 23 after complaints by fish unions and export firms regarding storage of the expensive varieties in local markets and local unwillingness buy them. The storage led to accumulation of the species and drove down their prices preventing fishermen from benefiting from the sale of such species in external markets.

Amran

Cultural week for handicapped
Sept. 9 — The first cultural week for the handicapped organized by the Handicapped Fund for Care and Rehabilitation concluded Thursday. Cultural, awareness and sports activities aimed to develop handicapped citizens' capabilities to become integrated into society. The governorate's Social Affairs Office director confirmed the importance of supporting handicapped and developing their abilities in computer and handicraft skills.

Ibb

Japan supports Deaf and Mute Care
Sept. 13 — The Government of Japan extended a grant of US\$65,700 to the Deaf and Mute Care and Rehabilitation Society in Ibb. The grant will be used to purchase two buses to carry the students of the society site.

Aden

Private health growing
Sept. 9 — Licensed private health establishments in various Aden districts numbered 73 between January and August 2006, as stated by the director of health establishments. The establishments consist of a specialized hospital, 22 labs, 20 clinics and nine health centers. There are currently 651 private health establishments in Aden.

First human development meeting

Sept. 10 — A six-day meeting for human development was organized by the Electronic Society Association, in cooperation with the Tawden Center for Human Development. Participants will discuss a training program and diploma for programming and font analysis. The meeting aims to create good relations between individuals and show them how they can turn their weaknesses into strengths by studying their behavior and potential to assist them in understanding and accepting others in their workplaces.

49% choose Saleh, 30% Bin Shamlan, survey finds

By: Adel Al-Khawani

SANA'A, Sept. 13 — According to a public opinion survey, 49 percent of Yemenis surveyed want General People's Congress candidate Ali Abdullah Saleh to lead the country in the next presidential term.

Thirty percent of those surveyed declared that they'll vote for Joint Meeting Parties presidential candidate, Faisal Bin Shamlan, while nearly 14 percent stated that they haven't yet decided who to vote for Sept. 20. A further 5.3 percent refused to answer.

Independent contenders for Yemen's highest political post, Fatahi Al-Azab and Ahmad Al-Majidi, received 1 and 0.4 percent of votes, respectively, while National Opposition Assembly candidate Yaseen Abdo Sa'ee received no votes.

Of those surveyed, 86.3 percent confirmed that they'll vote in the Sept.



YPC President, Hafez Al-Bukari (left) and two of his YPC staff members announcing results of the polls before attendants

20 presidential and local elections, 6.5 percent said they'll boycott the elections and 6.8 percent said they're unsure whether they'll vote or not.

Survey results revealed that more than 53 percent of the sample expects

voting fraud in the elections. Similarly, 53.5 percent expect violence in the elections.

Nearly 79 percent of those surveyed mentioned that they'll refuse any bribe offered to them in exchange for voting for a particular candidate, while 14.6 percent declared that they might accept the offer, but will vote for the candidate with whom they're satisfied, not the one offering the bribe.

Sixty-six percent of those sampled are pessimistic that next week's elections will help create a better future for Yemen; 20 percent somewhat agreed that the nation's future may improve and the current situation might change, while 5.8 percent said there will be no change and the situation may even go

Four Yemenis face serious charges in U.S.

Associated Press, Sept. 10 — Four Yemenis have been arrested in two separate incidents in the United States, U.S. media reported.

A federal grand jury in Fresno, Calif., indicted three Yemeni men with U.S. citizenship on Friday for illegally exporting sensitive military equipment — including body armor and chemical protective suits — to Yemen, as well as dealing in U.S. government secrets.

Bakersfield residents Ameen Ali Al-Ruhany, 56, and Mohammed Al-Rahimi, 62, and Ibrahim A. Omer, 40, of Fort Worth, Texas, are charged with exporting stolen sensitive military equipment to Yemen. Al-Ruhany also is charged with acquiring and transmitting secret defense information obtained from an undercover government agent.

According to the indictment, on numerous occasions between June 25, 2005 and Aug. 31, 2006, Al-Ruhany received secret defense documents from an undercover government agent and then allegedly transmitted them to Yemen via fax and courier.

Al-Ruhany also is charged with conspiring with Omer to ship military items to Yemen. The indictment alleges that between Jan. 13, 2003 and Feb. 14, 2004, Al-Ruhany and Omer violated

the Arms Export Control Act and international arms trafficking regulations by shipping military equipment, including body armor and chemical protective suits. Such items can't legally be exported from the U.S. without State Department authorization.

Additionally, Al-Ruhany is charged with conspiring with Al-Rahimi to receive stolen government property, which also was sent to Yemen. The indictment alleges that Al-Ruhany purchased military equipment he believed was stolen from the U.S. Army and directed it be shipped to Yemen. Al-Rahimi allegedly traveled to Yemen to broker the sale of the items.

"We'll use all appropriate legal means at our disposal to detect, disrupt and hold accountable those who seek to do us harm, whether they act within or outside our borders," U.S. attorney McGregor W. Scott stated.

Al-Ruhany's lawyer, Loren N. Kleier, called his client a prominent member of his community and suggested he was set up by federal agents. "They get people to go out and attempt to do things they otherwise wouldn't do," Kleier added.

Arrested at his Bakersfield cigarette shop, Al-Ruhany will appear before a U.S. magistrate in Bakersfield. Omer

was taken into custody in Bossier City, La., and made his first court appearance in Shreveport, La., on Friday. Al-Rahimi remains at large.

If convicted, the men could face up to 10 years imprisonment for each count and up to \$1 million in fines.

In other news, Mohammed Ghanem, 21, was jailed Saturday on \$500,000 bail after being arraigned on a charge of possessing a weapon in a secure area of an airport.

Ghanem was arrested Thursday at Detroit Metropolitan Airport after Transportation Security Administration officers detected a knife "artfully concealed" inside a book, airport spokesman Michael Conway said.

Someone had carved out the inside of the book and placed the knife inside it, Ghanem's attorney, Nabih Ayad said. "He said he didn't know where the knife came from," Ayad told the Detroit Free Press. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison.

Born in Yemen, Ghanem now is a permanent legal resident of the U.S. and was returning to Yemen to marry, Ayad stated. However, authorities said Ghanem, who works as a busboy and lives with family members in Hamtramck, Mich., held a one-way ticket to Yemen.

Book Fair lacks visitors

SANA'A, Sept. 13 — The 23rd Book Fair concluded its exhibition on Tuesday after 10 days of displays by more than 320 publishing houses, but this year the numbers are down. There were over 100,000 subjects in different fields available at the fair.

"During the 10 days around one million people visited the book fair," stated Fares Al-Saqaf, Chief of General Authority for the Book.

This year the number visitors is down and some think it's because of the busy time of year.

"This time is the time of elections and the very beginning of a new school year," says Mona Al-Hamli,

the officer of the General Authority for the Book.

The fair lacked some regular publishing houses with only three Lebanese publishers participating according to Al-Saqaf, noting the absence of Lebanon publishing houses.

"Our participation this year is not effective because of the Lebanon's crises. In addition books we have are actually available here in Yemen. We couldn't offer something new or bring books from



The 23rd books fair that concluded on Tuesday

Beirut due to the obstacles of the transportation," said Awad Qasim, the manager of Al-Fiqr publishing house.

Committee for Change uphold JMP

SANA'A, Sept. 12 — The Joint Meeting Party's Committee for Change held a symposium on the electoral program of JMP presidential candidate Faisal Bin Shamlan.

The symposium explained the main goal of the committee, but they only have one week until the presidential and local elections.

The symposium concentrated on Bin Shamlan's electoral program, meanwhile participants pointed out the program is based on a comprehensive political reform project, presented by the JMP. Consequently, Bin Shamlan's program is the focus of a series of viewpoints and ideas of different opposition parties, according to the

symposium.

Participants in the symposium said the program is a product of joint efforts and hard work and it is not a one-party viewpoint. The program, they added, explains how situations and the environment will look if the JMP win the election.

Participants focused on challenges posed to the progress and development of Yemen and mechanisms to tackle issues related to poverty, unemployment, rampant corruption and the poor infrastructure.

The symposium confirmed the JMP candidate's program never includes false promises, but it suggests solutions based on real-life situations. The program explained

why the country is in need of change.

According to Bin Shamlan's platform, the main duty of the president is to ensure laws and constitutions in all areas and to uphold democratic principles.

Bin Shamlan's platform points out how political reform must top the government agenda and the statesman must be the first official to start implementing reform and the president needs to be accountable for consequences of corruption and avoiding reform.

Political, administrative and economic reforms, upgrading the level of health services and social and international policies top the promised made by Bin Shamlan in his electoral program.

from bad to worse.

The survey disclosed that 89.4 percent of the sample knows the GPC, the ruling party, while only 51.9 percent know the JMP, which is attributed to the fact that the coalition of opposition parties only recently was formed.

Another survey of voters' attitudes toward local elections and candidates found that 40 percent support GPC candidates running for local council posts. Twenty-three percent backed local council candidates belonging to the Islamic Islah Party and 22 percent said they haven't decided yet, while the remaining 15 percent supported candidates affiliated with other opposition parties like the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Nasserite Unionist Congregation Party.

Conducted by the Yemen Polling Center (YPC) and funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), the surveys

involved a randomly-selected sampling of 1,000 registered male and female voters from six governorates: the capital city, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout, Dhamar and Amran.

Prior to conducting the surveys, research supervisors divided every Yemeni governorate into four clusters, randomly choosing one governorate from each cluster. The capital city and Aden purposely were selected because both cities are home to different social groups from various areas nationwide.

Conducted Sept. 1-9, survey results were announced Wednesday at a Sana'a symposium.

The YPC, which implemented the project, is a non-governmental organization specializing in conducting public opinion surveys, research and studies. Established in December 2004, it's run by prominent Yemeni journalist Hafez Al-Bukari and numerous academics, researchers and journalists.

Continued from page 1

Ibb stadium death toll expected to reach 118

Several Ibb hospitals received victims, but only two, Al-Thawra and Nasir, had oxygen cylinders. Most hospitals couldn't adequately care for patients. Because only two ambulances were at the scene, victims were transported on garbage trucks and other public vehicles. Eyewitnesses said the bodies of the deceased were scattered around hospital grounds and those of some marginalized peoples even were scattered outside hospital grounds.

Media and public reaction

Yemen Times Ibb correspondent Nashwan Dammaj was detained approximately 40 minutes and security confiscated his camera's memory card and ID while attempting to investigate the incident. Several other media personnel from various media outlets were forbidden to follow up the incident or photograph victims in hospitals or at the scene.

Citizen reactions varied from condemning the rally's organization and declaring it another example of state corruption to considering it a matter of fate and thanking the state for its compassion and support for victims and their families. Walid Jahzar of Al-Ishtraki.net said 33-year-old Fathiya Al-Najar was killed in the stampede after being forced to attend the rally despite suffering kidney failure. Al-Arabia television channel reported that a Yemeni official in Ibb expressed that hundreds of angry citizens crowded around the stadium, causing security to fire live bullets into the air to disperse them.

More time for the kidnapers

On Tuesday some local newspaper reported the negotiations failed and some officials talked about the ability of using the military options, saying military forces are deployed 7km far from the kidnapers location.

However the government decided to give more time to the kidnapers. The French Embassy refused to comment on the ongoing situation.

However Al Khaleej Times reported that a French diplomat, who requested anonymity, said France's ambassador in Sana'a, Alain Moureau, had stressed to Yemeni authorities on several occasions that Paris places

A Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) press statement condemned the event's organization, as well as the fact that employees were forced to leave their offices and students were transported from their schools to the stadium in a show of support for the president. Simultaneously, official media reported that many Yemenis said the tragic incident won't deter them from voting for Saleh and that they remain very enthusiastic about participating in this democratic experience.

On the international front, Yemen received condolence notes from various heads of states. Moreover, The European Union Election Observation Mission in Yemen headed by Baroness Nicholson offered its condolences to the Yemeni people.

Rumors and allegations

JMP media spokesman Ali Al-Sarari said in a press statement: "Although we're deeply saddened by the tragedy, nevertheless, it's another indication of corruption and abuse of state resources and influence." Opposition parties used the incident to once again point fingers at the current regime's mismanagement. In a press statement, the JMP also alleged that the ruling party has allocated YR 100 million to gather crowds at every presidential rally.

Simultaneously, official media lashed out at opposition, accusing them of "using the accident to discredit the election process and destroy the people's confidence in Yemen's democracy."

high importance on the hostages' lives.

"I don't dare imagine that force will be used without consulting the French partner," the diplomat told AFP.

The foreign ministry spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei said on Tuesday that France hoped the crisis would be resolved in a manner that would guarantee the safety of the hostages.

Between 1991 and 2001 there were 325 people kidnapped in Yemen, including 91 French, 80 Germans, 37 Britons, 23 Americans and 22 Dutch.

Yemen has executed two convicted kidnapers so far this year.

JMP denounces fund exploitation, legal violations

Additionally, Qahtan indicated the JMP are not the "Tartars" or "public funds looters" Saleh accuses them of being and says the GPC has an open account with billions of Yemeni riyals in the name of the Great Mosque in Sana'a.

He criticized using the Central Bank for money laundering and exploiting funding in the name of mosques and religion. He also noted funds recorded in the Great Mosque's name weren't used for their intended sake, but rather were exploited by the GPC and transferred to Hamoud Al-Shibami, who's in charge of the GPC's financial sector, while other funds were transferred to anonymous accounts.

"It's dangerous when the Central Bank becomes a source for money laundering," Qahtan added.

Concluding his speech, Qahtan demanded the Central Bank be run by "a supreme committee" and asked "corrupt officials to stay away from it."

Ali Al-Sarari, head of the Yemeni Socialist Party's information department, views the new developments and tension as a mark of the GPC's failure, as proven in Sa'ada, where the ruling party was unable to hold a successful rally for its presidential candidate, while the JMP was successful from the first moment, Al-Sarari said.

As for a fatwa issued by Salafi scholar Abu Al-Hassan Al-Masri prohibiting competing with GPC presidential candidate, Ali Abdullah Saleh. Former Member of Parliament and human rights activist, Mohammed Nagi Alaw said such a fatwa is invalid and the president should be dismissed for approving it.

He also criticized Saleh's exploitation

of public funds and property, such as cars and airplanes, asserting that the president must use his own private property.

Alaw further doubted the election's fairness or impartiality and denounced ruling party violations of both the law and constitution. "Who will respect law in this country if the president is the one violating it?" Alaw questioned.

For his part, Mohammed Al-Sabri, deputy chairman of the JMP's executive authority, focused on the importance of change, considering it "the national task of all Yemenis — not just political parties." He also stressed the JMP will abide by the law and avoid violence.

"We condemn violence and we ask all Yemenis, civil society organizations and international observers to keep an eye on those who'll be responsible for any potential violence," Al-Sabri urged.

Stating his opinion about the elections, Abdulsalam Razaz, secretary-general of the Public Forces Union, asserted the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum lacks the necessary competence to administer the election process.

In his remarks, Ahmed Saif Hashed, head of Independents for Political Change, stated his group's task is to back JMP candidate Bin Shamlan, adding GPC intends to control the elections and exploit media and use money from the Central Bank and force military to vote for Saleh.

Concluding his speech, Hashed alleged a GPC victory will cause price increases and new tragedies due to corruption. "If Bin Shamlan isn't victorious, Yemen will plunge further into a dark tunnel," he warned.

On the fifth anniversary of Sept. 11 The Yemen Times investigates Bin Laden's family roots in Yemen

By: Yemen Times Staff

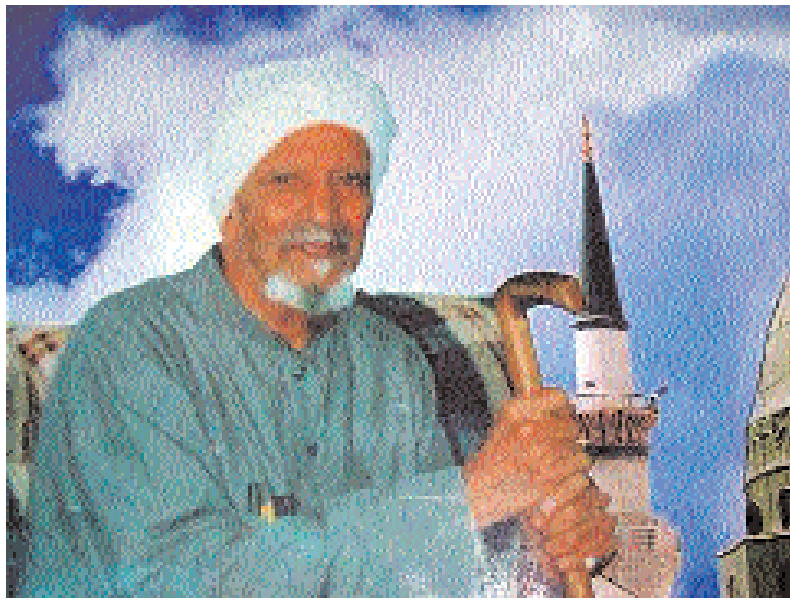
CElebrities in all spheres, whether serving or harming humanity, don't know exactly what their future will be, but often they are thrown into prominence through great events.

After the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States Osama Bin Laden's name was on everyone's lips as the tragic event's orchestrator, which shocked the world.

Afterward, the world began wondering, "Who is Osama Bin Laden and who gave him the stoutheartedness to attack the world's superpower?"

The family name wasn't as well-known then, as it was linked only with the Bin Laden Group, a Saudi Arabian holding company for assets established by Osama's father, Mohammed. The family later was thrust into public view through Osama's activities.

Media paid special attention to every bit of information related to Bin Laden



Osama bin Laden's uncle Abdullah bin Awadh.

and rushed everywhere they thought they'd discover information about him. Many writers wrote about his roots and family background in Yemen, all

agreeing that he's never been to Yemen.

As far as Yemen is concerned, numerous observers questioned the reality of any Bin Laden family roots in Yemen and, if so, where they are. After Sept. 11, media flocked to many places in Yemen and as a result, some locations, like Doan, were brought into the spotlight.



Awadh bin Ladin's house where Osama grew up.

Doan is a lengthy and remote valley with many scattered villages renowned for high-quality honey. Located approximately 120 km. west of Sayun, it's also the hometown of many well-known families in Saudi Arabia, like Boughshan, Bin Mahfood and Bin

Laden.

The Yemen Times visited what's described as the only remaining vestige of Bin Laden's family in Yemen.

Local sources in Doan say Osama's grandfather Awadh was born and grew up in Rakhiah, a secluded village 100 km. northwest of Sayun. He later settled in Robat Ba'ashan, a village situated in an extreme part of Doan Valley, and married an Al-Madodi tribeswoman.

Sources didn't specify the exact date of Awadh's departure from Rakhiah and his arrival in Robat Ba'ashan, where he built a small house and had two children, Osama's father Mohammed and Abdullah. The two boys spent their childhood with their father until his death.

The long-living Mubarak Ahmed Bahwirth, who lived with Mohammed and Abdullah, recounted that after the death of their father, who was buried in Doan, both young men traveled to Saudi Arabia. They married and all of their children, including Osama, were born and raised there.

Bahwirth asserted that while none of Mohammed's children had ever been to Doan, Mohammed visited Doan when his mother became sick and took her to Saudi Arabia for treatment. "After they made a fortune in the [Saudi] kingdom, they built a house in Yemen for guests and consultations. Abdullah frequented Doan to inaugurate the charitable projects he and his brother financed, like Al-Jahi Hospital and the water supplement project," he added.

Mohammed died in a 1967 helicopter crash while inspecting road construction and Abdullah died in 2003 in Medina.


Built of mud-brick on a stone foundation, the Bin Laden family home in Doan was plastered externally with mud-plaster mixed with chopped straw. Part of the ramshackle old house now is used as a school while other parts are deserted.

Unfounded information

When attempting to photograph the Bin Laden house, Bin Laden water project employee Khalid Al-Aumiri intervened to prevent it. "Media aren't allowed to photograph unless they have advance permission from police," he explained, "We implemented this procedure after some journalists misused the information and fabricated stories about Doan."

To illustrate, Al-Aumiri said he saw a fabricated photo in a neighboring country's newspaper depicting a 15-year-old Osama looking out of a window in the Doan house. "This information doesn't hold water. Osama Bin Laden has never been to Doan in his life!" he clarified.

The search for information about Bin Laden may be difficult because the family previously wasn't given the attention it has nowadays.



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How to apply: Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above and contact Human Resources, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 755-2050 & Fax No. 303-182, no later than September 24, 2006.

* NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

Women and Yemeni political life

By: Ramziya Abbas Al-Eryani

Yemeni women can participate in political affairs by joining political parties and participating in national development, which enhances their contributions to political, economic and cultural fields, thus proving their abilities in all decision-making posts.

Participation in political fields

Indicators and statistics show that Yemeni women continue to progress in holding political posts and that state strategies require women's presence in various fields - both political and developmental. Women leaders work toward spreading public awareness of the importance of women's presence on local councils, as they are more able to run neighborhoods and districts than men.

From the dawning of unification day, the light of individual and partisan freedom sprang, with political parties bringing out their orientations and aims. The General People's Congress (GPC) was the moderate party, with unification, development, reducing poverty and unemployment, finding job opportunities and setting strategic development plans as its main objectives.

Women and political parties

Women have participated in political affairs and have played remarkable roles in the election process. Political parties have a dual policy toward women: they are both candidates and voters. They promise to support women candidates, but their promises turn out to be unrealistic as they support them only as voters.

Low participation

There are various reasons for women's reduced participation in political affairs. The type of education rife in Yemen is characterized by dominance and perseverance, giving women a lower position than men. Even school textbooks figure prominently in fixing the concept favoring men and excluding women from decision-making posts, scientific status and effective participation in running society.



Indicators and statistics show that Yemeni women continue to progress in holding political posts.

Social obstacles

- Although the government has approved various policies aimed at opening the way for women in democracy, social and cultural changes necessary for this to be effective haven't come about yet.

- Women candidates lack public support because Yemeni society hasn't given women sufficient confidence and estimation.

- With 70 percent illiteracy, women themselves are unaware of their rights. Some educated and cultured Yemenis have a false conscience toward women.

- Women are looked upon negatively, so they refuse to participate in political affairs.

- The way election campaigns are conducted doesn't comply with women's status, such as meeting with voters frequently to promote their campaigns and visiting election centers.

2006 local council elections

Political parties began preparing at the beginning of 2006 to ensure their candidates' success in the Sept. 20 elections.


The Yemeni Women's Federation (YWF) coordinated with political parties to train 200 women candidates from various political parties. However, when the candidacy period for the September elections began, the parties didn't fulfill their promises to support women candi-

dates. Instead, the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Nasserite Unionist Party agreed with their partner, Islah, which didn't nominate any women for local council elections. The majority of women candidates were in the GPC.

For this reason, the YWF called for a march to the presidency house, an idea supported by the Women's National Committee, to protest against political parties that didn't fulfill their promises to support them in the local elections. Hundreds of women from various political parties participated in the march. President Ali Abdullah Saleh met with the protestors and promised to support them. As a result, the number of women candidates increased from 53 to 161.

The following is a list of women candidates at governorate and district levels:

- 1- General People's Congress: 37
 - 2- Islah Party: 0
 - 3- Yemeni Socialist Party: 11
 - 4- National Democratic Front: 4
 - 5- Green Social Party: 7
 - 6- Nasserite Unionist Party: 3
 - 7- Federation of Popular Forces: 1
 - 8- Unionist Liberation: 2
 - 9- Popular Liberation Forces: 1
 - 10- Nasserite Democratic Party: 2
 - 11- Nasserite Reform Party: 1
 - 12- League of the Sons of Yemen: 2
 - 13- Independents: 90
- Total: 161



Extension of CACBANK International Consultancy Tender No. 01/2006/CABANK

- 1- The Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank (CACBANK) announces the extension of the deadline for submission of bids for its International Consultancy Tender No.(01/2006/CACBANK) for Upgrade and Modernization of the Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank of Yemen to November 1,2006-instead of September 17,2006.
- 2- For further information please contract the Bank at the following address:

Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank
Saba Square-Head office
Sana'a Republic of Yemen
P-O-Box 2015 or2850
Tel: (+967)-1-220089// (+967)-1-563810
Fax: (+967)-1-220089/220105
E-mail:cacbank@y.net.ye



TOTAL

JOB VACANCIES

Total E&P Yemen invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following positions within its organization. All applicants must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English is essential.

Drilling/Completion and Services Engineer (position based in Sana'a)

In the Drilling & Completion Department, reporting to the Engineering Superintendent, the job holder's has the following responsibilities: Participate in the preparation and follow-up of the drilling and/or completion and/or work-over operations in compliance with codes of practices, safety and environmental protection. Preparation of operations programs. Drawing-up of operating procedures. Follow-up of operations and costs. Optimization of service providers activities. B.S.C. in Mechanical or Petroleum Engineering required International/industrial experience is a plus, but new graduates will also be considered

Construction Engineer (position based in Sana'a)

In the Operations Division, reporting to the Engineering & Construction Manager, the job holder's main accountabilities are to ensure proper follow-up and execution of projects and jobs under his responsibility and look ahead to anticipate problems of quality and delivery time.

Duties and responsibilities:

Co-ordinate the activities - Civil Works - Mechanical - Piping - E/I & Safety - between the Head Office in Sana'a and the Construction team on site. Select the suitable Contract from the standard Total group contracts and possibly amend it to stick to the Scope of the Works. Prepare the Technical scope of work and collate the Call for tender documents for jobs that are not of the responsibility of the site. Go through the technical offers from bidders - Suppliers and Contractors - and issue the technical recommendation after clarification meetings, if any, with Bidders. Get the material requisition issued by the Sana'a Construction team, either from MTO delivered through RFM or by the Engineering Contractor in Abu Dhabi. Especially in charge of the material for well connections. Follow-up the material delivery with the assistance of the Material Supervisor in Construction team, or with DO-L in Sana'a and at site. Especially for well connections. Upon request, assist the Site in the implementation of jobs he has initiated. Verify that documentation related to installations is adequate and updated, and if not, propose corrective actions on lay-out, piping GA and routings. Pay regular site visits and participate to the meetings with Contractors he has been involved with. Junior to Senior Mechanical Engineer + 5 years of experience in similar jobs required Can operate AutoCad and SAP or able to learn quickly from training with colleagues

Mechanical Engineer (position based in Sana'a)

In the Operations Division, reporting to the Engineering & Construction Manager, the job holder's main accountabilities are to ensure proper follow-up and execution of projects and jobs under his responsibility and look ahead to anticipate problems of quality and delivery time.

Duties and responsibilities:

Co-ordinate the activities - Mechanical - Piping - Safety - between the Head Office in Sana'a and the Construction team on site. Prepare the scope of work and collates the Call for tender documents for jobs he has been assigned. Go through technical offers from bidders - Suppliers and Contractors - and issue the technical recommendation after clarification meetings, if any, with Bidders. Follow-up the material delivery with the assistance of Logistics Department in Sana'a and at site. Especially for well connections. Supplement missing material with CONTRACTOR supplied material. Upon request, assist the Site in the implementation of jobs he has initiated. Verify that documentation related to installations is adequate and updated, and if not, propose corrective actions on lay-out, piping GA and routings. Pay regular site visits and participate to the meetings with Contractors he has been involved with. Give assistance to pre-commissioning activities to check that pre-com sheets are correctly filled up. Ensure that the works are fully reported from the site. Recover the mark-up drawings at the completion of the works and get the PID up-dated by Sana'a. Junior Mechanical Engineer + 5 years of experience in similar jobs required Can operate AutoCad and SAP, or able to learn quickly from training with colleagues

HSE Supervisor(position on site)

In the Drilling and Completion Division, the job holder's main responsibilities on the production site are :

Promote the safety and quality spirit on all drilling/well servicing sites. Liaise with the subsidiary HSE Division for all matters related to drilling, wells and well servicing. Participate in the preparation of the Bridging document. Ensure that the drilling/well referential is available within the subsidiary and promote awareness. Co-ordinate feedback on all Company rules , new and existing. Implement the RIG site monthly safety meeting. Participate in the preparation of the Blow-out contingency plan. Ensure that safety statistics are properly documented and published on all sites. Follow-up of the training of the new local recruits. Manage, dispatch (all sites) and follow-up of all safety alerts and feedbacks. Issue the HSE reports of the Drilling Department. Follow the

HSE performances of all the Contractors on site.

Regime & location : rotational (4 weeks on/4 weeks off) - Kharir Field Minimum of 3 / 5 years experience in oil & gas operations (knowledge of specific risks, materials, process related risks...) required Good practice of Work Permit system.

Skilled in basics HSE training (1st aid, FiFi,driving, lifting,...)

HSE Officer (position on site)

In the HSE Division, reporting to the HSE Superintendent on site, the job holder's main accountabilities are safe operations, HSE awareness of people, HSE devices and HSE trainer.

Duties and responsibilities:

General: check application of Total HSE policy. Assist HSE Superintendent for all HSE related matters. Participate in Works preparation & check that precautions are enforced. Promote HSE on site through dedicated Promotion Campaign. Keep HSE Superintendent fully informed of all HSE site issues.

Emergency preparedness: Member of Site Emergency Team. Organize Site Emergency training and drills, write report & organize debriefing.

Work & operations: participate to Permit-to-Work system. Supervise operations as per HSE Superintendent Requests. Participate in the preparation of minor and major shutdowns with all other parties in order to optimize duration, sequences, resources, etc.

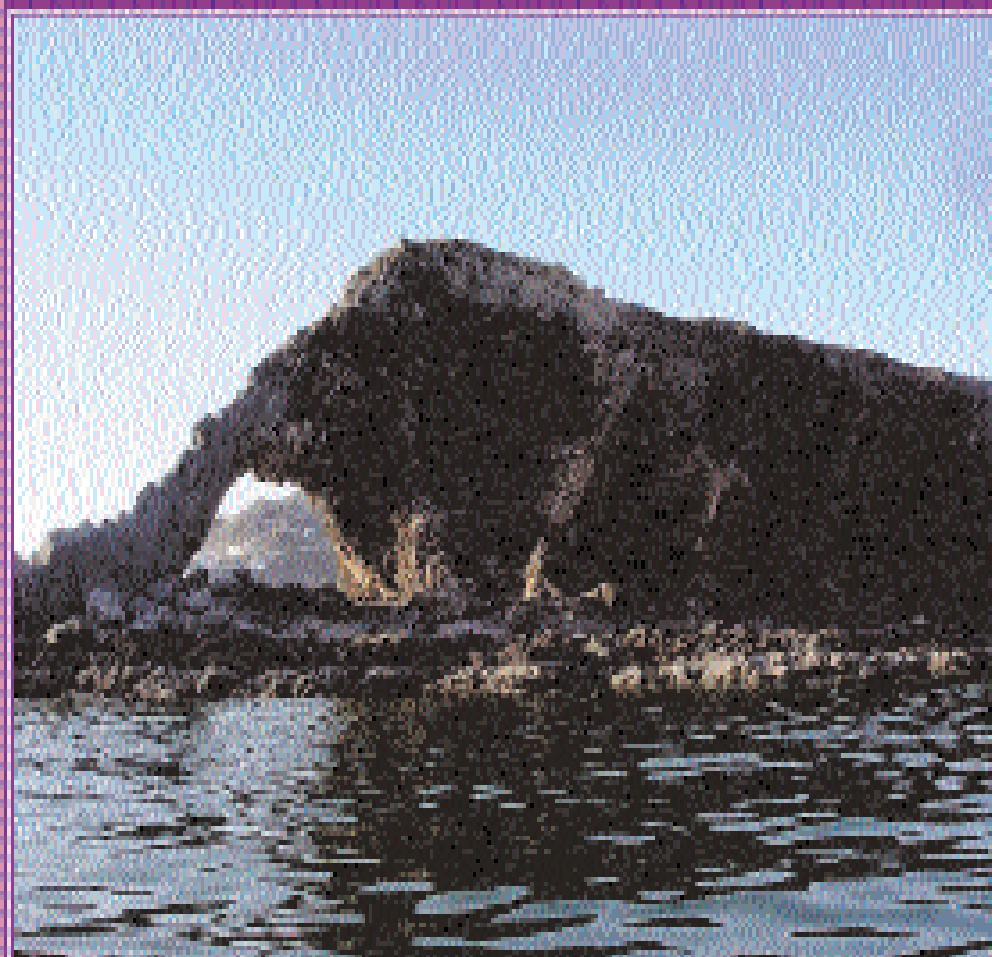
Audit & inspection : perform regular audits and inspection of operations and installations. Ensure that all safety materiel is identified, registered and that preventive maintenance is duly performed and duly recorded through maintenance software. Ensure that all hazardous material are kept in proper conditions and safely used. Perform regular task observation to identify good and bad practices.

Training : implement basics site training courses.

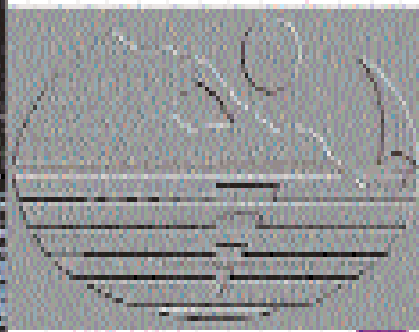
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Application Criteria

- Applications must be submitted **no later than 22nd September 2006**
- Handed-in CVs will not be considered
- Selection will be **based on the most qualified applicants.**
- Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Total E&P Yemen
- If you meet the above requirements, please send your CV in English with a short covering letter explaining your qualification and motivation only to this address: Recruitment.ep-ye@total.com



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With Delicious, Dainty Iftar Meal On The Buffet



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Entertainment
With Us..... Ramadan Nights
Are Not Forget.



Yemen Times ELECTIONS Update

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

Elections take over Taiz

Taiz, Sept. 11 – Two days of election fervor swept into a city already focused on the upcoming election. Both the leading candidates held election rallies in Taiz to try to win the support of the central Yemen city. Faisal Bin Shamlan was in Taiz on Sunday with a rally before around 15,000 JMP supporters and the next day around 100,000 attended the GPC rally outside Taiz. For Yemen Times Glyn Goffin was in Taiz for the rallies.



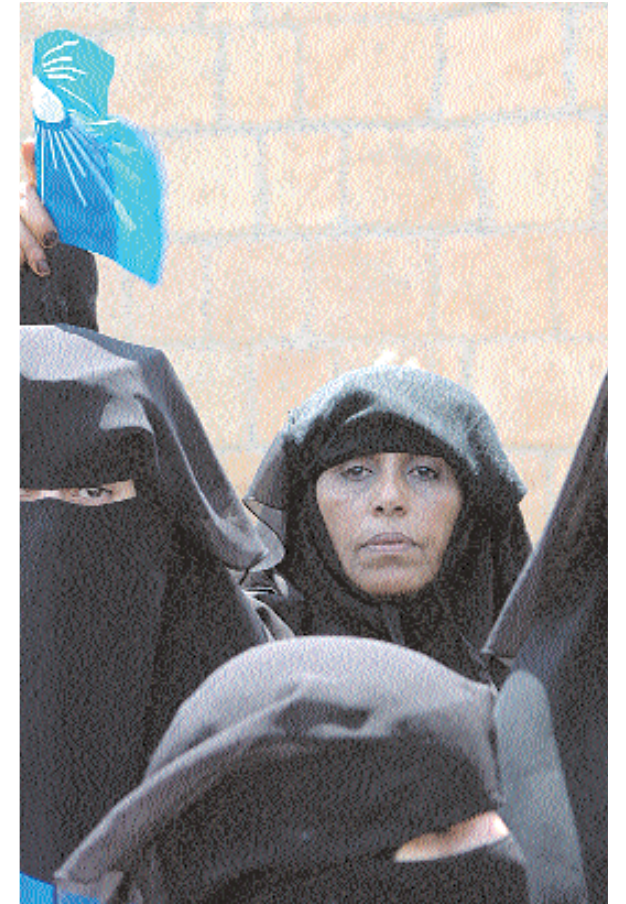
With schools closed for the day, many youth get the chance to wear new Saleh shirts and cheer for their leader en route to the rally.



President Saleh arrives at his rally outside Taiz and takes time to collect his thoughts before addressing his supporters gathered near the Taiz airport.



The evening before the Saleh rally, tailors get a chance to make their support with handmade GPC flags.



Women seeing off Bin Shamlan hold the Islah logo high in the air.



Flying the socialist star, one supporter looks down at thousands of others at the Bin Shamlan rally in the heart of Taiz.



As the would-be leader left the stadium, one Taiz resident gets a chance to dance to the now-banned Bin Shamlan cassette.



President Saleh addresses his supporters as his portrait moves across the crowd.

Lessons of Lebanon: Israel and its 7th war on its Arab neighbors

The events are ongoing and successive since July 12 when the Israeli forces began their attack on Lebanon. The days since have proved a change in the balance of power and concepts of resistance and war. The evidence is in the continuation of the conflict and its escalation with extreme challenges despite the great price tolerated by thousands of the Lebanese people and the country itself.

The lessons from this situation are many and they take us back again to the history. They tell us the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the region did not change and the situations remained as they were; Israeli aggression and repeated human massacres since Deir Yassin in 1948 then came the new change which is the American open and



By: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

unreserved support, in an open alliance, that is undoubtedly having no care or respect for the Arab affair. Again the lessons are many but who is going to learn them and how?

There is an almost total absence of Arab parties regarding the case of Lebanon preferred safety and preferred negligence, as it was said before: we will fight Israel to the last Egyptian soldier.

There is complete absence of the Arab League, and here we understand the circumstances under which it is working and the effort being exerted by Secretary General Amro Mousa for gathering the parties to attend the many meetings of the League in order to come out with an imaginary statement. The Arab League is still living illusions of elapsed centuries and has not advanced forward one moment. The league remained just a

building without meaning. Will the Lebanese shock wake it up?

Another story is having strong and close relationship with what is going on in the Lebanese arena. It is that the Arab Israeli conflict is a one of civilization on the first place and here we attract the attention to the issue of education in the Arab Homeland an issue of scientific modernization not just the omission of ideas and some subjects from text books. It is the issue of activation of the Arab mind and modernization of education from the first year of primary school to the university and higher education and the connection of the theory with application in compatibility with what are happening in the world and in research centers.

Without science the Arab people will remain stagnant. Science will impose the Arab might and it will impose respect for us. Science and reason will confront the Israeli arrogance.

One of the lessons that are learnt since we mentioned about the Arab League is

to ask a question on the necessity of realizing a common Arab development. It is not just trade and trade exchange subject to political whims, temperaments and administrative restraints. We are talking on development and gigantic projects, about technology, about connection with world markets and research and development to impose the Arab presence on the world due to what we possess of riches and potentials. That is why we query, where is the Arab economy compared to the world economy? Are we going to remain consumer and importer countries and oil producing/ or shall we have a positive role to play for the interest of the Arab and world economy?

The situation in Lebanon and what happens on its territories is a siren and alert to the Arab nation.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor in Political Science. He is the head of the Arab Group for Investment and Development

COMMON SENSE

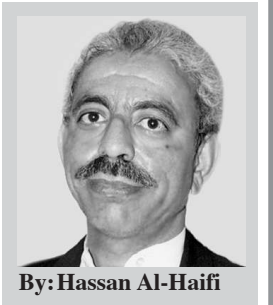
As the Yemeni presidential elections near:

The challenge gets tougher for the PGC

The seemingly frantic moves by the ruling party, the People's General Congress, to make sure that the opposition candidates of the Joint-Meeting Coalition of Opposition Parties (Faisal Bin Shamlan) and the other independent candidates not to present a threat to the incumbent President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, are revealing that we could indeed have an interesting outcome to look forward to on September 20, 2006. Notwithstanding the awesome machinery that has been geared up to support the campaign of the PGC candidate, the opposition parties and the independents (especially the outspoken and eloquent Fathi Al-Azab) are exerting considerable effort to capture as many votes as possible and to translate the "peaceful transfer of authority" into non-fiction. This is indeed a robust period of Yemen's modern history and perhaps a meaningful one as well, as all involved realize that there is considerable interest within the voters as can be judged by the large crowds all the candidates are gathering throughout the governorates of the Republic. One hopes that this interest could be transformed into a genuine useful application of voting rights, by which the voters will start to think of issues rather than personalities or wherewithal in deciding their choices for the highest position in government. The fact is that even the PGC is beginning to realize that the path to assuring success for their incumbent President may have its dangerous curves here and there and the opposition and the independents are doing all they can, with their comparatively meager means to make the path a very difficult one. One wonders, if the opposing candidates had anywhere near the means at the disposal of the PGC candidate, then surely the outcome would have been beyond the expectations of the PGC, as well as the opposition parties behind the opposing candidates. One can detect from the unusually aggressive efforts of the PGC that the leadership in the latter are beginning to have some worries that their hold on the electorate can not be certain, even with all the hard campaigning and political muscle-twisting that the PGC machine can exert. The turnouts achieved by the opposing candidates are noticeable and the opposition candidates are trying to have the electorate really pay attention to the issues of concern: corruption, the poor security situation, the poor economy, poor social services, etc. Not only that, the opposition candidates are not reluctant to point out to the voters that the ruling party bears considerable responsibility for the current conditions of the country. Moreover, both the opposition parties and candidates as well as the PGC are making the voters realize that their votes will indeed have a bearing on who becomes the next President, so the voters should really be careful and not "make a mistake" of giving their votes to the wrong choice.

For all its worth and no matter what the outcome of the elections will be, this election will be a milestone in the development of democratic practice in Yemen, as at last the people do have some thinking to do in deciding for whom to cast their vote. This is no longer a referendum but a choice between different kinds of leadership, each promising to deliver what conforms to the people's aspirations. In this case, the opposition candidates are aided by the fact that they have not had any direct influence or responsibility over the existing state of affairs and they are hoping to convince the voters that it is indeed time for a change for the better. They proclaim that the PGC has had sufficient time to prove its genuine sincerity and ability in governing and the track record is not helpful to the PGC in this respect. Moreover, with corruption becoming an open issue raised by all the candidates, the PGC promise of a better future is not helped by the lack of genuine effort to root out corruption in the past. This does not mean that the PGC is facing eminent defeat. However, as the campaigns get more heated up and the voters begin to have a sense of the value of their vote, the ordeal could represent the strongest challenge faced by the PGC yet in maintaining a solid hold on the reigns of government. One would think that the Islah Party will do all it can to try to weaken that hold, since that hold was considerably arrived at thanks to the former coziness that existed between the PGC and the Islah, which now seems to be a matter that prevailed "once upon a time" in the past and has come to an end. As long as things do not get out of hand, this observer is inclined to believe that the experience will be worth it for Yemen in the long run.

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The elections, two platforms and two people

Yemen is entering a new phase in its democratic experiment. The second presidential elections and the repeated local administration elections are different quantitatively from previous elections.

The previous elections, whether presidential or local, were almost similar to the race between the arrow and the turtle for Zenon de Elea. In some rounds of the Shoura Council a son of one of the sheikhs did not find one who dares to run against him and was forced to order his driver to nominate himself in the competition. The driver accepted the competition but then even he voted for the son of the sheikh.

In 199 the rival of President Saleh was from the president's own party and the fever of competition was affirming the soundness of the president's approach and rightness of his policies and measures.

The upcoming elections are a real competition between two political programs and two different approaches with two distinguishable candidates, politically and ideologically affiliate with different thoughts with their own ardent followers.



By: Abdulbari Tahir

In a backward and illiterate society, the competition between persons rather than platforms is a question of great importance. In Yemen where illiteracy among men is more than 60 percent and among the women more than 70 percent and prevailed by low education, sectarianism and social relations dated to the pre-state age, the persons in competition represent a priority and the platform and the political address of the party come in a second place.

Yemen deserves the experiment of the race for the first post in the state. Yemenis are very much proud of the Koran praise on their Queen Bilqis (Queen of Sheba) when she declared not to make any decisions without consulting her people.

The election race is different this time. Competitor Faisal Bin Shamlan is a candidate bringing colors of the social, political and ideological spectrum. He heads all the opposition under the Reform congregation, of both its tribal and religious wings, the socialist of secular and liberal trend, the Nasserite Unionist. It is a bloc that is still young and advancing. Bin Shamlan derives support from a wide base of the middle class, exposed to grad-

ual extinction, and he also depends on many farmers who see in the policy of price doses as destruction of their agriculture and desertification of their land. There is also an army of the poor, the unemployed and thousands of students and graduates seeking jobs and the minimum necessary to support life.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh sticks to protection of the revolution, the republic, the unity and democracy where the historic accomplishments have great value. He focuses on the unity and democracy achieved under his rule. Saleh still has large influence backed by administration of the state and it extends throughout Yemen with his support by the power of the army and security, the public property and the media.

Surely, the absence of efficient and decent judiciary enhances the chances of Saleh and the lack of the opposition's national awareness and lack of experience. This lack could mean betting will be on he local councils more than on the presidency.

The important thing is that the serious competition has already begun and the step will be an example followed all over the Arab region and many third world countries.

If the race is enhanced with fairness and transparency it will in an important part of it counted in favor of President Ali

Abdullah Saleh and will lead Yemen, the government and people, to the forefront of emerging democracies. Whatever the result of the elections they will open horizons of the future and the ruler will realize he is the representative of the nation and its deputy rather than its owner. If the competition is characterized by rivalry and equivalence and capability of the opposition to attract voices of electors who are angry of the governance corruption and its despotism it will force change. The real challenge remains creating equal footing for the governance and the opposition and preventing a slip into confrontation and violence with priority for free and democratic competition characterized by responsibility, truthfulness and reason. It was a dangerous beginning to the campaigns with the killing of the supervising committee head in al-Jawf and president Saleh's resort bringing religion into the election battle.

Religion is a great denomination, sacred and common among all and should not be played with in the battle of elections. More dangerous is to politicize it in the way detrimental to the country and the people. Seditious of the sectarian game is very harmful and dangerous and the bloody experiment of Iraq indicates that playing this card is destructive to all and no one benefits from it even the players. Yemen's blood is still bleeding from the wounds of 1994 and the Sa'ada war of 2005 and the continuous confrontations since 1994 between the state and the jihadis.

Yemen needs to find its place in the world the democratic experience will help.

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

Letters to the Editor

Enough of the bloody game

Is there someone who can stand up and say 'enough is enough' to the ongoing bloody game in the region? I believe there is no one. All Muslim leaders are enjoying the game. Those who are fond of watching Hollywood movies now see our reality full of movie-screen action, horror and thrills. The power of Muslim leaders is restricted to condemning that rather than actual action.

The blood of Muslim - especially the little dying children - has become thinner to an extent that it is unable to awaken the sleeping or dead conscience of the Muslim Ummah that met last week in Malaysia. Why Malaysia? Why not Washington? I am sure if they had wept and cried before the American public, they would have support from protest demonstrations.

Needless to say, there are only two things which can stop Bush from further atrocities, namely, House of Representative [Congress] and American citizens who can shake the earth under Bush's feet by taking away support and with their protests. What if Muslims have no access to the US markets for business purposes and to her public for clarity of any issue in question or to the American media that distorts the facts? Therefore, it's far better to go directly to the American people who would support them openly. So far

US citizens especially those with sons fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan are always privately and individually informed when a US soldier is killed. I am sure they would be unaware of the total number of US soldiers killed so far in both the countries.

What's surprising to notice is that the term 'martyr' is now being used by almost all. If a Muslim is killed, he is declared as martyred, if US soldier is killed, he too is declared as martyr and if a Hindu soldier gets killed in Kashmir he earns the same title. Let me know what is the meaning of martyrdom? Is it getting killed in the name of Allah, Jesus or Bagwan, over what issues? Over a piece of land, the release of hostages or for religion? But have they ever learnt that Allah does not want them to fight?

With the passage of time, it is becoming clearer that there is no Osama or Al Qaeda, but just something evolved by the CIA to suppress Muslims and other communities, who dare to resist American imperialism. There are only three countries which are still safe from the terror, namely, Iran, Syria and North Korea, but only because US soldiers are not stationed there. Doesn't it mean that US soldiers are behind such acts directly?

Another problem I have been seeing is that if any anti-US leader makes comments on US policies, then it's considered lies but when US President or

another official says something, no matter, it's a lie or fact, it becomes authentic information and next moment it is issued by the office of the US President.

While sitting with some of friends we were expressing views on the war and one of them said, "Now the soldiers held by Hezbollah should be killed." While another angrily said, "Not only kill them but chop them and feed them to hounds." I had not yet thought over the final conclusion of the return of the said soldiers which they made so easily.

Last but not least, let me ask Muslim leaders who attended the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Malaysia what they enjoyed most there and how was the weather? What kind of business deals were inked? Did they find any new investors? Because that's their real concern instead of addressing the ongoing war on Lebanon. Forget about Lebanon, war is there in Lebanon, they are at least safe and sound. We are enjoying the style and angles being used by Israelis to hit the buildings full of inmates. The number of dead is still low, about 600, as compared to Iraq where so far a quarter million civilians are dead.

We have the worst kind of situation - our leaders have tongues but pretend to be dumb while interestingly, the dumb people came out of homes to speak up. What a shame!

Barkatullah Marwat
bumarwat@hotmail.com



By: Samer (samer_art@maktoob.com)

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P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

E-mail: editor@yementimes.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

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Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Managing Editor
Dr. Hamdan Zaid Dammag

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

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Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Al-Ajel, Fatima
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Interns

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Goffin, Glen
Shadad, Nisreen

Offices

Aden Bureau:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

Ibb correspondent:
Nashwan Dammaj
Mobile: (+967) 733840609,
Email: naschuan2000@yahoo.com

Hadramout Correspondent:
Saeed Al-Batati
Mobile (+967) 733896986
Email: albatati88@yahoo.com
Fax: +967 (05) 360303

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State of world population 2006

A passage to hope: Women and international migration

Every year millions of women working overseas send hundreds of millions of dollars in remittances back to their homes and communities. These funds go to feed and educate children, provide health care, build homes, foster small businesses and generally improve living standards for loved ones left behind.

For host countries, the labour of migrant women is so embedded in the fabric of society that it goes virtually unnoticed. Migrant women toil in the households of working families, soothe the sick and comfort the elderly. They contribute their technical and professional expertise, pay taxes and quietly support a quality of life that many take for granted.

Migrant women move to marry, rejoin migrant husbands and family, or to work. They are domestic workers, cleaners, caretakers of the sick, the elderly and children. They are farmers, waitresses, sweatshop workers, highly skilled professionals, teachers, nurses, entertainers, sex workers, hostesses, refugees and asylum seekers. They are young, old, married, single, divorced and widowed. Many migrate with children. Others are forced to leave them behind.

Today, women constitute almost half of all international migrants worldwide—95 million or 49.6 per cent. Yet, it is only recently that the international community has begun to grasp just how much migrant women contribute to the economy and social well-being of populations living in both source and receiving countries. And it is only recently that policymakers have

acknowledged the particular challenges and risks women confront when venturing into new lands.

A Silent but Mighty River

In 2005, remittances—funds sent by migrants to their country of origin—rang in at an estimated US\$232 billion. With US\$167 billion of the total going to developing countries,

remittances are considerably larger than official development assistance (ODA) and are the

second-largest source of external funding for developing countries after foreign direct investment (FDI). Experts consider the actual amount to be much higher, since these estimates do not take into account funds transferred through informal channels.

Despite a dearth of reliable global data, a number of country specific studies reveal just how

critical female remittances can be. Of the more than US\$1 billion in migrant funds sent back to Sri Lanka in 1999, women contributed over 62 per cent of the total. Of the roughly US\$6 billion remitted annually to the Philippines in the late 1990s, migrant women transferred one third. Although women

tend to send less overall than men, studies reveal that they send a higher proportion of their more meagre earnings to their families back home. One United Nations study showed that Bangladeshi women working in the Middle East sent home 72 per cent of their earnings on

average with 56 per cent of those monies earmarked for daily needs, health care and education. This reflects the spending priorities of migrant women all over the world.

Quite apart from remittances, women migrants contribute to their home communities in other ways as

well. The World Bank attributes improved child health and lower mortality rates to the health education that women acquire abroad.

Brain drain

The massive outflow of nurses, midwives and doctors from poorer to wealthier countries is one of the most difficult challenges posed by international migration today. On the one hand, skilled women and men are increasingly turning to migration as a means of improving their lives and that of their families. On the other, their countries are facing a health-care crisis unprecedented in the modern world.

Perhaps nowhere is the effect of the “brain drain” more acutely felt than in the already fragile health systems of developing countries. Recent surveys show that the intention to migrate is especially high among health workers living in regions hit hardest with HIV/AIDS—68 per cent of those surveyed in Zimbabwe and 26 per cent in Uganda expressed a desire to leave their countries and move abroad. The Global Commission on International Migration reports that more Malawian doctors are currently practising in the northern English city of Manchester than in the whole of Malawi. Only 50 of the 600 doctors trained since independence are still practising in Zambia. The motivations for migrating, however, are anything but in short supply. In many poor countries, health systems are collapsing, under-funded and facing chronic shortages of basic supplies, equipment and staff. This is exacerbated by overwhelming pressure brought on by massive health-care needs. While sub-Saharan Africa is now staggering under the highest infectious disease burden in the world (25 per cent), it retains only 1.3 per cent of the world’s health-care practitioners.

Even more so than doctors, nurses constitute the “frontline troops” of patient care. When they decamp owing to poor pay, bad working conditions and a lack of opportunity, patients suffer and health-care systems crumble. In 2000, for example, twice as many nurses left Ghana as graduated. Two years later, the Ministry of Health estimated a nurse vacancy rate of 57 per cent. In 2003, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago reported nursing vacancies of 58 and 53 per cent, respectively. In 2003, an estimated 85 per cent of employed Filipino nurses were work-



ing abroad.

Needless to say, the migration of nurses is causing considerable problems. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a minimum ratio of 100 nurses for every 100,000 people, but many poor countries do not come even close. In some (Central African Republic, Liberia, Uganda) the ratio is less than 10 nurses per 100,000 people, as compared to more than 2,000 per 100,000 people in wealthier nations (Finland and Norway). In Europe, the average ratio is 10 times that of Africa and South-East Asia. Furthermore, measures to stanch the flow—now under way in Canada and the United Kingdom—are unlikely to slow demand. The World Health Organization estimates that, by 2008, Great Britain will require 25,000 doctors and 250,000 nurses more than it did in 1997. The United States Government projects that by 2020, more than one million nursing positions will need to be filled. Canada and Australia are projecting nursing deficits of 78,000 and 40,000, respectively, during the next four to five years. This is partially owing to demographic ageing brought on by lower fertility rates and longer life expectancies in industrialized countries.

Selling Hope and Stealing Dreams

For many women, migration opens doors to a new world of greater equality and relief from oppression and discrimination that limit freedom and stunt potential. For origin and receiving countries, the contribution of women migrants can quite literally transform quality of life. These benefits, however, come at a cost. For migration also has its dark side. From the modern-day enslavement of trafficking victims to the exploitation of domestic workers, millions of female migrants face hazards that testify to the lack of adequate rights protections and

opportunities to migrate safely and legally. Discrimination is also imbedded in policies that implicitly or explicitly bar women from migrating legally or that relegate them to work in unregulated sectors that render them more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Weak multilateral cooperation and the failure to establish, implement and enforce policies and measures designed to protect migrant women from exploitation and abuse mean that it is the most vulnerable who pay—and sometimes with their lives.

Human trafficking

Trafficking is not only one of the most horrific manifestations of migration “gone bad”, it also undermines national security and stability. Today, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 2.45 million trafficking victims are toiling in exploitative conditions worldwide. An estimated 600,000 to 800,000 women, men and children are trafficked across international borders each year. Of these, 80 per cent are women and girls.

Trapped women are usually forced into sex work, domestic or sweatshop labour. Human trafficking now constitutes the third most lucrative illicit trade after drugs and arms smuggling and nets an estimated US\$7 billion to \$12 billion annually. These numbers, however, reflect only profits from the initial sale of persons. The ILO estimates that once victims are in the destination country, criminal syndicates rake in an additional US\$32

billion a year—half generated in industrialized nations and a third in Asia.

The promotion of gender equality and poverty reduction is key to putting a halt to trafficking and other forms of slavery. Women who are desperate to find work—even if it means relocating to another country—are easy prey for traffickers.

Domestic Workers

Domestic work is one of the largest labour sectors driving international female migration. While it has provided millions of migrant women with an opportunity to improve both their lives and those of their children, the private nature of their work can put them in gross jeopardy.

Reports of abuse and exploitation come from all over the world. Domestic workers have been assaulted; raped; overworked; denied pay, rest days, privacy and access to medical services; verbally and psychologically abused; and had their passports withheld. The most extreme

forms of exploitation have resulted in severe injury and even death.

Domestic workers are rarely protected by labour laws or allowed to unionize: The fact that they work in the private sphere makes them especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. To date, only 19 countries currently have laws and/or regulations that deal specifically with

domestic work. Abusive employers are rarely prosecuted and convicted—although in Hong Kong (SAR), China, and Singapore several cases of severe ill treatment have made it to court. In the absence of any kind of recourse, many domestic workers try to run away.

By Force, Not By Choice

Although forced migration entails risks for everyone involved, women and girls face particular hazards—during

flight, through temporary refuge and in final settlement. In 2005, roughly half of the world’s 12.7 million refugees were women. By contrast, women are underrepresented among asylum seekers owing to the fact that gender-related claims of persecution are often ignored. When armed conflict erupts, it is largely women and

girls who wind up shouldering the care of the young, the elderly and the infirm. Armed militias often target women and girls for rape and many will be forced to contend with

Today, women constitute almost half of all international migrants worldwide—95 million or 49.6 per cent. Yet, it is only recently that the international community has begun to grasp just how much migrant women contribute to the economy and social well-being of populations living in both source and receiving countries.

unwanted pregnancies, HIV infection and reproductive illnesses and injuries. At any given time, it is estimated that fully 25 per cent of refugee women of childbearing age are pregnant. Certain groups of women—such as those who head households, ex-combatants, the elderly,

the disabled, widows, young mothers and unaccompanied adolescent girls—are more vulnerable and require special protection and support.

Refugee women face specific risks. Although they often enjoy better access to reproductive health care in camp settings than in the general population, women and girls still do not have an equal say when it comes to camp planning, peace building and resettlement. This is a

serious oversight that ultimately hinders reconstruction.

Despite the fact that young people offer so much, their very youth puts them at risk of abuse and exploitation. This is particularly true of young girls who are more vulnerable to rape and other gender-based forms of violence.

Moving Young

Young people are increasingly on the move. Many leave with few belongings, little money and scant information regarding where they hope to end up. But they take with them the great assets of youth: resilience, resourcefulness and perseverance. Young people aged 10 to 24 now account for about a third of all international migrants.

For example, 15 per cent of all Mexicans seeking employment in the United States in 1997 were adolescents. Survey results from shelters in Mexico and Central America, at transit points for migrants heading to the United States, show that 40 per cent of new arrivals were

adolescents between 14 and 17 years of age. Studies undertaken along the boundaries between Thailand, Myanmar and China report adolescents

as young as 13 crossing borders alone. Developed countries, in particular those with ageing populations, benefit from young migrants who not only take the most menial jobs no one else wants but also constitute a growing share of highly-educated skilled labour. Young people move because they are either unable to find work, continue their schooling or go about their daily lives with a reasonable expectation of safety and security. They migrate because they cannot find these conditions at home. A growing number are students who then opt to stay in the host country following graduation.

Although the emigration of young people reduces the labour force among a highly productive age group in source countries, young migrants send money back to their home countries and bring their skills and experience with them when they return. Nevertheless, despite the fact that young people offer so much, their very youth puts them at risk of abuse and exploitation. This is particularly true of young girls who are more vulnerable to rape and other gender-based forms of violence. An almost complete absence of data makes it even harder for policymakers to gauge just how many young people migrate each year. One thing is clear, however, and that is that young people are often denied opportunities to migrate legally for no other reason than their age.

To ensure that their voices are heard, The State of World Population 2006 is introducing a special “youth edition”, Moving Young, which focuses specifically on the experiences of young migrants told in their own words.

Safeguarding Human Rights, Embracing Cultural Diversity

Global communications and transportation have made it possible for individuals to enjoy more freedom of movement than ever before. But people should not be compelled to migrate because of inequality, insecurity, exclusion and limited opportunities in their home countries.

While governments and experts discuss how best to manage migration, the fact remains that migrants are first and foremost human beings with human rights.

Stepped up efforts to reduce poverty, bring about gender equality and enhance development will go a long way towards achieving a more orderly migration system.

These are necessary to reduce the gaps between rich and poor and to expand opportunities for all—including women, who in too many countries face overwhelming odds. Sound immigration policies that respond to economic interests and safeguard human rights and

gender equality are critical.

Women are migrating and will continue to do so. Although women and youth have always made up a considerable proportion of international migrants, their contributions have largely gone unnoticed. Their voices must be heard. Efforts to combat xenophobia, violence, exploitation and trafficking need to be expanded and policies re-worked to reflect the realities of who migrates and why. Vision and leadership are needed to help steer public debate away from reactionary sensationalism and an emphasis on “otherness” to the recognition of our common humanity that binds us together in a world increasingly without borders.

Al-Jazeera faces the ambiguities of a complex world

By: David Ignatius

What do people in the Middle East think five years after the September 11, 2001, attacks? To get a quick snapshot, I paid a visit to Ahmed Sheikh, the editor in chief of Al-Jazeera television. It was reassuring, in a perverse way, that he views the situation in his region the same way that most Americans would - as a dangerous mess.

Sheikh told me he had been mulling this week over how Al-Jazeera should cover the 9/11 anniversary. “Five years after that catastrophe, the Arab world is much more divided than it used to be,” he reflected. “The image of Islam has been tarnished to a great extent. We are weaker than we used to be against Israel. Development is

absent.” When he stands back and looks at the region, Sheikh says, “all the threads and problems are intertwined. It’s very difficult to trace where they begin and end.”

Sheikh fears that Iraq is headed toward a calamitous civil war that will spill over to other countries that have mixed Shiite-Sunni populations, such as Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. “If the Americans can prevent civil war from happening, their presence would be useful,” he says. But after three years of American failure to stabilise the country, he is doubtful.

Al-Jazeera’s editor remains militant about Arab causes. “What doesn’t change for our viewers is indignation against US and Israeli policies,” he says. But with the exception of the Palestinian struggle and the Iraqi resistance to American occupation, he says, most of the so-called jihadist

battles have actually produced what the Arabs call fitna, or self-destructive internal strife.

Sheikh works out of a small office just off the main newsroom. He joined Al-Jazeera when it was founded in 1996 after working for the BBC and other television news channels. Dressed in shirtsleeves, just back from the morning story conference with his editors, he looks a bit like an Arab version of Lou Grant.

Al-Jazeera has been attacked by American officials as a propaganda tool for Osama bin Laden and other Muslim radicals. And as a journalist, I have often found its coverage unbalanced. It tries too hard to present the Arab news, rather than just the news. That said, I was struck talking to Sheikh how complicated it has become for Al-Jazeera to cover this part of the world.

Take coverage of Iran: Al-Jazeera recently reopened its bureau there after it was closed by the Iranian authorities for 18 months. The network’s crime was that it sent a camera crew into southwestern Iran and reported complaints of the Arab minority there that they were unfairly treated by the central government. After the broadcast aired, there were protests and civil unrest in the region - and the Iranians decided to pull the plug.

Iraq poses a worse problem. Because Al-Jazeera reported from behind the lines of the Sunni insurgency, Iraqi Shiites became indignant about its coverage. The Shiite-led government expelled the network in September 2004, but Sheikh says he would be reluctant to go back now. Relations with the US military are better, but because of Shiite anger, it would be “very, very dangerous” for Al-Jazeera.

“People say we are the channel of the insurgents. It’s not true. We are the channel of everybody. We are critical and balanced. That is what a journalist is supposed to do - not drum the official point of view but criticise, try to evaluate.”

Syria and Lebanon also pose tricky problems for an Arab satellite network. After Al-Jazeera broadcast an exclusive hour-long interview with Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, leader of the Shiite militia Hizbullah, it was attacked by Sunni Salafists, who back Al-Qaeda and consider the Shiites apostates. And after Syrian President Bashar Assad denounced other Arab leaders as “half-men” for failing to support Hizbullah against Israel, Sheikh says it was hard to find a balanced on-air commentator.

I’ve been a proponent of Al-Jazeera, despite its tendency to spin coverage,

because it was the first step toward real broadcast journalism in the Arab world, as opposed to the old state-run propaganda channels. And my conversation with Sheikh reinforces that conviction. After 10 years, Al-Jazeera is confronting one of the abiding truths of honest journalism - that the world is damned complicated, and that it’s very hard to know who the good guys and bad guys are.

That’s a start. If we can have common standards for covering the news in the Middle East, maybe we can eventually do something to fix the problems we all agree are there.

David Ignatius is a syndicated columnist. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commonground-news.org.

Business confidence in the legal system

By: YemenTimes Staff

The role of legislation in promoting economic and business growth is more than crucial, as it provides the framework for business operation and the Dos and Don'ts, as well as the role and responsibility of a business to its partners and stakeholders. However, Yemen is ranked amongst the less attractive countries in the Doing Business, because the limited success in combating corruption, and the insufficient administrations of local authorities coupled with the poor performance of judiciary and enforcement of verdict, these factors coupled with the poor legislation and inadequate legal framework forces Businessmen to avoid resorting to the legal system in Yemen considering that expected output to consume a significant a lot of time and resources. The table indicates that in spite

of the overall increase in business activities in Yemen, the number of lawsuits have decreased from 98,988 in 2000 to 69,503 in 2005.

YemenTimes investigated the reasons behind the decrease in number of lawsuits through a random sample of businessmen and legal specialists, Mr. Rami Abdullah, An Interpreter, said "I have been involved with three lawsuits with my suppliers who gave me unfit materials, and went back and forth to court but after almost a year I had to settle because I can't continue with the hassle and costs of courts". While Mr. Ahmed Sarhan, a spare parts dealer said: "People are more understanding that courts are useless, therefore its better to settle outside of courts with no grudges".

Mr. Adel Nadish, a Lawyer, said "People fear courts because they feel they will be disadvantaged either through the legal system abusing their rights or through the costs involved in the

process". he also added: "During a lawsuit if thinks do not go according to the plaintiff's expectations, he automatically assumes that the system isn't transparent or that the judicial officials are involved in corruption".

An Official at the Ministry of Legal affairs told YT: "The Yemeni society isn't sophisticated enough to handle legal affairs professionally and help develop the legal process. Many people are always trying to win suits and will do whatever it takes even if it means corrupting the system". he also added "The ministry is working hard to updating and developing legislation in order to identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens as well as develop the legal awareness among the

public."

"Arbitration, meanwhile, has become an increasingly popular solution for dispute resolution, it has also proved more effective in many cases and less time consuming" says Mr. AbdulKarim Hassan, a trade consultant.

Yemen has put developing the legal framework and judicial infrastructure among the priorities in the third national plan, not only to regain public confidence in the legal system but also to make sure it has become highly efficient and transparent, supported by laws and regulations that are clear, concise and conclusive in order to solve disputes, including business and commerce related disputes.

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Lawsuits	98,988	91,610	82,790	93,072	84,408	69,503

Official statistics on the number of lawsuits filed to preliminary courts per year

Time to get back to business on Doha

By: Paul Wolfowitz
& Rodrigo de Rato

The suspension of the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) talks since July is deeply disappointing. While the rhetoric of commitment to the round remains, in practice there has been a surrender to defensive lobbies clinging to the status quo.

But the status quo is unacceptable. In agriculture, it protects the world's rich farmers by stifling opportunity for the poor, at a cost of some \$280 billion a year to taxpayers and consumers. In manufacturing, it deters poor countries from moving up the value chain as tariffs on their exports increase with the degree of processing.

Barriers among developing countries are also especially high, impeding rapid growth in trade between them. In services, trade barriers stand in the way of improved quality and efficiency, slowing the growth of a sector that could make a huge contribution to competitiveness and employment.

Delaying the conclusion of the Doha Round negotiations carries costs and risks for the entire world economy, rich and poor countries alike.

First, the delay implies a lost opportunity to raise global growth. With risks to the current global expansion increasing,

this is the wrong time to let an obvious and sustained source of growth slip away. This is especially crucial for poor countries, where slower global growth means continuing hardship.

Second, the perception of weakness and division in the WTO will make it far harder to resist protectionist pressures worldwide, especially if the global economy slows. We must not forget that the multilateral trading system – along with the Bretton Woods institutions – was originally created to avoid a repeat of the protectionism and competitive devaluations of the 1930's that plunged the world into depression.

Third, trade reforms can help smooth international macroeconomic fluctuations and contribute to an orderly resolution of global imbalances. A successful Doha Round would thus complement the international collaborative efforts underway, with IMF involvement, to tackle external imbalances among the major economies.

Finally, blockage of the multilateral process will trigger an even more pronounced shift toward bilateral or regional free trade agreements (FTAs). FTAs cannot substitute for multilateral liberalization. If properly designed, they can benefit their members, especially if combined with reduced trade barriers for all trading partners. If designed badly, the cost of such agreements – in terms of trade diversion, confusion, and demands on limited administrative capacity – often exceeds

the benefits. More broadly, the growth of FTA's undermines the central principle of the multilateral trading system: trade opportunities should be offered to all countries equally.

The multilateral trading system has faced challenges before, including during the Uruguay Round in the early 1990's, and has emerged with renewed vigor. We believe that it is still possible for the international community to get a good deal done. But a sense of urgency is needed.

What, concretely, should be done in order to restart the negotiations?

Key countries must find the political will to confront defensive interests and negotiate with flexibility to reach a market-opening deal. The initiative will have to come from the top if the case is to be made within each country for more open markets, and for help to be made available to those facing adjustment. All countries will have to give; no country can be expected to carry the burden alone.

Pro-trade forces can speak up in the political process. For example, it is untenable in rich countries that farm interests accounting for less than 4% of employment are effectively able to block a deal to open new markets for services and manufactures, which account for more than 90% of employment.

In developing countries, pro-trade voices could help turn the debate toward the opportunities of global integration rather than emphasizing exceptions. The

bottom line is that trade reforms benefit the country making them. The Doha Round is an opportunity for countries to benefit from others' reforms as well as their own.

Meanwhile, there should be no backsliding on the progress already made, such as the offer to eliminate agricultural export subsidies by 2013 and to provide duty-free/quota-free access for almost all exports from least developed countries. We encourage donors to follow through on their commitments to increase effective aid for trade – assistance to help developing countries take full advantage of trade opportunities as a lever for growth. For our part, both the World Bank and the IMF are stepping up financial, technical, and analytical trade-related assistance.

Much has already been achieved in the negotiations, and an agreement of significant value is within reach. While the path back to the negotiating table is not an easy one, the obstacles are not insurmountable. All countries, but especially the major players, have a responsibility to honor their commitment to the Doha Round. For the sake of their citizens, the global trading system, and the world's poor, it is time to get back to business.

Rodrigo de Rato is Managing Director of International Monetary Fund. Paul Wolfowitz is President of the World Bank.

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Business in brief

Ramadhan Shopping festival

The Hayel Saeed Anam group of companies are organizing the Ramadhan Shopping festival to be carried out simultaneously in six governorates. The festival, which continues until the 22nd of this month, offers discounts on food products and various consumables produced by the group of companies.

US\$ 20 million to develop agriculture

The World Bank and the Government of Yemen have signed a financing agreement for rain-irrigated agricultural crops aimed at developing seeds and protecting soil in lands dependent on rain for irrigation. The project also includes developing livestock production in several areas.

Hire-Financing legislation approved

The cabinet approved legislation to facilitate hire-financing for operation of small and medium enterprises in Yemen, the law constitutes of seven chapters.

YR 31 billion deposits at CAC bank

Deposits at the Cooperative Agricultural Credit Bank have reached over 31 Billion Riyals within the first six months of this year, with a growth rate of 43 percent compared to last year. The bank has also given over YR 19.3 billion in credit for 5828 projects.

Financial Administration reform agreement signed

The United Nations Development Program and the Republic of Yemen

have signed an agreement to undertake a financial administration reforms program with a total cost over US \$3.5 Million in order to increase the efficiency of financial management and increase control of financial operations.

44 food retailers investigated

The Ministry of Trade and Industry are investigating 44 food retailers in Hajja governorate on the charge of hiking and manipulating prices. Sources at the ministry indicated this comes as a part of a larger campaign to monitor the market and stabilize prices for consumers.

Yemenia inaugurates new sales office

Yemenia Yemen Airways has inaugurated its new sales office located on Zubairi Street in Sana'a, the office provides a new image for Yemenia with fascinating architecture and decorations and it's connected to the backbone of Yemenia's operation services and provides faster and improved service to passengers.

LULU Hypermarket now open in Aden

With an initial investment of over US\$ 10 million, LULU Hypermarket is now open spread over 60,000 square feet across over two floors and includes 90 sections of competitively priced goods. The Hypermarket is considered the largest in Yemen almost no competition, employing 256 employees with plans to open branches in other major cities in Yemen.

OPINION

Illiteracy crises and growth

By: Raidan Abdulaziz Al-Saqqa
alsaqqa@gmail.com

Unfamiliarity with Yemen's economic achievements gives validity to the assumption Yemen has no significant achievements leading toward a positive and sustainable economic development pattern; Yemen has no single industry worthy of being considered as a comparative advantage for the country. Even the agriculture industry, the prime employer, is suffering from outdated irrigation techniques and a water crises indicating the industry is at a great risk.

The newfound wealth of the country's extractive industries, such as oil & gas, have little to show in the microeconomic development of the country. The Economist Intelligence Unit expects economic growth in 2006-07 to average around 2.4 percent and far below the minimum of 7 percent needed for sustainable economic growth.

The gloomy picture of Yemen's economy has been interrupted by a simple decision to make primary education free to all pupils in the country for the first three grades or primary education, and for girls to the sixth grade. This move is big news because the consequences of such a policy would not only be beneficial for Saleh's elections campaign, but such a

policy might be a first step in Yemen's journey out of poverty.

The problem of Yemen's illiteracy is huge, and any Yemeni who can read should be considered lucky because literacy can create opportunities to bring broader economic and social progress in the country. Billions of riyals are spent in order to reduce the social divide between the literate and the illiterate through mass educational programs, but what is holding Yemen's progress back?

The failure of education in reducing this social divide and opportunities for progress between the literate and illiterate indicates Yemen's policymakers are succeeding in keeping most of the population illiterate, as the adult illiteracy reaches 50 percent of the population and school enrollment is as low as 37 percent in governorates such as Al-Jawf, and only half complete their primary education.

These facts raise damning suspicions on what Yemen's policymakers are more concerned with, While quality education is the single greatest asset a government can give its people, it took the government of Yemen ages to grant pupils free basic education at least for the first three grades of schooling, but hopefully the trend will continue in facilitating schooling for more pupils and in turn more economic and social opportunities in the future. That is the least a government can do for its people.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OIL FIELD CONSTRUCTION QA/QC ENGINEER

DOVE ENERGY LIMITED

Dove Energy Limited invites *Yemeni Nationals only* to apply for the position of Quality Assurance/Quality Control Engineer. The candidate should be degree qualified with experience in Oil & Gas field quality control. The position is based in the Dove Energy Sana'a office with occasional Sharyoof Field visits

Responsibilities

- Implement the company system for Construction and Fabrication QA / QC
- Conduct periodical inspections of ongoing construction work.
- Conducting QA/QC training programs for Production Personnel.
- Implementing a vendor/contractor rating system and vendor development programs.

Qualifications and Experience Preferred

- University Engineering Degree.
- Over 5 years industry experience in oilfield Quality Control
- Good knowledge of API standards, Code of Practice and inspection skills.
- Experience in oilfield construction and fabrication inspection.
- Good oral and written skills in both English & Arabic languages.
- Experience in weekly/monthly Project Report writing
- Good IT skills including Microsoft applications and Basic AutoCad.

Interested candidates are request to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by fax or by email to hr@doveyemen.com.ye. Responses will only be made to short listed candidates.

Mailing address:
Dove Energy Limited
P.O. Box 16910
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Fax Detail:
Fax No. 967 1 413 767

The deadline for receiving applications is 30th September, 2006



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SHARYOOF FIELD INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN

DOVE ENERGY LIMITED

Dove Energy Limited invites *Yemeni Nationals only* to apply for the position of Instrument Technician. The position will be based in Sharyoof field.

Responsibilities

- Will be responsible for the maintenance of a range of field equipment including control valves; pressure safety valves; electronic transmitters; pressure & level switches.
- Involve working alongside technicians of other disciplines to provide support to maintenance, operations and production.
- Will be expected to maintain daily logs of work performed and write comprehensive handover notes in English.

Qualification

- Experience in a wide scope of pneumatic/electronic measurement & control instrumentation used in the petro-chemical industry.
- Has experience within an oil & gas environment.
- Good communication and writing skills in English Language.
- PLC/SCADA (Programmable Logic Controller System) experience would be an additional benefit.
- Has current Yemen driving license.

Interested candidates are request to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by fax or by email to hr@doveyemen.com.ye. Responses will only be made to short listed candidates.

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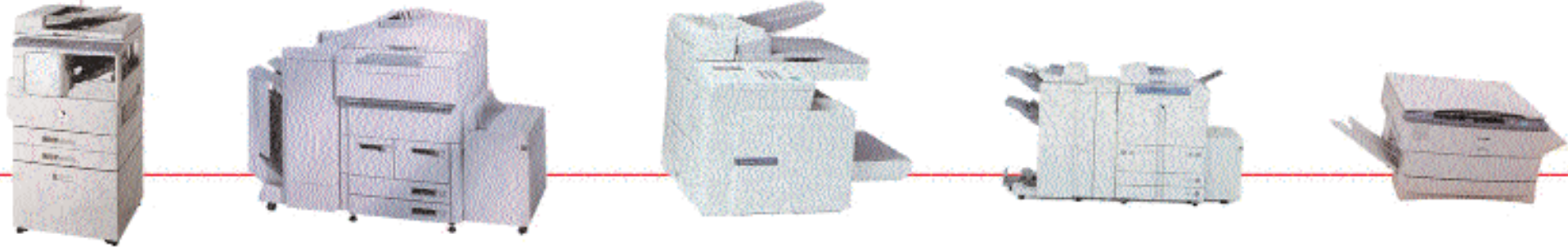
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The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

Short story

The shift worker

By: Yousef Salem Bamahra
bamhra20@yahoo.com
Mukalla-Hadramout

It was two in the afternoon. Streets were almost empty. The sun shed its hot rays. This period was the hottest of the year. The people of Mukalla called these days Alarbienia, the forty days.

Nadeem was a shift worker in Donia Telecom Center. He was a tall young man, aged about 22 years.

"This will be the fifth and the last," he angrily said, as he dialed a telephone number.

It was Nadeem's bad habit whenever he felt lonely and bored. He used to dial whatever number that came to his mind to enjoy talking to girls. He frequently dreamt that one day he might succeed to befool a beautiful, bright-eyed girl with a white skin, golden hair and a ruddy, soft face like a rose. His friends, Ahmed and Salim had warned him against that many times, but he did not show any attention to them.

"Hello," a sweet voice replied. It was clear that it was a girlish voice. For a moment Nadeem was at a loss; a mixture of fear and surprise occupied his little mind. "It's time to set the trap," he thought. "Are you Huda? Please listen to me, show mercy on me. I can't hide my feelings anymore. I love you, believe me I love you so much," he said with no pause, aiming at keeping her listening. "I know that this sounds crazy but love is always blind," he added.

To Nadeem's great surprise, the imagined beautiful girl was still on line.

"You know that I'm not Huda. You want to talk to me only because I'm a beautiful girl," she replied.

The word beautiful gave an extra fuel to Nadeem's wild imagination of

the beauty of this girl.

"You think that sugar-coated words will make me believe you, and then meet you - and you know the rest of the story," she continued.

Nadeem was almost certain that his attempt as usual ended in a bitter failure although unlike the previous ones this one had already lasted about one minute and a half. The girl then, gave a mocking laughter, saying in a different tone, "But it is worth experimenting, isn't it? Why don't we try it, then? I have full confidence in myself."

These few words meant a lot. They were enough to prove that Nadeem's attempt hadn't failed fully.

"Do you mean what you've said?" he skeptically asked.

"Sure," she replied. "Tell me where I can meet you."

"Why don't you come to AL-Donya Telecom Center to discuss this?" he whispered as a man entered the center to make a call.

"Where?" she anxiously asked.

"Fowa, Main Street," he replied in ecstasy.

"What a coincidence!" the girl exclaimed. "I live on the same street."

Nadeem was overjoyed. He thought that he at last succeeded. Now the beautiful girl would come to meet him repeatedly as she lived next to the center. Her family would think that she went out to make a call, when she would be at least in one of the eight cabinets, talking and looking at him.

"Would you mind coming just now, my confident princess? It's two-ten. There are very few callers, so no one will disturb our first meeting," he whispered as the man went out, forgetting to pay the due charge. Nadeem was too busy to call him.

"Umm, but don't you think it's too hot now?" queried the girl.

"Please, do come," Nadeem said, try-

ing to convince her as he felt her uncertain tone.

"Well. I will be there in ten minutes," she said.

Nadeem put down the telephone and jumped with joy, "I've done it, I've done it."

He went out of the center to check if there were any people sitting or chewing qat nearby. But luckily there was nobody. Nadeem thought that one could not get a similar chance in a lifetime, so he must make full use of it. He thought that despite the heat, the girl would come. His words seemed to have a great impact on her though she pretended otherwise. He, then, came back to the center in order not to draw any attention. There, he impatiently waited, dreaming of the beautiful girl.

Suddenly, a heavy black thing entered the center. A fat black woman, aged about 48 came towards Nadeem. Nadeem was about to give her ten rials, thinking she was a beggar.

"I'm your girl," she said smiling. "My name's Wedad. I live on the same street as I told you, one block from here," she explained.

Nadeem was shocked, unable to utter even half a word. He could not believe that this was the girl on the phone ten minutes ago. She did not have a tinge of beauty.

Wedad seated herself on a chair next to Nadeem, wondering how to begin the meeting, but Nadeem was almost lifeless. Wedad began to tell her life story and her ongoing struggle to gain self-confidence and self-dependence. Nadeem was still shocked and silent. He realized that his dreams of new horizons in his lifestyle ended in colossal failure.

Then, he gave a terrible scream and shouted furiously, "Get out of here, stupid heavy thing. I want a beautiful sweet and white girl, not a dust bin."

Embryonic research scientist

By: Paul Kokoski
paulkokoski@mountaincable.net

Hwang Woo Suk, is not the only embryonic research scientist who should be standing trial for fraud.

The latest method of embryonic stem cell manipulation developed by Dr. Robert Lanza and California-based Advanced Cell Technology Inc. does not, as widely purported a few days ago, allow for the safe removal of single cells from early embryos. This experiment left no embryos alive, and solves no ethical problem.

There are many uses of genetic engineering, such as "somatic cell" therapy that are morally acceptable. "Germ-line" therapy, performed on early

human embryos, is more problematic however because it alters forever the basic genetic constitution of the person and all of his or her future offspring. Contrary to what some scientists claim an embryo with even one cell removed will never retain its full potential for development.

This type of therapy also requires using reproductive technologies such as in vitro fertilization to produce embryos in the laboratory where they can be observed and manipulated. Here, a relationship of domination of researchers over their embryonic subjects exists which not only opens the door to new threats against life but is contrary to the dignity and equality that must be common to parents and children.

Genetic screening used for the deliberate destruction of human embryos can

never be justified because here we are dealing with murder.

Amazingly though, embryonic stem cell experiments have failed to produce a single, unqualified, therapeutic success, even in animal models, supporters of the embryonic model continue to laud their unproven and currently unethical methods and ignore the fact that adult stem cell therapies are being used extensively today in treating diseases.

We must help those who are suffering, but we may not use a good end to justify an evil means. Human beings are not raw materials to be exploited or commodities that can be bought and sold. To suggest otherwise is to endorse a macabre interpretation of progress. Pure and simple this latest method of genetic manipulation is nothing more than Frankenstein science.

Between your arms

By: Tariq Al Naggar
al_naggar_2005@yahoo.com

*Lonely, I lay there
I ask where can I
go where?
Between your arms
like a child
learn your heart
to be mild
Plant flowers near
your rooms
All heartbeats will
be blooms
If there is no water,
It will be my blood
In fact, you are the
only creature who
is created by god
Sadness is no way
to come
when saying to me
welcome
Between your arms
like my mums.*

Alba Rose

By: Fuad Noman
fn_0012000@yahoo.com

*On the left hand wearing my time's
veins,
But it is suspended
Carrying off the breath of rose by my
right hand
Combing her scent's curls,
But it is wounded
My vibrant heart's sense that is my
accurate time
Rose with free colors of rainbow
With dove's feather, with swans forming
my heart's shape
Living with green leaves, it never dies
by shot of bees
Whereas it is inhaling breeze
No one can hear the melody of freedom
Only the hanging southern petal, but it
mustn't be died,
Ruthless hand
The evil's license, able to be thriven in
an infertile land
Slavery is our Future's destruction*

*Past can't return reversed
Forwarding the Present Time's wheel
to unknown place
It is not soundly begotten,
Accidentally rupture
Due to the rapture
An evil's soul hanging the petals
Dyeing the river by pale nights
Alba is kneeling down on her knees
She repeats mysterious words
Infamy
Infamy
Crying and Tears, instead of wearing
her white dress
Tomorrow's dew wouldn't dye her with
Henna
In Palmyra Oasis
Freedom can't be radiantly grown
With the wand of mischief
What a dream! Instead of wedding of
freedom
The north balance is not always fair
Tomorrow is a mourning day
It is a rattlesnake's silence and fall
with a great toll.*

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Ancient Yemeni gold treasures at the National Museum

By: Abdulaziz Al-Jindari

Classic historians like Estrabon and Donji Bileni wrote about the lavish wealth ancient Yemeni states enjoyed. In their writings, they said palace ceilings were made of gold because the kings of those states traded spices, the most expensive commodity at that time, used in religious rituals in various locations worldwide.

Such classic historians mentioned that kings of the ancient Yemeni states levied a 10 percent tax on the spice trade. Such trade movement motivated the Romans to invade Yemen

in 24 B.C., but according to history books, the invasion failed.

If this wealth led to decorating Yemeni house ceilings with gold, why hasn't exploration of this wealth, implemented by local and foreign teams in numerous cities and ancient sites, revealed any

ruins of it? According to the great historian Abu Al-Hassan Al-Hamdani's writings, Yemen has been famed for its minerals, including gold, since ancient

times. Prof. Hamid Rabe'e Khalifa attributes the scarcity of mineral ruins to the fact that such wealth was melted down and reformed, particularly after the Islamic period.

While digging in his yard in Kharbat Hamdan in Al-Jawf governorate - where a great Yemeni state named Ma'een existed in ancient times - a Yemeni man found some jewelry, including bracelets, rings, stamps and other small shapes. The discovery was taken to Sana'a and a committee formed at that time from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to examine the pieces.

The committee met at the National Museum in Sana'a to review the find, requesting help from a British committee experienced in that field. After a series of joint sessions and discussions, both committees became convinced that the pieces were original and belonged to an important Yemeni woman from

ancient times, believing the discovery dates to the first century B.C. They then reported to the ministry about what they'd done.

Due to the significance of Yemen's ancient wealth, implying that ancient Yemenis used gold in several areas, President Ali Abdullah Saleh directed concerned parties to preserve the jewelry discovery in the National Museum. The find was documented, registered and photocopied and each piece given an independent identification card with detailed information and a description, including size, weight, source and date.

One piece was a gold strand of 28 small jewels connected by small circles, with two small jewels depicting animal heads. The find also included agates and pearls.

The strand gained importance as a replica of one worn by a woman prostrating as she performs worship in a portrait found in Al-Jawba area. The woman in the portrait was named Berlet and is similar to a portrait of Al-Hamim (the god of fertility), which was lost in Aden Museum during the 1994 Civil War. It was rediscovered in the United States and handed over to President Saleh, who returned it to the Aden Museum.

The discovery included various-sized bracelets that were hollow and free of decoration. Kidney-shaped gold pieces also were strung together and connected to semicircular, circular, triangular and rectangular gold shapes. The find also included numerous short and thin strands linked by a head-shaped jewel.



Traditional Yemeni jewelry is usually decorated with natural gems to give it flare as well as superstitious value.

PHOTOS BY IBRAHIM AL-HADEED



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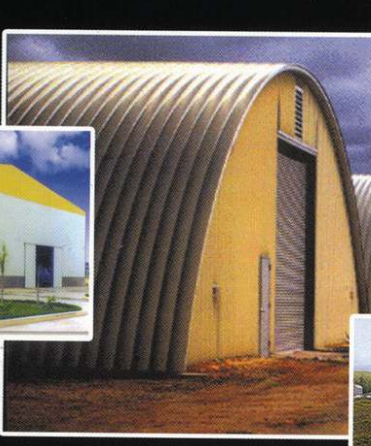

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