Universal Rent a Car Sana'a Tel: (01) 440309, Aden (02) 245625 Sheraton Branch (01) 545985



Thursday, 12 October, 2006 • Issue No. 989 • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf • www.yementimes.com

Price 30 Yemeni Riyals

Inside:



Ramadan, month of sport and energy



Ramadan Page: The



Islam's social welfare:

Readers' Voice **Last edition's question:** Yemen is reported to force African illegal immigrants back to their country. Do you think this is against human rights and the Geneva treaty?

No (58%) Yes (33%)

This edition's question:

Bin Shamlan said he won't congratulate president Saleh because of the violations and frauds in the elections process. Do you think he is

- Yes - I don't know

Go to our website at: andhave your voice heard

Bin Shamlan: I won't congratulate Saleh for win

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Oct. 10 — "I won't congratulate Saleh for winning the elections," said Faisal Bin Shamlan, the Joint Meeting Parties presidential candidate, although presenting congratulations to the winner is one of the best thing he

Bin Shamlan described his refusal to offer congratulations to the winner as part of the democratic process, and this is how people should all understand it. "Many violations and vote frauds were committed in the elections, which is why I refused to congratulate the winner. I respect all those who voted for change," he commented.

"Which is better and requires more responsibility, to present congratulations or to abide by democracy so that the democratic situation in the country improves?" asked the JMP candidate.

Bin Shamlan strongly criticised all those who criticized him for not congratulating Saleh for the victory.

"Why didn't those critics understand that we refused to congratulate because we don't back violations and frauds? Why didn't they understand that we shoulder the responsibility toward democracy and people?" Bin Shamlan asked further.

"We hoped the race would proceed fairly, but violations and frauds haven't given us a chance to congratulate the Yemeni people who opted for change," Bin Shamlan stated. "Opposition accepted the vote result to avoid any local, regional and international issues that may make our situation in Yemen more complicated."

He mentioned numerous violations and frauds, saying the vote result was announced by the state-run television and not by Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum.

"A lot of voters were subjected to imprisonment or killing and women were threatened to be harassed unless they responded to wills of the ruling party in many areas," stated Bin



Bin Shamlan at the press conference.

Opposition fails in local elections

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Oct. 10 — The Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum approved the results of the local elections declaring that the General people Congress achieved a majority.

The committee announced that GPC won 315 seats at the level of provincial councils with a percentage of 74 percent, followed by the Islah party with 28 seats shaping 6.5 percent and the independents with 20 seats and just under 5 percent. While the Socialist Party got 10 seats with 2 percent and the National Socialist Party secured one





Regarding the results of municipal councils, the GPC got 5078 seats with a percentage of 73.7. The Islah Party received 794 with 11.5 percent while the Yemeni Socialist Party won 171 seats and the independents got 571 seats with 8.72 percent.

The Unionist Nasserite Party got 26 seats and the Public Forces Union received 8 seats. Additionally, the Nationalist Ba'ath Party got 2 seats, while Al-Haq Party, Democratic Union for Public Forces and Arab Ba'ath received one seat each.

The SCER approved of publishing the names of winners of the local council elections in the official newspapers.

In a press statement, Dr. Mohammed Al-Sayani, head of technical affairs and planning at the SCER, noted that some district results are still being reviewed by judiciary and the SCER will publish



SCER approved of publishing the names of winners of the local council elections in the official newspapers.

the names of the winners as soon as pending issues get resolved.

Further, some other districts' results

will not be announced until the committee review the results to ensure they are legal.

President Saleh: Amnesty and compensations for Sa'ada victims

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Oct. 10 — President Saleh paid a visit to war-torn Maraan of Haydan district in Sa'ada last Monday and repeated his promises of general amnesty for Al-Houthi followers, asking them to return to their homes and live a peaceful life.

He also ordered the government to compensate Al-Houthi war victims form the year-long war according to

the estimations of the committee delegated to asses the damages. Thus allowing the victims to return to their duties and enjoy their rights ensured by the constitution

Further, he gave directions to concerned authorities to complete the implementation of infrastructure projects the area. The region lacks schools, water, electricity, roads and other facilities, but the new project will receive a cash-infusion of YR 2.4 billion granted from King Abdullah Bin Abdualziz.

The President also visited the place siezed by Hussain Al-Houthi and his followers as their stronghold from which they to attacked the government. The headquarters contain a number of caves and fortifications where Al-Houthi followers would hide.

President Saleh has previously announced a general amnesty and compensations for war victims on many occasions, but the promises have never been into practice.

Some people in Sa'ada believe some power positions hinder the implementation of presidential directives. They do not want peace and stability to prevail as it challenges their interests and the foreign agenda targeting the coun-

However, people in Sa'ada are optimistic about the president's promises and the intention to realize his promis-

The year-long war between the government forces and Al-Shabab Al-Muman (the Believing Youth) groups caused the death of thousands form both sides damages involving material

tions the ruling party still is unable to accept opposition. All the violations witnessed in the elections imply there is

Shamlan and then corrected himself by

"We learned from September 20 elec-

saying, "No all the areas."

no acceptance of real democracy. Consequently, we have to understand well the meaning of democracy," he Bin Shamlan demanded the ruling

party fulfils what its program promised, as Yemen has responsibilities and duties toward the local, regional and internationals situations.

"We have to continue striving for change and assist the ruling party to attain success in its foreign relations. particularly in issues concerned with other Arab and Muslim nations. Despite the size of vote frauds and violations, the September 20 elections are better than the one before. We hope the coming elections will be fair and free," expressed Bin Shamlan.

He emphasized that political reform has to be given top priority and said it is futile to continue economic reforms without any political reforms.

Opposition accepted the vote result as a realistic matter and not as a correct result," he clarified.

On JMP's behalf. Sheikh Hamid Abdullah Al-Ahmar gave a speech in which he mentioned many difficulties posed to opposition parties during campaigning. "Opposition understands the difference between an advanced country and a backward one, and between a suc-

on the regime and the relation between the ruler and ruled. When the regime is reformed, the state will reform, flourish and prosper. Meanwhile, the state will be weak when the relation between the ruler and the ruled breaks," he explained. "This is the basis of the opposition's political reform program."

Al-Ahmar described Bin Shamlan as an ideal example for Yemen since he proved to be the most eligible, able and strong and that his strength stems from his experience, integrity and adherence to the democratic course.

"The effective participation of opposition parties in the elections helped Yemen gain international respect for the electoral program and campaigning although opposition diagnosed many violations in the state's system," explained Al-Ahmar.

He affirmed the opposition abided by the election laws saying they made voice, not the gun, its weapon. Also, he ascertained that opposition won despite threats, attacks and arbitrary practices that targeted opposition activists.

"We have been aware of obstacles and threats posed to our interests, but it is the nation, we must protect and sacrifices ourselves for its sake," said Al-

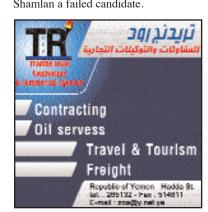
The vote result gave Bin Shamlan 21 percent of the vote total, compared to 77 percent for General People Congress candidate, Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Reacting to Bin Shamlan's statements, Sultan Al-Barakani, Assistant Secretary General of the ruling party, said, "Bin Shamlan lives in bad psychology following defeat in the elec-

According to Al-Barakani, Bin Shamlan's refusal to congratulate Saleh is an insult and challenge to voters' will.

"We confirm to Bin Shamlan that his congratulation to Saleh for the win is not necessary because people have their wills while Bin Shamlan has no will," he said. "Bin Shamlan is a rented candidate, who talks according to wills and demands of the opposition parties that hired him."

Al-Barakani is disappointed Bin Shamlan has not come forward to congratulate Saleh and says it makes Bin Shamlan a failed candidate.



losses, farms, and military equipments. cessful country and a failed one based Al-Shatter assures threatens

and Al-Ahmer denies

By: Hamdan Dammaj

SANA'A, Oct. 11 — Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmer, a leading opposition member of the Islah Party, denied a threat attributed to him in 26 September.net.

General Ali Al-Shatter, Editor in Chief of 26 September Newspaper, says Al-Ahmer threatened him.

The media office of Sheikh Al-Ahmer, according to Al-Shoura.net, declared what was published in September.net was fabrications and a continuation of serialized made-up

However, Al-Shatter maintained his assurance authenticity of the threat from Al-Ahmer on Oct. 10.

The dispute comes after 26 September published a poem attributed to Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Mansour defaming Sheikh Al-Ahmer. Al-Shatter stated "he will present



an official complaint to the general prosecutor, including the material evidence that proves the threat he

received from Hamid Al-Ahmer." Further, the media office of Sheikh Al-Ahmer pointed out that he asked the newspaper for an apology for publishing the poem, particularly when Sheikh Mansour denied any connection with it. According to Nass Press, Sheikh Mansour expressed surprise to attribute the poem to him describing it as "a week



In brief

Arrest, the 17 Ethiopian from Yemen

Oct. 10 — Following security procedures Yemen deported 17 illegal immigrants of Ethiopian nationality, said security sources. The 17 Ethiopians were arrested coming into Yemen under a suspicion they arrived to trade drugs.

Shabwa

Armed trap killed 3 and injured others

Oct. 10 — In a security trap three people from Al-Brak tribe were killed on their way to Atiq on Oct. 5. The victims were rushed to Atiq's central hospital. Security apparatuses are conducting an investigation into the matter.

Yemen discusses cultural cooperation with Egypt, KSA and Mauritania

Oct. 10 — Culture Minister Khaled al-Ruwishan discussed with the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Ali bin Muhammad Al-Hamdan, and the Mauritanian Ambassador Al-Khadir Walad Muhammad Al-Abdalaziz the aspects of cultural cooperation with their countries. The discussion found out the to facilitates that will promote the cultural relations between Yemen and their countries by creating new channels for cultural activities and broadening cooperation horizons in this respect to meet the aspirations of Yemeni Arab peoples in these countries.

Women win in seven governorates

Oct, 11 - The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum confirmed that seven women won in the local council elections for provinces. Five of the wining candidates won in Lahj, Abyen, Al- Mahweet, Dhamar and two won in Aden governorate, all of them are from the GPC party. The number of women candidates who won in the local council elections for districts reached 28 candidates, 24 of them are from GPC party, one from the Socialist party and three independents.

UAE supports Socotra Island

Oct. 8 — The United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan ordered to set up four mosques on Socotra Island. He also gave his orders to provide Socotra hospital with new and improved medical equipment. This gift came after the landing of UAE airplane on Sunday at Socotra airport carrying more than 40 tons of humanitarian aids.

Mahweet

A Mother was killed to save her son's life

Oct. 10 — A small quarrel between a father and his son ended up with the death of the mother. Fatima Al Shamati, 45, was shot by her husband while fleeing with her son to avoid the father's deadly shoots in Biet Mathcor, Al Taweela district. Police rushed to the place and arrested the murderer, Mohammed Mabkhoot, also 48. Before being sent to prison the Mabkhoot confessed to the crime saying that he wanted to shot his son and not his

Hajah

Farmer changes from gat farming

Oct. 11 — Yemeni farmer, Ali Hassen, destroyed his large qat farm and decided to grow different types of grapes, coffee trees and others vegetables and fruit. He says qat trees waste the water of the village. The move comes following the general session of water resources visited the village in Al-Shahel district teaching farmers the importance of water. The session will make a campaign to cut all qat trees from the region and make a film about the campaign.

Prisoners to be released

SANA'A, Oct 10 - presidential directives have been issued to approve the release of 562 inmates who had served three quarters of their imprisonment term, according to a judicial

The inmates are divided among 11 governorates and their release is based on reports presented by the subcommittees branched from the Higher Prisons Committee which is chaired by Judge Issam Al-Samawi, Chairman of Chairman of the Higher Judicial

The approval for prisoners release was given to 130 inmates in Dhamar governorate; 90 in Taiz; 70 in Aden; 66 Hodeida; 32 in Hajjah; 32 in Lahj; 30 in Amran; 28 in Hadhramout; 27 in Abyan; 18 in Shabwa; and 16 in Sa'ada. Prisoners include 9 foreigners who entered the country illegally and four juveniles.

Everyday a presidential amnesty is released during the holy month of Ramadan to release prisoners who have spent three quarters of their imprisonment term, among them insolvents who the state and donations pay part of their debts.

Last Ramadan, a report issued by the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights and Freedoms, after a



Prisoners waiting impatiently for their release.

YT ARCHIVE PHOTO

serious of visits to prisons, revealed a scandal concerning prisoners families and children who suffer because of a lack of family leader and exacerbation of poverty and difficult living condi-

The report stated that according to records of the Sana'a Central Prison, there are 1934 prisoners, of whom 53 are women, 47 juvenile prisoners and 12 children who accompany their imprisoned mothers.

According to the report, 190 prisoners in the Sana'a Central Prison and 800 in other prisons are convicted of robbery and violations against the public interest. Many of them have finished their sentences, but still remain imprisoned as they have not restored the debt form their crimes.

Fertility and maternal mortality still high

SANA'A, Oct, 10 — New statistics from the National Population Council showed that Yemen received six newborns per five minutes at a rate of 74 newborn per hour and 1700 newborns in a day. The statistics indicate that the population of Yemen rises at rate of 53,000 newborns per month.

United Nations Population representative in Yemen Hans Obdeijn said Yemen is predicted to rank sixth globally in 2006 in population growth rate.

Obdijn added that Yemen is characterized by one of the highest fertility rate in the world with 6.8 births per woman. "Nearly half of the Yemenis are younger than 15 years, which is a

reflection of the high population growth rate," he added.

Some studies pointed out that 84 percent of Yemeni women give birth at home without a trained attendant and less than half of the 65 district hospitals have the ability to perform cesarean sections.

In addition, 38.8 percent of mothers die during childbirth due to the absence of a nearby medical facility and 14.8 percent die because they cannot afford childbirth operation expenses, 8.8 percent die due to absence of proper medical equipment and facilities, 5.5 percent die because of lack of transportation in these distant regions and 2.6 percent die due to the husband's refusal to transfer the mother to a hospital. Also, 11.8 percent of mothers prefer giving birth at

However, the maternal mortality rate is lower than in previous years; the 1990 demographic survey estimated that 1400 woman died for every 100,000 babies delivered; whereas in the 2003 demographic survey, an estimated 366 women died for every 100,000 babies delivered. That is, there are eight maternal deaths daily in Yemen, which is still considered the highest maternal mortality rate among Arab countries.

EU observers still monitor results process in Yemen

SANA'A, Oct. 11 — The European Union Election Observation Mission its offices in Sana'a on this week. ballots and results from every polling retain a presence in Sana'a until the voter can know how their vote count-Two election experts will continue to monitor the final stages of the process, including the publication of full results for the presidential and governorate and district council elections.

The Chief Observer, Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, said "The mission looks forward to the prompt

publication and distribution of the full results, This include the total number for the 2006 Yemen elections closed of ballots cast, the number of invalid However, the observation mission will centre and polling station so that every completion of the electoral process. ed. This final step is crucial to whether an electoral process can be assessed to be successful in its openness and transparency in accordance to international standards relating to

> The observation mission operated in Yemen from Aug. 11 and included approximately 120 election observers

democratic elections."

who, on election day, visited over 1000 polling stations across Yemen, half of which were in rural areas. A preliminary statement was issued by the group on Sep. 21 and the mission may release a second preliminary statement relating to the results process if considered necessary. A final report will be released within two months of the completion of the election process.

Updated information form the European Union Election Observation Mission can be found on www.eueom-

SAF urges Parliament to ratify the Rome Statute

SANA'A, Oct. 10 — Sisters Arab Forum for human rights organized on Saturday a meeting for members of Yemeni Coalition for the International Criminal Court. The meeting aimed to "review the report of the constitutional committee in the Parliament on Yemen's ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

According to the sisters Arab technical assistant, Snia Al-Aswadi, the constitutional committee in the Parliament had presented its report to the Parliament's chairmanship last October and included the issue of criminal courts on its agenda. But the committee did not present any recommendation about ratification of Rome Statute.

Al-Aswadi confirmed that number of the committee members have reservations about some issues that

may obstruct the ratification. "Some members of the committee think that Roma statute includes some articles inconsistent with the Yemeni constitutional's term such as immunity, extradition sovereignty," said Al-Aswadi.

"Participants in this meeting decided to form a legal report counting the main points for response and discuss the committee's report. This legal report will be discussed with numbers of representatives to encourage them to vote with ratification of the Rome Status," he added.

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, adopted in 1998, says the criminal court will have initial jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The statute entered into force in July 2002.

States that have ratified the Rome Statute accept the primary responsibility to investigate and prosecute people accused of and war crimes in their national courts. The International Criminal Court will only step in when national courts are unable or unwilling to do

Yemen signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on 28 December 2000, indicating an intention to ratify the statute.

Sisters Arab Forum believes the ratification of the Rome Statute by Yemen could raise Yemen as an example for the Arab region in the fight against impunity and the respect and promotion of international justice and human rights and allow a more active participation of Yemen in the development of the International Criminal Court.

The government gave promises to ratify the status at an international conference hosted by Sana'a in 2004 under the guidance of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Yemen celebrates **World Post Day**

SANA'A, Oct. 10 -Yemen's Post General Authority celebrated World Post Day along with other countries across the globe.

The celebration coincides with the 132nd anniversary establishing the Universal Postal Union on Oct. 9, 1874 and Yemen joined the Union in 1931.

Yemeni post sector.

Celebrating occasion, the Post General Authority conducted a number of activities and further presented a review for the

developments achieved so far by the

A new project of postal services will be launched soon and it costs over more than US \$300,000. The Universal Postal Union will finance

half of the first phase at 75,000 Swiss Franks, while the second phase will be financed by Post General Authority, according to Engineer Mohammed Murghim, the director of the Authority.

He said the project due to be performed by the end of 2007 will enable employees to enter and follow up postal services automatically and via the postal web e x t e n d i n g nationwide.

Fayaz Saif Sa'eed, general director of postal

affairs, noted that Oct. 9 was declared World Post Day and all postal administration of member countries across the world celebrate the occasion.

The celebration is a chance to review what has been accomplished and discusses the future plans for the promotion of postal services, according to Sa'eed.

He further added, "Yemen was selected an exemplary in the Arab area and the least developed countries as for activating the integrated plans of reform and postal development."

Legal support for journalists

SANA'A, Oct 10 — The Human Rights Information and Training Center met with a number of civil society organizations that are interested in supporting freedom of expression and opinion as well as human rights issues.

Izz Addin Al-Asbahi, head of the human rights center, talked about the importance of forming a special committee to provide legal support for journalists who are questioned about their opinions and reports.

During the meeting, some cases of

journalists' trials that need legal support were presented. Participants approved the formation of a committee to draft the financial and organizational by-law to be part of the legal committee. Members of Lawyers Bar were among the 17 participates attended the meeting.

The Human Rights Information and Training Center organized the meeting as part of a program to support media legal aspects, run by International Research and Exchange and the Jordan-based Protecting Journalists.

Yemeni film director receives international prizes

SANA'A, Oct. 10 — Yemeni director Khadeeja Al-Salami received two international prizes from the International Festival of Documentary Films last Monday in France.

Al-Salami was the only Arab winner and she won the judgment board prize

and audience prize for her films Najmia and Ameena.

It is not the first time Al-Salmi's work received prizes, as she received a number of prizes for her direction of the Yemeni film "A New Day in Old

Al-Dilami arrested in Sana'a Airport

Union Party asked for the release fo as the arrest is against human rights Ali Hussain Al-Dilami, director of the ensured in the constitution. Yemeni Organization for the Defense of Public Rights and Liberties and member of the union party.

The statement said such conduct would create a bad impression about the post-election period, asking for Al-Dilami's immediate release.

A number of opposition parties

SANA'A, Oct. 11 — The Public Forces asked authorities to release Al-Dilami,

Similarly, a number of organizations interested in human rights, denounced Al-Dilami's arrest.

Al-Dilami was arrested in Sana'a Airport when he was in his way to Denmark among a delegation, representing Yemeni civic society organiza-

Al-Diyyar Editor-in-Chief released on bail

SANA'A, Oct. 11 - Press and Publications Prosecution released Abed Al-Mahdhari, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Diyyar Newspaper on bail. It said the journalist will stand trial on

President of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, Nasr Taha Mustafa, confirmed the syndicate contacted with Press and Publications Prosecution to free the detained journalist.

Apparatuses of the Criminal Investigation Bureau in Sana'a arrested Al-Mahdhari last Monday and put him in jail under an order from Press and Publications Prosecution after the journalist was sued over allegedly violating the publication laws.

Al-Mahdhari was dragged out of a conference hall by a group of men belonging to political security last June and transferred to jail. Following his arrest, Al-Mahdhari raised a complaint to the journalist



Abed Al-Mahdhari

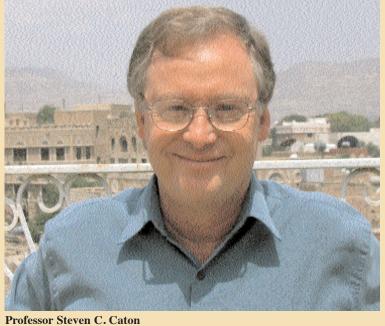
syndicate saying he was beaten and harassed by political security agents.

Prior to his imprisonment, Al-Mahdhari had been subjected to attacks and harassments by unidentified men, and this led International Press Institute to condemn mistreatments of Yemeni iournalists.

Harvard professor discusses Yemen from 1979 to 2006

By: Brock L. Bevan

he Yemen Times interviewed Professor Steven C. Caton, director of Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, currently on sabbatical in Yemen since September 2005. Caton, an anthropologist by trade, has written two books on Yemen and is researching water management in Yemen. During the past year, Caton has trained four Yemeni students on modern anthropology enabling them to produce studies on their own for publication in Arabic. He has given lectures at the Water and Environment Center at Sana'a University, at Das Deutsche Haus and at the Yemen Language Center. Caton first came to Yemen in 1979 and plans to come back next year to continue his research as well assisting with the foundation of the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies.



As the current director of Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, how would assess interest in Yemen there, and in the U.S. more broadly? Well, Yemen is still considered to be a marginal country even by scholars who

marginal country even by scholars who know something about it. I find that there is a hierarchy in Middle Eastern studies about where you should go if you want to really to understand the heart of the Middle East you have to be at the epicenter of the political conversations going on in Middle East. Of course we've all learned—to our cost—that neglecting the margin can be absolutely disastrous because it is precisely at the margins and at the borders these days that some of the most interesting and dangerous that happen. Think of marginal states like Pakistan,

So, students are advised to go to Egypt because it has a great long civilization and someone else will say, no it is really Syria or Iraq. Forget Iraq now, but that is Mesopotamian, the highpoint of Islamic civilization. That's where you should be because you'll be really at the heart of what is the authentic Middle East.

Afghanistan, and Yemen.

But when it comes to places like Yemen, people will be almost bemused at the thought of coming to a place like Yemen. And yes, if you want to learn something about a timeless Arab culture stuck in the medieval period then maybe you should come to Yemen and they'll acknowledge its beauty and so on and so forth.

I found that it is rather difficult actually to convince my colleagues and students that Yemen is a place that they could go to learn about the Middle East and Yemen. And that the kind of Arabic that they will learn in Yemen is as useful to them elsewhere as Levantine Arabic or Egyptian Arabic that commands the airwaves and the television channels. This is changing partly because Yemen scholarship is very strong in anthropology. It is very strong in political science.

How would you say Yemen has changed since you first came in 1979?

I have an argument with my Yemeni elite colleagues about this who have traveled to other countries and have often been directly involved in Yemen's development and feel beleaguered understandably and disappointed understandably and frustrated and so on and so forth. Any they say that given the revolution in 1962 and all of

our energy and good will at that time to try and develop Yemen, it does not seem like we've accomplished very much and that in fact we've stagnated at the moment. There are all kinds of reasons. I say that look at where you were in 1962 and compare it to what it is now what 26 years later - a quarter of

When I was here if I was sick I had to go to the embassy clinic because there was no sense that there was enough, good enough, trained Yemeni or foreign doctors in the private sector who could help. And now the embassy is the last place I'd go. There is an array of very good physicians in Sana'a. There are some very good labs where you can get basic tests done. They are much cheaper than what you can get in the U.S. And they are reliable. But unreliable is that the machine might break down and it'll take a month to get the part to replace it so that'll work again. It's an infrastructure problem.

You can have dental work done that is quite complicated by competent doctors and they're often by they way better diagnosticians, I find, than doctors in the U.S. because they can't rely on sophisticated tests to make a diagnosis. They have to do a very careful body examination and they have to talk about your symptoms, you talk about

your symptoms. So, what I am saying is that the medical system has expanded and for basic things you can find decent medical treatment. If it is really complicated like brain surgery, no. And heart problems, no. The educational system my god, I mean 25 years ago being able to read and write for instance in a tribal area was a luxury.

Now, I am amazed at the number of schools that exist. Okay, the windows are broken. You can't find enough people to staff them. There's not enough materials to go around. But in comparison to what was available 30 years ago, it is remarkable the progress in the educational system and women in particular, more and more, of course the literacy rate is still deplorable, but to go from practically zero to 30 percent or whatever it is in that amount time given the little resources you have. I still

think it is still a remarkable achieve-

So, in all kinds of ways the country has changed and I think has got better. And when you think about the way in which African countries have really slipped back in some instances almost into a survivalist subsistence mode by comparison to what they were before with modern fully functioning systems that had some kind of solid economic base that's really tragic.

So, I think there has been real progress in Yemen and that should not be dismissed and should not be discounted. Now, the question really is how long can that be sustained.

Could you tell me about your work in Yemen since 1979 and how has it changed over time?

Well, I came into Yemen in 1979 from Saudi Arabia, where I had been working in the Department of Antiquities, and I had a background in archaeology, but the purpose, my purpose was to learn colloquial Arabic after having studied classical Arabic for two years at the University of Chicago. I happened to get this job because the director of the museum and of the department was a University of Chicago graduate but through the network he was looking for someone who would sort of be a step-

And it didn't work out

that way. I fell in love

with the country all over

again. Remembered why

it was such a compelling,

stunning place to me and

it remained so even

though there had been a

lot of changes.

and-fetch-it for him and I was glad to step-and-fetch-it just for the chance to be in Riyadh where at that time few people spoke English and really did pick up a lot of Arabic.

When I was there, I was reading a lot of travel literature of Arabia and I was fascinated by the number of times

and the number of

people who experienced Arab tribal society and commented on poetry on being so important to tribal life. So, I decided I wanted to work on this in Saudi Arabia where they have a very famous tradition called nabati poetry. But as I started to look into the poetry, I found that much of it had died out. It wasn't still as vibrant and lively a form as I had expected it to be. Much of was left in manuscript collection.

The other problem was that I couldn't get permission to do this study. So,

take a vacation and when you take your vacation go to Yemen and check Yemen out because Yemen is supposed to be a very interesting place. It has just sort of opened up since the end of the civil war around 1974." So, I did. And as soon I landed in fog, the dawn, I was so taken by the place. On an official level and on an everyday public level, people were so much more open of me doing research in the country. And the preliminary survey that I did suggested that the tribal poetic system was much livelier and much more politically active than the one in Saudi Arabia. So, I switched. And I was glad that I did. It was one of the most important decisions that I've ever made. And it worked out very, very well.

I arrived on January 1, 1979 and almost immediately and there was a war or tensions were building between North and South. Ali Abdullah Saleh was just new in his presidency and perceived as a very weak president and therefore very vulnerable to those internal coups and external attacks all of which he has, by hindsight, survived quite brilliantly. And the South provoked a war and I was confined to Sana'a and there was a period of time when I thought that I might have to leave Sana'a. But I stayed and I asked people where I should I go to study poetry, tribal poetry, and they all told me Khawlan Al-Tiyal.

Luckily, I managed to get out there in April and I found a place where I could stay. Once it was safe enough to go, I relocated to Khawlan Al-Tiyal in November 1979 and I stayed there until November 1980. That's when I concentrated on understanding the different genres of poetry that are produced, the occasions they are produced for, the kind of political work that the poetry does, particularly in tribal disputes and how important a rhetorical this whole system is all of which I explore in the two books that I have written on the subject one of which is a more academic book—Peaks of Yemen I Summon: Poetry as a Cultural Practice in a North Yemeni Tribe—and the other one the Yemen Chronicle: An Anthropology of War and Mediation, which is more of a memoir ethnography and more accessible to the non-specialized pub-

I left Khawlan at the end of 1980, but I felt like I still needed time to go over the poetry. I needed another year to go over all this material that I collected to transcribe it phonetically, to translate it, and to understand it. But I had run out of money, so I worked for the Peace Corps to build up their Arabic training program which is where I met Sabri Saleem—who was in charge of the Yemeni teachers. So, I spent roughly a year working in the Peace Corps and then going over my materials to make sure I had what I needed to write this book.

Then I came back [to the U.S.] after almost three years in Yemen and wrote my dissertation, which I completed in 1984. I was quite burned out after two years in Saudi Arabia and three years in Yemen. And the three years in Yemen was straight, I never left the country. I felt like if I left the country I might not be able to get back in again because of internal problems.

Finally, it was not until 2001, just before September, in July 2001 that I decided that I would come back. I came back with the attention of finishing my third book, Yemen Chronicle, to revisit Khawlan and talk to the people about this war that broke out there and that that would be my swan song on Yemen and is where I would get Yemen out of my system. And it didn't work out that way. I fell in love with the country all over again. Remembered why it was such a compelling, stunning place to me and it remained so even though there had been a lot of changes. But I could not see myself going back and working on poetry again and I wanted to work on something that was very different and very urgent and that seemed to be the water crisis.

For the sake of going back to Yemen, I decided I'd work on that issue but it meant retooling myself working more on environmental issues, working more on political economy, working more in the area of science studies, all of which are very fascinating to me but I had no knowledge of or very little knowledge of and background in. It meant reading a lot of new literature in new fields much of it very exciting to me and coming back a different kind of anthro-

pologist to Yemen 25 years later. So, now I've been here for one year. I decided I didn't want to come back and just work on my own as I had done before. I had the chance [through a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation] of maybe bringing graduate students from America to work in Yemen with me as part of a team. So, Abdo Ali Othman, professor of sociology at Sana'a University, and I decided to take a chance and do this collaborative project and train Yemeni students to do field work on water issues. And it has been a very interesting experiment. It's been for me and for him and for them very much up and down up and down, up and down.

I think the students had expectations that were very different from what they were given and there was a long period of confusion. Then, they pulled out of that and choose some very interesting topics to work on. Two of them have

Fieldwork is an

improvisational thing. I

never expected that I

would end up working

in Holland or Germany

on top of Yemen before

I started this project,

and now it seems like it

maybe increasingly

necessary.

come through I think, the two othwill pull ers through and come up with some interesting work and I think we'll end up with an interesting book at the end of this. I am hoping to be able to sustain this by finding some kind of empirical work for them to do to over the long term on water issues so that they can apply

what they've learned now but in anthropological way, and to convince the academic system here in Yemen, and to convince also the development organizations and the donors who hire people like them that anthropology has something important to offer. It did, in the 1970s and 80s when development was very important in Yemen and at the forefront were foreign anthropologists.

Fieldwork is an improvisational thing. I never expected that I would end up working in Holland or Germany on top of Yemen before I started this project, and now it seems like it maybe increasingly necessary.

How does this study about water management in Yemen differ from your previous work on poetry practically?

In fact, there have been some ideas floated around using poetry to increase awareness among tribal groups about water issues and the need for water conservation. And I think there has been some tentative attempts in Saada using a group of poets up there to produce poetry on this subject. The German expert Gerhard Lichtenthäler in his book the Political Ecology and the Role of Water... he cites my work as an example of where poetry could be used to some beneficial effect because what I showed in the book [Peaks of Yemen I Summon] was that poetry is used rhetorically for all kind of issues that concern sheikhs and local people and water now is one of them.

I could have come back to Yemen and studied the poetry of water, but I wanted to completely change intellectual directions of research. My second major work has been on film [Lawrence of Arabia: A Film's Anthropology]. And on the side, I've been doing an ethnography of the film A New Day in Old Sana'a. I could have done something, let's say, on media more generally as these are used on television, posters, advertisements, materials that are distributed in schools and public events. How visual media are used in the public sphere to increase awareness about water issues. And this is an important topic actually. From time to time I've thought about doing it. But I really have changed intellectual trajectories. I'm more concerned about environmental issues, I've become more concerned with matter than symbols-I'm saying that somewhat facetiously-than I have in the

What is your opinion about qat, especially as it relates to water management?

Well, there's no doubt that 40 percent of the water used in the agricultural sector overall goes to qat and therefore, it uses a huge amount of water in a country that has to conserve water. No question about it. That said, if you are going to reduce qat cultivation you have to then also provide people who now have created a significant income for themselves and built a whole liveli-

hood on it, you have to give them viable economic alternatives. And that is the real challenge.

How do you find alternative employment, and how do you train people for that? It is both a economic question—can the economy diversify and grow in these different directions and what might they be so you can offer significant long-term employment for people and income might drop somewhat but it's not going to plummet so that they move from one class to anther from one set of socio-economic circumstances to another.

And then it is also a manpower issue. Can you retrain them for these new sectors to takeover in these new sectors and really make those sectors work? What are they? Tourism. But tourism is very vulnerable. Every time there is a kidnapping, or something happens in

the Middle East tourism plummets. The fishing industry. But, is just going to be hauling fish, transporting them to Sana'a and then selling them in the souq? Or, are you going to set up canneries where people can actually work 9-5 and make a decent wage.

Now personally, I like to chew qat. My body and mind can't take it on an everyday basis:

I'm too wired and I go nuts. So, I can only do it at the tail end of the week. And I like it not really because it is a stimulant, but because of the social [aspect]...I very rarely if ever chew by myself. I only chew with others, sometimes one on one, more often in a group. But I really, really like the sociability of the qat chew. And that's where I get something out of it. And that is partly connected to why I really like, I really enjoy Yemen and come back to Yemen again, and again and again: the sociability of the place.

And it's not only because they're so hospitable and welcoming. Of course, that's true. When you can talk to people one on one or in a group outside of the office, outside of the work space, the conversation is really, really wonderful. It's mutli-layered. It's witty. It's funny. It's serious. Politically: often very critical. Some of the best conversations I've ever had anywhere I've had in Yemen in the context of a qat chew.

So, when I decided to work on water, I decided deliberately not to work on the qat issue. You know over and over again I hear officials say, "Well, there's no silver bullet to solving Yemen's problems." But those same people will act as though the silver bullet is getting rid of qat and then you've solved Yemen's water problems. Well, in some sense you have solved the water problem, but you've also created an economic disaster. So, is it a solution? I don't think so.

What about your involvement in the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies?

I'm offering my services as dean pro bono, I want that to be clear, I'm not being paid to do this. And there is a real important reason for this. I don't want this to be perceived as a Harvard...Well, I am doing this because I believe in the invention not because I'm being paid to produce a product. And I am doing this not because I am Harvard professor and that will lend prestige to the program. I am doing this because I am Middle East specialist who happens to be at Harvard. What I have brought to the program, is first of all, a focus on contemporary studies because I believe this is sorely lacking in programs in the US and Europe.

Second of all, I am bringing to the design of the curriculum an interdisciplinary approach that I hope will be interesting to a wide variety of students. We're focusing on topics within those disciplines that I think are really cutting edge topics. So, I hope that it'll be contemporary in two senses: It'll be contemporary in terms of the time frame that we're working on post-World War I so that we can get a modern historical perspective in there. But also contemporary in the sense that I would like the college to tackle what are certain kinds of key debates in contemporary research on the Middle East

Qatar Airways receives four accolades at The World Travel Awards 2006 ward-winning Qatar Airways boosted its

four key titles at the prestigious 13th World Travel Awards (WTA) during a glittering ceremony in the Caribbean island of the Turks and Caicos.

The Doha-based airline picked up awards for World's Leading Business Class Airline, World Leading Airline Inflight Meal Service, Leading Airline in the Middle East as well as Leading Middle East Business Class Airline. The airline gained extensive praise at the Travel Industry's equivalent to the Oscar's and triumphed being

tally of international honours by grabbing

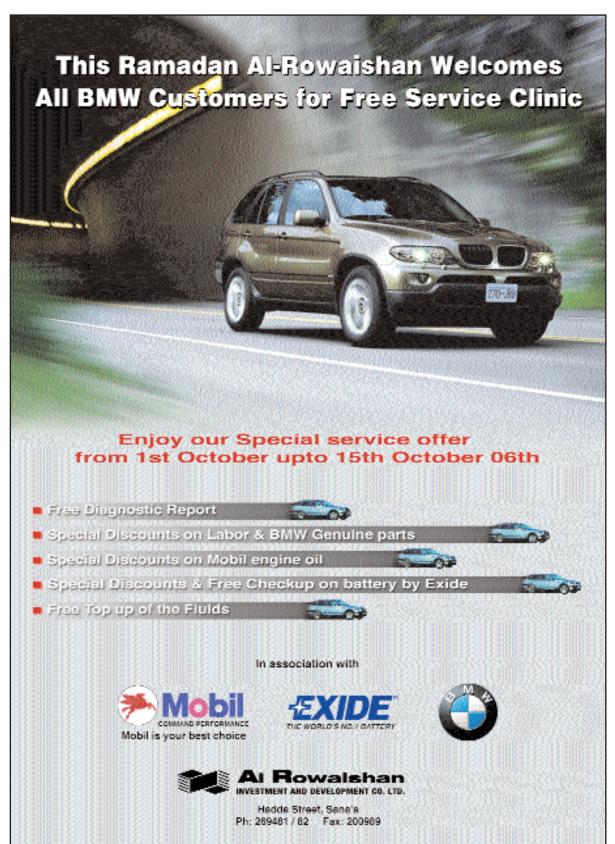
the Leading Airline in the Middle East as well as for gaining the World's Best Inflight Meal Service for the second year in a row.

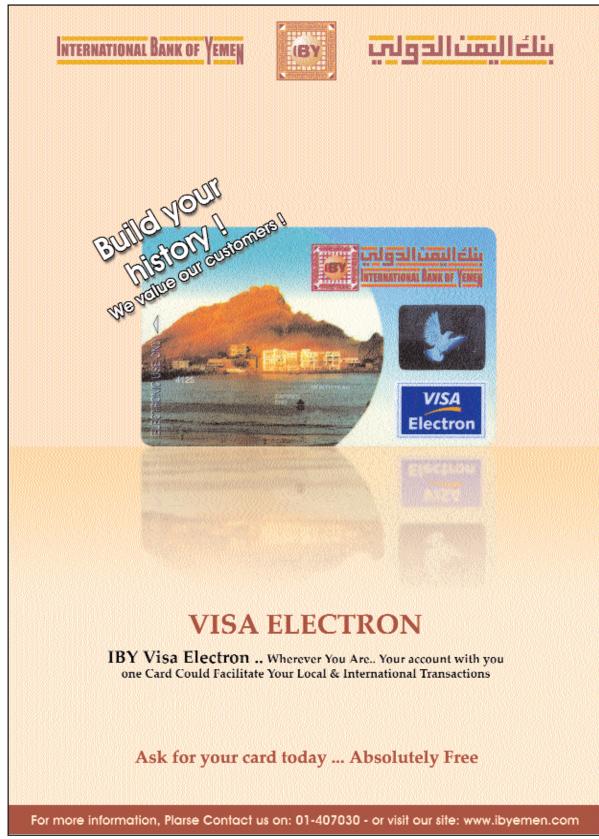
As one of the world's youngest and fastest growing airlines, the achievements are seen as remarkable in the short few years since Qatar Airways' relaunch in 1997 from a small regional carrier with a handful of routes to a

global airline covering 70 destinations.



Qatar Airways Vice President North America Eric P. Pechstein, left, and Graham Cooke, right, President of the World Travel Awards after picking up four key awards in the Turks and Caicos.









Ramadan, month of sport and energy

By: Fatima Al-Ajel Fatima_fnfr@yahoo.com

n Ramadan many Yemeni children, youth and even old men spend more time in sport compared to the rest of the year. Many games are played, football, volleyball, ping-pong. For some Ramadan is seen as a month of sport.

Children sport

Children are the most active in Ramadan. They are full of energy and life. Happily they wake up in the early mornings of Ramadan and exploit all moments of the long free days by playing and enjoying time.

Sadam Al-Dafai, 12, said that in Ramadan, he goes to school one hour late compared to other months. So he finds time to play his favorite game of football with his friends in his area.

Also, children have opportunity to play and enjoy time in the evenings of Ramadan. "My parents allow to us to play in the evenings of Ramadan so me and my friends specialize morning for football and evening for other sport," Sadam added.

It's not only boys who enjoy their time in Ramadan with sport, girls have their own games which may consider as sport. Yossra Ali Tagia, 9, said that in Ramadan she likes to play line jump and race with her friends during the long evenings.

Youth and sport

In the first part of a day of Ramadan, youth are more interested in playing physical sports even though they are fasting. So there are out playing football and volleyball with other youths in public spaces. The spaces are considered as field sport for them, they use sample tools to prepare the match in these zones. When asking some youth why do they select that time in Ramadan to play such sports which need more power, they said the sports allow them to stay energized and Ramadan gives them the freedom to meet up with friends.

"Ramadan is a great opportunity for us as youth to meet and play sport dur-



Some Yemeni youth playing volleyball using an election banner as there are no volleyball clubs. PHOTO BY FATIMA AL-AJEL

ing this time - in the other months, every one is busy with his business, some have studies while others chew qat at this time. For me, I feel myself more active with fasting. And after dinner I become less active especially with the full stomach," said Ali Yhaya Aziz, 22.

Other youths agreed with Aziz saying they don't play sport in the others months because they are chewing qat. Ahmad Al-Salwi, 23, said, "It is a habit for me to chew gat afternoon, but in Ramadan, I exploit fasting to play football or something else especially most

of my friends are available in the neighborhood"

While the rest of a day, youth specialize time for mental sports. Some people consider taraweeh prayer as a physical sport, so some say that they implement both kinds of sport in the evenings of Ramadan.

Some Yemeni youth go to sports club to practice their favorite sports after taraweeh prayer especially the mental sport or the sport that need a little bit efforts like, ping- pong, chess, billiards. Hamod Abdallah, 31, said he prefers to play mental sports in the



Elderly men playing dominos near midnight during Ramadan. PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

evening because he is overweight and he doesn't want to spend too much energy after dinner.

However, some see that evening time is suitable for sport.

"I am free in evening because I just finished my duties at my job than I can be free from work to play sport," said Khild JarAllah.

Old Yemeni men with their favorite sport

Like the rest of the year, there are many old men who like playing mental sports especially dominos and the chess in Ramadan. There are many public coffee shops which provide tables for their customers who like to enjoy time with their friends till Sahour time. Haj Ahmad Mokram, Haj Mohammed Al-Harizi and Haj Hassen Hamza are customers for the public coffee in Al-Tahrer and they play as a team.

"In general I come to this coffee shop with my friends every day in the afternoon but in Ramadan, we come in the evening from midnight until Sahour. For me I like to play chess while my friends are more intent on playing dominos," said Mokram.

Yemeni women and sport

In Ramadan, women are less interested in sport. They are busy in the kitchen with Ramadan's food. Amat Al-Salaam Nasser, a math teacher, said she likes to follow the sport news in general but in Ramadan she doesn't give much time for sport.

Unfortunately, some schools which have special classes for sport and other activities, cancel the classes of sport as a result students fasting and they might not play sport in Ramadan. Some students who like sport are shocked to hear there are no sport classes in Ramadan. Ahlam Ahmed, a student in Al-Samawi school, said, "The sport class that we have once a week, the administration of school cancels it because we are in Ramadan! I like sport even in Ramadan."

Luckily for Al-Samawi most people also seem to like sport in Ramadan and he should be able to find people playing outside of school.

Ramadan in Socotra

By: Ahmed Bin Afrar

amadan has its own flavor and peculiarities for Muslims in general and locals of Socotra in particu-

There are some similarities in the traditions of Socotra and other governorates -Ramadan used to take on a very special feel on Socotra during this month.

Before the 1980s, locals of Socotra used to receive Ramadan with many different traditions. At that time, people used have immense happiness, chanting its melodies and songs in special sessions at night.

As the day began, and people began their work in every part of the island the day would be different. Fishermen head for the coasts early in the morning and go back to markets in the afternoon to sell what they caught. They sell fish in the main market or at the seaside of Hodaibu. the capital city of Socotra and then leave before al-Maghreb prayer. Butchers purchase sheep or calves from rural areas in the island, and then go to different markets to start their work. Women, as usual, prepare the Iftar meals at home, starting from 4 pm.

In mosques, people recite Ramadan chants after performing each prayer. They repeat chants in chorus. People increasingly recite chants before performing Al-Isha prayer.

During al-Tarawih prayers, however, people repeat different chants, sometimes mentioning the virtues of Prophet Mohammed and sometimes remembering the virtues of Caliphs. Unlike other areas of Yemen, in Socotra, only short verses of holy Quran are recited during Al-Tarawih prayer. As Ramadan draws to a close, people begin to pay their Zakat. In Eid, people gather in mosques to perform Eid prayer. Here are two bands; one is called al-Razhah and the other Prophet's Birthday. The first band beat drums starting from mosques until they reach the public yard located in Hodaibu city. The other band plays the tambourine starting from mosques till they reach the house of the band chief. This lasts for two days.

That was then, and now things have changed completely, especially after 1980's when the Islamic wakefulness arrived the Island with the help of some Islamic groups. Many traditions and

habits changed, and now Ramadan has another flavor.

Nowadays, most of the traditions in this island bear a resemblance to those of other governorates: people no longer repeat the Ramadan chants, whether before or after prayers. Here people gather in the grand mosque of Hodaibu. Fishermen, butchers and farmers go to their works from the early morning till Al-Maghreb prayer. In markets, farmers are showing their agricultural products. But it is observed that most people can't afford to buy meat due to the difficult standard of living on the island. Ramadan dishes also are not different from those of other governorates.

Located 250 km east of the Horn of Africa and 400 km south of the Arabian Peninsula, Socotra is inaccessible for at least 4 months of the year because the monsoon winds make navigation or access by air impossible. The islanders must live out this period on self-sufficiency. Relations between the natives and the rest of the world are thus heavily dependent on the sea and the wind.

The main activity of the Socotrans is fishing and the harvesting of incense, myrrh, and aloe leaves, products which made the Socotra Archipelago a vital maritime crossroads.

The traditions of the Socotran natives differ from those of other Yemenis in that they are influenced by all three of the nearby major regions: the Arabian Peninsula, the Horn of Africa and India.

The Socotran people have their own native language, which is a hold-over from the ancient Himyaritic language. They share this language, or variations of it with the people of Al-Mahara, in Yemen, and Dhofar, in Oman. While the Socotrans have their own language, they also speak Arabic.

Because of its isolated location, Socotra is home to a great many species belonging to fundamentally different types of flora and fauna, all of which have evolved independently due to their geographic location.

Without outside influence Socatra is a land to itself - with it's own traditions and

Ahmed Bin Afrar is a citizen of Socotra *Island. He is the head of the Protectorate* Department at the General Authority for Preserving Socotra Environment.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking qualified candidate for the following post:

Post Title: Snr. Logistics Assistant **Duty Station:** Sana'a

UN Category: 12 months Fixed Term Contract (after 3 months probationary period) **Duration of: Closing Date:**

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the general supervision of the Country Director for Yemen, and the direct supervision of the Logistics Officer, the incumbent will:

- Assist with logistics operations including all logistics assets in order to ensure timely and cost-effective delivery of WFP
- Assist in the training of staff, particularly GS staff, are adequately trained, cross trained and identify any additional training needs to achieve high working standards;
- Follow-up on projection of needs and call forward requirements:

18 October 2006

- Follow the movement of food and non food items for the projects and operations in the country. Collect regional and statistical information related to needs in various locations;
- Provide logistics support to sub offices in the distribution and control of food and non food aid; Organise and supervise the distribution at food at sites and maintain appropriate records;
- Prepare contracts for the transport of food and non-food items in both emergency and development operations; Initiate regular visits to stores to ensure conformity with regulations for storage of food and non food items;
- Maintain cost data on various means of transport in the country. Delivery WFP standard waybills to govt., non govt. and others involved in the transport of WFP operations; ensure that the
- proper paperwork has been prepared; Assist with the accounting, reporting on food and non food items and ensuring that internal control systems are functionning and that all relevant records are maintained.
- Ensure that all logistics periodic reports are compiled and sent to the concerned people
- Assist in local purchase of food items. Coordinate port operations.
- Ensure effective LTSH management including regular LTSH review.
- Maintain good working relationship with other UN sister Agencies and WFP countaparts. Assist in contingency planning and logistics prepardeness reviews.
- Supervise GS Staff as required.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

Education: University Degree in related field.

Experience: At least Four years practical commercial/professional experience in or more of the transportation and ancillary sectors: port operations, shipping, clearing and forwarding, air operations, large scale road/rail transport and distribution management. Proficiency in Windows (MS-World, Excel) and some transport tracking system experience.

Language: Fluency in both written and oral English and Arabic.

Essential Qualifications: Training and/or experience utilizing computers including word processing, spreadsheet, database/Access and other standard software packages. Ability to work courtesy, tactfully and effectively with people of different national and cultural backgrounds essential

Desirable Qualifications: Knowledge of relevant WFP or UN policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures. Knowledge of Government policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures

Applications must be received by the deadline and only short-listed candidates shall be contacted. (Logistics Assistant vacancy, at WFP Sana`a) at the following address: world food programme, Sana`a, Villa No.22-Nwakshut St. No. 21, Diplomatic Area, P.O.Box 7181, Republic of Yemen Tel: 01-214100/101, Fax 01205515



Looking for an Eid Holiday that won't blow your budget, You want a fun time for you and you family, You don't have to travel to the south in order to enjoy an exciting Eid Holiday full of fun and relaxation for the whole family! The Mövenpick Hotel Sana'a offers you and your loved ones a special treat for your Eid vacation, valid from 23 until 31 October 2006. Get your special Eid package for only US\$ 99 per night single or double occupancy, minimum of 3 pre-paid nights stay all inclusive of

taxes and breakfast, welcome drinks upon arrival, fruit basket as well as possible early check-in and late check-out at 6pm. Extra charge per child US\$ 15. You will also have access to our luxurious health club facilities offering in-door & out-door pool, steam room & sauna as well as the best equipped gym Yemen has to offer. Thai massages & treatments are offered at promotional rates. Celebrate with us. Welcome to the Mövenpick Hotel Sana'a, a class of its own.

Môvenpick Hotel Sana'a P.O.Box 5111, Berlin Street, Dhahr Hemyer, Sana'a, Yemen Phone +96 7 154 66 66, Fax +96 7 154 60 00 hotels ana a @moevenpick.com, www.moevenpick-sanaa.com

rancoverich hebiteren m Novellacen in Debt Mespitality





نتقدم بخالص وأطيب التهاني والتبريكات القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

رئیس الجمهوریة بمناسبة الذكری الـ ۴۵ لثورة الـ ۱۵ من أكتوپر وكال هام وأنتم بخیر



We Congratulate His Excellency President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

On the occasion of the 43th Anniversary of 14 October

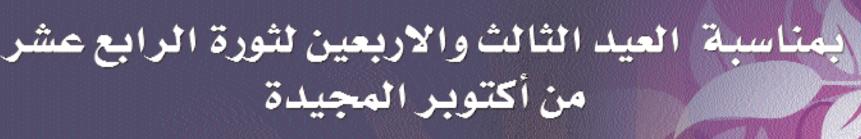
Many Happy Returns



شركة اتحاد (لمقاولين العالمية (. C.C.C)

CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS INTERNATIONAL COMPANY - S





یسر

مجموعة هائل سعيد أنعم و شركاه

أن تتقدم بأسمى أيات التهاني وأطيب التبريكات

القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ المشير/ على عبدالله صالح

ي . رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية وإلى اللواء الركن /

عبد ربه منصور هادي

نائب رئيس الجمهورية

والى رئيس وأعضاء مجلس النواب والى رئيس وأعضاء مجلس الوزراء والى رئيس وأعضاء مجلس الشورى

وإلى محافظي المحافظات والقيادات الأمنية

والعسكرية

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني الكريم بهذه المناسبة الغالية ..

التي نسأل الله أن يعيدها علينا وعلى وطننا الحبيب بالخير والتقدم والازدهار بالخير والتقدم والازدهار وكل عام وشعبنا ووطننا بألف بخير

مجموعة هائل سعيد أنعم و شركاه

: paic

علي محمد سعيد أنعم رئيس مجلس الإدارة

أحمد هائل سعيد أنعم نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة المدير العام



65a

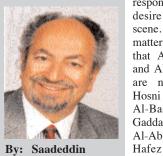
Do Arabs panic of change?

he past week has witnessed events, one in the eastern part of the homeland, Felix Arabia, and the other one in the west of the same homeland, in Algeria. The Yemenis re-elected the same man Ali Abdullah Saleh president of their republic for another seven years after already ruling

Yemen for 28 years. It means if he lives to complete the presidency term he would have ruled his country for 34 uninterrupted years and thus to become the second longest ruler among Arab presidents, exceeding Saddam Hussein's 25 years (1978-2003), Hafiz Al-Assad's 30 years (1970-2000 and Hosni Mubarak's 25 years (1981-2006). The only one who exceeds him is Muammar Gaddafi who is ruling Libya without the headache of holding elections since

September 1969 – 37 years. In Algeria the event was amending the constitution allowing a third term for President Abdulaziz Boutafliqa who has already ruled Algeria for two five-year terms and is about to occupy the post for another 5-year term so that the total period of rule to amount to 15 years even though he is sick and has spent almost one third of his third presidency receiving treatment abroad.

Both presidents, Saleh and Boutafliqa, had announced their unwillingness to renew or extend, but their political parties and large segments of their people insisted and mobilized massive rallies to exercise pressure on the two men to re-nominate themselves personally. Of course there are some who were skeptical about the declared unwillingness and other some affirmed that the scene of unwillingness, the people's pressure, and then the two men's



response to the people's desire was a fabricated scene. They believed the matter was a drama and that Ali Abdullah Saleh and Abdulaziz Boutafliqa are not different than Hosni Mubarak in Egypt, Al-Bashir in Sudan, Gaddafi in Libya, Zeine Al-Abidine in Tunisia and Hafez Assad in Syria. Regardless of the way they came to power with

military coups, they all fight desperately to stay in power however they pretend to the contrary. They will only leave power with natural death, assassination, a military coup or a people's revolt.

Sudan was more varying in the changing of its presidents using three of the four alternatives aforementioned. Since its independence 50 years ago its presidents changed either by military coups (1958-1969-1989) or popular revolts (1964-1984) those were followed by decent democratic election, when a civilian government takes over. But soon the military will revolt against it and will not leave until a popular uprising happens against it.

Sudan was also the only Arab country where a military president ruled it, General Swar Al-Dhahab, who ruled for a transitional period after a popular uprising in 1985 in which he pledged to leave power in one year and he met his promise after the supervised democratic elections brought Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi to power. General al-Dhahab is considered in this regard the sole exception in the deep-rooted Arab rule, not just in the twentieth century, but in Arab history over 14 centuries. Thus Swar Al-Dhahab deserves a gold statue to be placed at the Arab League headquarters in commemoration of the missing meaning in our history and to revive the hope of the coming Arab generations. It will mean it

is possible that an Arab leader will be true in his promise and abandon power peacefully and voluntarily.

It happened I was in Yemen in the last week of last June to attend a regional conference on democracy and freedom of expression and our conference coincided with a conference of the ruling party lead by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who a year before he had announced he would not nominate himself to presidency after ruling Yemen for 28 years. He said it was time for the Yemenis to cut their teeth by themselves and to search for or nominate others to assume the presidential post. We, advocates of democracy had seen the initiative as a good omen. We said to ourselves since the initiative did not come from Egypt, the biggest country of the Arab nation, let it come from Yemen which did not hear about democracy but a hundred years after Egypt and forgot about it during the past 50 years. Nevertheless, Yemen, or rather the General People's Congress party, disappointed us. It has mustered a millionth rally passed by our meting venue to be seen and heard by foreign guests, chanting the worst of what the Yemenis have learnt from the Egyptians, which is the slogan of " sacrificing the soul and blood for Ali." Of course in Egypt the chanting was first for Gamal Abdul Nasser, then for Anwar Al-Sadat and then to Hosni Mubarak, but in Yemen in that day of June 2006 was for Ali Abdullah Saleh. The march continued for three days and the public life was affected with almost paralysis-like situation. Even those who do not love Saleh. but fear for their interests, began to beg the man to concede to the will of the Yemeni people. And in a dramatic ending President Saleh came to announce his submission to the siege of the masses, respond to their demands and nominate himself. That is what happened and the man run the elections and won in it

with a sweeping majority. The same thing is expected to happen in Algeria even if details of the scenario may differ.

The strange thing is that in on my way to Yemen and returns from it as well as in my meetings with many Algerian friends in recent months, and away from informers in both countries I found out a kind of fear or concern regarding the thinking of change. Many are cautious to cling to the present situation with a president, even his corruption and despotism, because the people are used to him. For some the devil you know is better than a devil you don't know.

If you see in any Arab or non-Arab country a president ruling his country for more than ten years, it is mostly because the country is not democratic. If he continues in power for twenty years it is for sure he is despotic and if he exceeded in power twenty years it is mostly he is planning to bequeath the rule to one of his sons even if the regime, on paper, is republican. That is after twenty years the ruling system is changed to monarchic republic. It is a republican in form and monarchic in essence. The world is not accustomed to such hybridism except with us and in North Korea. We have created this crossbreeding name of half republic and half monarchy. When we have created this name dubbing regimes in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya and Egypt in June 2000 my punishment was imprisonment in Egypt on the 30th of the same month. If I was then in any other Arab country I would have disappeared for good but Egypt's despotism is a bit lighter than

Saadeddin Ibrahim is an Egyptian sociologist who was imprisoned in 2000 for criticizing Egypt's political practices. He received a seven-year sentence but was later released because of outside political pressure.

Source: Al-Rayah newspaper

Europe's conscience awakes

he European conscience is beginning to wake up after a long heavy sleep and has just started to translate what have been stored of sentiments towards the Zionist entity created by the post-Second World War policy characterized by its opportunism and inhuman perceptions. Many European writers and thinkers have been waiting for this moment of the European conscience awakening which the bloodiness of the war destabilized it an made it solve what was called the Jewish problem at the expense of the Palestinians and the Arabs who were loyal friends and partners of the Europeans in countering Nazism and what it had been representing of inhu-

man destructive and racial principles.

If the whip of "anti-Semitism" remained for long waved at the European thinkers and rational throughout all this period since the end of the Second World War until recent time, this whip is no lo longer frightening especially that the Zionist entity has exposed its reality by its aggression on the

Arabs and daily killing of the Palestinians as well as utmost destruction of remained of their lands which are put under the most ferocious form f occupation. All that is quite enough to



Al-Maqaleh

and Syria, the small country of Lebanon was not spared of this policy and it has under the nose of the world perpetrated killing and destruction against this

prove for any reasonable

and conscientious person

that the Zionist entity

does not differ from

Nazism and that it com-

mits on the land of

Palestine repeated exam-

ples of continuous

bloody Holocaust. And

after the aggression and

destruction which this

entity inflicted on Egypt

Thus, it is not a surprise or strange

what the Norwegian writer Boston Gorder has written and announced it as time for Europe to reconsider its recognition of this strange entity when he says we should not recognize the Israeli state more than that, as we did not recognize the apartheid regime in South Africa. He added that the state of Israel in its present image has to be part of history. We don't believe in what is said of the "favorite people" because such perceptions are object of ridicule and we cannot see them commit crimes. When people behave as if they are God's favorite people this is not stupidity and inability but also violation of humanity, which we term it racism.

The Norwegian writer who is expressive of awakening of the European conscience continues in defining the features of the new stand by mentioning there are limits of patience and tolerance saying they do not believe in those promises they had taken as pretext of occupation and apartheid, and they have to understand that "we have left the middle ages" behind our backs and that it s ridiculous that there are still some who believe that the God of flowers, life and galaxies favored to be His beloved ones apart from the rest of the creation and gave them permission of killing. We call those who kill the children as killers of children and would not accept a mandate or cause allowing these evil and immoral acts, the Norwegian writer says.

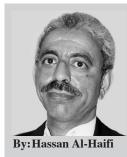
This declared and open stance which expresses one view of the European conscience has annoyed the Zionist entity. Similar to this sincere and courageous voice will be repeated and rise higher so that the Zionist murderous entity would find itself besieged on all sides and will not be useful for it that big powers side with it at a time their peoples wake up.

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

COMMON SENSE

Should Yemen get on the bandwagon now? The nuclear dilemma

is really upsetting that with most knowing human beings having a feel of the awesome destruction that nuclear arms can cause, there is still no hope that the trend will ever really shift towards having a nuclear arms free world. On the contrary, over the last five years, nuclear proliferation has caught on as a desirable option of defense and or possession of the most advanced scientific or technological know-how, ostensibly for harnessing the energy of the atom for peaceful uses.



What is distressing is that those countries.

which possess the biggest arsenals of mass destruction, chemical or biological annihilation capabilities, including atomic bombs, ICBMs, and all the different deliverers of WMD, chemical and biological killers are the last to show that they truly recognize the threat to the survival of humanity these large collections of weapons represent. That they are the loudest to insist that no "new countries" should be able to amass such capability or work towards building the capability to harness the energy of the atom for peaceful means, somehow corrupts the sincerity of their intentions, since they do not allow the International Atomic Energy Agency have a look at their arsenals or even their nuclear plants. It goes without saying that the only way we can have a truly civilized world committed to ensuring that no nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction are allowed to be available for use by anyone, is by getting the big "nukers" to declare that they have developed programs to completely phase out their nuclear destructive capability, with target dates for the gradual elimination of all their arsenals. In the meantime, they can easily get the commitment of all other nations that have yet to develop such capabilities to commit that they will not seek to ever develop such capability. In addition, all the peaceful nuclear programs of the world shall be obliged to be subject to strict monitoring and control by the IAEA, with regular reports presented to the international community and available to the public of the world. There is no way that those who possess the nuclear capability, in both its military and civil capacity can expect to be accepted as the dictators of moral conduct, while they allow themselves to possess the capability of destroying mankind altogether, and are not reluctant to use them at will, if they feel they need an easier way out of a tough conventional military showdown. Well over a half a century ago, the evidence was there that no one can really be trusted with nuclear weapons, no matter how much synergy they seek towards establishing their version of a moral foundation for the conduct of human relations. At the same time, these holders of massive powers of destruction can unabashedly seek to impose the servitude of the world to the benefit of their own narrow and often selfish interests, notwithstanding the costs to the human lives and welfares of other nations that must succumb to their unlimited greed and obvious chauvinism, sometimes disguised under dogmatic or ideological forebodings and claims to the highest standards of civilized conduct and intentions.

As for Yemen's recent declaration of seeking to become a possessor of nuclear technology, albeit for peaceful means, the observer is inclined to believe that such a goal is not one to be forsaken, at least for the long term future. However, one would think that at this stage, Yemen simply is far from being capable of investing the heavy capital and human resources needed to achieve this mission in the near future. Furthermore, the observer might suggest without reluctance that there are indeed other immediately more worthwhile priorities to devote the resources and energies of government, one of which includes developing the highly educated and highly skilled human resource base that is anyway required to activate such a program. The observer is not aware of any Yemeni nuclear scientists existing at the moment, either in the country or overseas, nor of any skilled masters of supporting vocations required to quickly and safely bring Yemen into the nuclear club, and thus one would think that the investment would be more worthwhile if it went towards enhancing our education sector to develop a high quality human resource base that will first of all get Yemen out of the LDC status, it now holds with honors and get the majority of Yemenis to climb out of the abyss of illiteracy, poverty and substandard health and living conditions that they have unnecessarily and hopelessly endured for too long, with little evidence of any forthcoming end in the foreseeable future. A nuclear power plant, even if possible over time, will not in any way accomplish these real meaningful goals for the overwhelming majority of Yemenis, who really deserve better.

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

Letters to the Editor

Comment on "Saidah saves the day" article

Thave read your article in Yementimes "Saidah saves the day". I did really liked it very much. This is the first time, during my whole reading for Yementimes, an article attracted me that far. You used very simple words so that many readers find it so easy to read and understand. i don't like those writers who try to show off.

Thank you very much I wish you all the best in your career.

> Adel ALsharafi dewy_eyed1978@yahoo.com

Comment on "educated women and marriage" article

"'d like to thank you and Miss Nawal for your presenting the Ltopic about engagement and the educated women. Here I'd like to suggest continuing the subject and talking about WOMEN AND MAR-RIAGE .I hope you talk about if educated women can get more chances in marriage than uneducated. This is very important to discuss clearly and frankly. At last I thank the newspaper for their interest and good topics they present and tackle.

Ammar Ali English teacher ammar_ali201yahoo.com

S K Ε 0 By: Samer (samer art@maktoob com

YEMEN TIMES

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

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661 Fax: +967 (1) 268-276 P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen E-mail: editor@yementimes.com Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com Letters: letters@yementimes.com

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

Managing Editor Dr. Hamdan Zaid Dammag

Head of News Dept. Mohamed bin Sallam Head of Design Dept. Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf Editorial Staff

Al-Ajel, Fatima Al-Ariqi, Amel Al-Ghabri, Ismail Al-Jabri, Mohammed Al-Khawlani, Adel

Al-Mayasi, Yasser Al-Omari, Moneer Al-Saqqaf, Raidan Khidhr, Mohammed Patterson, Dana

Interns Al-Khaubari, Khalil Goffin, Glyn 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) 7783733 Email: albatati88@yahoo.com

Fax: +967 (05) 360303

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could
- not be held accountable for their consequences. Letters to the Editor must include your name, mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length.
- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices



Deadly News: Hundreds of journalists have been killed over 15 years, many on the orders of government officials. Few cases are ever solved

lonely road south of Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, on a Sunday in December 1998, spraying automatic rifle fire into a jeep carrying Norbert Zongo, his brother, and two companions. The gunmen set the vehicle ablaze in a bid to obscure their crime, but they could not erase Zongo's reputation in the West African nation as the uncompromising editor of the weekly

Neither, to many people's eyes, could they conceal whose hands were stained with the killings-officials in President Blaise Compaoré's government whom Zongo had investigated relentlessly for alleged torture and murder.

Zongo, whose death has gone unpunished eight years later, is among the 580 journalists killed for their work since 1992, the year that CPJ began to keep detailed death records. A new analysis of journalist deaths worldwide over 15 years—the most extensive study

 $\mathbf{W}\mathbf{H}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{T}$

Murder: 71.4%

Undetermined: 0.2%

Small arms:

Heavy arms:

Explosives:

Knives:

Hands:

(handguns, rifles)

(artillery, air strikes)

(beating, strangling)

Statistics cover 1992 through August 15, 2006

Type of Death

Weapons Used

Crossfire/Combat related: 18.4%

During other dangerous assignment: 10%



Norbert Zongo

of its kind ever undertaken-shows that most victims were like Zongo, local beat reporters and editors whose work did not conform to the stories spun by governments, armies, and political opposition groups. More than three times every month, CPJ found, a journalist has been killed for his or her work.

If popular imagination suggests journalists are typically killed by an errant bullet or a mortar bomb in

battlefields, CPJ's data show that the majority-seven out of every 10-are targeted in retaliation for their reporting and hunted down to be murdered. Even in war zones, CPJ's analysis shows, murder is the leading cause of death.

Time and again, the very governments that journalists sought to check with their reporting are believed to be behind the slayings. Government and military officials are suspected of plotting, ordering, or carrying out more than a quarter of journalist murders over the past 15 years, CPJ's analysis shows. Paramilitary groups, aligned with government security forces in nations such as Colombia and Rwanda, are suspected in another eight percent of killings.

But retribution can come from all political corners. In 24 percent of murder cases, political groups armed and allied against a government are suspected of killing journalists. Nowhere is that more evident than in Iraq, where insurgent groups are believed to have murdered more than 50

And, like Zongo, the vast majority of iournalists worldwide have been slain with virtual impunity. About 85 percent of journalists' killers in the last 15 years

faced neither investigation nor prosecution for their crimes, CPJ found. Even when murders were more fully investigated and some convictions obtained, the masterminds were brought to justice in just seven percent of cases.

Print reporters faced greater retaliation than any other category of journalist, making up nearly a third of recorded deaths. But in parts of the world reliant on broadcast news radio commentators, as in the Philippines, and television journalists, as in India, bear a heavy burden. Regardless of medium, journalists were typically killed, not on assignment, but in their offices, on their commutes, or in their homes. Nine out of 10 murders, CPJ found, had the hallmarks of premeditation such as



Orlando Sierra Hernadez

careful planning, groups of assailants, and gangland-style execution. Revenge displayed the full spectrum of human cruelty: the handgun and the rifle most commonly, but the knife, the car bomb, and the bludgeon as well.

The killers were brazen enough in a quarter of cases to have threatened the victims before murdering them. Nearly one in five victims were kidnapped as well, taken alive by militants, criminals, guerrillas, or government forces, and then killed. The kidnapping and murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in early 2002 highlighted this phenomenon, which continues in Iraq today. In several cases, notably in Algeria and Turkey in the 1990s, journalists simply "disappeared" after being taken into government custody.

Much like the killing of a police officer or a prosecutor, the murder of a journalist threatens a society by undermining one of the primary means of holding people accountable. "A journalist is the voice of his or her community," said Pedro Díaz Romero, former human rights prosecutor for Colombia's attorney general's office. "To take the life of a journalist is to shut down a channel of information for the community. And after one journalist is killed, you may not need to kill another, as a threat or act of physical intimidation may be enough to send the message to

peaking truth to power, a mantra of many who make their living in the press, carries with it the potential to anger and frustrate. More than one in five victims covered a political beat, and a similar number specialized in exposing corruption. They were journalists like Dmitry Kholodov and Manik Saha.

Kholodov, an investigative reporter tracking allegations of corruption in the Russian military, was murdered in 1994 when a briefcase carrying what he thought to be classified documents exploded as it opened. Saha may have been many miles and years apart when he was killed in 2004 in Bangladesh, but he was also an investigative journalist killed by explosives, murdered when a bomb was thrown ainto his rickshaw as he made his way home. His offense was probing too deeply into extortion and Maoist groups, and a leftist political organization took credit for his death.

Like so many other cases, investigations into their deaths were delayed or halted outright. Nearly a decade after Kholodov's killing, a Russian military tribunal acquitted the military officials accused of the crime. "It's as if our son didn't even exist and that no one ever killed him," Kholodov's mother, Zoya, told CPJ.

In Bangladesh, a judge threw out the case against Saha's accused killers and ordered a "reinvestigation." "That's their strategy," said Mainul Islam Khan, a press advocate for the Bangladesh Center for Development Journalism and Communication. "To delay as long as possible so the drive for justice becomes weaker and people will finally forget about the verdict.

While Kholodov and Saha's deaths have been attributed to governments and political groups, their cases are remarkably similar to those of hundreds of other journalists murdered since 1992. Cases are closed without explanation, evidence is ignored, and witnesses are intimidated or attacked.

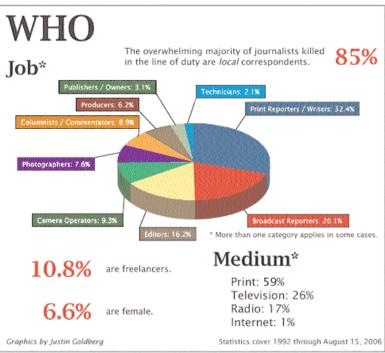
Colleagues of Orlando Sierra Hernández know this last fact well.



Veronica Guerin

Deputy editor of La Patria in Manizales, Colombia, Sierra was shot twice on a main street as he and his daughter walked back to the newsroom after lunch in January 2002. Sierra had long probed corruption within la coalición, a political cabal that governed his province with In the few cases where justice has been

Spotlight: Murder 24.6% are threatened before being murdered. of murders are carried 85% out with complete 19.1% are taken captive **Suspected Perpetrators in Murder Cases** Paramilitary groups are organized, armed forces allied with, but not part of, the government.



hit man and two others were convicted and jailed, but testimony and evidence pointing to the intellectual authors have led nowhere. A judge and at least two prosecutors have beseeched investigators to follow up on witness statements that a local politician ordered the hit. Three of those witnesses have since been killed, but the politician has yet to be formally questioned by investigators.

"It would be a shame for Colombia's judiciary system if this becomes another case closed with only the material authors in prison when everything surrounding this murder—the systematic disappearance of clues and sources, key witnesses gone missing or murderedpoints at powerful local political interests behind the crime," said Enrique Santos, editor of Bogotá's El Tiempo, which has investigated the case extensively.

The killings tell much about a country's commitment to the rule of law. absolute authority. In Sierra's case, the served, police, advocates, and

community leaders combined to condemn the killings and to prosecute the killers to the fullest. In the 1996 murder of Irish reporter Veronica Guerin, a near-folk hero due to her groundbreaking investigations into Dublin's criminal underworld. community uproar led to the capture of three criminal leaders said to have ordered the murder.

The Guerin slaying was one of the "defining moments in the debate about law and order in Ireland," said Ian O'Donnell, a professor of criminology at the University of Dublin. "The calculated killing of a journalist indicated that criminal gangs felt they could operate with complete impunity." The Irish government went on to establish a specialized law enforcement bureau dedicated to seizing the assets of criminals, which relies on tracking tax records—the same investigative method pursued by Guerin herself.

Source: www.cpj.org

Beats Covered by Victims*

48.4%

16.2%

7.6%

In Yemen, a first: Arabs observing an Arab election

By: Oussama K. Safa & Khalil Gebara

setbacks the inflicted on democratic progress in the Middle East as a result of recent or ongoing conflicts in Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon, and the threat of religious extremism, heartening news about home-grown democratic initiatives is worth celebrating.

During the triple elections held in Yemen on September 20, a group of reform-minded Arab activists, of which we were part, organised an election observation mission that is bound to become a precedent for similar inter-Arab democratic practices, and for fostering collective work on democracy. Representing four different countries with a recent tradition for timely elections, Palestinian, Egyptian, Moroccan and Lebanese observers launched the first initiative to observe an Arab election by other Arabs.

Working in parallel with international observers, the Arab delegation received high acclaim from Yemeni civil society and shown a warm welcome by the Yemeni authorities. Natives to the region, the Arab observers displayed cultural sensitivity and a wide understanding of the local context as well as the intricacies and nuances of the local language - critical elements missing in outside observers.

The trip also allowed the various electoral actors to discuss their experiences and compare notes on various election processes in the region. Members of the delegation worked in tandem with highly capable Yemeni observers, who displayed unflinching courage and ironclad commitment to ensuring a transparent voting process. To dispel notions of anti-regime bias, members of the delegation held meetings with a variety of political and civil society actors belonging to pro-regime, and to opposition, parties. They also listened carefully to assessments by Yemeni and international civil society organisations.

The delegation was part of a growing critical mass of Arab reformers who insist on blazing the trail and moving forward despite regressions in processes of reform across the Middle East. Members of

election officials alike, and was the Arab delegation were all experienced election monitors and most, if not all, belong to civil society groups and have a long track record of election observation in their own countries and beyond. Their action in Yemen testified to the coming of age of Arab civil society and its increasing capacity to undertake prodemocracy work in neighbouring countries.

> The presence of the Arab observers in Yemen was also a strong indication that observation missions need not be foreign-inspired or concocted in Western capitals, nor do election observation missions pose a threat to a country's sovereignty. Such initiatives will always benefit from outside help and assistance, however,

and in Yemen's case the delegation was supported by the National Democratic Institute, an American institution. This did not, however, preclude the fact that similar such initiatives are now locally developed and "owned" -- as was the Yemeni one -- and can be added to serious ongoing inter-Arab initiatives such as capacity-building training, advocacy and promotion of good governance

This initiative also sought to reflect the region's interconnectedness and the vast common ground shared by civil society activists in virtually every Arab country. Activists face more or less the same challenges to promoting democracy and are finally pooling their collective efforts to deal

The initiative also proved that such precedents can take place without incurring the wrath of regimes or risking the safety of election observers. Hopefully gone are the days of political oppression and secretive democracy struggles. Arab civil society is here to stay and if anything was shown in the Yemeni experience, it was that this civil society is a mature and reliable stakeholder on the slow but sure journey toward democratic reform.

with these challenges constructively.

The Arab delegation has officially become the Arab Initiative for Election Observation and is now in the process of publishing a report on its findings in Yemen. It is also planning to field observer missions

for uncoming elections in the region and around the globe. This initiative is worthy of the attention that prodemocracy forces internationally have had for the Middle East's future. It is also a precedent that, if supported and nurtured, will be a shining civil society success for some time to

Oussama Safa is general director of the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies. Khalil Gebara is coexecutive director of the Lebanese Transparency Association. Both were members of the observer delegation to Yemen. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.



The International College (IC) at the University of Science and Technology has extended the Registration Due Date for the Academic Year 2006/2007 Until the 2nd November for All Programs.

For more information, please contact us at:01 408484 - 733164843





VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking qualified candidate for the

Snr. Programme Assistant Post Title:

Duty Station: Sana'a **UN Category:** GS-6

12 months Fixed Term Contract (after 3 months probationary period) **Duration of:**

Closing Date:

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the general supervision of the Country Director for Yemen, and the direct supervision of the Programme Officer, the

- Undertake negotiations for and prepare project documents with government ministries and other paricipating
- Organise project planning missions, meetings and briefing session to identify and analyse problems and recommend project:
- Assess project performance including utilisation of resources and achievement of planned targets; Monitor the receipt of necessary shipping, frieght or other documents and notify the appropriate WFP officer of
- Monitor the processing time for settling frieght forwarders accounts;
- Issue letter of guarantee and no-charge invoices as instructed;
- Monitor, update and track data related to project issues, commodity pipelines and financial allotment status reports, informing the relevant divisions accordingly; ensure accuracy of data related to the above;
- Analyse and prepare projections for food commodities and non-food items to ensure timely call-forward and /or local procurement.
- Assist in compiling monthly statistics on food aid and commercial food shipments to the country.
- Maintain records on programme activities, from formulation stage through completion, by extracting relevant information from reports, project committees, budget records and other documentation; make information
- available for country briefs; country profiles and other related purposes; ensure project cycle deadlines are met; Analyse contract terms and conditions, and correct any observed discrepansies between contract rates and Carry out advocacy and information related tasks for project/programme activties such as making interventions
- and presentations in meetings, workshops, seminars, missions, etc. Prepare status and progress reports by providing information and background material for use in discussions and
- Provide guidance, on-the-job training and supervision to clerical staff.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Qualifications:

Education: University Degree in related field.

Experience: Three to four years of progressively responsible clerical or adminstrative work, of which at least one year was closely related to programme functions

Language: Fluency in both written and oral English and Arabic.

Essential Qualifications: Training and/or experience utilizing computers including word processing, spreadsheet, database/Access and other standard software packages. Ability to work courtesy, tactfully and

effectively with people of different national and cultural backgrounds essential

Desirable Qualifications: Knowledge of relevant WFP or UN policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures. Knowledge of Government policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures

Applications must be received by the deadline and only short-listed candidates shall be contacted. (Pogramme Assistant vacancy , at WFP Sana`a) at the following address: world food programme , Sana`a , Villa No.22-Nwakshut St. No. 21, Diplomatic Area , P.O.Box 7181,Republic of Yemen Tel : 01-214100/101,Fax 01205515



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking qualified candidate for the following post:

Post Title: **Logistics Assistant (COMPAS)**

Duty Station: Sana'a **UN Category:** GS-5

Duration of: 12 months Fixed Term Contract (after 3 months probationary period)

Closing Date:

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the general supervision of the Country Director for Yemen, and the direct supervision of the Logistics Officer, the incumbent will:

- Thoroughly check the information registered onto the documents for clarity and correctness in accordance to established procedures, "before" data entry is performed.
- Enter data into the COMPAS system on daily basis.
- Keep COMPAS system updated.
- Cross check any differences between the data entered into the system against the actual physical documents to maintain high recording standards required by the Organization.
- Preparation and checking of reports and ensure that reports are produced on a timely basis.
- Maintain proper filing systems and Archiving of documents so that they may be retrieved promptly and effi-
- Share experience gained with other staff members and strive towards creating a team spirit.
- To analyze data that is produced from the systems and to report any discrepancies or irregularities to the Data Administrator.
- Ensure that any information or reports requested are promptly provided and expedited in an efficient man-
- Send / Receive data transmissions on a regular basis as set by immediate supervisor
- Travel occasionally throughout the Region as required by the organization.
- Will perform any other duties as requested by immediate superior.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Qualifications:

Education: High School

Experience: Three to four years of progressively responsible clerical experience including at least one year in the field of accounting, transport, insurance, statistics, operations or another related field.

.Language: Fluency in both written and oral English and Arabic.

<u>Desirable Qualifications</u>: Knowledge of relevant WFP or UN policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures. Knowledge of Government policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures.

Applications must be received by the deadline and only short-listed candidates shall be contacted. (Logistics Assistant (COMPAS) vacancy, at WFP Sana a) at the following address: world food programme, Sana'a , Villa No.22-Nwakshut St. No. 21, Diplomatic Area, P.O.Box 7181, Republic of Yemen Tel: 01-214100/101,Fax 01205515



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking qualified candidate for the following

Post Title: **Field Monitor Assistant**

Duty Station: Aden-Kharaz Camp UN Category:

12 months Fixed Term Contract (after 3 months probationary period) **Duration of:**

18 October 2006 Closing Date:

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the general supervision of the Country Director for Yemen, and the direct supervision of the UNV Programme Officer, the incumbent will:

- Co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the assisrance programme at the local level, in close collaboration with the implementing partners;
- Monitor and review the overall commodity movements such as food deliveries, storage, transport and distribution at the site and verify if the amounts received have been properly recorded, damaged or suspected to be damaged.
- Supervise the efficient distribution of food items at the site and ensure proper distribution of entitlements and verify appropriate entitlements are distributed and provide feedback to Supervisor and others on the distribution.
- Assist in the conduct regular meetings of refugee leaders and implementing partners on the commodity pipeline, distribution arrangements, food entitlements and other relevant issues.
- Assist in the implementation of the plan of action, review achievement and constraints and provide feedback
- In consultation with the supervisor and implementing partners, encourage women's access to economic skills development and sensitize girls and women on gender issues and gender focused activities.
- Report periodically to Supervisor on relevant events regarding food management, distribution and other related
- issues. Identify any apparent issues in the programme and report them to the appropriate personnel;.
- Supervise and train other personnel as appropriate;
- Perform other related duties as required.

Qualifications:

Education: High school and other related fields.

Experience: Four years of progressively responsible clerical or adminstrative work, of which at least two years in the field of accounting, transport, insurance, statistics, operations or other related field.

<u>Language:</u> Fluency in both written and oral English and Arabic.

Essential Qualifications: Training and/or experience utilizing computers including word processing, spreadsheet, database/Access and other standard software packages. Ability to work courtesy, tactfully and effectively with people of different national and cultural backgrounds essential.

Desirable Qualifications: Knowledge of relevant WFP or UN policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures.

Knowledge of Government policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures.

Applications must be received by the deadline and only short-listed candidates shall be contacted. (Field Monitor Assistant vacancy, at WFP Aden-Kharaz Camp) at the following address: world food programme, Sana'a , Villa No.22-Nwakshut St. No. 21, Diplomatic Area , P.O.Box 7181, Republic of Yemen Tel : 01-214100/101,



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of the United Nations World Food Programme in Yemen is currently seeking qualified candidate for the following post

Logistics Assistant Duty Station:

UN Category:

Duration of: 12 months Fixed Term Contract (after 3 months probationary period)

18 October 2006

This position is open to both male and female candidates. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the general supervision of the Country Director for Yemen, and the direct supervision of the Logistics Officer, the incumbent will:

- Post daily despatches of WFP Food and non food commodities in the CTS system, monitor the correct use and
- quantity as per loading orders. Respond to queries regarding commodities to staff in the unit and elsewhere in the programme;
- Monitor on-going shipments, pipeline information, insurance claims and other data; Provide day to day reports on the progress and movements of WFP shipments (by land, sea, or air);
- Monitor and report on WFP food stocks in operation's warehouse and prepare weekly stock reports; Assist and advise on flight planning, weather forecast and restricted flying areas, or railroad schedules and
- movements, or ship movements and schedules: Co-ordinate and manage deliveries by suppliers, clearing agents and WFP warehouses; monitor and assess
- quality, quantity and safety of the goods; Co-ordinate clearance of WFP, export/import in liaison with suppliers and customs officials;
- Initiate action for requests for duty exemptions on all WFP imported shipments, food and non-food items. Establish contacts with shipping agents, clearing agents and superintendents and monitor the discharge of WFP vessles (rail, air or sea), advising supervisors of need for intervention in case of any unforseen problems pertaining to discharge and/or clearing operations;
- Keep track and records of vessels. Maintain proper filling system.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Qualifications:

Education: High School.

Experience: Three to four years of progressively responsible clerical experience including at least one year in the field of accounting, ransport, insurance, statistics, operations or another related field.

Language: Fluency in both written and oral English and Arabic.

Essential Qualifications: Training and/or experience utilizing computers including word processing, spreadsheet,

database/Access and other standard software packages. Ability to work courtesy, tactfully and effectively with people of different national and cultural backgrounds essential.

<u>Desirable Qualifications</u>: Knowledge of relevant WFP or UN policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures. Knowledge of Government policies as well as relevant regulations and procedures.

Applications must be received by the deadline and only short-listed candidates shall be contacted. (Logistics Assistant vacancy, at WFP Sana`a) at the following address: world food programme, Sana`a, Villa No.22-Nwakshut St. No. 21, Diplomatic Area , P.O.Box 7181, Republic of Yemen Tel : 01-214100/101, Fax 01205515

We did not send down the Our'an to you to make you miserable, but only as a reminder for those who have fear. (Qur'an, 20:2, 3)



By: Harun Yahya www.harunyahya.com

The beginning of the eternal regret for disbelievers: Death

eath is considered to be an end and a final destruction by those who do not believe in the Hereafter. This is a flawed perception however because death is not an end but a beginning. For believers, it is the beginning of a perfect, eternal paradise that is free from all evil and flaws. For disbelievers on the other hand, it is a transition to a life in Hell, where a great penalty lasts

Those who comprehend this reality live a pleasant end in the world when death meets them and a pleasant beginning in the Hereafter. These two occur simultaneously. Disbelievers, on the other hand, encounter the irrecoverable regret of disregarding this reality, of which that had previously been informed. They suffer this regret every moment for all eternity and never find respite from it.

Although death is not a subject of profound thought for most people, it is an unavoidable end. That is because Allah creates death as the definite end of this life. So far, not a single person has avoided death. No one's property, wealth, career, or close friends have provided salvation from death. Certainly everyone will meet death.

So, does avoiding contemplation over death and the life after death save



one from facing this reality? Surely the answer to this question is "No".

Since man is desperate against death, the most rational thing to do is to constantly contemplate upon death and to get prepared for the hereafter.

Those who neglect thinking about the Hereafter whilst being distracted by this fleeting worldly life are taken by

surprise by death.

Those saying "While we are young, we can make the most of our lives and think about death in the latter years of our lives" definitely do not grasp that they might never have such an opportunity.

That is because death is predestined by Allah. A person may well die before

he grows old. In this case, solely making future plans and postponing the fulfilment of Allah's commands will only lead to dreadful regret.

Those who spend their lives distant from Allah and who only repent when they realise they are close to death will experience such regret. Yet repentance which arises from the fear of death and which doesn't bear sincere intention to correct and purify one's self is not acceptable by Allah. Because He knows what is inside of man, including his most inner thoughts and deepest secrets. We are informed in the Qur'an that Allah will not accept repentance based on the fear of death at the very last moment.

There is no repentance forpeople who persist in doing evil until death comes to them and who then say, 'Now I repent,' norforpeople who die as a disbeliever. We have prepared forthem a painful punishment. (Surat an-Nisa:

For this reason, it would be erroneous to have a rationale based on the thought "I will repent when the appropriate time comes." This kind of thinking will not save one from the torment in Hell. So if one does not want to suffer an eternal grievous penalty after death, he should live for a purpose, knowing that he will absolutely meet Allah and have to give an account of his actions.

Allah's Book is Allah's rope; he who follows it has guidance, and he who abandons it is in error. (Muslim)

Signs of Allah's creation

The creation of snowflakes

nyone who takes a close look at snowflakes can see that they come in a variety of shapes. It is estimated that a single cubic meter of snow holds about 350 million snowflakes! These flakes are all hexagonal and have crystallike structures.

However, each one of them possesses a unique shape. For years, scientists have been searching for answers to such questions as how these shapes ever came about, how it is that each one of them has a different shape and what provides their symmetry.

Every bit of information that is gained reveals magnificent mastery present in the snowflakes. The variety and perfection of the hexagonal structure of snowflakes is a manifestation of Allah's status as the Originator (al-Badi). Allah is the One Who made good everything that He has created. The formation of snowflakes constitutes yet another aspect of Allah's endless artistry.

These thin, small flakes look like mul-ti-pointed stars or tiny needle heads. The formation of the snowflakes in the pictu- res is truly amazing. For years, the orderly structure of snowflakes has caught people's attention. Since 1945, research has been carried out in a quest to discover which factors give the final shape to the crystals.

A single snowflake is a pile of crystals consisting of more than 200 ice crystals. Snowflakes are made up of water molecules that are shaped in a perfect order. Snowflakes, one of nature's true architectural wonders, are shaped when water vapor gets cold while

passing through clouds. This takes place like so:

Passing through the clouds, molecules everywhere in a disorganized way throughout water vapor begin to lose their random movement due to the fall in temperature. After a while, the water molecules, moving more slowly, begin to form groups and consequently become solid. Yet, there is no disorder whatsoever in their groupings.

On the contrary, they always unite as microscopic hexagonal forms that look similar to each other. Each snowflake at first consists of a single hexagonal water molecule, then other hexagonal water molecules come and attach to this first piece.

According to experts on the subject, the basic factor that determines the shape of a snowflake is that these hexagonal water molecules are joined together just like links in a chain. In addition, the pieces of crystals, which normally should look alike, take on very different shapes according to the temperature and level of moisture.

Why is it that there is a hexagonal symmetry in all snowflakes and why is each of them different from the others?

Why are their edges angled rather then straight? Scientists are still trying to find answers to these questions. Yet, this much is evident: Allah is the One Who has no partners in creation, is the Possessor of an endless power and the Originator of everything.

The fossil record contains not a single example of the imaginary "intermedi ate" species or missing links-which evolutionists claim must have existed.

Living fossils refute evolution

volutionists are well aware that all the scientific evidence shows that their "process" is nothing but a myth. Living fossils are the work of God, the Creator and Lord of all things, Who first created them millions of years ago and has

maintained them in all their perfect forms right down to the present day.

Ever since Darwin's time, his followers have been terrified of this evident fact being revealed for all to see. At last, however, this manifest and indisputable truth is out in the open, and all their efforts to conceal it have been in vain.



Abony fossil fish dating back some 210 million years.



Afossil crab approximately 55 to 35 million years old.



Afossil frog, approximately 53-33.7 million years old.



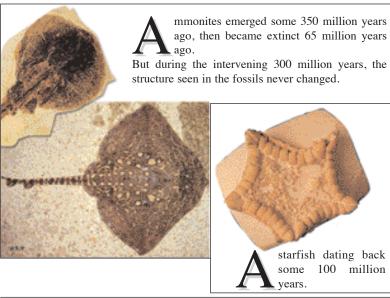
An echinoderm (starfish) fossil dating back some 135 million years.

f evolution had really taken exact opposite. Different groups of place then living organisms should have developed by gradual incremental changes and continued to change over time. But the fossil record shows the

and remained in their original state for millions of years, undergoing no changes at all.

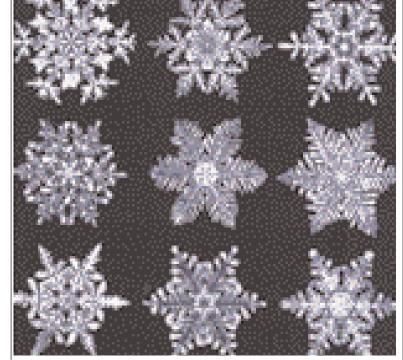
organisms appeared suddenly with

no similar ancestors behind them,





thornback ray fossil dating back to the Mesozoic era (245-65 million years ago) has exactly the same characteristics as those living in the sea today. This particular creature, about 250 million years old, clearly demonstrates that the evolutionary process is entirely



Islam's social welfare: Zakat

By: YemenTimes Staff

n Islam, Zakat is known a taxlike mechanism to distribute wealth to the poor. Zakat accounts for as 2.5 percent of the wealth and savings which have remained constant for one full year. In Arabic, the term Zakat is derived from the phrase Zaka which means growth, pure and blessed. Therefore the concept of Zakat in Islam means the purification of wealth and a good deed which helps the needy in the society and strengthening social bonds in the community.

Zakat is one of the pillars of Islam and it is a must for every Muslim who satisfies the conditions necessary for payment of Zakat. Muslims do not view their wealth as their personal property, but it is the property of god which he has given to Muslims and instructed them to use their wealth for constructive and legitimate causes.

Zakat is one of the earliest systems used to do social justice and satisfy the needs of the poor and needy, it is based on taking a portion of the wealth of the wealthy and giving it to the poor and those in need, Zakat can also be viewed as a purification for the Muslims of greed and other worldly desires and it also builds a sense of responsibility towards those who are in need. Zakat is also a mechanism to eradicate poverty and sustain good quality lives for people.

Shaikh Hassan Abdullah, under secretary in the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, said Zakat should be paid out to the governor or the government agency in charge of Zakat, unless the agency has given up the right to collect Zakat and allows the payment of Zakat to be paid out in accordance to the payee's judgment, he also added that there should be a legal authority to collect Zakat which is the 'Agency of duties' affiliated to local councils and the Ministry of Local Adminstration, and this agency should collect Zakat and make a fund for investment in order to develop resources replacing the current direct payout of Zakat to the needy with projects and money-generating investments that would eventually aid the needy in the long term and eradicate poverty as a result.

He also added that the demands of modern life necessitates that Zakat should have plans and programs to regulate it all year long and not only be managed in holy months. Zakat should be managed in such a way that would sustain some sort of steady a steady income for the needy while it should also be used in employment-generating activity and investment projects that should result income generation whatsoever, and fore Zakat ought to help them in people.



Zakat is a system of Social Welfare.

in developing the disadvantaged and providing them with jobs and wages that would improve their standards of living.

Islam says Zakat should be collected by the governor or concerned government agency for this purpose, in order to regulate the affairs of Zakat and plan how it should be paid out during the short-term as well as the long term in order to eradicate poverty and uplift the disadvantaged segments of the society as well as the needy to become Zakat givers instead of recipients of Zakat.

Therefore, Zakat is an Islamic concept that proved to be very efficient at eradicating poverty during the age of Islamic Kalifas reaching a point that Zakat was collected but no recipients worthy of collecting Zakat were to be found.

Recipients of Zakat:

Allah Almighty has specified eight categories of people who have a right to receive Zakat, these are the needy; the detained; those who administer Zakat: new converts to Islam: the Bankrupt; those in dispute; the Volunteers; travelers in seek of

The Needy: The needy in this context are people whose income is insufficient in covering their living expenses for a full year, therefore they are given Zakat to cover the reminder part of their living expenses for a full year or paying for exceptional circumstances that might affect them such as costs associated with

The Deprived: Those are the people who are in most need for means to cover their basic living requirements and do not have any means of

therefore Zakat equal to a full year's expenses should be given to such deprived people, such people might include the elderly, physically disabled and orphans.

Zakat Administrators: Those are the people whose job is to collect the Zakat, safeguarding it, managing it and distributing it to the needy. They should be given a part of Zakat in a fair manner as an equivalent of their wages provided that they do not receive wages or salaries from other sources for administering Zakat.

Converts to Islam: Zakat is paid to new or prospected converts to Islam in order to strengthen the sense of belonging to the Islamic faith in the converts, however this Zakat is paid out only in times when the governor sees necessary. Sometimes this sort of Zakat is given out to non-Muslims in order to avoid conflicting with them and also to bring them closer to understanding a prime concept of Islam, which is peace.

The Detained: In this context the detained refers to a person who is unable to pay his dues and therefore losses his freedom (or put in jail). Zakat should be paid out to such people in order to regain their freedoms and rights. Similarly, this Zakat should be paid out to support people who under all sorts of imperialism was it military, social and economic such as the current circumstances in Those under debt or in dispute:

The first part in this category is that Zakat should be paid to relatively poor people who are under debt while pursuing a necessity such as to build a house or a shelter for his family or those who suffer as a result of a fire or a catastrophic event, there-

used in solving disputes between parof compensation, therefore interferparty(s) but is unable to compensate due to financial hardship then that compensation is given out from

community development.

Travelers in seek of refuge: Zakat should also be given out to the travelers who are in need of refuge either because they have lost their way or means of transportation, therefore they should be given the exact amount they need to reach their des-

Islam is a religion and is a way of life, it has provided the solution for social injustice and for poverty in its pillars as we have seen through the Zakat pillar, god Almighty said in the Quran "All the believers are brothers," and therefore such mechanism such as Zakat ensure that the bonds of the community are strong especially when it comes to economic hardships and social welfare of the

meeting some of these costs. While the other part is that Zakat should be ties such as claims of compensation for damages which the parties involved are unable to reach an agreement on the satisfactory amount ence become necessary and the additional amount for compensation which is disputes is to be paid out from Zakat to solve the dispute. In other cases when the first party agrees to compensate the other

Volunteers: This refers that Zakat should be given to volunteers who have no official salaries, volunteering either for spreading Islam, fighting enemies or undertaking social welfare such as in times of natural disasters as well as in times of prosperity in building social interests and



Business in brief

Finland to take part in the Yemen Donors conference

he Republic of Finland, which is the current chair of the European Union, has emphasized it will play a strong role in the London donors' conference next month. The bilateral relations of Yemen and Finland were discussed during the visit of Minister of Planning and International Abdul-Kareem Al-Arhabi to Helisiki.

First lead and silver mine in Yemen

he Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources has signed an agreement through the affiliated Authority of Geological Research with the Jabal Salb Company represented by its major shareholders, ZincOx of UK, Anglo-American company and Ensan Company of Yemen, in order to extract Lead and Silver from a mine in Neham area in Sana'a governorate. Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resouces. Khalid Bahah, indicated that is the first agreement of its kind in order to the extract mineral resources of

Waived customs worth YR 6 billion for investments

total of over YR 5.954 billion in customs duties have been waved for 17 investment projects to take place in the Aden Free Zone, in line with the new measures the government is undertaking through the Investment Promotion Authority in order to attract new investment in the Industrial zones allocated in several parts of the country.

Micro financing fund finances 182 projects

The micro financing fund for tiny enterprises has given out YR 99 million and YR 805 thousand in loans to finance 182 projects, aiming to provide long-term employment for 343 people in Hodieda governorate which has the highest rate of poverty in the country.

Unitel attracts more Investments

yriaTel has joined in the alliance of Unitel, the third GSM provider in Yemen, by a share of 10 percent of the alliance, which has a total worth of US\$ 335 million, and will start operation in the second quarter of next year.

Apollo Expo organizes Eid Exhibition

pollo for exhibitions is organizing Eid Al-Fitr exhibition, in which many clothing companies as well as consumer goods and other products will participate and great discounts will be offered at the exhibition. The exhibition aims at providing all Eid products under one roof and with convenient prices for the cus-

Qatar Airways received four more accolades

ward-winning Qatar Airways has boosted its tally of international honors by winning four more accolades for the World's leading Business Class airline; the world leading Airline inflight meal service, leading airline in the Middle East as well as the leading Middle East business class airline.

OPINION-

After democracy?

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf alsaqqaf@gmail.com

emen is currently at a high in its democratic development, with hugely successful presidential and local council elections, a democracy that is integrating deeper into the society and a government that is taking concrete steps towards more democratic and accountable forms of governance. It therefore seems President Saleh is determined to consolidate political freedoms with democratic development and good governance towards a more prosperous future in Yemen especially during his new term in office.

There are many reasons to celebrate his determination and the current democratic wave, reinforcing political freedoms and human rights are a cornerstone of development, but what about the other pressing priorities of the Yemeni people? Such as economic development, better infrastructure and improved government services. How distant are those from the current wave of democracy and what can, if anything, Yemen's democratic development do for its economic development and well-being of citizens?

Empirical evidence suggests that, on average, countries which become democracies do not miraculously achieve faster economic growth due to democratic development, and similarly failed democracies do not do much worse in terms of economic development than they used to do. Therefore our democracy is not a magical spell to boost Yemen's economic development, in spite of the additional salaries and perks the government is paying its employees and the advance payment of next month's salary. The widespread association of Yemen's recent democratic milestone with more cash on hand for government employees and affiliates (over 500 thousand) is not only misleading but it is wrong. Yemen's democracy didn't provide for the additional salary and does not put bread on the table; Yemen's economy does.

The long-term success of a democracy depends on the strength

of the underlying economic system; a democracy is more likely to persist as a successful political system if the country grows richer, not by a mere additional salary or perk but by successful economic reforms resulting in enhanced business and production activities. To sustain our democratic development we need high-paced and tangible economic development. So far Yemen still has an unstable economy; evident in the fluctuation in the prices of vegetables due to increased demand during Ramadan. The impact of this fluctuation is only an indicator how the cycles of boom and bust affect consumer prices and in turn disrupt the fragile economy of Yemen.

My concern is the interaction between the political development and the economic system. History books show us that a democracy born in an encouraging economic environment with a functioning market system, thriving foreign direct investments, and sizeable international trade, is likely to consolidate economic liberalism, stabilize expectations, and hence lead to more investment and faster growth. On the contrary, if an economy is shrinking and is controlled by the state or a few trading groups, has little investment and minor capital movements, or relies on rents from exhaustible resources and extractive industries to obtain foreign currency, then the transition to democracy is very likely to be overwhelmed by the economic demands of the citizens and is destined for a long path of political struggle, hurting economic growth and provoking those who are currently mislead to think that democracy is a ticket towards economic prosperity. Which one of those two scenarios

is more likely to be witnessed in Yemen in the next decade? What comes after for Yemen's democracy? The answer for these questions is dependent on Yemen's economic growth, if we successfully meet the 7 percent growth rate target needed to result in any sort of development and in turn strengthen our fragile economy, then it is a bright future for Yemen's democracy, otherwise the second scenario will unfortunately prevail, and it will be downhill for Yemen's democracy.



Administrative Officer

This is an excellent opportunity for someone with proven administration, financial and personnel management skills to work in a busy and challenging environment as the head of the administrative section.

Essential skills:

- fluent reading, writing and speaking English and Arabic;
- Experience of accounting and reporting
- Word processing and spreadsheet competence; Use of phone, fax and photocopier;
- Ability to prioritize and to work independently; Experience of managing junior staff;
- Experience of public relations;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, discretion and diplomacy.

Duties will include overseeing all secretarial and financial aspects of the school; dealing with requests from teachers, parents and school managers; and facilitating registrations, documentation and permissions as prescribed by the Yemeni law.

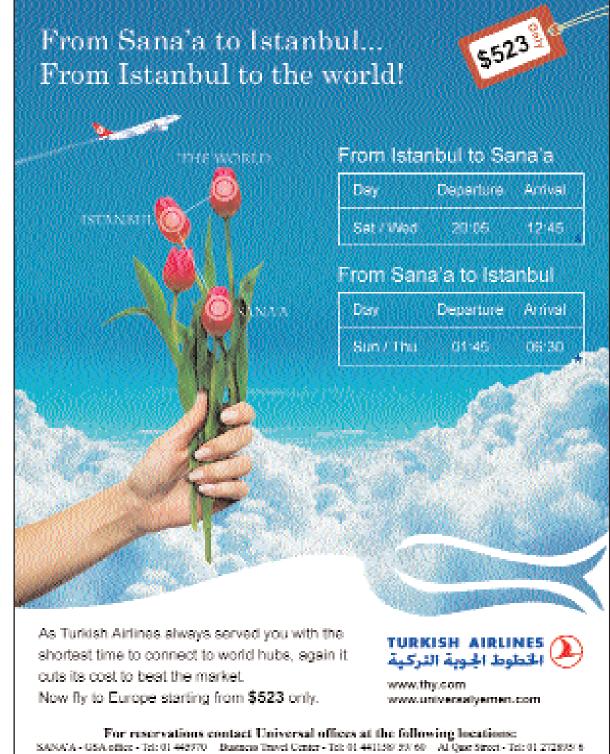
The post holder will supervise the work of all the non-teaching staff in the school.

Please email a CV and letter of application to: Miss Nerys Love ridge - head teacher, sbsyemen.com

Enquiries can be made to the school on 203950.

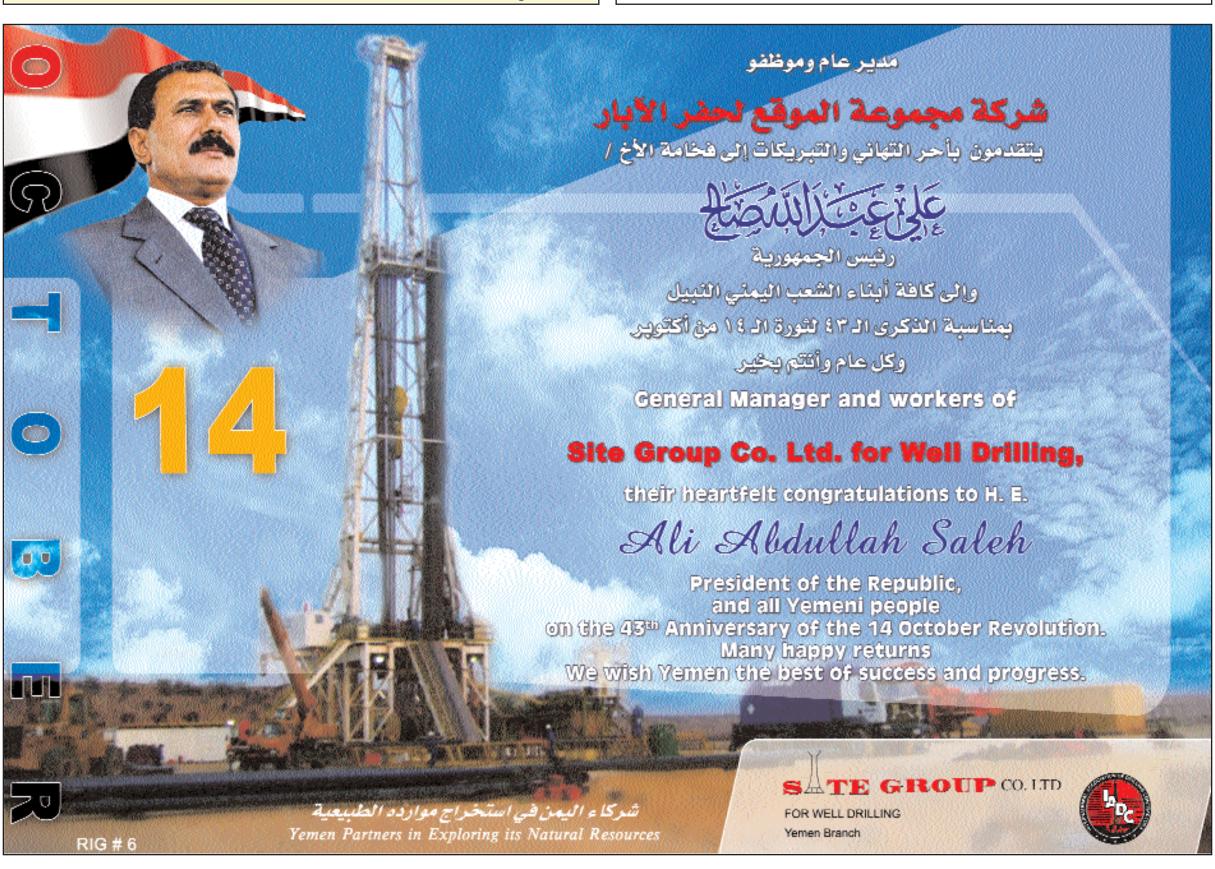
Closing date 12.00 noon, 15th October 2006.





Zubrity Street Tel: 01 267929 Movempick Hotel Tel: 01 54605 U 3 ADEN Tel: 02 246816/ 241534 TARZ - Tel: 04 252504 HODGEDAIL - Tel: 05 268601/ 3 HOB - Tel: 04 410782 MUKALLA - Tel: 05 354643/ 45 RADA'A - Tel: 06 551659 SETYUN - Tel: 05 404288

◆Flights Schedule valid tilt 30 October, please call one of our offices for the winter schedule.





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

Living in limbo

By: Najwan Al-Junaid, Canada

n Yemen, it seems that having children is an aesthetic obligation for the married. For many Yemeni parents, the child is neither a product of love and commitment nor a fulfillment of a sacred vow. I look at many Yemeni families and I only see careless mothers and passive fathers. I see selfish parents, immersed in their own indulgences, from qat parties to superfluous social activities.

Almost everyday in the afternoon, a semi-tornado storms Yemeni households. Qat time approaches and both parents perform their rituals preparing for qat parties.

Lunch is rushed, phones run off the hook, qat bundles are majestically washed and dried, and people pace in and out of the house almost like an emergency room. By 3 pm, the father is gone for his little gathering. If he is one of those forced-to-marriage Don Juans, he might meet his friends in Tahrir and 26 Street for a habitual women harassment ritual, also known as flirting. The mother needs two more hours to beautify herself, look gorgeous for 200+ women and prepare her qat bag

with all the necessary equipment. And if she is lucky enough, the maid prepares the magic bag so the Lady can have more beauty time.

Where are the children in this equaion?

By 3 pm, the children are neither the responsibility of the mother nor the father. It is fun time. The children are either pushed outside to play in streets or taken care of by maids. If they are lucky, they play at the neighbors' house under the supervision of another maid. Briefly, the children have no parental supervision for almost six or seven hours. The mother probably returns by eight at night and she still wants to enjoy few moments by herself and to let the gat effect sink. The maid carelessly provides dinner for the children and puts them to bed. And the father shows up at ten or so. Assuming both parents go out everyday and keeping in mind the children are in school until one in the afternoon, the children basically spend almost an hour with their parents per day.

The ramifications of leaving children for long hours are huge. What do the children learn in these six hours? Who do they interact with? What dangers are they

exposed to? Sick predators are possibly around a corner and maids will never be like a mother, though there are exceptions. But children are like dough. They can be molded to any shape and form and they easily pick habits and behaviors from their surrounding environment.

Everyone has a potential. I am a firm believer that everyone is a genius in something. With enough nurture and support, children would probably grow to that potential and may exceed it. But nowadays, the majority of Yemeni parents, especially the young, well-off and new breed parents, are in a limbo of minor indulgences and social events. Simply put, many Yemeni mothers and fathers do not know what it means to be a parent.

Childbirth is not an event that begins with consummation and ends at the hospital or at the hands of a midwife. It is a lifelong process that requires parents to nurture a child for growth through each phase of life. And as they say, it is easy to become a father or a mother, but it takes someone special to be a Dad or a Mum.

Najwan Al-Junaid is a team-member of Shabab Yemeni.

Ahmadinejad and Bush: More similar than different?

By: Steven Coulthart

yracuse, New York - The speeches and interviews occurring this week at the United Nations general assembly have drawn global attention to the halls of the UN. But truly at the centre of the controversy are two men, Iranian President Ahmadinejad and U.S. President Bush. Both are highly controversial in their home countries and abroad, and would at first glance seem to be polar opposites. Yet, some common threads seem to link the two men - both in terms of their rise to power and their views on religion and the state.

Both men are leaders with shadowy pasts and a strong spiritual bent. To understand both Ahmadinejad's and Bush's similarities, it is vital to analyse their rise to power. Both were outsiders on their respective national stages, and used this status to gain entrance into politics. As the former governor of Texas, Bush was a presidential underdog at first in the 2000 US election. Critics argued that his lack of foreign policy experience and relative obscurity to the American public were major handicaps to his campaign. However, the election's result showed that Bush's reputation as an outsider enabled him to persuade socially conservative voters that he would restore morality to the scandalridden Presidency and would be able, because he was an outsider, to end Washington's political gridlock.

Similarly, Ahmadinejad emerged in Iranian politics as an outsider coming from a lesser post as mayor of Tehran. In a strikingly similar tactic as Bush, Ahmadinejad used his outsider's position to provide an alternative to frustrated voters. Election results from the US in 2004 revealed a country divided to the core and put the political divisions between rural and urban areas into focus. The Bush campaign was effective

in appealing to red (rural) state voters who emphasised "moral values" deemed higher than their blue state counterparts' when picking a candidate. Interestingly, Ahmadinejad appealed to a similar rural population of Iran just as Bush had to rural America through a mix of social conservatism and promises to improve the lot of Iran's underclass.

In both the US's 2004 and Iran's 2005 elections, religion's role in politics was greatly increased. Both Bush and Ahmadinejad were able to tap into feelings of marginalisation among conservative religious groups that were frustrated by liberal political forces in their countries. Even more interestingly, the percentages of both countries' populations who would classify themselves as religiously conservative are roughly the same. According to estimates by Hadi Semati of the Woodrow Wilson International Center, approximately 35% of Iranians support religious conservative candidates. According to a 1993 Gallop poll of Americans, 33% of Americans agreed with the statement, "The Bible is the actual word of God and it is to be taken literally, word for word."

Once in office, these two leaders have also taken similar roads, particularly with regard to foreign policy. Ahmadinejad, only a year into his Presidency, has aggressively pursued a policy of developing nuclear technology, and has not shied away from confrontations with the United Nations and world's great powers. Ahmadinejad's strong anti-American and anti-Israel rhetoric has persuaded many that moderation in Iran is truly dead and that Iran is a threat to the West. Similarly, Bush, who had campaigned as something of an isolationist, was able to use the terrorist attacks of 9/11 to launch an aggressive foreign policy in the Middle East, a policy whose selfstated aims are the democratisation of the Middle East and thus the elimination of threats to Israel and American interests.

Bush has also abandoned the US's usual position of maintaining the moral high ground, and has used similar threatening, confrontational and aggressive rhetoric, stating that "You are either with us or against us" on fighting terrorism, and labelling North Korea, Iran and Iraq as an "axis of evil." In both countries, this rhetoric serves to shore up their respective power bases, which are inclined to nationalism and viewing foreign policy issues in black and white.

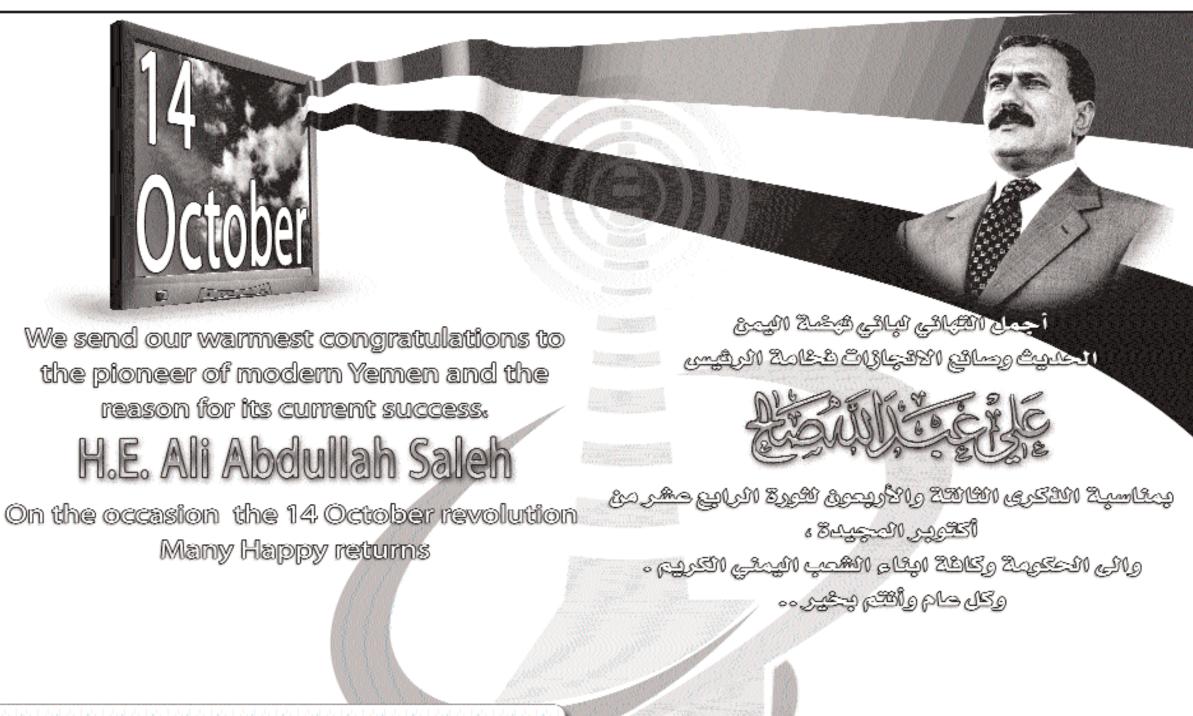
Perhaps the greatest similarity between these two leaders is that their success or failure lies in the deserts of Arabia and the steppes of Asia. Both men know we are entering a new historical epoch, and both seem determined, however misguided their methodology, to put their country's national interests above all else, whatever the risk to the rest of the world. Bush has continually rejected the notion of speaking with Iran's president and generally rejected the idea of negotiating with Iran over its nuclear aspirations. It is time for citizens of both countries to recognise how extremist their leaders have become, and what a danger to the world and to their own security such nationalism and extremism can be. The citizens of Iran and the US should recognise that they are not all that different, that they in many ways share the same aspirations and goals, and that while their cultures are quite different, they have leaders who share remarkably similar traits. It is this common ground that will open up dialogue and prevent the unthinkable.

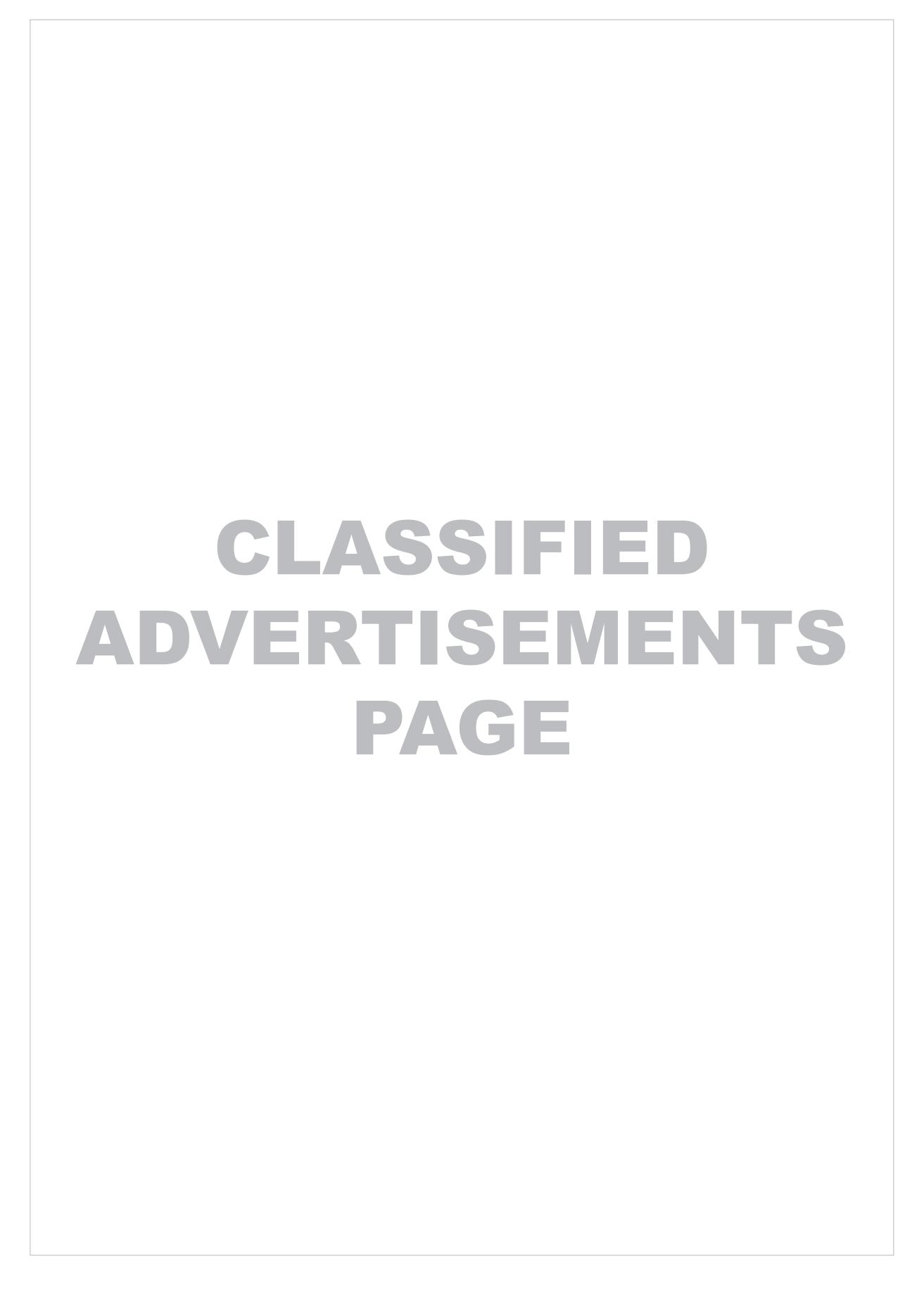
* Stephen Coulthart is a recent graduate of the State University of New York, where he studied political science and public justice. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.



المؤسسة العامة اليمنية للإذاعة والتلفزيون

YEMEN GENERAL RADIO AND TV. CORPORATION





Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper.

The first stationary in Yemen opens the first-largest shopping center

Made in Yemen - Ramadan delicacies

Every issue, we will bring you recipes of a number of Yemeni traditional foods made especially during Ramadan. We will also provide you with health tips regarding some of the food items for your benefit. Bonn appetite!

Salta:

Ingredients:

One cup of meat broth One tbsp Fenugreek powder Warm water for making the Hulba Meat broth

kilo minced meat

One onion

3 garlic cloves grounded

2 spoons of oil One cup of chopped fresh leak leaves 20 grams (around three spoons) of chopped coriander leaves Four red tomatoes

One spoon tomato paste Salt and spices

Procedures: Making the Hulba:

- 1. Soak the fenugreek in cold water
- for 4 fours at least (the longer the
- 2. Drain the old water and add new cold
- 3. Blend the fenugreek with hand or

with blender for 10 minutes then soak for five minutes

4. Repeat step three until mixture is white and creamy

Making the minced meat:

- 1. Heat the oil
- 2. Finely chop the onion
- 3. Dice the onion with the grounded garlic in the oil and fry until golden 4. Meanwhile finely chop the tomatoes
- 5. Add salt and spices
- 6. Add the minced meat and let cook with one cup of water for half an hour or until the meat is cooked

Making the Salta:

- 1. Heat the madarah until quiet hot
- 2. Add the meat broth
- 3. Make the minced meat mixture into small balls and put inside the broth while continue heating
- 4. Finally four the Hulba on top of the mixture and serve immediately

Note: you can substitute the meat with



Malouj is eaten in many Yemeni houses on daily basis as a home substitute for ready made bread

vegetables such as potatoes, ladyfingers or white beans. You can add one egg at the beginning by frying it in the heated Madarah.

Malouj:

3 cups wheat 1 cup flour

Warm water for making the dough

Salt for taste

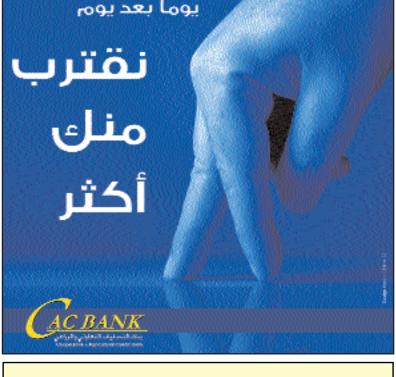
One tspn yeast One spoon fenugreek Black cumin seeds

Procedures:

- 1. Make the dough by mixing the
- ingredients together for 10 minutes 2. Let it relax for one hour until the yeast starts working
- 3. Meanwhile soak the fenugreek in half a cup of water for half an hour
- . Heat the traditional oven (Tanour)
- and let heat for 10 minutes Take a part of the dough and wipe the
- front with the fenugreek batter 6. Smooth the dough and expand it by
- . Immediately slam it into the Tanour keeping the side with fenugreek
- 8. Spray the while the bread is still
- cooking



NOKIA



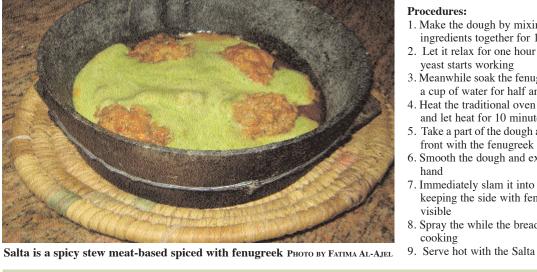


CONSTRUCTION OF MECHANICAL AND HEAVY CIVIL PROJECTS

- Petrochemical plants, refineries.
- Heavy, light industrial plants. Power and desalination plants.
- Fuel and water storage tanks. Oil fields ancillary installations.
- Air purification for industry Marine docks, harbours, deep sea berths & refinery terminals.
- Offshore structures and underwater works.
- Pipelines construction and maintenance.
- Prefabricated accommodation & office facilities Sewage treatment plants & collection networks.
- Airports, roads, highways, bridges & fly-overs. High quality buildings & sports complexes.
- Water treatment plants, reservoirs & distribution

Sanaa Tel: (967-1) 441638

Fax: (967-1) 441630 E-Mail: cccyemen@y.net.ye Aden Tel: (967-2) 377328 Fax: (967-2) 377716 E-Mail: cccaden@y.net.ye



Health benefits of Salta with Malouj

The Salta is almost known as Sana'a's national dish. It is a spicy stew meatbased spiced with fenugreek and generally served at the end of the main course. The taste is quite unlike any Western dishes, which may take newcomers by surprise, but it is a taste well worth acquiring.

ntaining fenegreek (discussed in an earlier issue) and wheat (also discussed in an earlier issue) and

Black cumin:

Iron for Energy and Immune Function Cumin seeds, whose scientific name is Cuminum cyminum, are a very good source of iron, a mineral that plays many vital roles in the body. Iron is an integral component of hemoglobin,

of key enzyme systems for energy production metabolism. and Additionally, iron is instrumental in keeping your immune system healthy. adolescents have increased needs for iron, as do women who are pregnant or lactating.

Seeds of Good Digestion

noted to be of benefit to the digestive system, and scientific research is cumin may stimulate the secretion of more farther reaching.

lungs to all body cells, and is also part necessary for proper digestion and

Cancer Prevention

Cumin seeds may also have anti-Iron is particularly important for carcinogenic properties. In one study, menstruating women, who lose iron cumin was shown to protect each month during menses. laboratory animals from developing This dish has many benefits for it Additionally, growing children and stomach or liver tumors. This cancerprotective effect may be due to cumin's potent free radical scavenging abilities as well as the ability it has shown to enhance the liver's detoxification enzymes. Yet, since Cumin seeds have traditionally been free radical scavenging and detoxification are important considerations for the general beginning to bear out cumin's age-old maintenance of wellness, cumin's reputation. Research has shown that contribution to wellness may be even





Printed by Yemen Times Est. for Press, Printing & Publication علبعت في مطابع مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنثمر