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Inside:  **3** Staff members give reflections on the occasion  **5** Hard times for Somali refugees in Yemen  **12** The unemployment explosion

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Do you think the funds Yemen will receive from donor countries will actually be spent to improve the country?

Yes (22%) **No (67%)** **I don't know (11%)**

This edition's question:
 Yemen Times just celebrated its 1000 issue. Do you think so far we have lived up to our mission in promoting democracy, human rights and freedoms?

- Yes, to a large extent
- Yes, but modestly
- No, because of constraints on the press
- Not at all

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

Sana'a terror cell leader sentenced to death

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Nov. 22 — The State Security Specialized Penal Court sentenced Ibrahim Issa Sharafaddin, a top terrorist and leader of a Sana'a terrorist cell, to death Wednesday.

Sharafaddin was charged with plotting the April and May 2005 blasts in the capital of Sana'a. Under the verdict, issued by Judge Najib Al-Qadiri, the top terror suspect received a death sentence, while others faced prison terms ranging from three to 10 years. Three suspects were cleared of charges attributed to them.

The court seized all arms, including machine guns, pistols and hand grenades, dynamite and other explosives, as well as mobile phones the terrorist cell possessed.

The court fined suspect Abdullah Al-Hakem YR 100,000 to be paid as injury compensation to victim Saleh Muthana Al-Wajih, who was injured in the blasts. It also fined convicts Zain Al-Abidin Al-Murtadha, Amin Al-Muhaqiri and Aqil Al-Shami YR 50,000 each to compensate victim Ali Hussein Al-Qadiri, also injured in the blasts.

Other convicts were obliged to com-



Two of the Sana'a terror cell members at the trial.

pensate for others injured in the blasts. The court decided that the blood money of slain Lt. Col. Ahmad Ismail Al-Mo'ayyad, killed in last year's Sana'a blasts, be given to his heirs.

The blast suspects numbered 37, including a woman named Intisar Al-Sayyani. Terrorist cell members were arrested in a Sana'a apartment with large quantities of hand grenades, explosives and other arms.

Prosecution accused cell members of

forming an armed band, plotting to attack and kill senior government officials and bomb military and security installations. It said the suspects planned to lob hand grenades at vehicles belonging to Ministry of Defense officials.

Additionally, cell members faced charges of plotting to assassinate the U.S. ambassador and bomb the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a, as well as break into the Yemeni TV premises and several military camps.

German Ambassador congratulates YT

Dear Ms. Al-Sakkaf,

On behalf of the German Embassy in Sana'a, I would like to congratulate you and your team on the occasion of publishing 1,000 issues of the Yemen Times.

Over the past 15 years, the newspaper founded by your late father has been one of the most important sources of information – not only for the expatriate community – but also for your country regarding the major developments in Yemen.

Professional, investigative, critical and impartial – these are just some of the attributes that best characterize the Yemen Times and its staff. It's always a pleasure to read the well-researched top stories, the outspoken editorials and comments and the important analyses of economic sectors, as well as social and cultural affairs.

The German Embassy looks forward to continuing its excellent rela-



Frank M. Mann

tions with you and your newspaper and, once again, wishes you and your team all the best!

Yours sincerely,

Frank M. Mann
 German Ambassador, Sana'a
 Nov. 2006

EU seeks stability and security in Yemen

By: Glyn Goffin

SANA'A, Nov. 22 — On the heels of the London Donors Conference, a European Commission delegation was in Sana'a to see how their \$600 million donation will be used.

"Success in the reforms agenda is key to future success," said German ambassador to Yemen, Frank Marcus Mann, mentioning the necessity of such meetings. "Such dialogue is essential for political development."

The political dialogue was the first visit to Yemen for Leonidas Tezapsidis, head of the EU's unit for the region. He was using the trip to familiarize himself with the country as well as "take part in this important meeting following the London conference."

Tezapsidis and the EU delegation used the meetings to address issues of common concern. Topping the list were democracy, both human and women's rights and Yemen's delay in ratifying the International Criminal Court's Rome Statute.

The EU had a delegation of observers in Yemen before, during and after the recent presidential and local elections and they are pleased with the steps the nation is taking. "We attach great importance to the elections and the whole process that day," Tezapsidis said, adding that it was a key initiative Yemen performed itself.

The EU Election Observation

Mission will present its final report in upcoming weeks with their final recommendations.

The EU is pleased that Yemen is a democracy trailblazer in the region. "In the Arab region, Yemen has made the most progress," said the delegation's charge d'affair, Ralf Dreyer, although he pointed out that steps still must be taken.

However, the elections' success and openness give the EU optimism for the future. "We can support the democratic system and process," Tezapsidis said, noting that it's positive to see Yemen's willingness to accept EU assistance. "The next elections can be even better than the last," he added.

Not all subjects were addressed as positive steps – the EU was critical of human rights and especially use of the death penalty. "The EU wishes to see the death penalty abolished worldwide," Dreyer stated, but he hopes Yemen adopts, at the minimum, protection for juveniles.

The EU recognizes that there's conflict between tribal, Islamic and state laws, but it says that even with difficulty in knowing true ages, youth must be protected. "There's an old, old rule – if in doubt, favor the accused," Dreyer recalled.

Along with increasing women's rights, the EU says civil society must address the topic and as with all topics on the agenda, it hopes Yemen will address them properly. "We've seen determination and political will," Tezapsidis said, "We must be optimistic."

The key to EU involvement and interest in Yemeni affairs also impacts affairs in Europe. "Yemeni stability and security means European stability and security, despite the kilometers separating the two," Dreyer observed.

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Parliamentary human rights committee enforces its choice of chairperson

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Nov. 22 — For the first time, the Yemeni Parliament's Committee for Public Freedoms and Human Rights has elected its chairperson against the will of Parliament's presidency board.

In a press statement, seven members of Parliament from the 17-member committee declared their choice of independent MP Ali Abdurabu Al-Qadhi to head the committee and MP

Abdulwahab Ali Muawadha of the General People's Congress as its rapporteur.

The MPs' declaration comes in response to Tuesday's dispute in Parliament over the human rights committee's leadership.

MP Mohammad Al-Shaef, a known businessman and tribal leader, previously headed the committee until Parliament's recent restructuring. Al-Shaef nominated himself to head the

Development, Oil and Mineral Resources Committee but was denied, which led him to seek his former position as head of the human rights committee.

Deputy Parliament Speaker Yahya Al-Rai sought to pressure the committee by endorsing Al-Shaef, but committee members stood their ground. MP Ahmed Saif Hashed, who had struggled with authorities recently over human rights issues, complained to the Yemen

Times that the human rights committee isn't actively playing its role as it should.

The signatories, including Hashed, stated that their rejection of Al-Shaef is a consequence of oppression the committee was experiencing, especially given that its previous rapporteur was Mohammad Rashad Al-Alimi, the Minister of Interior's son, which constituted a clear conflict of interest, in their opinion.

Yemen is still a low human development country, UNFPA says

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, Nov. 22 — "Yemen has improved its score on the human development index since 1990, but is still a low human development country, with a current ranking of 151 out of 177 countries," the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) stated at a

workshop Tuesday on the Country Program Action Plan (CPAP) for 2007-2011.

The U.N. fund released a report indicating that Yemen's per capita gross domestic product is \$889 and has remained relatively static in recent years. Meanwhile, the most recently available statistics reveal that 42 percent of Yemeni households live below the poverty line and 16 percent of the population lives on less than \$1 a day.

According to the UNFPA report, poverty in Yemen is more of a rural than an urban phenomenon, with 83 percent of the poor and 87 percent of all those suffering food poverty living in rural areas. Poverty also is related to the number of children in a family.

Continued on page 2



From right Minister of health and Population, Minister of (MPOIC, UNFPA) Representative in Yemen on National work shope

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Erratum
 There was an error in last issue's front page story entitled, "Success at Donors Conference," wherein it mentioned that the United States donated \$220 million. According to the Media & Information Attaché at the Yemeni Embassy in the U.S., the U.S. didn't pledge any donations in London; instead, it promised to push Yemen toward Threshold Status in the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA).
 We apologize for the mistake.

In brief

Sana'a
Bayer markets its Aspirin in Yemeni market
 Nov. 22 — After a two-decade absence, Germany's Bayer Healthcare has returned to Yemen with its famous product, Aspirin. The company resumed its exports of a variety of medicines to the Yemeni market in September. Last March, the company announced its return through the National Trading Company, a large corporation owned by the Hayyal Saeed Group. Bayer is known for having mainstreamed aspirin, as well as for its discovery of treatments for male impotence.

Aden
Training course in lifesaving
 Nov. 22 — The Civil Defense and Fire Fighting Operation administration arranged a course in lifesaving with cooperating with Aden Cement Company on Monday. About 12 employees participated in the course. The course will be completed on Saturday. The course aims to spread awareness among the employees in the small companies and decrease the accidents that may happen. The trainees take theoretical lectures on the main principles for the civil defense work and how to use tools in emergency cases.

Hodeidah
French ambassador visits region
 Nov. 22 — The governor of Hodeidah, Mohammed Shamlan, met on Tuesday French ambassador to Sana'a Gean Gonbaih. The governor reviewed the characteristics of Hodeidah town and requirement of the development, particularly in domains of fisheries, agriculture and tourism. The French ambassador expressed interest of his country to improve mutual cooperation with Yemen's coast guard.

Ibb
Study to implement remedial facilities in Demt
 Nov. 22 — The Ministry of Water and Environment has begun initial preparations to make a number of resorts and tourist facilities in Demt area in Al-Dale which famous for hot springs. The ministry was communicating with some local companies to carry out several projects including tourist resorts and remedial facilities in Demt, pointing out that the Gulf companies which are interested in tourism have shown real interests in investing such area according to the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Shabwah
Medical Army team treat 8,000 patients free
 Nov. 22 — The Ministry of Defense arranged the 10th medical campaign for citizens in Shabwah. The medical team continues its free campaign, which runs from Nov. 7 to Nov. 27. The medical team includes 45 specialists divided into three medical teams who work on the field while another team works in Atiq Central Hospital. The team performed many surgeries in Atiq's hospital while the team moved difficult surgeries to the Army Hospital in Sana'a.

Socotra
Five ancient origins and six heritage graves discovered
 Nov. 22 — The General Committee for Heritages and Museums noticed that the Russian researchers team have discovered Five ancient origins and six heritage graves during research on Socotra Island. "This heritage history return to the Middle Ages and this is the second field research for the Russian team in this month," according to Abdullah Ba Wazer the chief of the general authority for heritages and museums.

Taiz
New court for discussing youth issues
 Nov. 22 — The national cultural center for youth is cooperating with Al-Saeed Foundation to organize Thursday programs to hold a youth court, about 200 youth from different organizations will participate in the discussions at Al-Saeed Foundation. The court aims to develop youth dialogue skills and train youth how to present opinions freely. The court will be held the third Thursday each month in the at Al-Saeed Foundation.

Fire breaks at Higher Education Ministry

SANA'A, Nov. 22 — Scholarship students' files were completely destroyed as a fire broke on Tuesday's afternoon, Nov. 21. The fire, which is thought by security to be intended, broke in the ground floor of the Ministry of Higher Education.

"The fire started at the elevator's gate in the first floor where there exists a group of accumulated files and the fire extended to the ministry's stores," Dr. Saleh Ba Sura, Minister of Higher Education, told Yemen Times.

He further added his ministry in

collaboration with security apparatuses will form a joint committee to investigate the circumstances of the incident as he thinks it was arson; particularly when the ministry was investigating forgery operations in the files of foreign students in the few days before the incident.

"There have been 250 cases of forgery concerning students sent abroad on scholarships. Those responsible for fraudulence were referred to the court after the prosecution' investigations started. The

rulings will be announced soon," added Ba Sura.

The minister also declared the fire accident will not affect the information registry of students abroad as each student has two files in the Yemeni Embassies' cultural attachés and the Ministry of Finance.

Nine fire tanks managed to put off the fire and there were no human losses; however, the rising smoke caused suffocation among some employees in the upper floors and two were rushed to the hospital after they had fainted.

The Yemeni coast guard in naval exercises

SANA'A, Nov. 22 — France will assist the Yemeni government to train the coast guard in many fields related to the security of the Red Sea region, according to commander in chief of French forces in Djibouti, Michel Arrault.

There is a common interest in the Red Sea stability as well as the Arabian Gulf, according to Arrault. There is a worry about the conflict in Somalia and its impact on the security in Bab Al-Mandab, the Red Sea and the entire region.

"I am here to visit the Yemeni military command and the Ministry of Defense to achieve the purpose which it had been agreed before between the Yemeni Ministry of Defense and the French Government," said Arrault.

He commended the level of the Yemeni coast guard and their motiva-

tion for work and education. Their responsibility is large because of the 2,400 km Yemeni coastline.

"I am very proud that the coast guards are motivated to work, as well as the France defense force, and there are many things that must be done," he said

Arrault met reporters before his meeting with the top leaders in the government, but he expected his visit will be positive for the relationship and cooperation between Yemen and France. The French official said he's happy with the cooperation between Yemen and Britain and America concerning security and military. The clarity of the cooperation between the three countries is strong and he hopes for the same between France and Yemen. French cooperation has not been operating long, but he praised the

work and its expansion to other areas, he also said that there is a huge job to be done and every country of region needs to assist because "cooperated achievement will be the best."

He added that in order to protect Yemeni waters, as well as the neighboring countries, African countries and the Gulf must give international cooperation and the naval security need to be provided with an information network to assist with solving problems.

The French military in Djibouti has an organized network for responding to information and now the French forces in Yemen need the same assistance. These in turn require external assistance, such as helping other sovereign states to do the job at the appropriate time and place.

Arrault was in Yemen for the duration of the training program.

Kidnappers on the stand

SANA'A, Nov. 19 — This week the Yemeni State Security Court began hearing charges against two tribesmen accused in the kidnapping of four French tourists in South Eastern Yemen this past September.

The four Frenchmen were kidnapped on Sept. 10 in the Haban district of Shabwa province, about 460 kilometers from Sana'a. They were taken by armed men from the Al-Abdullah clan, who threatened to kill them to press the government to release jailed relatives.

The hostages were released on Sept. 25 and four days later security forces announced the capture of five men suspected of involvement in the kidnapping.

The two defendants, Ahmad Haidara Laswad Salfouh, and Rajih Muhammad Ahmad Salim, appeared handcuffed before the presiding judge.

Al-Abdullah is the same clan that kidnapped and held a German diplomat, his wife and three sons along with four Italian tourists in December 2005.

The clan member say authorities



The two defendants, Ahmad Haidara Laswad Salfouh, and Rajih Muhammad Ahmad Salim, appeared handcuffed before the presiding judge.

broke a promise they had been given following the release of the German family. The clan was expecting the release of their relatives after they freed the family.

Many tourists and foreigners working in Yemen have been kidnapped over the past decade by tribesmen demanding better schools, roads and services, or the release of prisoners. Most hostages have been released unharmed, but three Britons and an Australian seized by Islamist militants were killed when security forces stormed their hideout in December 1998.

at spreading awareness about citizenship projects.

Students still are continuing work with officials, local administrations, parents, media personnel and civil community organizations with the aim to attract partners to help in tackling many social issues, which their project addresses, said Al-Qadasi.

"We take pride in our capability of integrating thousands of students in tackling issues of societies. Through these courses, students develop skills in constructive criticism and analyzing public policies, as well as suggesting solutions to social issues," explained Al-Qadasi.

The citizenship project contributes to the democratic transformation via improving the skills of citizens to be effective partners in sustainable development.

Red Cross protecting human dignity

SANA'A, Nov. 21 — Thirty-seven academics and religious scholars gathered in Sana'a to discuss "humanitarian protection under Islamic law and international humanitarian law."

"We organized such seminars in different governorates like Aden and Taiz to highlight the similarities between Islam and international humanitarian law," said Hicham Hassan, the spokesman of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Yemen.

He added that many principles promoted by international humanitarian law were found in Islamic laws.

"The protection of women, children and elders have to be guaranteed during armed conflicts, prisoners captured during the war must be treated humanly, they have to be provided with food, care and shelter...etc all these Islamic principles are also found in the humanitarian law," he remarked.

However he confirmed that more than half of the Red Cross's current operations are carried out for conflict victims in the Muslim world – be they prisoners, displaced persons, families of



Many principles promoted by international humanitarian law were found in Islamic laws.

detainees or other persons requiring aid. In the regions concerned certain conflicts have lasted for decades.

"Conflicts such as these present major challenges for independent and neutral humanitarian organizations. In the case of the Red Cross, they have fueled mistrust of its activities and emblem," he said. "At the same time, ongoing discussions on the roots of humanitarian law have highlighted the fact that the law is a universally accepted set of rules reflecting the values of different civilizations, cultures and religious

beliefs, in particular those of Islam, both as a religion and as a civilization boasting a complex and wide-reaching legal system."

He said that the International Committee of the Red Cross has stepped up its dialogue with intellectuals, academics and scholars in various parts of the Muslim world, with an aim to lay the foundations for greater mutual understanding, dispel existing misconceptions and find common ground for protecting human dignity in armed conflicts.

Climate change heating up

SANA'A, Nov. 21 — Yemen participated in the United Nations Climate Change Conference held Nov. 6 to 17 in Kenya. The conference was attended by roughly 6,000 participants, concluded with the adoption of a range of decisions designed to mitigate climate change and help countries adapt to the effects of global warming.

The Yemeni Delegation included representatives of the Ministry of Water and Environment, the Foreign Ministry and the Environmental Protection Authority.

The conference's participants emphasized that climate change is a serious and pressing issue. The earth's climate is rapidly changing mainly as a result of increases in greenhouse gases caused by human activities. Warming is very likely to intensify the water cycle, reinforcing existing patterns of water scarcity and increasing the risk of droughts and floods.

"The conference has delivered on its promise to support the needs of developing countries," said Kivutha Kibwana, Kenya's Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment and President of the conference.

Delegates reached agreement on the management of the Adaptation Fund of the Kyoto Protocol. Developing countries had a special interest in the fund, which draws on proceeds generated by the Clean Development Mechanism. The mechanism is designed to support concrete climate-change adaptation activities in poorer countries.



Side of the Yemeni delegation in the conference.

"Activities for the next few years under the Nairobi Work program on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation were agreed in Nairobi. These activities will help enhance decision-making on adaptation action and improved assessment of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change," said the Minister of Water and Environment, Abdul-Rahman F. Al-Eryani. "Another outcome is the agreement on the management of the Adaptation Fund which draws on proceeds generated by the clean development mechanism and is designed to support concrete adaptation activities in developing countries. However, I am concerned that converse positions on a small number of outstanding issues could put at risk an overall successful outcome of the Conference. In particular, an agreement on the review of the Kyoto Protocol as there is no deal on another round of mandatory cuts in emissions to follow the Kyoto Protocol, and no

firm timetable for negotiating cuts."

The Clean Development Mechanism permits industrialized countries, which have emission targets under the Kyoto Protocol, to invest in sustainable development projects in developing countries that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and thereby generate tradable emission credits.

"I am happy to say that the Ministry of Water and Environment has joined forces with UNDP and UNEP to develop the necessary institutional and human capabilities to formulate and implement project," remarks Al-Eryani. "Our first goal is a successful participation at the Carbon Expo which offers the opportunity to buy emission reductions from CDM projects."

The Ministry of Water and Environment is preparing for a series of workshops starting in December where all the main stakeholder groups from the public and private sector will be invited.

Teachers conclude citizenship course

TAIZ, Nov. 22 — Women's Forum for Researches and Training and the Center for Civil Education and Democracy are concluding a course for training male and female teachers on the citizenship project.

"The program continues its work with Yemeni schools and universities for the fourth successive year. It already reached hundreds of teachers and thousands of students in cities and rural areas," said Suad Al-Qadasi, chairwoman of the women's forum. "During this time period, students presented several projects concerned with public policies and set an action plan for their activities."

The training involved more than 60 primary and secondary school male and female teachers from throughout Taiz governorate. During the course, the teachers played the students' role and carried out real programs, aimed

at spreading awareness about citizenship projects.

Students still are continuing work with officials, local administrations, parents, media personnel and civil community organizations with the aim to attract partners to help in tackling many social issues, which their project addresses, said Al-Qadasi.

"We take pride in our capability of integrating thousands of students in tackling issues of societies. Through these courses, students develop skills in constructive criticism and analyzing public policies, as well as suggesting solutions to social issues," explained Al-Qadasi.

The citizenship project contributes to the democratic transformation via improving the skills of citizens to be effective partners in sustainable development.

Continued from page 1

Yemen is still a low human development country, UNFPA says

"With 6.2 births per woman, Yemen is among those countries with the world's highest total fertility rates. Although its growth rate decreased from 3.7 percent in 1994 to just over 3 percent in 2004, rapid population growth continues to be an underlying cause of many of the problems the country faces," the report revealed.

It added that as Yemen's population is expected to double in 23 years at the present growth rate, the nation's poverty situation is expected to further aggravate, thus hindering prospects for sustainable development and threatening prospects for equitable access to and expansion of education and primary health care.

Regarding maternal mortality, the report revealed that the phenomenon accounts for 42 percent of all deaths among Yemeni women of childbearing age. With 365 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, Yemen has one of the world's highest maternal death rates. Approximately, 75 percent of maternal deaths occur due to lack of access to and availability of high-quality reproductive health services.

The workshop was held in the presence of numerous ministers and population and health officials, representatives from UNFPA's regional office, Yemeni universities and both governmental and non-governmental research centers, as well as health office managers and experts from 20 Yemeni governorates.

Opening the workshop, Minister of Public Health and Population Abdulkarim Rase'e pointed out that the country program is a new phase of continuing and constructive cooperation between Yemen and the

UNFPA. It was held as part of a series of programs UNFPA has funded since 1992.

"This new program constitutes an action plan to be implemented for the next five years and the plan is expected to address several population problems, which reflects UNFPA's interest in reproductive health and social gender," Rase'e stated.

Hans Obdeijn, UNFPA representative in Yemen, clarified that the plan aims to assist Yemen with population issues, particularly after succeeding at the London Donors Conference and receiving regional and international support to implement its development projects.

The workshop aimed to undertake a participatory peer review of the draft CPAP to enable UNFPA to finalize the document, which will be signed at a later stage. Specifically, the workshop's expected outcome is to provide feedback for improving the final document, taking into consideration multiple issues.

Another goal of the workshop was to ensure that the plan adequately addresses national plans and policies, as well as streamline its links to Yemen's program goals, outcomes and outputs. The workshop's third goal was to ensure that the plan is a coherent document bringing together programmatic and operational aspects of Yemen's program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The workshop's final goal was to draw an adequate balance between the program's central and decentralized levels in terms of services, capacity building and resource mobilization.

As Yemen Times reaches issue 1000

Staff members give reflections on the occasion

By: Khalil Al-Khaubari

Yemen Times published its first issue in February 1991, and last issue was No. 1,000. During its 15 years of publishing, Yemen Times has established the nation's first steps toward free and independent media, as well as contributed in conveying facts to readers both inside and outside the country.

Such achievements helped the newspaper win multiple local and international awards, the last of which was the 2006 Free Media Pioneer Award from the International Press Institute (IPI).

On this occasion, we attempt to get glimpses from the Yemen Times team to help us in the search for facts and presenting them to readers with maximum neutrality and transparency. We're due to perceive the team's impressions on this occasion, which, by itself, is considered a commendable achievement for Yemeni press in pursuit of facts.

Below, some of Yemen Times staff illustrate the path their newspaper has traveled:

Ismail Al-Ghabri
Senior journalist



Undoubtedly, this is a special occasion and reminds one that the Yemen Times has become quite a prestigious newspaper, which was founded a year after Yemen's national unity. The newspaper is famous for criticizing without fearing the consequences. It's through the Yemen Times that I can see the outside world.

Doctor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf once authorized me to travel to Tokyo to attend a training course at the International Press Center, where I gave some remarks entitled, "Post-unification Journalism in Yemen," which stunned the participants from various countries.

I invite freelance writers, critics and readers of the Yemen Times to criticize the newspaper objectively and contribute anything new that might help develop journalism in Yemen.

Ramzi Alawi Al-Saqqaf
Head of Technical Department



From the very beginning, I was in charge of computer-based color separation, a process that decomposes images into the four primary colors used at printing houses. The Yemen Times was the first newspaper in Yemen to exercise this technology. Over time, I've developed a passionate attachment to the newspaper. Indeed, there are loyal staff members, just as there are loyal readers. The newspaper has undergone many critical stages that continuously reshaped its policies and management style.

As the Yemen Times reaches issue No. 1,000, I find it a great occasion to look back and ponder, as well as look forward and gear up!

I hope readers find the Yemen Times as appealing and informative as always and I thank the vast base of readership and advertisers for their continued support by picking up the best English newspaper in town.

Yasser Al-Mayasi
Senior journalist



Reaching issue No. 1,000 signifies a great success for the Yemen Times team. For me, the Yemen Times is a school that taught me and caused me to love journalism, as well as discuss human issues. The Yemen Times is a window granting me more liberty and fresh air.

I remember the first report I did for the newspaper about child trafficking in Harad city on the Yemeni-Saudi border, where I followed the dangerous paths

used for trafficking and lost my way back. Afterward, I felt the risks and worries children face, but I also realized how noble and dangerous our mission is as journalists.

The readers are the best judges and we welcome their advice and remarks – which we may not always remember – but we're happy to receive their criticism.

Mohammed bin Sallam
Head of News Department



Publishing issue number 1,000 is a huge pride and a gold heart added to Doctor Al-Saqqaf's chest and to his sons and daughters who came after him. The Yemen Times should be proud of itself because it didn't miss even one issue, whereas other Yemeni newspapers disappeared on eids and other occasions. This newspaper is a window through which I can transmit my nation's sufferings and concerns. I also can give foreign readers all of the information they want to know about my country.

Though there is lack of total moral protection and restriction on press freedom, I can say that we still are able to provide readers with 70 percent of the information.

Adel Al-Khawlani
Translator cum Reporter



I thank the Yemen Times for teaching me. For me, the Yemen Times is a training school from which I learned how to write objectively and neutrally. Additionally, I've learned how to acclimatize to work pressure.

The editor sent me to cover protests in the capital city after the government decided to raise fuel product prices. I didn't eat lunch that day because all the restaurants were closed, nor could I get transportation, so I was compelled to return home on foot.

I hope every reader will read the newspaper critically as each issue is published and provide us with his or her feedback.

Amel Al-Ariqi
Health Editor



I'm extremely happy on this occasion. For me, the Yemen Times means professionalism, neutrality and a spirit of teamwork. These are qualities I have learned from 'the old school' at the Yemen Times.

It regards my first journalistic coverage. While working as an intern (a journalist in training), the editor sent me to cover the inauguration of the Cancer

Center. I couldn't sleep the night before the event, so stayed up to list the names of those I was to interview at the inauguration ceremony. After I covered the event, the editor said, "I'm pleased with your writing style," so this encouraged me to quit translating and work as a reporter.

The readers are the judges because they can assess our performance, so their viewpoints always are required.

Mohammed Al-Jabri
Community Editor



Issue No. 1,000 was reached thanks to great efforts by all of the staff members, who contributed to the newspaper's success. The Yemen Times functions as the image of Yemen in other Arab and foreign countries since it works objectively, transparently and neutrally. It never seems to be partial to any party; rather, it adopts all issues associated with citizens' sufferings, human rights and democracy.

The first day I joined the Yemen Times, the editor-in-chief sent me to report on an event in Sana'a city. Soldiers were surrounding a local market in an effort to destroy it, so I arrived and asked people about the problem. I then began taking photographs, but I didn't know at that time that our government fears the truth. Two soldiers suddenly came from behind and seized my camera. I was worried about the camera because they admired it and I thought they wouldn't return it. We argued for half an hour and they released the camera provided I wouldn't run the story. Looking back, I think it was the first time some people learned that the local market was about to be destroyed.

I deeply thank all Yemen Times readers for their constant interaction and their letters to us.

Dr. Rama Kanta Sahu
Education Supplement presenter



Publication of the 1000th Issue of Yemen Times is, by any reckoning, a glorious milestone for the news paper. It has added a feather in the colored cap of this premier institution and has marked a turning point in the history of journalism in the Republic of Yemen. This glorious feat is the well-deserved culmination of years of hard work, sincere endeavor coupled with an exemplary team spirit. It is truly heartening to note that Yemen Times is now synonymous with progress, prosperity and the unmistakable symbol of the national spirit of Yemen. It has the rare distinction of bringing out the first ever Education Supplement in Yemen for the wider dissemination of the expanding frontiers of knowledge among the academic community in Yemen as well as the Arab world.

I take this opportunity to wish the Yemen Times family all the very best. I have no doubt that under the path-breaking leadership of Nadia AbdulAziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor and the dedicated efforts of the Editorial Board this expanding institution is poised to scale greater heights of excellence in the years to come and establish itself in the forefront of the world class newspapers.

Fatima Al-Ajel
News reporter

I'm very happy to see issue No. 1,000. As part of the Yemen Times team, I wish the newspaper the best success and prosperity. The Yemen Times is my second home, from which I learned a lot and through which I hope to reach my long-term ambitions.

It was my colleagues' refusal to replace me when I decided to quit working at the newspaper. I never expected such a spirit of brotherhood among the Yemen Times staff because all of them urged me to continue working, so this made me rescind

my decision and continue the march!

We expect every reader to consider the Yemen Times his or her own newspaper. While the newspaper is private, it's public for every individual. I ask every reader not to be hesitant to send his or her viewpoint about the newspaper.

Dina Al-Ameena
Copy editor and reporter

A thousand issues truly is a remarkable feat – especially considering the Yemen Times has never missed a publication date in 15 years – so I wish them another 1,000 issues and more!

I'm very glad the Yemen Times exists so that English language readers around the world can know what's going on in Yemen and learn about the issues its people face.

It's a gateway into the hearts of Yemeni people and I've learned so much about Yemen from reading it this past year. Getting to celebrate and mark the newspaper's 15th anniversary this year was nice because I got to celebrate it with fellow Yemen Times staff. Although there's been considerable turnover during my first year here, working with the various staff members, especially the professional Yemeni women, is wonderful and makes coming to work a real joy.

I believe the Yemen Times truly is the nation's most independent newspaper, as well as a great training ground for young Yemeni journalists, especially. We're striving constantly to improve our product's quality and accuracy, so I hope readers will trust us to continually do our best for them.

Saddam Al-Ashmori
Journalist



I congratulate the Yemen Times for reaching issue No. 1,000 without a break. I wish the best success and progress for the newspaper, which always seeks to be a pioneering media means. The Yemen Times is where I discovered my talents. I learned from the late Doctor Al-Saqqaf how to speak the truth and stand by it.

The reader is the mirror for the newspaper; thus, we urge the readership not to hesitate to give us their criticism, remarks and viewpoints.

Qaid Al-Radfani
General Manager



Congratulations to Yemen Times staffers for reaching issue No. 1,000! For me, the Yemen Times is the mother of free press, as well as a reliable source providing readers authentic facts.

I remember repeated international calls from readers requesting more clarification of news the Yemen Times publishes. I also remember those regular visitors to the Yemen Times web site, who express their deep gratitude for the newspaper's product.

I urge readers to contribute articles and authentic facts to the newspaper, which is committed to progressing in the path of its founder, Doctor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

Khalil Al-Khaubari
News reporter



I consider the Yemen Times a neutral and transparent newspaper. This occasion,

reaching issue No. 1,000, is a proud moment for free media and the readership as well.

I once went to cover a news conference, but I discovered that there was no transportation to reach the conference venue, so I was compelled to take a motorbike to the conference! Since then, I keep in mind that my life as a journalist is different than my normal life.

It's impossible for the Yemen Times to reach its goals or achieve success without its readers. As journalists, we feel that readers are an indispensable part of our progress, so any criticism from them is welcome.

Nisreen Shadad
Culture Editor

I'm extremely happy to be a Yemen Times staff member. The newspaper is my home.

Once took a tape recorder to interview a British national, whom I interviewed for an hour. When I returned home, I discovered that during the interview, I had pressed 'play' instead of 'record!'

Every writer inevitably will die, but his or her writing will remain for life, so write those things due to please on the day of judgement.

Moneer Al-Omari
Translator and reporter



I congratulate Yemen Times staff members on reaching issue No. 1, 000 and I wish the newspaper the best success and prosperity! The Yemen Times is everything to me.

Once made a translation mistake and I was surprised to see calls raining upon the newspaper!

I thank our dear readers, who constitute the base of the newspaper's success.

Fatima Al-Azzani
Advertising Department

I began as a secretary to Doctor Al-Saqqaf, but I now work in the Advertising Department. The Yemen Times has succeeded and developed, so Doctor Al-Saqqaf's dreams have come true. I don't consider myself an employee at the Yemen Times because I feel it belongs to me. The Yemen Times has become a part of me.

I remember the day when Doctor Al-Saqqaf passed away. I felt like my father was the one who died, not him.

We need your support to develop the newspaper, as well as your ideas and suggestions. Without you, this newspaper would not have achieved any success.

Rasheed Al-Saqqaf
Head of Advertising Department



The Yemen Times has experienced many difficulties but its staff, especially the paper's founders and its subsequent administrations, got through them and succeeded in placing the newspaper in its distinguished position, as happened recently with the latest administration, which made a typical transition. It succeeded in qualifying both old and new staff. The Yemen Times not only is where I work, but it's a part of me. Everything that's happened to it has impacted me either positively or negatively.

One day, when I used to work in the delivery section, I went with the newspaper's bus driver to do our job, but he suddenly got sick. It was late at night and I couldn't find any alternative except Doctor Al-Saqqaf, so he did the sick driver's job until morning and then went to work like nothing happened. I learned a lesson from this: that there's no high or low position – what's important is achievement.

There may be competitors, but I say, as Doctor Saqqaf said, "Take the original Yemen Times."

Glyn Goffin
Copy editor and reporter



It's an important occasion for any establishment to reach goals, but I hope we continue to improve with each issue. It's wonderful to be part of any media organization, but it means even more to me to be part of an independent newspaper in a country where the media is filled with state-ownership and political alliances.

I covered the Saleh and Bin Shamlan election rallies in Taiz on back-to-back days. Within 24 hours I found myself snapping photos within meters of the president and the hopeful – not bad for a foreigner who initially was told that foreign journalists weren't allowed in Taiz at all!

Thank you for supporting us through 1,000 issues. We hope each issue is better than the last.

International Labour Organization
IPEC Project in Yemen

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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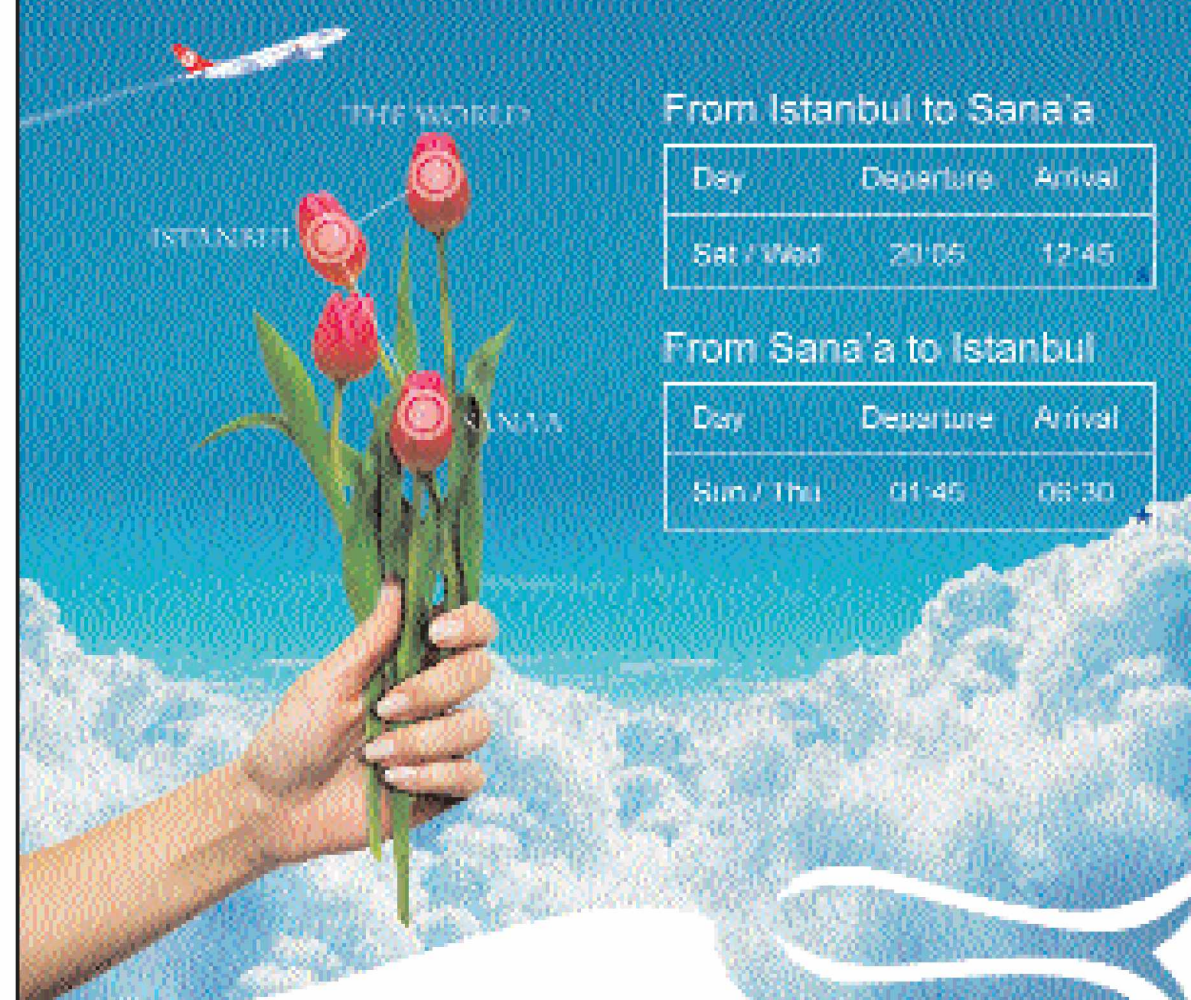


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Hard times for Somali refugees in Yemen

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

On a narrow road in Sana'a city's Safiah neighborhood, 50-year-old Ibrahim Ismail stands outside a house rented for YR 10,000 a month. He stands at the roadside gazing at passersby because he suffers paralysis and is unable to go anywhere.

After serving as a public school English teacher for nearly six years, the Yemeni government dispensed with his services. His wife and mother to three boys, Halima, affirms, "As soon as he became ill, the government suspended his salary."

Ismail was in Taiz governorate's Sharab village one night when he fell and broke his back. "I was an English teacher, but now look at me," he said with difficulty while gripping his walking stick.

His wife now must work day and night to sustain their family, having worked as a house cleaner ever since her husband's paralysis nine years. "I sometimes have to leave work to take my husband to the hospital for medical treatment and examinations," she notes.

Their three sons, Ismail, Ahmed and Abdul-Rahim, had to leave school because their mother and now disabled father can't afford their school fees. "Last year, I was in sixth grade, but now I'm at home. I really want to continue my education, but we're facing financial problems," the eldest said, gazing forlornly at the school uniform he hasn't worn for several months.

Ismail's wife recalls that the hardest time she ever experienced was when her husband fell while walking on Sharab Mountain. "We brought him to a Sana'a hospital," she says, "I locked

my three sons – who were little at the time – at home, with no one looking after them. Imagine that I had to keep my children at home for three days. Indeed, it was a hard time for all of us," she added.

When the Somali civil war broke out in 1991, most Somalis fled to neighboring countries like Kenya and Yemen, where they remained as refugees. In Yemen, they comprise approximately 78,000, distributed among urban areas and major cities like Sana'a, Aden and Taiz.

Most live below the poverty line, surviving via menial jobs, while some resort to begging. Others depend on support they receive from relatives who are expatriates in rich nations like the United States, the United Kingdom and the Gulf.

Yousef Adam, 54, came to Yemen 16 years ago, after war broke out in his Somali homeland. At the time, he had only five children, but he now has 15 children and three wives. "We initially arrived at a coastal refugee camp, but the harsh situation there forced us to come to Sana'a, where I took up tailoring," Adam said.

Like other refugees, Adam's biggest problem is housing because he must rent two houses for his large family. "My family lives in two houses – one for YR 29,000 and the other for YR 13,000 per month," he noted.

Most of his children are female and no one helps Adam bring in family income other than one of his wives, who works as a house cleaner. Due to the fluctuating nature of his job, he explains that he sometimes must search for additional work. "My job isn't stable," he notes, "Sometimes I work and sometimes I don't. When the owner of sewing workshop refuses to give me my dues, I have to search for another job. The circle of my career



Yousef Adam (left), 54, came to Yemen 16 years ago, after war broke out in his Somali homeland. At the time, he had only five children, but he now has 15 children and three wives.

goes like this."

His wife likewise seeks daily work. "Sometimes I work, but sometimes chance doesn't favor me," she observes.

Despite his hard times, Adam is a man of determination, taking no aid from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) or any charitable organization. "He who depends on God fears nothing," he states.

He insists on educating his children, although, "Providing school uniforms, textbooks and notebooks is difficult." "I like to study," adds his 11-year-old son Mohammed, a fifth grader

who's never been to his country.

Adam recalls that Yemen's 1994 secessionist war was the hardest period he ever witnessed. "We had no work and it seemed like a catastrophe to me," he describes, "We barely had the basics, thanks to our neighbor who gave us wheat and flour."

Yousef Dirie, 36, was among the first Somalis to arrive in Yemen after civil war broke out in his nation. He explains that those arriving in Yemen at that time couldn't speak or understand Arabic. "That was our biggest problem because we couldn't communicate with Yemenis, who speak Arabic," he notes.



Awa Warsama, 70, arrived in Yemen two years ago to help her daughter, whose husband died six years ago.



Yousef Dirie, 36, was among the first Somalis to arrive in Yemen after civil war broke out in his nation.

However, having mastered the Arabic language and continued his education at Sana'a University, Dirie now is able to mix with Yemeni society.

He adds that some Somalis come to Yemen and then go on to other countries, observing, "Yemen has become an area for smuggling."

Arriving first in Mokha with another group of Somalis, Dirie moved from one governorate to another searching for any type of work, while his colleagues managed to get into Saudi Arabia. After spending a year and a half in Sa'ada governorate, he finally settled in Sana'a city. Despite being a university graduate, Dirie depends on money he receives from relatives in the U.S.

An even more worrisome situation is when a mother must work to sustain her family, either because her husband

is dead or he's working in another country. Awa Warsama, 70, arrived in Yemen two years ago to help her daughter, whose husband died six years ago. The elderly woman says her daughter arrived in Yemen 16 years ago with her husband, who was a physician. "She now works in different houses every day, sometimes making YR 800 or YR 1,000."

Warsama's daughter was unavailable for comment because she was still at work. "She works early in the morning and returns at 9 p.m.," her mother explained.

"We couldn't pay the house rent for six months because my daughter was sick. I remember that we couldn't cook anything for a week because we had no money – the kitchen remained quiet," she recounted, adding that she hopes she'll be able to assist her daughter in maintaining her family.



Halima now must work day and night to sustain their family, having worked as a house cleaner ever since her husband's paralysis nine years. Her three sons Ismail, Ahmed and Abdul-Rahim, had to leave school because their mother and now disabled father can't afford their school fees.



Ibrahim Ismail, 50, stopped teaching ten years ago as he fell and broke his back and now suffers paralysis. He depends on his wife, who now maintains the family.

Abuse of domestic workers on the rise

AMMAN, 20 Nov 2006 (IRIN) — At least 10 domestic helpers committed suicide this year in Jordan after psychological breakdowns at the hands of abusive employers, according to health officials. Thousands of other helpers have reported extensive maltreatment.

Mumen Hadidi, President of the Jordanian Society of Forensic Medicine, said that the suicide victims all died either by hanging themselves or jumping from balconies.

"We are not talking about a widespread phenomenon; these are the exceptions, but they must be addressed," said Hadidi.

However, he noted three common types of psychological abuse that employers committed against domestic helpers: rejection, which could lead to isolation and depression; negative criticism; and the expectation of availability 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"There are some women who would crack under such conditions, mostly if they are isolated from their families, which could lead to catastrophic results," said Hadidi.

A report published this week by the National Institute for Forensic Medicine (NIFM) on the treatment of domestic helpers revealed other forms of maltreatment, including sexual harassment, rape, withholding of wages, prolonged working hours and beatings, which

sometimes led to death.

According to a new report by the Ministry of Labour's information and studies department, the number of legal domestic helpers in the country is just over 38,000, of which some 18,000 are Indonesians, 11,000 Filipinas, 8,000 Sri Lankans, 350 Egyptians and 350 from other nationalities.

In October, Jennifer Perez, 20, a domestic helper from the Philippines, died from her injuries after she was thrown out of a balcony by her female employer. According to the employer, who is free on bail, Perez "fell from the balcony" after the two women fought over a mobile phone that belonged to the victim.

According to diplomats and officials, about 10 per cent of domestic helpers have reported abuse, but Assem Rababa'a, head of Adallah human rights organisation, said many more were suffering silently.

Despite recent measures by the Jordanian government to impose restrictions on recruitment agencies in a bid to protect foreign domestic helpers, recorded cases of abuse were still on the rise, according to diplomats.

The Embassy of the Philippines in the capital, Amman, recently lodged a legal complaint against a recruitment agency for forcing a domestic helper to take medicine for an abortion.

Asan Nusra, 31, arrived from the Philippines three months ago, not knowing she was pregnant. When she became ill, her employer sent her to the recruitment agent, who forced her to abort the child.

"I lost so much blood after they gave me medicine. I was afraid I would die," said Nusra, who is currently staying within the confines of the Philippine embassy after fleeing her employer's residence. Nusra said she can no longer work and wanted to return to the Philippines.

The Philippine embassy is asking for financial compensation on her behalf and is insisting the recruitment agency be closed.

Treating workers like slaves

"They are treating workers like slaves. They do not consider them as humans," said Mohammad Nur Al-Din Tamand, labour attaché at the Philippine embassy in Amman. He said he receives daily cases of reported abuse.

Earlier this year, the Philippine authorities imposed a ban on sending domestic helpers to Jordan following a reported increase in abuse cases, but the decision was revoked last month after they received assurances from the Jordanian government that necessary measures were put in place to protect domestic helpers.

The corridors of the Philippine and Sri Lankan embassies in Amman are jammed with domestic helpers fleeing abuse every day. The majority of them did not want to return to their previous employers.

The Philippine embassy has become home to 160 domestic helpers who say they are victims of abuse and the Sri Lankan embassy has at least 400 women waiting for compensation before heading home.

Each woman has a heart-wrenching story to tell. One said she has not been paid for months, another was physically assaulted and a third had her passports confiscated and was prevented from contacting her family.

Government officials said the ministry of labour is running a nationwide campaign to investigate practices of recruitment agencies in a bid to address violations. But they said the campaign did not include the workplace of domestic helpers, where most of the abuse occurs.

"If domestic helpers report abuse, security departments will handle the complaints," Raja Talab, spokesman for the Ministry of Labour, said. However, diplomats said that most of the abuses happen to illegal employees, who cannot complain to security forces for fear of deportation.

"When an employer does not want to



Nusra, 31, a domestic helper from the Philippines, was forced to have an abortion by a recruitment agency.

pay his financial obligations, he claims the employee stole from him. When police discover she is an illegal resident, she gets deported without having the chance to claim her rights," said Tamand.

Last week, the Ministry of Labour implemented a new policy according to which recruitment agencies must have the approval of the concerned embassy

before applying for an entry visa.

Tamand said such measures could help control the unrecorded traffic of domestic helpers. However, he admitted there were thousands who enter the country on tourist visas and end up as domestic helpers.

The ministry estimated that there are up to 60,000 foreign workers illegally employed in Jordan.

DHL Express re-affirms its commitment to Yemen

Express and Logistics leader holds it's yearly ME Country Managers' meeting in Sana and unveils its plans to ramp up its presence at Sana'a International Airport.

Sana'a, November 21, 2006: Held at the Mövenpick Sana, the gala dinner for DHL Express by local partner Universal Group was a sumptuous conclusion to 2 days of meetings, whereby more than 20 senior managers from around the Middle East had come together to put the final touches to the company's 2007 plans.

Addressing a high profile audience consisting of various dignitaries, major customers and senior staff from DHL Express and Universal Group, Mr.



Philip Couchman, Regional Director DHL Middle East, expressed his high level of satisfaction of the growth witnessed throughout the region. "We have drawn up solid plans to continue keeping ahead of the market's Express and Logistics needs. This has always been our policy throughout the Middle East and Yemen is a vital part of our plans. Our continued investment in Yemen will take the form of a new facility at Sana'a International Airport". He then went on to say: "We have been committed to serving the business and social communities in Yemen ever since we established our joint venture with Universal Group back in 1993 and we strongly believe that our upcoming investment at the airport will benefit our customers, by providing them a smoother clearance process and shorter transit times".

Mr. Alwan Al Shaibani, Chairman of Universal Group also addressed the audience with a few words and commented on the high level of commitment DHL Express and its parent company Deutsche Post World Net have demonstrated to Yemen over the years. He concluded by saying: "With the new investment at the airport, DHL Express

should be well placed, not only to improve its service to its present customers but also, cater for the economic growth we see happening in Yemen further to the fourth Consultative Group meeting of donors for Yemen, held recently in London".

About DHL

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About Deutsche Post World Net

Deutsche Post World Net is the world's leading logistics group.

Its integrated Deutsche Post, DHL and Postbank companies offer tailored, customer-focused



DHL Middle East Country Managers and DHL Yemen Staff

solutions for the management and transport of goods, information and payments through a global network combined with local expertise. Deutsche Post World Net is also the leading provider of Dialog Marketing services, with a unique portfolio of efficient outsourcing and system solutions for the mail business. The group generated revenue of 45 bn (\$58 bn) in 2005. With currently some 500,000 employees in more than 220 countries and territories Deutsche Post World Net is one of the biggest employers worldwide.

About Universal Group

Founded by Mr. Alwan S. Al Shaibani and Vice Chairman, Mr. Omar M. Omar in 1983, Universal has grown into a dynamic, fully integrated group of service companies. Through their 9 companies and various Joint Ventures as well business associations, they play a vital role in Yemen's travel, tourism and transportation industries.



Phil Couchman, Regional Director.



Alwan Shaibani, Chairman DHL Yemen Ltd.



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CONTRACT SENIOR OFFICER: (position based in Sana'a)
In the Operations Division, the job holder, under the Head of Technical Services, has the following responsibilities:

- Carry out administrative duties in connection with preparation of tenders and contracts for the subsidiary. Receive new tenders/contracts requests from the Head of Department and process them within the framework of policies and procedures of the subsidiary and under the guidelines and direction of the Technical Services Manager. Receive and save custody of tenders until the bid openings. Participate in official bid openings, evaluation of tenders and recommendations. Maintain complete files regarding the tendering process (for audits). Prepare contractual documents and follow-up until final issuance and signature. Follow-up of the validity of contracts and their extension/termination.
- All this to be performed with respect to Company HSE rules.
- Legal background + minimum of 5 years experience in similar jobs required
- Good understanding of contractual English

PROCUREMENT OFFICER: (position based in Sana'a)

- Receive from the head of department a number of requests of purchase for the Subsidiary and process them. Perform the purchasing activity as per set Company rules. Have complete files properly documented and auditable at time of submission for commitment approval. Prepare contractual part of Subsidiary Contracts based on Standard Group Contracts and participate on the official bids opening and recommendations.
- Perform other activities as and when requested by head of department.
- Understand the need, request for quotation, evaluate, clarify and recommend to hierarchy the supply of material/service based on a valid requisition.
- Promote local vendors whenever possible as per Company policy & the PSA.
- Build the purchasing file in a manner to retrieve all documents required and to justify final commitment before transferring the file to the Expeditor.
- Process related invoices without delay to maintain a good business relation with vendors.
- Prepare official Call for Tenders based on head of department guidance and technical departments requirements as per the internal procedures.
- Monitor reception and keep tenders in safe custody until the bids opening.
- Participate in the evaluation of tenders and recommendation.
- Prepare the contractual document and follow-up the file till final issuance and signature.

Accountabilities

- Make sure that no operations are stopped or delayed due to errors in the procurement side.

- Process of purchase invoices without delays and in accordance to contractual terms.
- To keep purchase files auditable at all times.
- Proper and on time reporting to the Head of Department of any unusual / critical issues that may affect the Department performance/image.

Minimum Requirements

- Mechanical, Petroleum or electrical engineer
- Good computer knowledge in general and Excel in particular.
- Able to work under pressure.
- A good communication skill is a plus.

TELECOM ENGINEER: (position based in Sana'a)
Reports to the Telecom supervisor, the job holder is responsible for responding to all IS/IT Users requests and to monitor the international leased circuits (Main Links and VSAT back up links) between Total E&P Yemen offices in Sana'a, Head Quarter in Paris & Pau and Production site (Kharir). The job holder is responsible for ensuring the continuous operation of PABX, PSTN Lines, ISDN lines, mobile Telephone systems including GSM, internet Access lines(ADSL), VPN encrypted links, videoconferencing systems, VHF/ UHF radio systems, multiplexers, Routers, Firewalls in the Total E&P Yemen LAN / Wan. He/She will also be responsible for liaison with Government agencies on the provision and maintenance of frequency licenses, design, implement and maintain local area cabling from IS/IT equipment rooms up to and including office outlets. The job holder must have detailed up to date knowledge of the following technologies: optical Fiber Transmission Systems, Very Small Aperture Satellite Transmission Systems (VSAT), Microwave, VHF, UHF and HF radio systems, ALCATEL OmniPCX PBX, VPN encryption, videoconferencing, dynamic routing protocols (RIP or OSPF), Cisco Catalyst switches, Cisco Router 2600 series, Cisco PIX Firewall. The job holder must be able to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problems as they call and must be able to clearly specify any new requirements and negotiate the supply of these needs effectively with our suppliers. He/She must be able to ensure that services provided by external suppliers are supplied as per the agreed contracts and that any deficiencies are rectified or reconciled. The successful candidate will have a University degree (B.Sc or M.Sc) in Telecommunications or Electronic Engineering and minimum of 5 years experience on Telecommunication Operations.

IST USER SUPPORT ENGINEER:
(position based in Sana'a)
Reports to the IS supervisor and is responsible for Installing and supervising external services with the installation of personal computers (PC's) and/or peripheral devices for Total E&P Yemen users and ensures that inventories of such equipment are kept fully up to date at all times. The job holder is also responsible for maintaining or supervising external services with the maintenance of personal computers (PC's) and/or peripheral devices for Total E&P Yemen users, installation of software on PC's when software is not distributed by GPO, he ensures that inventories of such software are kept fully up to date at all times. He/She will provide support of common office software, technical systems software, business applications software. The job holder must have detailed up to date knowledge of the following common office software such as Windows XP Professional & IE 6.0, MS Office 2003 Inc Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, MS Visio 2003, MS Project 2003. In addition, the job holder should have detailed up to date knowledge of the Networking system MS Win2K3 administration, Win2K3 directory services (Active directory). The job holder must be able to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problems as they call. He/She must be able to clearly specify any new requirements and negotiate the supply of these needs effectively with our suppliers and ensure that services provided by external suppliers are supplied as per the agreed contracts and that any deficiencies are rectified or reconciled. The successful candidate will have university degree (B.Sc or M.Sc) in Computer Science and minimum of 5 years experience on Information Systems user's support.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES: (position based in Sana'a)

- The job holders will assist the Managers in the current secretarial tasks, organization of meetings, and preparation of missions.
- Applicants must have good computer skills, with particular emphasis in word, Excel and Power Point, and a minimum of 5 years experience as Secretary.
- Used to confidentiality, applicants must be very good in English, spoken and written, well organized, rigorous and be able to work within a team.

Application Criteria

- Applications must be submitted **no later than 15th December 2006**
- Handed-in CVs will not be considered
- Selection will be **based on the most qualified applicants.**
- Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Total E&P Yemen
- If you meet the above requirements, please send your CV in English with a short covering letter explaining your qualification and motivation only to this address:

Recruitment.ep-ye@total.com

One thousand steps

It is said: A trip of a thousand miles begins with one step. This means it is necessary we have forbearance to begin a hard trip to traverse 1,000 miles.



By: Izddin al-Asbahi

Yemenis in general have forbearance. Everything here passes quickly and ends quicker than it is imagined. It is even with regard to the level of age scale. Yemenis have a short life span and lives end before their time. If a Yemeni starts work with something he will not be patient until the end, but rather he finishes with it in a quick manner. Even in politics and wars, the political issues did not last long. Throughout 40 for instance, Yemen (North and

South) and then in its unity, witnessed interesting dramatic fluctuations and inconsistencies. There have been two revolutions, no less than eight coups and four wars.

It could be wondered why I mention that while I want to write about the experiment of "Yemen Times" and the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf! It is

because I want to mention that this issue of Yemen Times newspaper bears an important number, which is "One Thousand." Fifteen years ago was the first step that was like a dream and an adventure. The Yemenis received with interest the issuance of Yemen Times as a Yemeni English-language independent newspaper. They were sure it was an

individual project that will end quickly or after a few years, as was the case of other ones. However the Yemen Times changed from an individual project to an institutional work. The step that began fifteen years ago has now completed the trip of 1,000 issues, or the thousand miles in an institutional structure and emergence of a new generation of press leadership and of writers.

The distinguished characteristic of the founder, Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, had borne a strategic vision and made the far-fetched dream a possibility. He showed it is possible to prove it is possible to build successful strategic projects in Yemen and even in difficult circumstances it is possible if there is a serious and strong will and watertight plan, confirming the clear-cut vision and patience in work as well as zealotness.

Monday brought issue 1,000 of

Yemen Times and with it emerged capabilities of a distinguished journalist and wise manager for who we have to raise hats in respect for his memory because he had not just established a newspaper and built a distinguished media institution, but also because he opened a window for freedom and built a bridge taking us towards horizons of democracy and the free word.

Greetings to Dr. Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf as professor, a distinguished man, an advocate of human rights! A greeting to a new generation graduating from Yemen Times to affirm that a trip of one thousand miles is very possible.

Izddin al-Asbahi is a Director of the Human Rights Information and Training Center. He is a writer, a human rights activists and an old friend of late Dr. Al-Saqqaf.

COMMON SENSE

Al-Jazeera in English But they are afraid of the truth

Last week to crown its 10-year anniversary celebration, Al-Jazeera Satellite TV launched the Al-Jazeera Satellite English TV Channel. One did expect to see something really different in Arab broadcasting media, which would certainly arouse the interest of Al-Jazeera's non-Arab fans who are attached to the Al-Jazeera News Service via their English website. However this observer could not help but understand that the sponsors of this pioneering Arab media service have gone beyond all expectations.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

For the first time in modern Arab history, the Arabs at last have a highly sophisticated, state of the art means of communicating with the West that will indeed represent a milestone event in Arab media development. Indeed the sponsors of the Al-Jazeera network of channels have again found truly effective ways of serving the Arab cause, where it is needed the most. For the span of a century now the West has been mainly given a wholly distorted image of the Arab and Muslim world with little if any at all, efforts to try to dispel or correct this long span of deliberate gross fabrications about Arab culture, religion and history. With the control of most Western mainstream media and even educational institutions mostly under the influence of Zionist sentiments and with little real constructive and well organized efforts to counter this ongoing barrage against anything and everything Arab or Islamic in an institutional context, it is easy to see why the Palestine issue never came close to being resolved. The blame for this is not wholly directed against the International Zionist establishment. In fact a healthy portion of the blame is due to the fact that the Arabs have been unable to organize any genuine institutional drive to communicate with the West in a language and style that is not just convincing but palatable. Moreover, little attention was paid to this important aspect of communications to the point that the western media has been wholly sympathetic to the Zionist platform (sometimes not by conviction, but due to arm-twisting tactics or other forms of pressure that the Zionist establishment has been able to embed in its relations with the Western Media, especially in the United States).

From the outset, the Zionist lobby is working diligently to prevent Al-Jazeera from reaching western eyes or ears and it was not surprising that to this date, Al-Jazeera is not allowed to enter the mainstream of broadcast media in the U.S. Cable television network servers, have refused to allow Al-Jazeera to use their infrastructure in order to allow the American people to have access to "the other side of the story." Surely, this answer is not the assurance that the West enjoys the democracy they have been lecturing the rest of the world about.

What exactly is the problem? The problem is that they are afraid of the truth. Many Westerners have come to learn the hard way about the situation in the Middle East, but mainly due to the latter's own search for this truth and even they find it difficult to relay their knowledge to their fellow citizens. In the context of Palestine, this observer would like to quote from one of the finest aspiring journalists and a true advocate of human rights, Jennifer Lowenstein, who wrote about her efforts earlier this month while trying to maneuver in the Occupied Territories of Palestine:

"This monstrosity is not for your security. This neo-fascist, Stalinist, gulag Guantanamo (the elaborate security set up for those entering or leaving Gaza and this is for non Palestinians-CS) is there to keep you out, to keep you from even trying, from even wanting, to go in. It is there so you will not see the torn up streets, and ruined land; the bombed-out buildings and poisoned soil; the bulldozed houses and bullet-holed refugee camps; the back-up generators chugging away; the destroyed central power transformer, the wrecked factories and shops; the caved-in mosques and unfinished clinics; the pressure-less water pumps; the lots full of rubble and trash; the wretched horse and donkey-carts and beggar-children; the worn out mothers, the humiliated fathers, the unemployed young men; the young girls holding whole families together; the exhausted teachers, the pay-less civil servants, the street vendors with last week's produce; the heaps of rust and stench of rot, the overcrowded book-and-desk-deprived schools full of troubled youth, bed-wetters, ptsd children; the travesties-of-hospitals; the wards of the sick and wounded; the morgues full of the dead; the merciful, silver-trayed freezers in the morgues where rest finally takes you unaware."

This situation applies to the airwaves as well, which have become under the same elaborate form of information blockage that will ensure American audiences never really get a feel of the injustices they are forced to bankroll.

Credit again should be given to Qatar, whose rulers have come to realize that investment in proper information flow is far more worthy and effective than all the billions of dollars that has been and continues to be wasted on armaments that are never even utilized to bolster the "Arab cause." Furthermore, the greatest service to mankind as a whole, not just to the Arabs, is giving people access to the truth about our world. From what one has seen so far of Al-Jazeera English, this is being done in style and with taste. Congratulations again to Al-Jazeera, and Qatar, for launching their pioneering media service, not just for the sake of the Arabs and Muslims of this world, but for all of mankind.

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

Yemen Times: 15 years of distinction

By publishing Monday's issue, Yemen Times reached issue No. 1000 and herein I congratulate all Yemen Times staff and our loyal readers as well as all those who stand behind our beloved newspaper's success.



By: Moneer Al-Omari

I am not going to recount the Yemen Times history as it is already known to all and I should leave it for its people, those who have grown with the paper step-by-step until it has become what it is today.

Yemen Times, the first and the most widely English Newspaper in Yemen, has been issued over the last 15 years without any break, despite all harsh conditions and limited resources. The newspaper, established by late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, which started with very few staff, has turned to be a leading private institution with about 50 employees.

Right from the very beginning, the paper clearly marked its own way. It is a paper for Yemen and about Yemen. It was meant to address the foreign reader in

their language and it has excelled. It has become a source for dependent and impartial news concerning national affairs, particularly with launching its website which made it more readable and enabled the newspaper to get over distribution difficulties.

The paper has adopted defending human rights and freedoms as of its first issue published in 1991. It exerted its efforts to stand by all those wronged and marginalized people and defend women's and children issues. It participated and still participates to progress of journalism and journalistic practices. It deals with news from an unbiased stance while keeping a maximum degree of professionalism.

Yemen Times has been, and still is, Yemen's window to the world. In its pages, Yemen was introduced to the foreign reader. It has covered most of Yemen's historical and tourist sites, from north to south and from east to west, and shown Yemeni customs and traditions, from Sada to Aden and from Hodeidah

to Al-Mahara. Readers have been to many places they did not visit before and it gave them the chance to make trips free of charge.

Most people have come to know about the Yemeni culture via Yemen Times.

Yemen Times has become more varied with specialized pages including local and international news, community, culture, health and economic.

Youth are the key interest of Yemen Times and it has addresses their issues. Not only this but the paper has assigned a separate paper for youth to express themselves and vent to their feelings. This page has been a place for youth from different parties and trends. The door has been widely open for them to participate and voice their own views about wide-ranging subjects.

The paper, as confessed by many, has been the primary source for acquiring easy and day-to-day English and readers, especially at universities and foreign schools where students impatiently await each issue. It has also supplied students with an education supplement, aiming to make students develop their English or brush off the rust.

Youth make up the staff of the paper -

with most of them under 30 years old, starting at the top with Chief Editor, Nadia Al-Saqqaf. Thus, it is one of the leading private sector institutions that encourages youth and gives them the chance to prove their merit and ability.

Here, I ask the public sector to give youth the chance and further senior officials are asked to give up their egoism and leave space for youth to move and participate actively in building the country.

The paper has objectively tried to treat women's issues: their sufferings, hopes and ambitions. They are given equal opportunities with men to work in the paper according to efficiency and eligibility standards. Further, children's problems and rights are at the core of the paper's issues, with an aim to create a safe and healthy environment for them.

A short article like this one cannot cover the story that is Yemen Times, but it addresses the key and most concerning points and issues for which Yemen Times was meant.

Moneer Al-Omari is a Yemeni writer. He is currently pursuing his Master Degree in Linguistics.

America's departure from Iraq

The balances of power in the U.S. congress have changed. The democrats realized a sweeping victory in the mid-term elections of in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. It has become impossible for President George Bush to pass policies of the Ehite House after his republican party lost the majority it was possessing.

The American impasse in Iraq was, beside corruption, the decisive element in those elections in which programs of general relations and improving the image for

the American elector did not produce benefit, for the voter has already decided his mind and will and it has become inevitable for President Bush to adapt himself to the new reality during the next two years of his term.

Will the American policy in our Arab region change due to results of those elec-



By Iskandar al-Asbahi

tions? That is what interests us. Regardless, the American foreign policy remains in the hands of establishments not to be influenced by who is new in the congress or the White House, but this policy is liable to change. American public opinion is no longer satisfied with White House's policy in Iraq and the new will should lead to new orientations in Iraq. The democrats are able, as they have possessed the power, to

force Bush withdraw the American soldiers from Iraq by depriving him of funds required for the occupation forces. However such a thing will not happen. It is more likely, according to many democrats, there will be a gradual withdrawal from Iraq according to a timetable and there should be accord between the two parties regarding this issue. Neither party wants to be responsible for what consequences could result from the withdrawal of American forces of Iraq. The end is still looking for an outlet of the quagmire Iraq has created. Probably the American escape from Iraq can be the outlet after the occupation has left to Iraq a tragedy without solution.

The wrong policy of the occupation and the Iraqi resistance of the American occupation have no doubt their effect on pursuing a new policy by the White House, the closer of which is the escape from Iraq. Nevertheless, will the conscience of American public opinion, as it has now changed the balance of power in the congress, awaken and move with regard to the massacres the Hebrew state is perpetrating against the Palestinian people and influence the policy of its country in supporting the Zionist state of occupation? We do not think the possibility of that to happen. It is not only because most of the democrats that changed the balance of power in the congress are absolute supporters for Israel, it is also because of the addiction of those holding power in our Arab nation of submission and reluctance to building and activation the nation's strength and components in the face of the forces of aggression. We pray that we wake up in a near day.

Iskandar Al-Asbahi is the editor in chief of Al-Mithaq weekly. Source: 26 September newspaper.

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Colonel Ely Ould Mohammed Vall to relinquish power



By Samer A.

Letters to the Editor

Yemenis in Nigeria

Iam writing to tell you about how restless most of the Yemenis living in Nigeria are right now. From the time the British started bringing Yemenis, especially from South Yemen to Nigeria, Yemenis have been bringing more of their relatives to Nigeria. This move is because everything was going well, but now I can tell you there are thou-

sands of Yemenis that cannot speak Arabic and this pains me because here in Nigeria we are not regarded as Nigerian or Yemeni so we are people without a nationality. I want the Yemeni government to do something about it. The worst thing is that we don't even have an embassy.

*Ahmad Alsha'abi
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Yemen: International Religious Freedom Report 2006

Released by: The American Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

The constitution provides for freedom of religion, and the Government generally respected this right in practice; however, there were some restrictions. The constitution declares that Islam is the state religion, and that Shari'a (Islamic law) is the source of all legislation.

There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom during the reporting period, and government policy continued to contribute to the generally free practice of religion. Muslims and followers of religious groups other than Islam are free to worship according to their beliefs; however, the Government prohibits conversion from Islam and proselytization of Muslims.

Although relations among religious groups remained generally amicable and continued to contribute to religious freedom, there were some attacks on Jews. Government actions lessened political, tribal, and religious tension caused after it took action against armed insurrections by the "Shabab al-Moumineen," or "Believing Youth" movement, which the Government believes is linked to Twelver Shi'ism of Iran.

The U.S. government discusses religious freedom issues with the Government as part of its overall policy to promote human rights.

Section I. Religious Demography

The country has an area of approximately 328,080 square miles, and its population is approximately 20 million. Virtually all citizens were Muslims, belonging either to the Zaydi order of Shi'a Islam or to the Shafa'i order of Sunni Islam, representing approximately 30 percent and 70 percent of the total population, respectively. There were a few thousand Ismaili Muslims who reside mainly in the north.

Nearly all of the country's once-sizable Jewish population has emigrated. Less than 500 Jews were scattered in the northern part of the country, primarily in the vicinity of Raida and Saada.

There were approximately 3,000 Christians throughout the country, most of whom were refugees or temporary foreign residents. There were approximately 40 Hindus, who traced their origins to India, living in Aden. There were four churches in Aden, three Roman Catholic and one Anglican. Aden also had one Hindu temple. There were three known functioning synagogues in the north of the country.

Although there were some non-Muslim public places of worship known to exist in the area of the former North Yemen, they were discreetly located so as not to draw attention. No officially recognized non-Muslim public place of worship existed in areas of the former North Yemen. This was largely because it had no history of a large, resident foreign community such as existed in the south.

Christian missionaries and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) affiliated with missionary groups operated in the country, and most restricted their activities to the provision of medical services; others were employed in teaching and social services. Invited by the Government, the Sisters of Charity ran homes for the poor and persons with disabilities in Sana'a, Taiz, Hodeida, and Aden. The

Government issues residence visas to priests so that they may provide for the community's religious needs. The Swedish Free Mission (SFM), financed by the Government of Sweden and churches in Sweden, ran a technical school for the disabled and poor in Taiz. There was also a Dutch Christian medical mission in Saada. An American Baptist congregation affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention maintained an affiliation with a hospital in Jibla, which it ran for more than thirty years before transferring management to the Government in 2003. The Anglican Church ran two charitable clinics in Aden.

The generally amicable relationship among religious groups in society contributed to religious freedom. During the reporting period, the Government began efforts to ease religious tension between it and some members of the Zaydi-Shi'a establishment. This tension began as a result of government action against the "Shabab al-Moumineen's" (The Believing Youth) armed insurrection that erupted in the summer of 2004 and again in April 2005. The Government maintains that the Shabab are adherents of Twelver Shi'ism, a variant of Shi'ism which differs from that of the country's predominant Zaydi-Shi'a. The Shabab follow the teachings of rebel cleric Hussein Badr Eddine al-Houthi, who was killed during a ten-week rebellion that he led in June 2004 against the Government in Saada. The Government's actions against the group in 2005 were politically, not religiously, motivated.

Among religious minorities, approximately 1,000 Christians and most Jews actively participated in some form of formal religious service or ritual, although not always in a public place of worship.

Section II. Status of Religious Freedom Legal/Policy Framework

The constitution provides for freedom of religion, and the Government generally respected this right in practice; however, there were some restrictions. The constitution declares that Islam is the state religion and that Shari'a is the source of all legislation. Followers of religious groups other than Islam are free to worship according to their beliefs and to wear religiously distinctive ornaments or dress; however, Shari'a forbids conversion and prohibits non-Muslims from proselytizing, and the Government enforced this prohibition. The Government requires permission for the construction of new places of worship and prohibits non-Muslims from holding elected office. The Muslim holy days of Eid al-Adha, Muharram, and Eid al-Fitr are public holidays. Other religious groups in the country are not negatively affected by their celebration.

The Government does not keep track of an individual's religious identity, and there is no law that requires religious groups to register with the state. After the ruling party tried to put forward a Jewish parliamentary candidate, the General Election Committee adopted a policy barring all non-Muslims from running for Parliament. Chapter 2, Article 106 of the constitution further notes that the president of the republic must "practice his Islamic duties."

Public schools provide instruction in Islam but not in other religions; however, Muslim citizens can attend private schools that do not teach Islam. Almost all non-Muslim students in the country are for-

eigners and attend private schools.

Restrictions on Religious Freedom

Government policy and practice contributed to the generally free practice of religion; however, there were some restrictions.

Government actions to counter the increase in political violence restricted some practice of religion. In January 2006, for the second year, the Government banned the celebration of Ghadeer Day (a holiday celebrated by Shi'a Muslims) in parts of the Saada Governorate. During the reporting period, the Government reportedly also intensified its efforts to stop the proliferation of Houthism by limiting the hours that mosques were permitted to be open to the public, closing down what the Government believed to be extremist or Twelver-based Zaydi religious institutes, reassigning Imams who were thought to espouse radical doctrine, and increasing surveillance of mosque sermons.

The Government prohibits the proselytization of Muslims. During the period covered by this report, there were reports of persons being temporarily detained for possession of religious materials with the intent to proselytize.

The Government did not allow the building of new public places of worship without previous authorization. At the end of the reporting period, Catholic officials were still waiting for a decision from the Government on whether it would allow an officially recognized Catholic establishment to be built in Sana'a. Church officials did not attribute government action to discrimination.

Weekly services for Catholic, Protestant, and Ethiopian Christians were held throughout Sana'a, Aden and other cities without government interference. Throughout the country, Christian church and Jewish synagogue services were held regularly in private homes or facilities, such as schools, without harassment, and such facilities appeared adequate to accommodate the small numbers involved.

The country maintains regular diplomatic relations with the Vatican. In December 2005 Archbishop Vladimir Goydiv of the Russian Orthodox Church visited in an effort to promote Islamic-Christian dialogue. During his visit, Goydiv met with Vice President Hadi Abd Rabo Mansour, as well as other Government officials and scholars. Public schools provide instruction in Islam but not in other religions; however, Muslim citizens can attend private schools that do not teach Islam.

The ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and the Islah opposition party both drew on Islam as a basis for law in their platforms. The ruling GPC did not exclude members of any religion from its membership. Islah required that a member must be "committed" to Islamic teachings. There were other minor political parties that are Islamic in nature, although it was not clear if they restricted their membership to Muslims.

During the previous reporting period, the Government significantly increased its efforts to prevent the politicization of mosques and schools in an attempt to curb extremism and increase tolerance. Efforts concentrated on monitoring mosques for sermons that incite violence or other political statements that it considers harmful to

public security. Private Islamic organizations may maintain ties to international Islamic organizations; however, the Government sporadically monitored their activities through the police and intelligence authorities.

During the reporting period, the Government also continued efforts to close unlicensed schools and religious centers. By the end of the period covered by this report, more than 3,000 unlicensed religious schools had been closed. The Government expressed concern that these schools deviated from formal educational requirements and promoted militant ideology. The Government also deported foreign students found studying in unlicensed religious schools. Private and national schools are prohibited from teaching courses outside of the officially approved curriculum. The purpose of these actions was to curb ideological and religious extremism in schools.

There were reports that both the Ministry of Culture and the Political Security Office (PSO) monitored and sometimes pulled books that espoused Zaydi-Shiite Islamic doctrine from store shelves after publication. There were also credible reports that authorities banned the publishing of some materials that promoted Zaydi-Shiite Islam. The Government denied that the media was subject to censorship by any security apparatus.

Following the unification of North and South Yemen in 1990, owners of property previously expropriated by the communist government of the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen were invited to seek restitution of their property. However, implementation has been extremely limited, and very few properties have been returned to previous owners. In exchange for its confiscated property, the Catholic Church requested from the Government a small plot of land in Sana'a on which it would build a Catholic establishment. It was awaiting action on the request at the end of the period covered by this report.

The constitution declares that Islamic Shari'a is the source of all legislation. Some local customs, believed to be part of Shari'a as practiced in the country, are codified in various laws and policies. Some of these laws discriminate against women and persons of other religious groups.

According to the Government's interpretation of Shari'a, Muslim women are not permitted to marry outside of Islam. Under 1992 Personal Status Law No. 20, men are permitted to marry as many as four wives, although very few do so. The law also forbids men from marrying non-Muslims (except for Jews and Christians) or apostates (those who have renounced Islam).

Abuses of Religious Freedom

Government policy does not prohibit or provide punishment for the possession of non-Islamic religious literature; however, on occasion there were credible reports that persons were harassed by members of the PSO, an organization which reports directly to the President's Office, and by police for possessing such literature (see Restrictions on Religious Freedom). There were also reports that some members of the PSO monitored, harassed, and occasionally censored the mail of missionary groups and those associated with them, ostensibly to prevent proselytizing.

During the reporting period, security

officials arbitrarily arrested, detained, and tortured some individuals suspected of proselytizing. There were also credible reports that security officials harassed and detained Muslims affiliated with missionary elements in the Ibb and Jibla areas. Unconfirmed reports attributed such incidents to followers of conservative Salafi Islamic doctrine within the security apparatus.

Under Shari'a as applied in the country, the conversion of a Muslim to another religion is considered apostasy, which the Government interprets as a crime punishable by death. During the period covered by this report, there were no reported cases in which persons were charged with apostasy or prosecuted for it by government authorities.

During the reporting period, most detained Shabab were reportedly released, but police and security forces continued to detain suspected members of radical Islamist groups. Since 2001 the Government has detained several hundred Islamists who returned to Yemen from Afghanistan and/or Iraq "for questioning." Although most persons were released within days, some reportedly continued to be detained beyond the maximum detention period as terrorist or security suspects.

In May 2006 President Saleh pardoned two imams, Yahia Hussein al-Dailami, sentenced to death, and Muhammad Ahmad Miftah, sentenced to eight years' imprisonment. The two were originally convicted of establishing contacts with Iran for the purpose of harming the country. The two men publicly opposed the Government's action in Saada and formed the Sana'a Youth Organization, a Zaydi religious-based group that supported Houthism. Both men maintained that they only advocated peaceful dissent against government action in Saada.

During the same month, the Government released more than 200 Houthi rebel detainees. It was unclear how many of those detained participated in the renewed March 2005 rebellion against the Government. Although some of those detained were held for their affiliation with Houthi's religious teachings, the arrests appeared to have been politically, not religiously, motivated. All released detainees pledged not to participate in any future rebellion. The release followed a September 2005 general amnesty and promise of compensation for all detainees held as a result of the Saada conflict. In March 2006 state-run media announced the release of 630 Houthi supporters after 80 members of Parliament had visited the war-affected areas in Saada.

Throughout the reporting period, the Government continued to sponsor a dialogue with the Shabab and Islamist detainees. The dialogues were led by Islamic scholars in an attempt to arrive at an understanding by which detainees are released in exchange for repentance of past extremism; denunciation of terrorism; and commitments to obey the laws and government, respect non-Muslims, and refrain from attacking foreign interests. The program has had limited success.

Forced Religious Conversion

There were no reports of forced religious conversion, including of minor U.S. citizens who had been abducted or illegally removed from the United States, or of the refusal to allow such citizens to be returned to the United States.

Section III. Societal Abuses and Discrimination

The generally amicable relationship among religious groups in society contributed to religious freedom.

The country is predominantly Muslim. Apart from a small but undetermined number of Christians and Hindus of South Asian origin in Aden, Jews are the only indigenous religious minority. Religious minorities generally lived in harmony with their Muslim neighbors. On April 23, 2006, President Saleh met with a delegation of Yemeni Jews from the Amran governorate to discuss their concerns. According to official media, President Saleh also ordered "concerned bodies" to help ease their plight.

Isolated attacks in recent years by anti-Jewish extremists have convinced most of the country's Jews to relocate to the town of Raida for safety and to sustain their community. The Jewish population has diminished significantly over the last fifty years from tens of thousands to a few hundred due to voluntary emigration.

There were no reported incidents of violence or discrimination between the adherents of Zaydi and Shafa'i Islam, the two main orders of Islam practiced in the country. There has been a decrease in tensions between the Government and mostly Zaydi population after fighting subsided in the northern governorate of Saada. The Government also made attempts to reconcile with the citizens of Saada through reconstruction efforts and dialogue. Religiously motivated violence was neither incited nor tolerated by the Islamic clergy, except for a small, politically motivated clerical minority, often with ties to foreign extremist elements.

During the reporting period, there were sporadic reports of violence initiated by Salafi elements who were attempting to take control of moderate and Sufi mosques around the country. In September 2005 an unidentified German citizen living in the Hadramaut Governorate was accused of proselytizing and had his home and car set on fire. There were also unconfirmed reports that followers of Ismaili Islamic teachings were occasionally harassed and forbidden entry to mosques affiliated with Salafi followers.

As part of its campaign against religious extremism, the Government also took action to improve conditions that affected societal attitudes on religious freedom. In May 2006 the Ministry of Endowment and Guidance conducted a six-day training course for 500 imams to promote principles of moderation and religious tolerance.

Christian clergy, who ministered to the foreign community, were employed in teaching, social services, and health care.

Section IV. U.S. Government Policy

The U.S. government discusses religious freedom issues with the Government as part of its overall policy to promote human rights. The U.S. embassy maintained an active dialogue on human rights concerns with the Government, NGOs, and others. Embassy officers, including the ambassador, met periodically with representatives of the Jewish and Christian communities during the reporting period. During the year, the U.S. government also sponsored a prominent judge involved with religious dialogue to participate in a program in the United States on promoting interfaith dialogue.

Released on September 15, 2006.

Participation in Development and the 'Alliance of Civilizations'

By: Jason Yossef Ben-Meir

The United Nation's High Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations recently issued its final report, which included ambitious and important recommendations to bridge the divide between Western nations and the Muslim world. The Group's 20 eminent members were brought together by Secretary General Kofi Annan, and include former President of Iran, Seyed Mohamed Khatami, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and André Azoulay, Advisor to King Mohammed VI of Morocco.

The report's recommendations form a holistic approach to alleviating global inequalities and bridging the Western-Islamic rift. Recommendations include: education that expands a sense of a common humanity, media literacy skills, and empowering initiatives directed towards youth and other groups; international exchanges with diverse participation; measures that address the challenges of migration; achieving the Millennium Development Goals ("the urgency of which can hardly be overstated"); and other initiatives.

I suggest that fully incorporating local

community participation in the identification and management of development projects throughout the Muslim world, an approach strongly consistent with the Millennium Development Goals and the recommendations of the Alliance Group, will significantly decrease the divide with the West. Before I explain how, I will begin by stating, just as the Alliance report does (as well as the 2003 Report of the Advisory Group on Public Diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim World), that without a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the horrible violence in Iraq and the intensifying violence in Afghanistan, efforts to bridge the divide "are likely to meet with only limited success."

Participation in community development involves men and women of villages, neighborhoods and regions together defining their priorities for projects (in education, health, economic development, environment, etc.) and a plan of action to achieve them. Participatory activities are often utilized to help local people analyze and discuss their social conditions from a range of perspectives as part of the decision-making process for projects. Here in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for example, a group of citizens working towards social change in their community went through a series of development planning activities

that incorporated the use of visuals, charts and mapping. They determined that a community center for their youth was most important, and are currently taking important steps towards achieving that. In the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco, local communities most often rank potable water, irrigation and projects for women and youth to be among the top development priorities, and villages that have experienced participatory planning received real benefits from projects they subsequently established.

Participation in community development shares the same 'guiding principles' expressed in the Alliance report: First, "Poverty leads to despair, a sense of injustice, and alienation that, when combined with political grievances, can foster extremism. Eradication of poverty would diminish those factors linked to economic marginalization and alienation and must therefore be aggressively pursued." Communities planning local development in a participatory way base projects on the self-described interests of the local people, which work against alienation. The fact that communities determine and have ownership of the projects provide the basis for their success in generating a vast range of new socio-economic and environmental benefits in extremely diverse

contexts.

Second, the participatory approach takes the form of democratic governance that the Alliance encourages: "To be successful, democratic systems must emerge organically from within each society's culture, reflecting its shared values and adapted to the needs and interests of its citizens. This is only possible when people are free and feel in control of their destiny." The participatory process is democracy that emerges from within because it grows from dialogue and interaction among local community members and is driven by their own needs and interests.

Participatory community development also relates to observations in the report of the impact of the international system on diverse nations and cultures, as well as internal factors in Muslim societies that inhibit development. Many feel, the report states, that the "international system...offers...greater conformity and homogenization of cultures, complete with the dislocation of families and communities brought about by urbanization, the negation or appropriation of traditional lifestyles, and environmental degradation." We have learned from experiences around the world that a preventive against dislocation and the brutal and uneven effects of globalization is diversification

of production and income. Diversification requires new development projects and building decision-making skills of people and communities to better enable them to adapt to changing conditions. Participatory activities help people base their decisions on a range of perspectives and information, leading to development projects that are thoughtfully designed and expand the ways human needs are satisfied.

Participatory planning helps communities not only deal with globalization and other international challenges that impact their development, but also assists people in analyzing and responding to conditions within their own country. The Alliance report says that "all Muslim societies would benefit from increased dialogue and debate to identify those factors internal to their own societies which have inhibited their development and full integration into global political, economic, and intellectual communities, and to generate ideas on how to overcome these barriers." Participatory development can help in this regard because in the process as community members determining priority projects, they analyze social, economic, environmental, historical, technical and institutional factors that affect their lives and prospective projects. Not

only does this analysis and dialogue further public understanding of internal barriers, but is in itself an indigenous democratic reform process that helps to overcome those barriers.

The participatory approach to community development helps to achieve an Alliance of Civilizations through shared means - empowering education and development. The Alliance stresses civic and human rights education, service learning and movement away from thinking in exclusive terms. Participation in community development advances this kind of education for communities as they together plan and implement development projects that meet their needs. Participatory development is simply a practical methodology to help communities create and pursue a common agenda for social development and change. But if it were facilitated throughout the Muslim world, its effect can be a true Alliance of Civilizations.

Jason Yossef Ben-Meir is president of the High Atlas Foundation (www.highatlas-foundation.org), a U.S. nonprofit organization dedicated to the rural community development of Morocco. He teaches sociology at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

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TAM INTERNATIONAL



Sana'a International Cricket Trophy – 2006

Tournament entered the second round, with sixth match played between Friends Cricket Club and Tital Yemen Cricket Club from Aden. Batting first Friends Cricket Club with help of couple of good partnership posted a total of 146 runs. Tital Yemen Cricket Club had a brisk start to the run chase and then again came the middle order collapse. Tital Yemen's innings folded at 135 runs and lost the game by a narrow margin of 11 runs. Friends Club became the first team to reach the Semifinals.

In the Seventh game, batting first Arabian Stallions Cricket Club posted a total of 154 runs for Ceylon Cricket Club to be chased in 20 over's. Ceylon Club's innings had a shaky start until the middle order did the consolidation. They kept up the scoring rate and the match entered into the interesting final over. Ceylon Cricket Club managed to score 18 runs of the last over, mainly due to wayward bowling in the last over.

Eighth game played between Adnan Cricket Club and Yemen United turned out to be one sided game. Batting first, Adnan Cricket Club could post a target of 136 runs. Yemen United had few hiccups before getting to the target in the 13th over and hence reaching the Semifinals quite easily. Adnan Cricket Club is the only team yet to register a win in consecutive tournaments.

Ninth game of the tournament was important for Arabian Stallions. Batting first they posted a modest total of 109 runs for Taj Sheba XI to be chased in 20 over's. Taj Sheba's innings had a worst start, with openers falling cheaply. Much talked about bowling attack of Arabian Stallion's fired on all cylinders' and picked up wickets at regular intervals. Finally the innings folded on 99 and Arabian Stallions became the third team to enter the Semifinals.

Tenth game between Yemen United and Friends Club was high scoring game and a treat to watch. Batting first, Friends Cricket Club posted an impressive 149 with everyone contributing to the total. Yemen United again had a shaky start to their innings with opener falling in the very first over. Middle order had to again do consolidation in the middle over's before launching an onslaught on the Friends bowlers. Yemen United won the game in the 17th over of the run chase.

Eleventh game between Taj Sheba and Dove Energy was again interesting one. Win will secure Dove Energy place into Semifinals and if they loose, Ceylon Cricket Club walks in. Batting first, Dove Energy Cricket Club innings didn't have the best of starts, openers went in cheaply and wickets fell at regular intervals. Finally, they managed to post a total of 111 runs on the board for Taj Sheba to chase in 20 over's. Taj Sheba's started the run chase by losing opener in the first over itself. Innings was held together by the middle order, playing cautiously and scoring at leisurely pace. Finally they reached the target in the 18th over with 6 wickets in hand. This win of Taj Sheba opens up doors for Ceylon Cricket Club to play in the Semifinals.

12th game of the league between Adnan Cricket Club and Tital Yemen Cricket Club is yet to be played.

Status till the league stages

Highest Scorer So far : Amin Butt - 120 runs, Arabian Stallions Cricket Club
Highest Wicket taker : Sunil, 10 Wkts, Dove Energy Cricket Club
Leading All Rounder : Salim, Friends Cricket & Amin Butt, Arabian Stallions

European Marketing & Promotion Association Grants Honorary Fellowship to the National Bank of Yemen

The National Bank of Yemen was granted honorary fellowship by the European Marketing and Development Society in appreciation of the successful comprehensive banking growing developments achieved through the enormous efforts and dedicated banking policies followed by the bank's management and the board of director under the leadership of Mr. Abdulrehman Mohammed Alkuhali on the basis of which the National bank of Yemen was able to establish several positive banking standard reforms principles related to the developments of its local banking activity and with its wide scale foreign correspondents network, particularly during 1998-2006. This is demonstrated by the most important achievements and successes of the banking process as shown in the enormous successful fulfillment of the bank's first strategic project including comprehensive reform of the bank's policy represented in the following:-

- a. Reform through financial and managerial restructuring, and recovery of more than 90% of the bank's properties and debts.
- b. Reform through establishment of the bank's high level local banking

efficiency by depending on bank comprehensive technological updating, and qualifying of a number of the bank's specialized banking cadres. It was also able to achieve its high local banking status.

- c. Reform through increasingly pushing forward its financial position by embarking on development, updating, and providing more banking services to its customers.
- d. Reform through follow of sound and objective banking policies to manage relations of assets with liabilities, and, through this, its ability to achieve increasing development of its economic banking role, and achieve highest degree of safety for the rights of depositors and face minimum banking risks of all kinds. It also could gain the confidence of its local and foreign customers, and in addition, it attained locally progressive fulfillment of net profit as well as rights of property.

In view of these objective banking considerations determined in the course of reform, and the growing banking activity, and the bank's financial center, as well as the high degree of transparency and creativeness to which the bank committed itself in its policy during the period, it posi-

tively efficiently deserved to win the honour of belonging to the honorary fellowship which is granted by the European Marketing & Promotion Association, a second world level banking medal to be won by the National Bank of Yemen. It had already won the first medal in 2001 by the (Capital Intelligence). It is a great honour to us in the National Bank of Yemen to win such a big honour for the National Bank of Yemen which represents honour to banking operation in Yemen in particular and Republic of Yemen in general.

Heartfelt greetings to the builder of glory and success for the National Bank of Yemen Mr. Abdulrahman Mohammed Alkuhali, chairman of the Board of director general Managers and the members of the board directors, the managements.

As we congratulate ourselves and our bank wise leadership we do not forget that credit goes After Allah to the continues care and support and continuous care given by His Excellency the President Ali Abdullah Saleh of the Republic of Yemen, and to the leaderships in the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Yemen.

To them all we extend our appreciation and thanks.

Workers and Employees of the National Bank of Yemen



Mr. Abdulrehman Mohammed Alkuhali





وزارة النفط والمعادن
Ministry of Oil & Minerals

Celebrating one year of Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company Successful of operations in block 18, the Ministry of Oil and Minerals is pleased to congratulate Safer's employees and all those engaged in oil, gas and minerals sectors for the success they have achieved.

Our heart-felt congratulations to all the Yemeni workforce who are the source for development and progress in the country and who administer with competence and excellence the leading sector which finances development of the national economy.

Khaleel Bahah

Minister of Oil and Minerals

Almost 200,000 new job seekers every year flood the job market

The unemployment explosion

Economic theory indicates that the wealth of any country is its people as they have the potential to undertake value-added activity and in turn result in economic development and accumulation of wealth. But in Yemen the increase in labor force halts the country's development.

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
Alsqqaf@gmail.com
and Mahyoub Al-Kamali

President Ali Abdullah Saleh carried with him the concerns of Yemen to the international community in the recent Yemen Consultative Meeting (donors conference) held in London and his message was that there are over 8 million Yemeni citizens struggling to survive on less than \$2 per day and he asked the international community to help him help those 8 million through a poverty reduction plan aimed at reducing poverty and creating more jobs. Saleh got over US \$4.7 billion in pledges for that purpose, but will he be successful in pulling those 8 million out of poverty?

The accompanying delegation of officials displayed a high level of competence in presenting a well-thought plan to the donors, displaying strong knowledge of the economy and obstacles to development. However there are forecasts the Yemeni economy is destined for crisis during the next decade unless it undergoes fundamental transformations including the successful implementation of the plan presented at the donors conference. The plan attempts to build strong infrastructure at the coastal areas to attract investment generate employment. Projects such as a railroad connecting Yemeni shores, power plants fueled by natural gas, promotion of fisheries and tourism and, more importantly, establishing industrial zones in coastal areas with incentives to tempt investors to build giant manufacturing plants, in turn providing employment and changing the domestic migration pattern from rural-urban to rural-coastal.

Therefore, if this plan is successfully

implemented it will likely turn Yemen's most valuable and available resource, manpower, into a competitive advantage to fuel its development. Having said that, Yemen Times investigated the current status of unemployment in Yemen in this report in order to get a sense of the nature and issues relating to this problem and voice the concerns of those most affected by this problem.

Agricultural engineer Adel Abdul Rahman says unemployment is the biggest problem in the economy because it has severe economic, political and social implications and although indicators of the size of the problem keep on increasing and warnings on this problem, but the size of the problem keeps on increasing while the resources the government puts forward to tackle this problem continue to shrink.

"I am an agricultural engineer in a country known to have a large agricultural industry and has a great potential to develop using skills of cadres and professionals such as myself. I graduated three years ago and I am still job-hunting," said Rahman

According to an employment in Yemen study by Tahir Mujahed, of Sana'a University, one of the continuing factors is the high rate of population growth estimated at 3.5 percent per annum, which is among the highest in the world. This growth, he concludes, isn't balanced with the economic growth and in turn results in more burdens on the economy, resulting in more persons flooding the job market while employment opportunities are scarce.

Other experts also indicated that this problem will sky rocket in the coming few years, as currently half the population is segmented in the age group of newborn to 14 years, which means in another ten years the job market will have to absorb much more



Many Yemeni laborers wait in groups every morning for a daily opportunity to work.

manpower in order to avoid a real catastrophe which will decrease through a negative correlation with the number of available manpower. Also crime rates will escalate, urban centers will be unable to accommodate immigrants searching for opportunities and illegal migration to neighboring countries will increase.

Additionally, the large size of families in Yemen is contributing to the problem, with the average size of the family at seven members dependent on a single source of income, in most cases father's salary, compared to the average of other developing countries of one guardian for every four, the number in Yemen is one for every seven on average.

Another issue is the participation of women in the work force, gender expert Rasha Rashed Jarhum says, "Although women constitute slightly over half of the population, but their participation in the economy is less than 7 percent in financial terms.

"Although there are almost 500,000 employment opportunities currently with the government, women occupy less than 80,000 of these jobs, and are usually at the lowest levels of the organizational hierarchy, and it's even

worse in the private sector, as 91 percent of women who work in agriculture do not receive any financial compensation, while in the manufacturing and services sectors employers avoid recruiting women as they are deemed to be less productive than men."

Statistics of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation have indicated that the size of the workforce has increased from 3.5 million in 1999 to 4.2 million in 2004, while the percentage of unemployment rose from 12 percent in 1999 to 17 percent in 2004, while unofficial statistics indicate 44 percent of the workforce is underemployed, for example the construction workers who only have seasonal work and those who work in the so-called social services.

Yemen Times met with Ismeal Qassim Al-Raimi who is a freelance constructions worker.

"We wait sometimes for ten days for a real estate developer to come by and offer us temporary jobs for a couple of days, then it's back to this location where we hope to get employment again, our life is a long story of misery and desperation, while we barely make any money to feed ourselves, mind you,

the last time I sent any remittance to my family in the village was over two months," says Al-Raimi.

We were surprised when we found him and his colleagues asking about what the government is doing in order to provide employment, while commenting that the current regime is one filled with corruption and officials serving their personal interests and making it a priority over the public.

Our survey continued to the campus of Sana'a University, where we met with Abdullah Abdulkarim of the students union, who indicated that most students know they will wait for at least two years after graduation to find any employment with a minimum salary, adding that most students join the university not to equip themselves with the knowledge and skills, but to have a certification that might act as an advantage while job hunting, knowing that the tutoring of Sana'a university does not equip students to find employment or create opportunities.

"Ninety percent of students enroll in arts or theory disciplines which are useless," says Abdulkarim.

Mutahar Al-Ubassi, deputy minister of planning, said the problem of

unemployment exists in all societies and economies, however the impact and severity of the problem is defined by the level of economic development and the qualification of the human capital, as well as the diversity of the economy. For example unemployment in the European Union has a different nature than that of the developing countries.

The Arab world has the highest concentration of unemployment in the world with over 30 million people seeking jobs, which means the region has to undergo an economic transformation in order to create jobs for this many people, especially for Yemen as the labor force growth rate is at 4.1 percent while population growth rate is at 3.5 percent, which means that many people who did not work previously are now joining the work force, which is a good sign of social change in favor of economic activity.

Another problem is the under qualified workforce, as there are many jobs and vacancies that require qualified people in various technical skills, but we have a shortage in those skills. Most college graduates do not find work easily because their education isn't advanced enough to qualify them to take up these jobs, for example those who are multilingual and have computer skills always have the advantage other graduates.

Business In Brief

Stronger Riyal following donors conference

The first positive spill-over effect following the Yemen Consultative meeting was in the appreciation of the Yemeni Riyal by 0.5 percent last Saturday. It's an indication that the flow of pledges in foreign currency into the country will stabilize the value of the Riyal with less interference from the Central bank.

Subsidized Diesel smugglers caught

Authorities caught a number of diesel smugglers while attempting to sell 32,000 litres of subsidized diesel to an oil company operating in Yemen. The Ministry of Oil has previously directed all oil companies and subcontractors to obtain their diesel needs from the national oil company as buying subsidized diesel intended for local consumers and farmers routinely results in shortages of supply and price hikes.

Flour and wheat businessmen manipulate domestic market

Official sources in the Ministry of Trade indicated that it has uncovered that the four largest flour and wheat businessmen who supply the domestic market with the flour needed for bread have been decreasing supply to the market while storing over 150 thousand tonnes in order to hike prices. The source confirmed that the ministry will take suitable measure to ensure those quantities are supplied to the market.

Authorities to inspect bakeries in Yemen

The Sana'a Chamber of Commerce and Industry will start supervising and inspecting bakeries in Sana'a in order to ensure bread loaf baking meets the standards in weight requirements of 70gms /150gms per loaf. This follows the reduction of the size of the loaf as a consequence of the price hike in prices of wheat and flour.

CAC Bank achieves 115 percent growth in budget

Third quarter results of the Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank said the overall budget of the bank has increased by 115 percent compared to last year, reaching YR 53.7 billion, while long-term deposits with the bank increased by 96 percent to YR 42.3 billion, while loans increased by 64 percent to 4,200 small and medium-size projects.

Mind the gap

By: Jose Antonio Ocampo

Within today's booming world economy, most developing countries have been growing rapidly. Yet this has not diminished the pressure to reduce the yawning gap in income between developed and developing countries that has shaped global debates for over a half-century.

International inequalities, while large three decades ago, have worsened ever since. The most disturbing feature of this trend is the high number of "growth collapses" during the last decades of the twentieth century, with only a few developing economies (East Asia, India) able to sustain high growth rates.

But there is another international income divergence that demands attention. Since 1980, the world has witnessed a widening income gap among developing countries. As underscored by a recent United Nations report, World Economic and Social Survey 2006, this "dual divergence" holds four key lessons for economic growth in the developing world.

First, success and failure in achieving sustained economic growth appear to be concentrated in time and space. This means that the growth of individual

developing countries depends not only on their domestic economic policies – the focus of debates on economic development in recent decades. It also depends on factors beyond the control of individual countries: global economic conditions and regional economic environments. Indeed, the recent boom in some parts of the developing world shows exactly that.

Second, while pushing the technological frontier is the crucial element of growth in industrial countries, what matters for developing countries is transforming production and export structures, particularly by shifting resources to activities with higher levels of productivity. The key to achieving this is the capacity to diversify domestic production by generating new activities, strengthening economic linkages within the country, and creating new domestic technological capabilities.

Building industrial and modern service sectors is critical for successful diversification. Conversely, de-industrialization and concentration of growth in informal service activities is a proven recipe for failure, as has been demonstrated by the sad experiences of most developing countries in recent decades.

The form of integration into world markets also plays a central role in economic diversification. Countries that integrate

into dynamic world markets for manufactures and services perform better than those that specialize in natural-resource intensive sectors.

But exports are not the only key factor: even more important are the export sector's links with other domestic sectors. Pure extraction of mineral resources, as well as maquila -type manufacturing – common in Mexico and Central America – generate little additional demand for domestic industries and thus have only limited growth effects. A successful export strategy hinges not on how much countries export, but on what they export and how their export sectors are integrated with other domestic economic activities.

The same is true of foreign direct investment (FDI). Countries that benefit most from FDI are those whose domestic firms and institutions also benefit, and thus those that have the requisite absorptive capacity.

Third, macroeconomic stability, investment, and growth are mutually reinforcing. But maintaining stability involves not only keeping inflation low, but also, and crucially, avoiding large swings in economic activity, external imbalances, and financial crises. This explains why, in a world where developing countries are faced with increasing shocks, macroeco-

omic policies aimed at smoothing the business cycle (that is, counter-cyclical macro-economic policies) play a vital role in economic growth.

In recent decades, however, macroeconomic policy in most developing countries has become more pro-cyclical, largely exacerbating the volatility of international financial markets and commodity prices. Pro-cyclical fiscal adjustment tends to encourage a short-term orientation towards economic policy, which limits long-term investments in infrastructure and human capital, thus constraining growth.

More fiscal space can be created by improving governance and strengthening the tax base, and, for the poorest countries, by achieving additional stable official development assistance (ODA) channeled through national budgets. Indeed, when ODA is not determined by geopolitics, it can have a strong positive effect on long-term growth, essentially because it supports investment in infrastructure and human development.

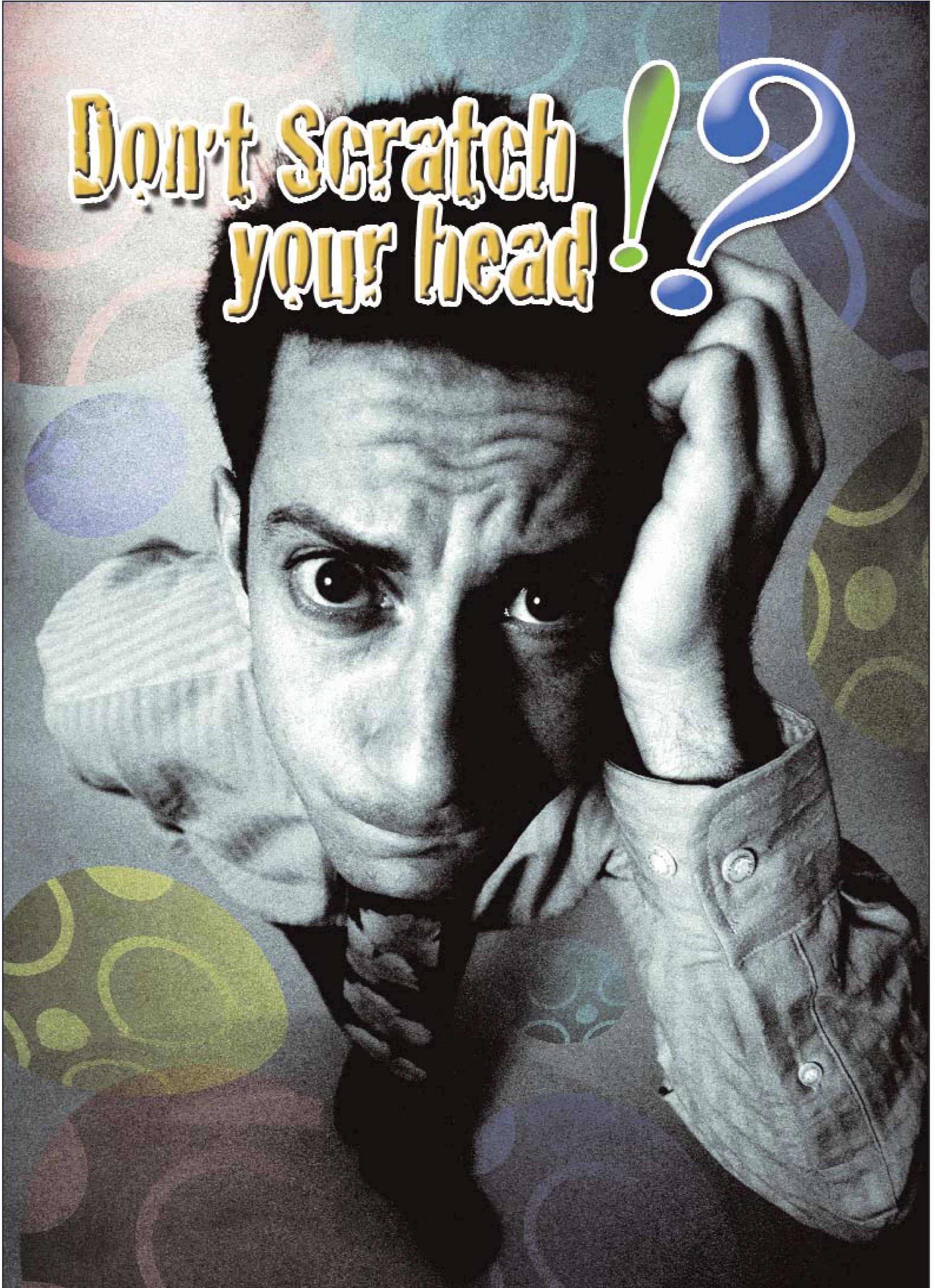
Finally, institutional reform encompasses more than creating markets and guaranteeing property rights. It also includes creating the regulatory and institutional framework that markets require to function well, providing necessary public goods and guaranteeing the fair-



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

Jose Antonio Ocampo is United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2006.



Don't Scratch
your head!

The power of spiritual intelligence

By: Eftehal Fahd Al-Aghbary

It is believed that we are not humans who live a spiritual experience, but spiritual creatures who live a human experience. Furthermore, being spiritual doesn't necessarily mean exclusively religious it also means to realize the full scope of the world, oneself and the aim behind existence.

How could one understand this power and get the most benefit from. Galileo Galilei once said, "We can't teach people everything we know; what can we do is to help them discover what they have inside." Some people travel to far away lands to meditate on high peaks, huge oceans and stars movement; while their lives pass without even looking at themselves and their creation.

To realize that you are a miracle and a very special amazing creature, unique in the whole world, is the first step towards developing one's spiritual intelligence.

In addition, "When to see an eagle on the ski raise your head and have a good look at it, you have just seen a piece of genius," said William Bleak, the poet. That is what's called feeding from nature. Actually, loving and respecting the way things are created is the second step towards having such a power.

According to the "Bounded Connection" theory; the movement of a butterfly's wings in the Amazon causes a wind which could develop into a hurricane in the Indonesian island of Jawa. Similarly, the spiritual intelligent person can affect everyone around, their ideas and beliefs, even surrounding environmental aspects. It happens when you meet someone who laughs with the real innocence of a child; who sees the greatness in the simplest of things, expressing their feelings spontaneously, hurting no one nor attempting to do so. Actually, this is a person of great spiritual intelligence, who lives his own inner peace and peacefully connects with the universe. Of course, we can't say the same thing about the one who tells lies and talks of others behind their backs because such spiritual power is strongly connected with real and great virtues.

The good news is that everyone can develop such power by following some easy steps. First of all, analyze your virtues and discuss them with someone you trust. Then apply them for the sake of goodness, because most of human tragedies are nothing but the result of false evaluations of values. So, when recalling the past, do it for the sake of learning a lesson not to cry on it. Secondly, visualize your life goals and never use "I wish" when to setting them. Don't forget that every new day you live is a grace, so take the responsibility of making the world a better place to live in.

Thirdly, sympathize with others and try to understand. John Doan once said, "No one is created alone as an isolated island, we are all one -when somebody dies, don't ask for whom is this funeral; it is for you." It is really important to trust others and to respect their personalities. Try this, when you start dealing with or talking to somebody, forget that person is different; just imagine that his soul is an extension of yours; and you will be astonished how you are going to behave and feel.

Fourthly, concentrate on giving, never waiting for something in return. When giving, never ask the needy the reason for being in need, then forgetting all about it. "The best part in one's life is that hidden part that contains the good forgotten deeds, that express one's love and passion towards humanity," said William Wordsworth. Most importantly, feel grateful for each grace you have and all the help you get.

Fifthly, use the power of laughter to heal your soul and to defeat pain. Laughing is the most civilized music existing in this world, and one can develop a sense of humor that to make life easier. To frown one needs to spend more energy than to laugh. Try funny things then you will decide which mask you want to wear in life.

Sixthly, get your childhood enthusiasm back. Feel the same happiness you get when to try anything new, seizing the cheerful moments in your life, recalling your childish sharing and loving. Be open minded, joyful and flexible again. Live your present and remember if you

live to a hundred years, you will have 36,500 days to celebrate.

"Don't you feel the greatness when glorifying the greatest," said Tomas Clairol. This is the seventh and the most important step ever. Worship Allah and pray on time as it consists of countless pleasures. Other ritualistic days and festivals are to be celebrated, as well as, celebrating anniversaries, birthdays and happy occasions. Include of course meditation, contemplation and relaxation.

Eighthly, seek inner and external peace. The greatest prophets and philosophers sought the same through looking and reflecting, relaxing and mediating until they achieved their aims. In many religions, reaching this inner peace takes on different styles and methods, either by listening to the holy book read, praying or adopting ways of breathing. One can start his day cool and calm, welcoming everyone we meet, getting rid of noise. Let your house be your castle where you can find a place to do yoga or to meditate freely, learn from spiritual people who can lead you on the right path, and experience the implicit power of silence.

"Love is the only way to turn an enemy into a friend," said Martin Luther King. The last step and the most effective one. Spread this felling wherever you go starting at home. Try this: Do not wait for others to love you. One should think about giving, not receiving; one should love every creature even those we call ugly insects. Even the weak little plants will grow faster and healthier if one talks and shows a little love towards them. Give yourself the chance to think less on materials and more on this real power. Express your pain and sadness; it is not a weak feature as it is was once believed. It is a noble virtue Allah creates in us. Take great care of others' sufferings and show interest in helping them. Love yourself and understand the benefits that come from your and others' tragedies. Make sure you tell someone at least every day that you love him.

Wherever one's goal is, it couldn't be undone. Where there is a will there is a way. May Allah bless you all.

Mohammed (PBUH)

By: Fuad Noman
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Radiant Pride!
The sword of wisdom
No need of bawl or fight
Just wide
A dirty gallery
Human darkness scenery
A hideous malice keeps on
a callous rivalry
With moon's ire,
the darkness guile
And sun's fire
At the dimness of loop
Time's minutes recurrently stoop
In time
The conduit of Light can't droop
A nice-looking livery
In the face of free will

Purity in core epitomizes
a soul's recovery
Power of cruelty transpires
an image of slavery
An ill will of fiend
being called bravery
How come!
The Far-reaching celestial Essence
Be compared to
what tiny Lilliputian souls depict
Mohammed
is the Universe's Greatest Saint
Only the highest humanity prophet
A brother of Moses and Jesus Christ
Glorious image!
A soul of rose's rise!
In souls,
Mohammed never.. never dies
A unique aspiration
The organizer of soul's inspiration

For Peace of all human's nation
For his sacred seat,
No manikin can reach
Mohammed is the life's foremost guru
to teach
Hauling the divine revolution
To be our raison d'être decree
Mohammed converted slaves to be free
Sooner or later,
He would be recognized
Mohammed is not with chauvinism
But with virtue allied
Clemency and Mercy's domicile
Mohammed is the first builder and guide
He is the renewal of our love's lease
Mohammed's demeanor can't die or freeze

Great oath

Iram, hurry up please help
What's up?
My back loses blood
I have been stabbed
Hand me my gun, Iram

On the peak of mounds
Among the mountains
At my green grounds
I glimpse a splendor growth

From the buff to red
Extending its rosy scent
Under God's blue
Beneath a high palm tree
Muttering to my silhouette
Behind the bones
My history fades
Trying to note down my sakes
Gazing at a great pearl
Sleeping between two rivers
Prettier than a mermaid
With a lovely braid
She announced
"I feel jealous of Iram's green eyes"
But in fact
Iram is always rare
For our destiny
She is aware
If life is unjust
For my heart's time
She is fair
If I am weak
she makes my will dare
She is a unique revolt's girl

Why is that Comrade?

The life's hand
Paying our time's dowry
For our fatal silence's mistake
Wait me on our old lane
Where the first time we met

Because
A divine intervention
Sharing our golden fate both
We still bear a Great Oath
I am not ready anymore
to degrade my dignity
Even if my bankrupt city
Hampering my steps and ability
To put on the last part of victory

I Look at every side and around
In all seasons,
At a harsh location
And a dry condition

Well, it is over there

Only man's shells I've found
The bare bones just I see

Believe me Iram
I am not feeling loath
But too wary
Look

Smell of filth
Coming from puking grubby hogs

By chance I hint
A Gorgeous gaillardia

Just a paper in my file

By: T-Shokry Abdo Ali Al-Qubati
www.shokry733.jeeran.com

And she was getting so fair
I said, "You Girl!"
As if she was just a girl
She said, "Yes sir!"
I gazed at her and said, "You're rare!"

She looked downward
She said no word
After a while
I woke up and angrily smiled
I realized she was Just a Paper in my File

It was a year
It was the best when I lived there
I saw her near

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Slang for heroin
- 5 "How ___ is that doggie in the window?"
- 9 Secondhand tire
- 14 Salmagundi, e.g.
- 15 Word of exclusivity
- 16 Bring out
- 17 City east of Phoenix
- 18 Start of a Christmas poem
- 19 Moth-repelling wood
- 20 High school student's item
- 23 Genesis figure
- 24 Speech fumbles
- 25 Hailing from the Orient
- 29 Stopwatch button
- 31 Doesn't receive for nothing
- 33 It may be cast
- 34 Circle segment
- 36 Kennel command
- 37 Words with "new world record"
- 38 Middle school student's item
- 43 State of the union address?
- 44 Graph ending
- 45 Course deviation

- 46 Distant
- 47 Change for the better
- 49 Stumbling blocks
- 53 Insect catcher
- 55 Behave in a certain manner
- 57 ___ culpa
- 58 Elementary school student's item
- 61 Mississippi marsh
- 64 Miles from Hollywood
- 65 They may be liberal
- 66 Uses a plane, e.g.
- 67 School since 1440
- 68 Buck or roebuck, e.g.
- 69 Conical shelter
- 70 Position
- 71 Rosebud, famously

DOWN

- 1 Gloomy
- 2 Split asunder
- 3 They're found in churches and theaters
- 4 World Cup announcer's cry
- 5 Kind of boat
- 6 Ill-advised

- 7 The Hatfields, e.g.
- 8 Delirium
- 9 Grade school break
- 10 Happening
- 11 Fish sticks fish
- 12 Police blotter word, perhaps
- 13 For every
- 21 Dish in the lab
- 22 Food storage room
- 26 Earthly paradise
- 27 Ceremonial act
- 28 Word with "miss" or "catastrophe"
- 30 Every one
- 32 Ghostly white
- 35 Dramatic high point
- 37 Darned right?
- 38 Dragon of song
- 39 Roster ender
- 40 Not one, to Jethro Bodine
- 41 Bypass, in a way
- 42 Naples staple
- 47 Stir to action
- 48 Wrinkle-resistant fiber
- 50 Indifferent to right or wrong
- 51 Having a soft touch
- 52 Talked back to the teacher
- 54 Steak order
- 56 Gadget for an old car
- 59 Goat cheese
- 60 Candied items
- 61 Ante matter?
- 62 Caesarean salute
- 63 "Durn tootin'!"

"WELL EQUIPPED STUDENTS" by Alice Walker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
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66						67				68		
69						70				71		

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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OUR HERO HAS BEEN HIGH INSURANCE PREMIUMS...

A BRILLIANT BALL OF DEADY FRAP RAN BLAZES BY THE INTERDIP SPACEMAN SPACE!

THE COURAGEOUS SPACEMAN SPYF IS VIT! HE PLUMMETS TOWARD PLANET ZOG!

BREAKING THROUGH THE CLOUD LAYER, HE CONTACTS OVER AN ALIEN CIVILIZATION! THERE'S NO PLACE TO LAND!

SPYF WRESTLES THE UNCOOPERATIVE CONTACTS WHILE FREEM DIVE TO THE THRUSTER PLANTERS!

TOO MUCH STRESS! THE FUEL EXPLODES IN FLAME!

THE SITUATION IS GRIM! TEN SECONDS TO IMPACT! NINE... EIGHT...

WELL, CALVIN?? SEVEN!

NEED FOUR CALVIN. TEN MINUTES THREE EQUATING SEVEN. I DON'T THINK YOU WERE PAYING ATTENTION THAT QUESTION WAS WITH WHEEL POINTS?

OUR HERO MIRACULOUSLY MAKES A THREE POINT LANDING. SPYF SAVES THE DAY AGAIN!

G A R F I E L D

CLOP

TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT

THHHP!

SPLAT

CHONK

IT'S THE LITTLE TOUCHES THAT SAY SO MUCH

إعلانات صبوبة

مكتب أحمد محسن المريسي
للخدمات العقارية
حده - اخي السياسي - الأصبحي - بيت بوس
سيار: ٧٣٣٨٠٢٨٥٠ - مكتب: ٦٧٩١٦٦

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- 7.5 لين في المهندسين، بيت بوس.
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- ١٢ لين على شارع ١٦ متر، غربي، بيت بوس.
- سعر اللبنة ١.٥٠٠.٠٠٠ ريال
- فيلا جديدة، ٥ غرف، حمامين، مطبخ، حوش لسيارة، تقع على شارع مسفلت، جنوبي، مساحة الأرضية ٦ لين لإربع، ٢٢ مليون ريال
- فيلا جديدة، ٥ غرف، ٣ حمامات، مطبخ، شارعين، بيت بوس جوار حي الشباب والرياضة. سعر للبيع ٢٣ مليون ريال.
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- للبيع: سيارة جراند فينتارا XL7، فرامل EBS، جير أوتوماتيك، تحكم سيدي من السكان، سبعة راكب، أبواب ريموت كنترول، ارباج عدد اثنين، موديل ٢٠٠٣، نظيفة جداً، السعر مغري.
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٧١٦٨
- للبيع: باص تويوتا هاياس موديل ٩٤، وكالة، نظيف، فاصلة واحد أجرة.
- السعر: ٤٥٠٠ الف ريال سعودي.
- للتواصل: ٧٧٧٩٧٤٤ - ٧١١٧٩٩٤٧
- للبيع: سيارة تويوتا كورولا، موديل ٢٠٠٠، اللون أبيض، أوتوماتيك جير، قطعت مسافة قدرها: ١٢.٠٠٠ كم
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٧٢٧٠٥

كمبيوتر، انشآت، أدوات كهربائية، تلفونات، و اشياء اخري

- للبيع: تلفون الوسم نوكيا بحالة متوسطة - السعر مناسب. للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤١١٢١١
- مطلوب للشراء: تلفون الجرى يمن موبيل على أن يكون بحالة جيدة وبسعر مناسب.
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤١١٢١١

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- للتواصل: ٧٣٤١٧١٤٨٠
- مدرس لغة عربية (مصري الجنسية) - خبرة ١٥ عاماً لديه إستعداد لتدريس اللغة العربية للجانب -مستوى متوسط ومتقدم للإستفسار:
- بكالوريوس محاسبة - أربع دورات في اللغة الانجليزية في نعهد يالي - حسن المظهر
- قدرة على العمل في بيئة العمل - يرغب في العمل في الفترة المسائية
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٢٢٠٠١
- بكالوريوس محاسبة - دبلوم سكرتارية - حاصل على نظام يمن سوفت - خبرة ثلاث سنوات محاسبه - يرغب في العمل في نفس المجال.
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٢٢٧٠١
- شاييف السعيدى - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في أي مؤسسة أو شركة تجارية بدوام كامل
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣١٨٨٢٩٦ - ٤٢٦٥٨٩
- طالبة لغة إنجليزية في جامعة صنعاء - تجيد إستخدام الحاسوب - تود العمل في الفترة المسائية فقط.
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٨١٦٦٦
- أيوب دبان - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - جامعة صنعاء - دبلوم سكرتارية - دورة محاسبة (أ-ب) - خبرة في مجال البيع والشراء والمراسلات التجارية - يرغب في العمل لدى مؤسسة أو شركة بدوام جزئي
- للتواصل: ٧١١٢٧٨١٨٦ / ٧١١٨٣١٥٤
- هشام عبد القادر الشوكانى - بكالوريوس محاسبة ومراجعة - جامعة صنعاء - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - إجادة فن مسك الدفاتر المحاسبية - خبرة مدة سنتين
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للتواصل: ٤٤٠٧٠٢٣

باحثون عن وظيفة

• فهد علي السقاف - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم برامج تطبيقية على الحاسوب - دبلوم صيانة كمبيوتر في الهند - دورة في المحاسبة - يرغب في العمل في أي مجال مناسب في صنعاء أوتعز أو عدن.

• للتواصل: ٧١١١٨٢٢٢٢

• خبرة في مجال المبيعات والتسويق - يبحث عن فرصة عمل مناسبة في مدينة تعز.

• للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٠٧٠٨٢

• حسن أحمد محمد - مدرس علوم (أحياء - كيمياء) - جامعة الإسكندرية ١٩٩٠ - خبرة أكثر من ١٤ سنة في مجال تدريس الكيمياء والأحياء للمرحلة الثانوية والإعدادية - يبحث في العمل في مجاله أو في أي مجال مقارب له.

• للتواصل: ٧١١١٠٩٠١١

• شوقي أمين أحمد يوسف - ثانوية عامة - سنة الثالثة تجارة - مستوى جيد في اللغة الإنجليزية - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - خبرة في مجال المخازن لمدة ست سنوات (أمين مخازن - مراقب مخازن) - يبحث عن عمل مناسب

• للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٠٩٦٥٢

• ثانوية عامة (علمي) - دبلوم سكرتارية - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً.

• للتواصل: ٧٣٣١٣٢٤٧٠

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تسوية ٢٦١ ٣٦٨٦٦٦

مستشفيات

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- المستشفى الجمهوري : ٠١-٢٦٢٩٦٦٦/٧
- مستشفى حدة الأمل : ٠١-٤١٣٩٨١
- المستشفى اليمني الألماني : ٠١-٤١٣٩٨١
- مستشفى الألماني الحديث : ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠٠/١٠٢٠٠٨
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فنادق

- فندق فرساي : ٠١-٤٢٥٧٠٠/٢
- فندق شيراتون : ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠٠
- فندق موفيك : ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
- فندق تاج سينا : ٠١-٣٣٣٣٧٢
- فندق ريلكس ان : ٠١-٤٤٨٨٧١
- فندق واجمعة الخليج السياحي : ٠١-٦٠٣٥٥٠ - ٦٠٣٢٣٥٠/٨

معاهد

- معهد يالي : ٤٤٨٠٣٩ - ٤٤٨٤٨٢ / ٢/٤
- المعهد اللغوي الألماني : ٢٠٠٤٥٠
- المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر : ٢٦٦٢٣٣
- معهد كاروكيس : ٠١-٥٢٤٢٣٥ / ٥
- معهد أليكنك : ٤٢٣٤٣٢ / ٥١-١٠١٢ - ٢٤٠٨٣٣

البنوك

- البنك التجاري : ٢٧٧٣٢٤
- مصرف اليمن البحري الشامل : ٢٦٤٧٥٠٠ / ٢٦٤٧٥٠٠
- بنك اليمن الدولي : ٠١-٤٧٠٣٠٠
- البنك العربي : ٠١-٢٧١٥٥٠ / ٢
- بنك التسليف الزراعي : ٠١-٥٢٣٨١٣
- البنك المركزي : ٠١-٢٧٤٢٤٤

تأجير سيارات

- زاويه (Budget) : ٢٠٦١١٨٠٠ - ٢٠٦٣٧٧٠
- فاكس : ٢٧٧٠٠٥١ - ٢٧٧٠٠٥١
- هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعاء : ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩
- فرع شيراتون : ٥٤٤٧٥٠
- عدن : ٢٠٢٤٥٣٢٥

شركات للتأمين

- الوطنية للتأمين : ٢٧٧٧١٧ / ٢٧٧٧٧٣
- شركت التأمين : ٢٠٦١٢٩ / ٢٠٦١٢٩
- الشركة اليمنية للإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين : صنعاء، ٢٨٤١٩٣
- صنعاء : ٢٤٤٣٨٠
- تعز : ٢٥٨٨١١
- شركة اليمن للتأمين : صنعاء، ٢٧٧٨٠٦ / ٢٧٧٩٢٢ / ٤٤
- عدن : ٢٤٧٦١٧
- تعز : ٢٥٠٢٤٥

مدارس

- مدارس صنعاء الولية : ٢٧٠١٩١ / ٢
- مدرسة التوكة الولية : ٤٤٢٢٥٨ / ٩
- مدرسة الماجد اليمنية : ٢٠٦١٥٩
- مدرسة رينبو : ٤١٤٠٠٣٦ / ٤٢٤٠٠٣٦

مغذيات

- التسليم للسفرات : ٢٧٠٧٥٠
- العالمية للسفرات والسياحة : ٤٤١١٥٩ / ٦٠

مطاعم

مطعم ومخابزة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
تلفون : ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - ٥٠٢٩٠ - ٦٦٧٦٦٩

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- عدن : ٢٠-٢٢٧١٩٩
- تعز : ٤٠-٢٥٠٢٤٢
- المكلا : ٥٠-٢٠٢٧٤٢

البريد السريع

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- صنعاء : ٤٤٠١٧٠ / ٦٧
- الحديدية : ٢٤٩٨٢
- إب : ٤١١٨٨
- المكلا : ٣٠٢٣٤١
- شبوه : ٢٠٢٣٣٦
- سنيون : ٤٠٢٤٦٦

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Habb Fort: Infinite beauty

By: Nashwan Dammag

Habb Fort, which is as old as the age, stands like a great mountain – or at least it's described as such in a local song. Not a legend, but rather a fact existing in a place whose qualifications disallow such a fact; it records the story of Yemeni man's existence in his land.

Journeying to Habb Fort need not be guided and begins by ascending eastward. Once past Ibb city, one encounters Badan Mountain overlooking it and seeming as if it's going to destroy the ancient city situated at its feet.

It doesn't matter if one stops at the peak of Badan Mountain or at the last turn in the road to gaze at the city beneath, which deserves such a look

and a promise to return. It seems to be the painting of one who isn't born yet, while its surroundings are nothing but a heap of ash.

Moving amid its green meadows, time loses all meaning because Badan's valleys are capable of making one forget the hour. The greenness penetrates deeply into one's very depths, to the point where this greenness is felt within the heart. Whenever a beautiful sight disappears, another appears and the peaks on the horizon blaze with the colors of the sky. Such sights are endless until one reaches the fort in unwanted haste.

At this point, one must prepare for another ascent, but on foot because there's no road leading to the fort's only gate. Visiting Habb Fort is an opportunity to escape the noise of the city and

all of the other things belonging to urban life. Once there, try to forget that you're a visitor or a tourist and simply live the moment as if you reside among those who lived there and made its civilization and history.

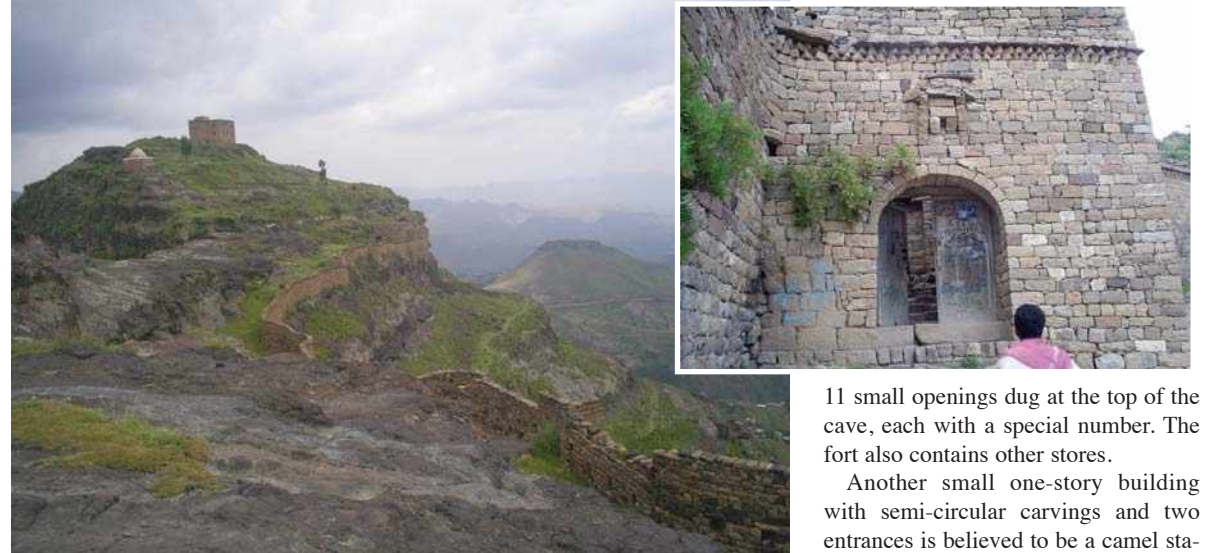
In the beginning, the view is unclear because there's nothing indicating the fort's existence over the hill, as the view from below yields nothing but a chasm surrounding the hill on the north and partly on the west, thereby prohibiting anyone from getting into the fort. For this reason, it wasn't walled.

The view begins to change as one takes the winding path leading to Habb Fort's only gate. Seeing the wall overhanging the edge, one questions how its inhabitants were able to bring such a great amount of stones to such a place and thereby creating such a beautiful scene. Although built long ago, the fort's wall still stands and remains strong.

Famous historian Al-Akwa'a says, "Habb Fort is one of Yemen's most fortified and impenetrable forts. Additionally, it's appealing to the eye and famed for the great historical events that occurred there and its important role in such events."

He adds, "It stands alone, as if it was a preacher, with numerous beautiful villages and hills spread around it. Further, it faces Al-Taker Mountain, where it's said the Qail Thou Ru'ani was buried."

Situated atop a hill locally known as Rock Mountain, Habb Fort is part of the geographical features of Yemen's middle region. It consists of two main areas: the fort itself and a small slope known as the garrison located in the south.



The fort is located high on the mountain top where one could easily view the landscape. The gate (inset) is huge and preventive. PHOTOS BY HAMDAN DAMMAG

The fort has a high and oval shaped wall built of stone cubes over the mountain's rocky edges. The wall contains two-story round towers full of small openings from which to observe and shoot.

Habb Fort's entrance is a two-story structure with curved windows on the second story's upper wall. The entry is a wide opening with a semi-circular curve overlooked by a window built from stone blocks. With a two-layer wooden door, the entrance leads to a corridor overlooked by the second story's stairway entrance.

The western side has a wide opening with a semi-circular curve leading to Habb Fort's field, a rectangular east-west area whose surface isn't plain. Within the fort are numerous buildings distributed throughout.

The eastern part of the fort appears to be its ruling center, as the entrance and most buildings are situated there. This section also contains various types of construction, particularly a three-story house with two entrances – one on the east and the other on the west.

In the north is a cistern covered in a cement-like material called qadhah. Mud and stone remains, believed to be old buildings, also exist in the northern section, as well as a hot-water bath, whose upper portion has collapsed.

A small building thought to be a prison lies east of the three-story house and to its left are grain stores primarily consisting of a rocky cave with a northern entrance covered by a stone and qadhah block. The cave is divided into several rooms separated by rock walls without entrances, compensated for by

11 small openings dug at the top of the cave, each with a special number. The fort also contains other stores.

Another small one-story building with semi-circular carvings and two entrances is believed to be a camel stable, while a small mosque lies west of the three-story house with an open field, in the center of which is a square-shaped stone prayer house. Additionally, the area between Habb Fort's entrance and its mosque contains several cisterns.


In the western end of the fort is a three-story building, most of which has collapsed, and against this structure is a square building on the fort's wall thought to be a military barracks.

Habb Fort's garrison is the highland area south of it, where numerous stores, water tanks and cisterns are located. Further, the fort contains the remains of a tower, as well as some tombs.

Habb Fort still is unknown to many people both inside and outside Yemen. It must be looked after because it's capable of attracting many visitors and tourists if turned into a modern tourist site, as was the case with Dar Al-Hajar in Wadi Dhahr north of Sana'a.

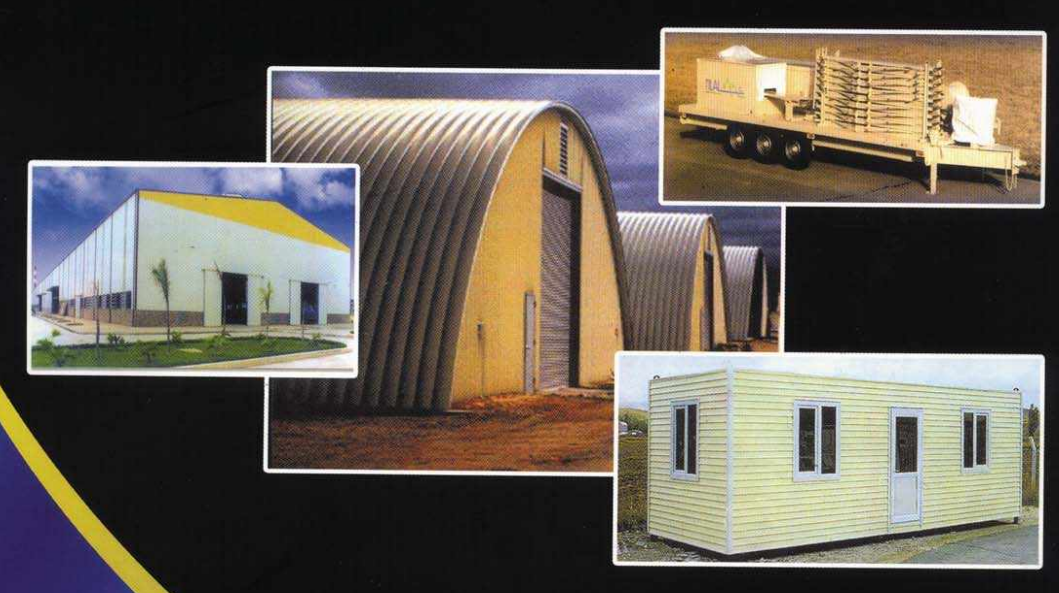


Habb fort is located on a hill known by locals to be Rock Mount and it is part of the geographical features of Yemen's middle area. PHOTO BY HAMDAN DAMMAG

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