





Monday, 18 December 2006 • Issue No. 1008 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf www.yementimes.com





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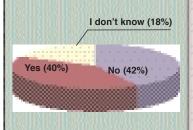
A single moment of understanding can flood a whole life with meaning



**Doctors warn about** lead in Yemeni vehicle emissions

## **Readers' Voice**

Last edition's question: Is it true that the signing of political parties agreement will strengthen democracy in Yemen?



#### This edition's question:

Are opposition MPs sincere about accusing the Yemeni government of hiding more than 25 million barrels of oil not included in the 2007 budget?

- Yes - No I don't know

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### By: Khalil Al-Khaubari

SANA'A, Dec. 17 - The oil ministry is training its entire staff to assist new oil discoveries and the current and future production.

On Sunday the ministry opened their new oil training center help qualify the 14,000 ministerial staff members.

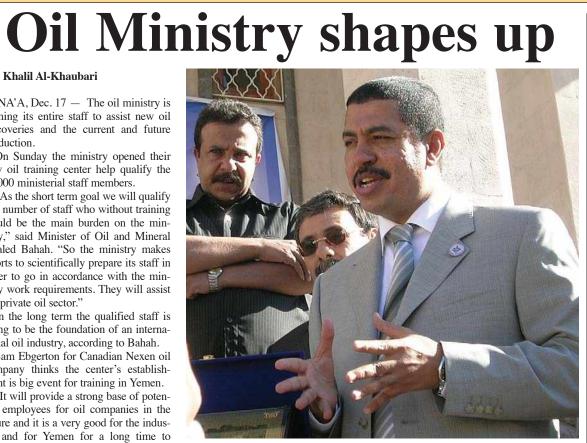
"As the short term goal we will qualify this number of staff who without training would be the main burden on the ministry," said Minister of Oil and Mineral Khaled Bahah. "So the ministry makes efforts to scientifically prepare its staff in order to go in accordance with the ministry work requirements. They will assist the private oil sector."

In the long term the qualified staff is going to be the foundation of an international oil industry, according to Bahah.

Sam Ebgerton for Canadian Nexen oil company thinks the center's establishment is big event for training in Yemen.

"It will provide a strong base of potential employees for oil companies in the future and it is a very good for the industry and for Yemen for a long time to come," Ebgerton commented.

Though there is already a Yemeni training team the ministry also brought in foreign trainers from U.S., England and India. "We depend on foreigners to have the best result of training process," said



Bahah to the media: "This project will provide a strong base of potential employees for oil companies in the future."

Bahah. The training courses will focus on technical and presenting skills. "Though we, the ministry staff, have

BA degrees we still lack fundamental skills especially presenting skills," said the minister.

## **Assad concludes** two-day visit to Yemen

#### By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

SANA'A, Dec. 17 - Syrian President Bashar Assad left Aden Sunday following a two-day visit to Yemen for talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh on various regional issues, namely the Lebanese crisis.

During their meetings, the two leaders exchanged viewpoints on both regional and international issues of joint interest, particularly situations in Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, Sudan and Somalia, as well as developments regarding Iran's nuclear aims.

The two sides held discussions Saturday at the presidential palace in Aden in the presence of Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi and his Syrian counterpart. U.S. Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs of State, David Welch, arrived in Yemen two days before Assad, meeting with President Saleh concerning the political situation in Lebanon.

According to German news agency Deutsche Presse-Agentur, Welch stated, "We are very, very concerned about interference by Syria in Lebanon. We don't believe Syria's role has been constructive or useful.

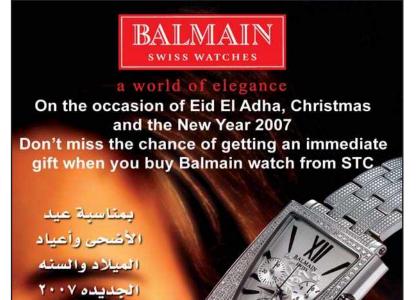
We expressed to [Saleh] our worries about the destabilization that's occurring in Lebanon and the hands of some parties from outside.

"The Yemeni side also has its points of view, but I think we would agree to support a strong, sovereign and free Lebanon. I'll leave it to President Saleh to convey their views to President Assad; they know the views of the United States," Welch noted.

Saleh and the U.S. official discussed the latest regional and international developments concerning both nations, particularly situations in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Somalia, as well as the Iranian nuclear program.

On Wednesday, U.S. President George W. Bush reportedly demanded that Syria stop undermining the Lebanese government and called on Damascus to release specific political prisoners

"The Syrian regime also should cease its efforts to undermine Lebanese sovereignty by denying the Lebanese people their right to participate in the democratic process free from foreign intimidation and interference," Bush said in a statement released by the White House.

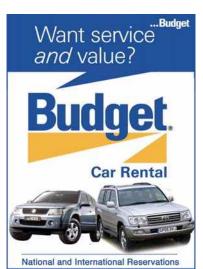


## Yemeni press: Shrinking margins or expanding horizons?

Press issues and their problems in Yemen have become an important topic occupying public interest. Despite risks and setbacks, the press has achieved a lot, playing an important role in creating more political action and deepening democracy in Yemen.

#### By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Dec. 14 - Press-related difficulties and how to expand the margins of press freedom in Yemen were the topics at last Thursday's symposium entitled,



"Press: a Margin Shrinks or a Horizon Widens.'

Women Journalists Without Chains organized the event, in collaboration with the German-based Friedrich Ebert Foundation, to discuss the press situation

in Yemen. Considered an important opportunity for discussing press freedom issues, numerous government officials, civil society organization representatives and political party leaders attended the event

Attendees had conflicting opinions about the future of the press in Yemen, with some viewing the future with more optimism, while others predicted a dark future and more difficulties.

According to Minister of Information

Al-Lawzi added that the new law will grant journalists full protection and pre-

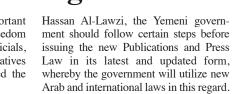
vent imprisonment for their opinions or while working in and facilitating the inflow of information.

Continued on page 2

## MPs accuse government of hiding returns of 25 million oil barrels

unemployment rates are more 45 per-

It continued, "What is distinct about cent and increasing daily to the point the 2007 budget is its great ambiguity SANA'A, Dec. 16 - Three parliamen- where we're on the verge of a catastro- regarding announced figures and policies. The government is attempting to



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محلات الحيقى التجارية

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Yemeni government of lacking transparency regarding estimated oil returns and further playing around with more than 25 millions barrels of exported oil.

**By: Mohammed Bin Sallam** 

Following passage of the budget project, the opposition blocs - the Yemeni Reform Party, the Yemeni Socialist Party and the Nasserite Unionist Party – released a mass media statement last Wednesday highlighting their views on the 2007 budget.

The release declared, "The 2007 budget project was approved while a majority of Yemenis live below the poverty line and are illiterate. They also lack basic services such as electricity, water and health care. Further,

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tary blocs last week accused the phe at social, economic and political levels.'

> The statement went on, "There's agreement about economic and social priorities inside and outside Yemen. The recent London donors conference revealed the government's failure to treat the deteriorating situation in Yemen.

> "The budget should address the economic situation, including poverty and combating unemployment, improving education services, supplying clean water and electricity to all citizens and carrying out infrastructure projects, as well as increasing investment expenditures in such a way that revitalizes the nation's economic situation and improves the investment environment.

mislead Parliament in the following ways:

1. The government's financial statement policy is contradicted by figures shown in the budget. Despite advocating clarity and transparency, the figures contradict the financial statement. The estimated oil exports were fixed at 41 million barrels at \$55 per barrel with total returns of YR 443 billion; however, actual figures for January-October 2006 reveal that the Yemeni government exported 55 million barrels. Thus, 2006 oil exports would be 66 million barrels, which means YR 270 billion wasn't included in the budget.

Continued on page 2



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#### 2 **18 December, 2006**

In brief

### Around the nation



## African immigrants facing death at sea

#### Aden

#### Symposium on Human **Rights Day**

Dec.17 Next Monday the Yemeni Women Union's office in Aden, will host a symposium on human rights. Fatima Muraisi, head of the office, stated that the symposium will include 30 participants from different civil society organizations, experts and human rights activists. Muraisi said the seminar will discuss two working papers on Yemen's accomplishments in the field of human rights and the role of civil society organizations in creating proper understanding of human rights issues and the democratic experience in Yemen along with women's roles in ensuring democracy.

#### **Reconstructing the old market**

Dec. 17 — The public works office has finished its study in re- establishing the old market in Al-Shaik Othman district in Aden. This project is one of the projects arranged to improve Aden. The project will take place on the beginning of next year. The old market was established in 1952 and it includes over 600 stores.

#### Disale

Medical tourism project in Damt Dec. 17 - Gov. AbduWahad Al-Bokhati, of Al- Thala'e, discussed with the local council staff the preparations for medical tourism projects in Damt and discussed in finishing the projects. The governor expressed that Damt Spring is known as one of the best tourism locations in Yemen and that people have to contribute to develop the tourism locations in the government in specific and Yemen in general.

#### Hajjah

Training school managers Dec. 17 — The office of education arranged the second step of the training program for basic education. The course aims to train 726 trainees who represent all the schools managers and deputies in all Hajjah's regions. The course provides training with new techniques in the teaching programs. The project is supported by different charitable foundations and organizations.

#### Mahwit

Fighting mosquitoes campaign Dec. 17 — The project of malaria fighting and the general health and population office distributed more than 40,000 protective covers that combat against mosquitoes during 2006. The covers are embedded with insecticide. About 56,000 citizens in the valleys areas have benefited from this campaign and many field researches and insect survey had carried out in many regions in Mahwit, according to the report

#### By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Dec, 16 - Five Somalis and Ethiopian were beaten to death by smugglers and two others were shot by Yemeni security forces in separated incidents, according to the UNHCR this week.

According to the UNHCR, the beating incidents took place on Tuesday and Wednesday during their crossing from the Somali port of Bosaso to Yemen when the five Somalis and Ethiopians were savagely beaten to death and thrown overboard by Somali smugglers.

"Those killed were traveling with a group of 205 others in two boats. The bodies were later found by Yemeni fishermen and buried," said UNHCR spokesperson William Spindler, in Geneva on Friday.

According to UNHCR the remaining passengers arrived in Yemen and were immediately picked up by the Yemeni authorities and detained. After interventions by UNHCR they were released 24 hours later.

"The authorities in Yemen appear to have become increasingly strict as they try to stop and control smuggling and illegal activities," Spindler noted.

The shooting incident happened on Monday when Yemeni securities opened fire on two boats carrying 120 refugees. They killed two refugees.

UN refugee's agency deputy director for the region, Radhouane Nouicer, said the agency has asked Yemeni authorities to instruct the Coastguard to refrain from shooting at arriving boats.

"We are extremely concerned about this incident, where innocent civilians got hurt," he said.

Other people on the boat told UNHCR staff that Yemeni armed forces starting shooting as passengers on the boat disembarked on a beach near the town of Belhaf in Shabwa. The fatalities are believed to be one Somali passenger and one smuggler. The remaining smugglers on the



After a traumatic journey a cross the Gulf of Aden, Somalis, Ethiopians, and Sudanese arrive on the beaches of Yemen. ©SHS

boat - who were in possession of a gun, according to the passengers then decided to head back to sea with about 60 people still on board, before later dropping the passengers further along the coast near Jila'a.

The two groups were taken to UNHCR's reception centre in Mayfa'a area, where they received food and medical assistance, and are recovering from their traumatic experiences.

A source at the Coastguard confessed that Yemeni securities mostly arrest the arrivals and send the Somalis to refugee camps in Mayfa'a in Shabwa or Khraz in Lahj governorate and hold the Ethiopians and contact their embassy in Yemen to deport them.

'We consider Somalis as refugees whereas Ethiopians are not," he said, adding that he did not have knowledge of the shooting.

UNHCR continues to appeal to the Yemeni authorities to keep its doors open for people fearing persecution in their own country. It has offered to help screen new arrivals to ensure that refugees among them will be detected and not deported. Yemen has not taken up this offer.

Earlier this month UNHCR urged Yemen to reconsider the imminent deportation of a group of 122 Ethiopians.

Close to 23,000 people have been recorded arriving in Yemen from Somalia during this year's sailing season, which began in September. But at least 360 people have died making the perilous journey and more than 150 are missing, according to UNHCR records.

Most of the recent arrivals are from southern and central Somalia and said they fled because of increased suppression by the Islamic Courts that control large swaths of Somalia, including the capital city Mogadishu. They reported that women are not allowed to work and some say militia forces, previously controlled by warlords, are the same people now operating under the Islamic Courts.

They also cited an increase in tribal and clan conflict and said they feared for their lives. The UNHCR point out the increase number of families, rather than single men, arriving from Somalia.

There are currently more than 88,000 registered refugees in Yemen, of which 84,000 are Somalis.

## Women prisoners feel oppressed, complain of injustice

#### By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

ADEN, Dec. 17 - The Women's Relief Center in Aden governorate plans to launch a campaign entitled, "Silence and Photo without Comment," this week to coincide with International Human Rights Day.

Lawyer Afra'a Al-Hariri, chairwoman of the center, said the campaign aims to enhance women's prison inmates and victims of

with non-Yemeni citizenship easily obtain these documents," she pointed out

Al-Hariri mentioned that the Silence and Photo without Comment" campaign will feature posters and images of women inmates and their children, as well as statements requesting relief to be distributed to societies and human rights organizations working in Aden rights, particularly the center's former and other governments, as well as media outlets.

simple crimes, they then become professional criminals. It noted that organized crime occurs in prisons because notorious big-time criminals are mixed with those who committed small crimes. The paper revealed that low levels

of legal awareness among Yemeni women in general - and women prisoners in particular - are responsible for their poor access to legal protection. It added that women prisoners often don't appoint lawyers to defend them due to being unable to afford the costs because the majority are from poor families and are disowned by their parents and relatives. According to the study, the majority of Yemeni prisons also lack and experienced sociologists psychologists to follow up the conditions of male and female prisoners. It mentioned that such prisons aren't well-ventilated and lack necessary equipment, disclosing that Yemeni prisons have very limited services, which contravenes the simplest human rights principles. "Concerned parties ignore women prisoners, prolong case-related procedures and deny women the legal rights accrued to them. Thus, such prisoners feel compelled to avenge themselves against the community due to mistreatment they received in jails," the study illustrated, adding, "Concerned laws aren't applied fairly to integrate female inmates into the community following their release." The paper revealed that many women prisoners live in Yemeni prisons with their children, who suffer difficult living conditions because they can't get milk or clothing and have no access to education or health care. "Yemeni prisons have no plans or programs aimed at providing care or training services to women prisoners and their children. This serves to widen the gap between female inmates and other social classes," the study concluded.

#### **Education syndicates threaten to strike**

SANA'A, Dec. 16 - Teachers and support staff are threatening to stage a nationwide strike unless the government meets their demands, according to the teachers, technical education and educational professions syndicates.

"The government never took any serious step to meet demands listed by education workers since this past August when the prime minister decided to form a committee from the government and the three syndicates to examine education workers' demands and tackle their issues according to the laws placed in effect," the three syndicates said in a statement.

The statement insisted on the committee to do its mandate immediately to meet education workers' demands including increasing the teacher's monthly salary to YR 100 thousand.

Education workers insisted that prior entitlements accrued to them must be maintained when the government

transfer them to the new wages and salaries strategy. They want the government to give them their monthly allowance for 2006, as well as the other allowances they receive under the Teacher Law.

The statement says that the nature of work allowances for teachers, education inspectors and school principals must include a 110 percent raise from the current salary and administration staff will receive a 60 percent raise, as of the beginning of 2007.

The teachers, technical education and educational professions syndicates condemned the acts and behaviours of local authorities in several governorates that deduct sums from education workers' salaries and deny them other entitlements accrued to them under the Teacher Law.

According to the three syndicates, the governorates behaviours are irresponsible and illegal.

official media situation, as well as the tasks

According to Qahtan, current media poli-

Yasser Al-Awadhi, head of the civil socie-

sector at the General People's Congress,

declared that he is all for abolishing the

Information Ministry and withdrawing sup-

port from official mass media outlets, a wide-

media won't become liberated unless both

the opposition and the authority support

press freedom. He also emphasized the

need for legal awareness and a legal envi-

According to Al-Awadhi, if such a draft law

Sa'eed Thabet, deputy head of the

Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, attacked both

the opposition and the authority, alleging that

they violate press freedoms and rob journal-

ists of their rights. "Some parties in authority

consider journalists as soldiers who should

obey when ordered, whereas the opposition

wants them to be buglers and write what

and national security apparatuses are

responsible for most violations against jour-

government to improve journalists' condi-

tions and enact laws that will help widen the

ists raised issues and points aimed at improving the press situation in Yemen and

margins of press freedom in Yemen.

lifting restrictions imposed upon it.

Thabet also noted that Yemen's political

Concluding his remarks, he asked the

Numerous other journalists and special-

they want them to write," he said.

is presented to Parliament, the GPC will

ronment to protect society and journalists.

He further declared that Yemeni mass

ly held opinion among his party affiliates.

cy neither respects citizens nor serves their

interests: instead, it supports the current

of the Information Ministry.

political regime and its followers

### Continued from page 1 Yemeni press

He further maintained that Yemen observes human rights and press freedoms while tolerating opposing opinions and protecting general freedoms.

"The new Yemen is that of political and economic freedom together with press freedom and freedom of opinion, as adopted in President [Ali Abdullah] Saleh's electoral platform," Al-Lawzi noted.

He defended press freedom in Yemen, declaring that a wide margin exists for professional and objective journalism that doesn't go beyond rights or societal norms, while any press violations are resolved by the judi-

Al-Lawzi called upon Yemeni journalist to hasten preparing a press honor code to regulate the profession, enhance its protection and prevent intrusion by others.

He indicated that the Ministry of Interior is exerting more effort – under direct instruction by political leadership - to reinforce press freedom in Yemen and protect its affiliates.

"Over the years, there have been no journalist arrests, confiscations or newspapers shut down except by judicial ruling," he pointed out.

Mohammed Qahtan, official spokesman for the Joint Meeting Parties, warned authorities about monopolizing official mass media and further exercising political publicity programs for the ruling regime and its government, while sidelining the opposition.

He continued, alleging that restricting the opposition from official media outlets will cause them to resort to other mass media to promote their own political programs against official publicity using public mass media.

He called all journalists previously subjected to violations and arrest to join hands to break the official monopoly on mass media and further requested correcting the

MPs accuse government

pass it.

nalists

2. The financial statement mentioned govgovernment to increase allocations for ernment's tendency to develop non-oil revthese two important sectors, but instead, enues; however, this wasn't reflected in the the opposite occurred. Further, the rights of figures, as 70 percent of revenues were from oil. Additionally, the predicted these sectors' employees weren't met according to Parliament's salary strategy. increase in returns was nothing other than

8. Opposition repeatedly warned about the risks of foreign and national loans upon Yemen's economy, particularly when there's no capable management to administer such loans. Thus, the negative effect of such a policy has surfaced, with huge amounts deducted from budget allocations to settle these loans, which are increasing annually. Further, approximately YR 22.5 billion is deducted annually to settle foreign loan installments. Servicing such debt amounts to YR 118.7 billion, representing approximately 7.3 percent of budget expenditures. 9. Despite the budget's immense shortcomings, another budget actually is implemented, according to Central Organization for Control and Auditing reports and final statements, because many projects were implemented outside the budget. Member of Parliament Ali Ashal, a member of Parliament's oil and development committee, accused the government of playing with 25 million barrels of oil exported (equaling \$1.5 billion) and not including them in the 2007 budget. He added, "The government's 2007 budget presented to Parliament wasn't transparent about estimated oil revenues. Setting oil prices between \$50 and \$55 is floating and is unworkable for deciding the oil portion of the budget, which is 75 percent.' Ashal told Al-Nida newspaper that the report of the committee responsible for discussing the 2007 budget was one of the worst ever submitted to Parliament. "Unlike past reports that attempted to provide an objective and scientific criticism for budget projects, the most recent report contains a lot of flattery for the government and the 2007 budget, although it's full of shortcomings," he noted. The opposition statement criticized increased 2006 expenditures on commodities, services and belongings, which reached YR 260.210.181. It also referred to hosting allocations amounting to YR 5,915,890, thus indicating that the Yemeni government wasn't committed to rationalizing expenditures. The statement also declared that the 2007 budget amount assigned for dams is YR 728,942 million, decreasing YR 210,618 million from last year's estimates. Such a small amount doesn't begin to cover the pressing needs for more dams and water barriers.

issued by the general health office.

#### Sana a

National Museum exhibition Dec. 17 — The Near East official from the Louvre Museum in France arrived in Sana'a to visit Sana'a National Museum's Manager, Abdul-Aziz Al-Jindari. He said that the visit came in the framework of bilateral relations between the National Museum and France's Louvre Museum. The two museums signed a mutual collaboration agreement to repair one of the most important antiques owned by the National Museum, which is a bronze statue dating back to the period of the 6th to 4th centuries BC and from the Qatabani civilization. The statue will be exhibited in the Louvre for a limited period after being repaired, Al-Jindari stated.

Violence against children study Dec.17 – The minister of social affairs and labor, Amat Arazq Hommud, met with Harneild Raid Saliva, a UNICEF supervisor on studies over violence against children. The studies aim at discovering reality of violence against children in the country in order to provide protect and safety for them. A team to create a presentation for the regional conference for children which will be held next year in Sana'a. Meanwhile, the minister also discussed with the representative of Emirates Red Crescent Ali Al- Nehiri the joint cooperation between Yemen and Emirates Red Crescent to increase grants to assist orphans in all governorates.

violence. In a statement to Al-Shoura Net, Al-Hariri explained, "Most of the women at the relief center who recently were released [from prison] or are victims of violence still have no birth certificates or ID cards. The Aden Security Department refuses to give women these documents, which is one of the simplest rights accrued to such women released from prison."

According to Al-Hariri, the "Silence and Photo without Comment" campaign is the first step after the center entered a hopeless phase in trying to persuade security authorities to issue birth certificates and identity cards for women released from prison.

She attributes security authorities' refusal to issue such documents to the fact that they are unsure whether the inmates are Yemenis, providing the pretext that under Yemeni legislation, such documents are granted only to those born and raised in Yemen.

Al-Hariri said most of the center's residents are from rural areas and came to Aden after their relatives disowned them or they were victims of violence whom the center cared for after they were released and their relatives refused to claim them.

The human rights activist indicated that no civil registry for documentation exists in Yemen's rural areas, a fact so far highlighted in several local and international reports.

"Concerned parties refuse to issue birth certificates and ID documents to [former] women inmates who are Yemenis in originality, while many

The campaign's statements are expected to be as follows: "The one who never committed a misstep should stone us," "We are Yemenis, but without IDs" and "It's our right to have birth certificates and ID cards." The National Women's Committee

conducted a study on women prisoners, concluding that women's issues in Yemen have increased both quantitatively and qualitatively. "Most women prisoners have become victims of violence and exploitation," the study revealed, "Some women are jailed on various charges while others suffer domestic and social oppression."

According to the study, women prisoners in Yemen are denied their legal rights, have no access to protection and aren't treated in conformity with laws placed into effect. Some women prisoners are jailed without trial while others remain incarcerated although they've finished serving their court-appointed terms.

The study disclosed that the majority of women prisoners are from poor families in remote rural areas where residents have no sources of income or lack the required experience and qualifications for a particular job. Such individuals are compelled to pursue low-income careers that don't secure the minimum living standards. Yemenis in remote areas also are engaged in cultural conflicts, thus leading them to deviate and commit violence against women.

The committee's study clarified that although many women are jailed for

3. Although the budget project was presented to Parliament after the London donors conference, wherein Yemen received \$4.7 billion in easy loans and grants, the 2007 budget doesn't reflect this number. Instead, loan returns decreased from YR 62 billion in 2006 to YR 58 billion in 2007.

fixing the 2007 oil price at \$55 per barrel

instead of \$40 in 2006 and exchanging the

U.S. dollar at YR 196 instead of YR 185 in

2006 so the increase wasn't due to actual

economic activity.

4. The immense vagueness of the budget figures reflect the Yemeni government's hidden intention to play around with the figures under names like "Unclassified Expenditures," etc., which contradicts transparency and basic accounting princioles. Figures under this classification were YR 269 billion, or approximately 16.5 percent of the total budget.

Further, bulk amounts were cut from centralized allocations, which were YR 736 billion or approximately 45.3 percent, cleary indicating that the government lacks vision. Further, there's no avail to having a budget with numerous shortcomings.

5. The budget deficit is increasing annually, thus opposing government allegations that it is attempting to reduce the deficit. which was 5.18 percent of Gross Domestic Product in 2006 and 4.29 percent in 2005.

The government budget tends toward current expenditures at the cost of investment expenses, which amount to YR 301 billion of total GDP or an 18.5 percentage. This means more poverty, unemployment and economic recession

7. Although they are sectors upon which development relies, there has been a noticeable setback in allocations for education and health. Education allocations decreased from 21.8 percent in 2005 to 15.6 percent in 2006 and 11.7 percent for 2007. The same is true for the health sector, whose allocations decreased from 5 percent in 2005 to 3.9 percent in 2006 and 3.3 percent for 2007.

Such decreases come at a time when the nation is witnessing increased illiteracy among citizens, deteriorating educational outputs and teachers not being paid enough. The health sector has deteriorated further regarding facilities and person nel, as well as medicine.

Such deterioration invites the Yemeni



### International

## **German President honors Amin Dirham**

The President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Horst Köhler, honored Mr. Amin Dirham, Manager of Tihama Tractors & Engineering Co. Ltd, in recognition of the services rendered to the Federal Republic of Germany. Yesterday evening, Mr. Dirham was granted the German "Medal of Honor" by the German Ambassador in Sanaa, H.E. Frank Marcus Mann, on behalf of the German President during a small ceremony at the residence of the German Ambassador. During the ceremony, the German Ambassador highlighted the great achievements of Mr. Dirham in favor of the German-Yemeni friendship. Mr. Dirham has been working hard at the professional and the personal level for Germany since decades.

Thanks to his efforts, Amin Dirham became an important supporter, for he has been giving big impetus for the Yemeni-German relations, particularly in the cultural field. After he became the first Yemeni member of the "German-Yemeni Friendship Society", he contributed in 1997 in establishing the "The Yemeni-German Friendship Society". Mr. Dirham has been active in both societies. He supported both of them by means of valuable advice and grateful support, including the financial aspect, which resulted in the founding of the "German House" in Sanaa in 2000, a house that became a well-known and popular meeting place for German language and culture.

His efforts also contributed in organizing an amazing German orchestra at the Old City of Sanaa in the frame of "Sanaa as Arab Cultural Capital" in 2004, whereas the Yemenis could witness a live classical concert for the first time

After the political relations were resumed between the former "Yemen Arab Republic" and the Federal Republic of Germany in 1969, Mr. Dirham made the first contacts in the business level with Germany. In 1971, he could gain the commercial exclusivity of two major German firms, i.e. Siemens and Deutz, and contributed in the main German investments in Yemen, for instance in erecting some power stations in Sanaa, Taiz and Hodeidah, installing telephone systems and equipping the Int. Airport of Sanaa. In 1974, Mr. Dirham became



German Ambassador with his wife having a good laugh with Dirham in the celebration ceremony wherein Dirham was given the German Medal of Honor.

the sole agent of the German firm "Hospitalia", and in 1985, he supervised the office of Lufthansa in Yemen.

Dirham has been working not only for the above-mentioned enterprises, but also for the German investors in

bombs and fired a rocket-propelled

grenade at an electrical transformer,

plunging the camp into darkness. Dozens

of members of Abbas's force soon rushed

inside the camp and the gunmen fled, he

Following months of factional vio-

lence that has raised fears of civil war

general, and became the contact person in this regard thanks to his experiences and trust he gained, which are very essential for Yemen.

Amin Dirham is always a "presence" at any economic relations between Germany and Yemen.

## **Officer loyal to Abbas killed after election call**

#### By: Nidal al-Mughrabi

GAZA (Reuters) - Masked gunmen killed an officer of an elite force loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday in a dawn raid on a Gaza training camp, a day after Abbas called for new elections amid growing tensions with Hamas.

Abu Ubaida, a spokesman for Hamas's armed wing, denied the group had been involved in the attack, the first of its kind against the U.S.-backed 3,500-strong force, telling Reuters: "This is a wrong and irresponsible accusation."

Hamas had accused Abbas of launching a coup after he announced a plan for early presidential and parliamentary elections in an attempt to break a political deadlock and have crippling international sanctions lifted

Dozens of masked gunmen in uniforms similar to those worn by Hamas militants shot and wounded a guard at the entrance to the camp in Gaza City and then fired and killed him at close range, a senior



Members of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's special forces stand guard around the Palestinian authority headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah Dec. 16. REUTERS

said.

officer from the presidential guard told Reuters.

The gunmen then stormed the camp and set fire to dozens of tents and traded gunfire with several presidential guards stationed inside, wounding at least five of them, the officer and a Palestinian security source said.

The infiltrators also threw mortar Abbas, of Fatah, said parliamentary and

presidential elections should be held as soon as possible but added efforts to form a unity government should continue. "I have decided to call for presidential

and parliamentary elections ... The crisis is getting worse," Abbas said in a speech, which was broadcast live.

On Thursday, unidentified gunmen attacked a convoy carrying Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, killing one of his bodyguards. Hamas called it an assassination attempt by the presidential guard. Fatah had said the accusation was unfounded.

#### West supports Abbas

Hamas, which is sworn to Israel's destruction, took office in March after beating the long-dominant Fatah in parliamentary elections, leading the United States and the European Union to cut financial aid to the Palestinian government.

Talks between Hamas and Fatah on forming a unity government have broken down repeatedly in recent months, main-



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ly due to Hamas's refusal to change its stance towards Israel.

Washington welcomed Saturday's speech by Abbas. Prime Minister Tony Blair, who is expected to meet Abbas in the coming days on his Middle East trip, said the international community should support the moderate president.

Hamas said the president had no authority to call early elections. The movement's leaders said they would never allow early elections to be held but did not say how.

"It was a speech of defeat and submission to the Zionist enemy," senior Hamas lawmaker Mushir al-Masri told a crowd of Hamas supporters at one Gaza rally.

Hamas has insisted it would never recognise the Jewish state, making it unclear how any unity government could get off the ground and also satisfy the West.

The West demands any Palestinian administration renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept past peace deals to restart financial aid, urgently needed to reverse worsening poverty and economic contraction in Gaza and the West Bank.

The Palestinian basic law, which acts as a constitution, has no provision for calling early elections. Fatah officials say Abbas can do so by issuing a presidential decree. Hamas says that would be illegal.

One senior Abbas aide said the polls might not be held until mid-2007 because of legal and technical factors. Abbas has previously said he would not stand for another term.

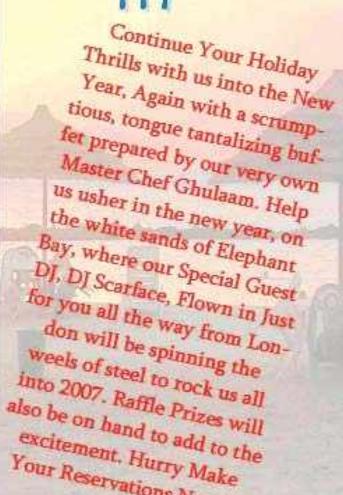


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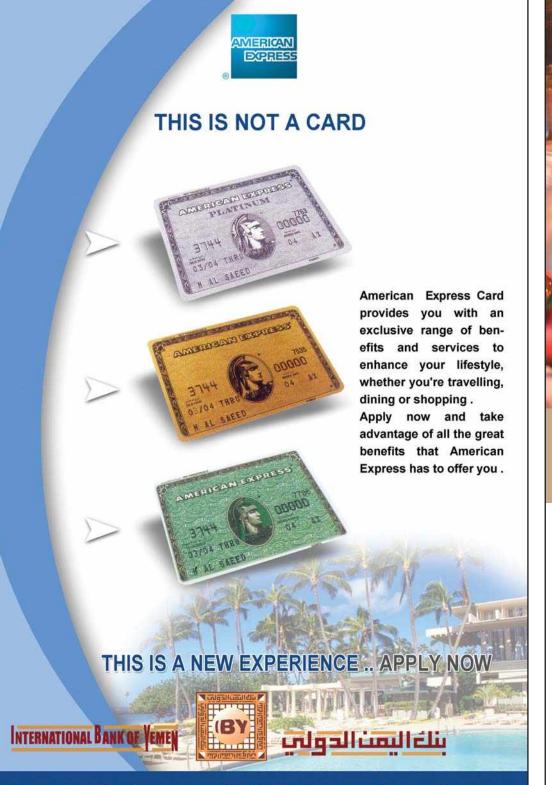


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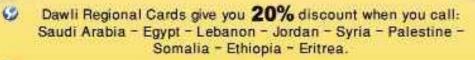
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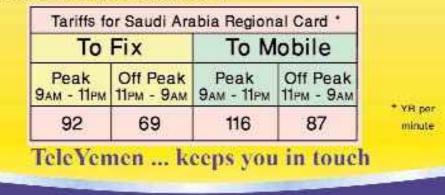


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### Report

## TEMEN

## Toward a sexual, social and Islamic culture without shyness

In a conservative society like Yemen, it's unusual to talk about sexuality, even when discussing societal problems. Family problems and couples' sufferings are increasing due to lack of sexual, social and Islamic principles in Yemeni culture. Before writing this article, many individuals considered it shameful to write or even talk about such topics, especially living in a conservative and tribal environment.

#### By: Fatima Al-Ajel fatimafnfr@yahoo.com

he seminar was led by Dr. Heba Kotb, a marriage counselor and sex therapy consultant and a member of the American Academy of Clinical Sexologists; Dr. Mustafa Al-Momari, a counselor at the Creative Celebration Center and the Happy Family Center in Dubai and Dr. Abdullah Al-Adimi, a member of the European Foundation for Urinary Tracts and Infertility. They presented three papers at the seminar, which was under the banner, "Healthy family relations."

They assured that most family problems result from misunderstanding the real meaning of social relations and the sex life between a husband and wife and the importance of opening conversations to discuss such topics, which will decrease divorce and family problems.

It was good to see many couples, doctors, specialists and others attend the discussion group for one purpose -

Arab men grow up with the idea that they must control and be heavy handed. They believe women are their possessions, so the wife must obey her husband without objection or expressing her opinion. Therefore, she feels must squeeze everything she can out of her husband. Some wives never show their husband that they are satisfied with anything he does or buys for them in order to trick him into doing and buying more. In some cases, it's a way to forget their failed sex life.

"Some husbands speak very harshly to their wives, humiliate them and even physically abuse them. Their wives have no voice or opinion in the family, so they feel they are unable to satisfy their husbands and themselves as well. Many husbands mostly are selfish; they always look for their own pleasure and neglect their wives' emotions," Kotb added.

Unfortunately and despite the difficulty of international communication, negative sexuality that traditionally and recently evolved in the West has penetrated Arab and Yemeni society's moral fabric too, despite the difficulty



to understand the real meaning of sex within Islamic concepts, as well as give themselves the opportunity to better understand their life.

#### Islam and sexuality

A sexual culture existed in Islam more than 14 centuries ago. The Qur'an emphasizes the spiritual objectives of marriage, making them the foundations of marital life. These objectives are realized in peace of mind, which comes through healthy sexual experience with the spouse, in the improvement of the circle of love and affection between the affection and tenderness among the children under the loving care of their

of international communication. Now with improved means of communication and regular international contacts, modern Western speculation is virtually flooding Arab and Yemeni society, which leads to more problems between parents and the new generation.

Many couples considering divorce due to sexual infidelity are coming to Kotb's sexology clinic from all Arab countries and Yemen as well. When figuring out the main reasons for this phenomenon, it was found that a spouse's carelessness and the large gap between husband and wife are enough reasons for unfaithfulness. What is surprising is that wives' infidelity now has

#### Advice for couple

The three specialists advised both husbands and wives that the physical relationship is important. "Be available to your mate sexually and don't let your sexual relationship be characterized by selfishness. Show affection for your mate. Be kind, gentle and loving. The Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) reportedly said: 'It's not appropriate that you fall upon your wives like a beast, but you must send a message of love beforehand," Al-Momari reminded.

Although many couples may be in failing marriages right now and on a fast track to divorce and its terrible consequences as a result of ignorance about marital life, there are many ways to put their marriage back on the right track if the husband and wife are sincere in their desire to resolve problems. Many Islamic principles can be used by Muslims whose marriages already are in trouble or by those who would like to avoid trouble in their marriage.

Too often, husbands and wives live in the same house but know nothing about each other's lives, so it would be great if husbands and wives could sit together. "Be your spouse's friend. Show interest in your mate's life," Kotb suggested, "Show appreciation for what your spouse does for you, make her or him satisfied with his work or his efforts.'

Al-Momari agreed with Kotb in their remarks to male attendees, "As a husband, you have to know that your wife needs to hear that you appreciate her. If she takes care of the house and the children, don't take it for granted. It's hard work and no one likes to feel unappreciated.'

Kotb pointed out, "I repeat this many times: 'Communication, Communication, Communication!' This is the big word in counseling and it's the main solution to many family problems, as it should be. Husbands and wives need to talk to each other and both need sweet words. Express your nice feeling to your spouse and don't keep it in your heart or let them guess that you love him or her. It's better to deal with problems early and honestly than to let them pile up until an explosion occurs."

Chewing qat also has negative affects upon the marital life of couples. 'Recent research considers qat a stimulant but its effects take a long time. It mostly increases sexual desire, but it also leads to sexual impotence," Al-Adimi commented.

#### Simple solutions in Islam

If one takes a significant and profound look at all of the abovementioned positive feelings, one can conclude that the simplest way to express affection is to talk gently with one's partner, taking special care to be a sweet talker. This usually means saying nice words, such as flattering the other person's good looks or elegance, expressing positive feelings like love, missing or appreciation, as well as being thankful whenever indicated.

in the global meaning of sincere affection

It's unacceptable for a Muslim man just to satisfy himself while ignoring his wife's needs. Experts agree that a man's basic psychological needs are respect and sexual satisfaction, while for women, it's love. Neither respect nor love can be forced; rather, they must be worked for and earned.

The Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) stated that in one's sexual intimacy with one's life partner, there is sadaqa (worship through giving): "In the sexual act of each of you, there is sadaqa, which means charity."

#### Attendees' viewpoints

Husbands attended the seminar with their wives to gain future benefits, in addition to specialists, interested individuals, businessmen, journalists and others. Their general viewpoints were positive, as well as those concerning the lectures. When asking some attendees about the seminar, they commented as follows:

Newlywed Abdulrab Al-Samawi came with his wife to learn more about the main concepts of marital life in Islam. "I do agree with Dr. Mustafa Al-Momari and Dr. Heba Kotb that they are right when saying Muslim women have rights and should be treated nicely. Islam gives women everything to make them happy in life. They have rights as mothers, wives and sisters and a man has rights as well."

His wife, Asma Al-Saba'i, a housewife, commented that she learned many new concepts about marriage issues, especially how a wife should deal with her husband in both normal and married life. She hoped to attend more lectures discussing such topics because, "As you know, we aren't educated enough in such topics," she commented.

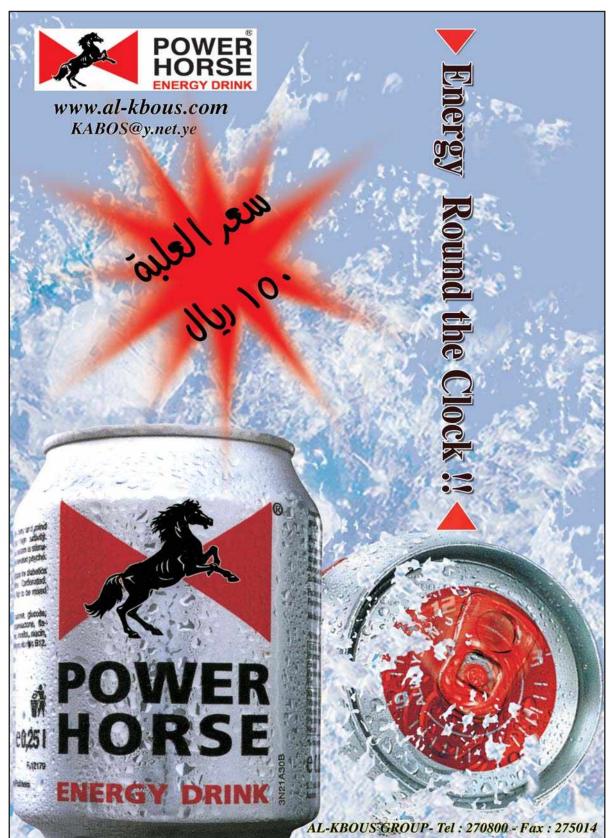
Pharmacist Dr. Jamal Awad pointed out that those presenting the seminar were successful. "They provided us with highly valued information and knowledge, especially regarding new, more productive medicines and explaining their benefits," he added.

Doctor Fardus Ahmad remarked, "I'm lucky to attend such a lecture. I just married six months ago and I don't know enough about married life. Really, it's the first time I've learned that the husband has such duties

because men play a great role in making married life happier.

toward his wife." Nadia Salah, a married teacher, mentioned that the symposium was great. "For me, I received a lot of information about marriage from my relatives and friends' experiences, but they were incomplete and some were wrong. In attending this seminar, I corrected my thoughts about marriage in general and couples' duties toward each other specifically. If my husband had attended with me, he really would have benefited too," she added.

However, some attendees disagreed with what was discussed at the seminar, saying there's no need to talk about such topics. One mother who attended commented, "If I had known they would discuss such topics, I never would have come. My husband asked me to attend it with him; otherwise, I wouldn't have come."





In her discussions, Dr. Heba Kotb focused on the importance of sweet words, which have wonderful effects in solving social relationship problems.



parents. Al-Momari agreed with Kotb that the Qur'an doesn't neglect sensual aspects or the physical relationship between husband and wife. Rather, it guides humans to the best path, fulfilling the demands of the sexual urge while avoiding harmful or deviant practices.

"Jews and Arabs in the jahiliyyah period used to have physical contact with their wives only in hard conditions Such things were among the ignorance of the Jews, which helped increased forbidden relations during that period; whereas in Islam, every sexual thing is permitted, except those that might hurt the wife. For example, a husband may fondle and please his menstruating wife, only avoiding intercourse with her," Al-Momari explained.

#### **Reasons for family problems**

Family problems begin from the initial step of engagement when an unsuitable spouse is chosen. Men and women mostly seek an opposite companion to complete his or her character, but this is wrong. "It's better to look for a character similar to you physically and spiritually because this will create better harmony between you and your spouse. People think this isn't enough reason for problems, but it's one of the major causes of problems," Kotb commented.

Ideas about manhood are another reason. Men from cultures teaching them to be tough and macho cause many husbands to treat their wives like adversaries rather than partners. The husband feels that he's the boss and whatever he says goes, which is a result of a macho society.

become more than husbands', which means there's a big problem men must search for and try to solve directly.

"After I opened my sexology clinic, I receive many divorce cases, especially involving infidelity among newlyweds. After two months, the new couple gets divorced," Kotb said.

Overall, it involves always being aware of the other person's feelings, whether positive or negative, such as happiness or sadness, and always being supportive and bonded with each other as one unit. Many other positive feelings can be concluded and are included



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### Interview

# Habib Ali Zain al-Abideen al-Jifri: "It is difficult for people who are angry to listen to a message. Our message is for people of understanding who live amongst the angry masses."

#### Interviewd by: Saeed Al-Batati tati88@vahoo.com

abib Ali Zain al-Abideen al-Jifri was born into a family of noble lineage extending in an unbroken to Imam Hussien, the Grandson of the Prophet (PBUH), Habib Ali is from the majestic city arim in Southern Yemen. Nestled in the ancient valley of Hadramout. Tarim has been a center of learning and pirituality for centuries.Habib Ali received a classical Islamic ucation from illustrious scholars of Hadramout, embodying a nethodology which crystallizes the middle way of Islam, Islamic irisprudence, a respect for the difference between jurists and spiritual education drawn from the Our'an and the

Habib Ali is the founder of the 'Tabah Foundation for slamic Studies and Research 'based in the United Arab of Emirates. He is also lecturer at Dar Al Mustafa. Tarim, an educational institute established for the study of traditional Islamic sciences.

He is continually invited to lecture in many countries across the globe and appears regularly on a variety of network television and radio

Saeed Al-Batati from the Yemen Times visited Habit Ali's house in Tarim and onducted the following interview.

#### interest in the Moderate Religious of the Powers which are now calling for a in the East, with what followed in **Discourse**?

At its origin our Religious Discourse is moderate but the Muslim Community has ing the Cold War. Were it not for this sup- the extremists gave those on the extreme experienced circumstances at different port the voice of extremism would not periods of its history, these circumstances have being prominent for all that time. opportunity to use these events against have caused the more extreme voices to But once the Powers that backed the the Muslims. rise to prominence over the voices calling extremists turned on them, the voices of for moderation. The inclination within moderation began to be heard, they were **YT: You said in a TV interview broad**certain individuals to take on extreme never absent it is just that now the loud- cast on Iqra' and on your weekly TV position is present in every nation, socie- speaker was brought closer to them. ty, and way of life because one of the peculiarities of human society is the exis- YT: Who is responsible for distorting tence of moderate and extreme individu- the luminous message of Islam? And als and this is dependent upon circum- what is the way to bring it back? stances and the psychological make up of Everyone holds some responsibility for a person be it a balanced or imbalanced this. The magnitude of the burden each Countries personality

Muslim Community individuals holding extreme views find no room to extend their opinions to those around them, they find themselves severely limited and unable to have an impact on the reality of Therefore the responsibility is shared, but the Muslim community, unless the the weight of the responsibility differs. Muslim community goes through a period of weakness.

During periods of weakness, and insta-Khawarii had no real impact except during periods of weakness.

do not continue for long, because extrem- ing extreme views. ism by its very nature does not contain the inuity.

void, but are then unable to continue. The where were you on that day? voices calling to moderation have a back- I was in the state of Virginia on my way countries. ground which is dual faceted: firstly that to New York, and we went past the which relates to what is called the war on Pentagon about 45 minutes before the YT: The centres of learning in ple with a healthy psychological make up, were staying and saw for ourselves the **response to this?** 

War on Terror were the very same Powers which once supported the extremists dur-

one carries depends on his position in It is the truth. Whoever wants to serve However in the presence stability in the society, so the ruler has a responsibility, government advisors have a responsibili-"You are all shepherds, and each shepherd is responsible for his flock."). The responsibility of the Scholar for example is to raise people's awareness, the responsibility of the ruler is to provide bility those holding extreme position take a platform for the moderates to educate

Afghanistan and Iraq.

There is no doubt that these actions by fringes of Western politics a golden

program (Al-Mizan) that you were better able to carry out the work of disseminating knowledge on Islam in non-Muslim then in some Arab Muslim countries. What are the pressures that you experience in some Muslim

Islam should expect to experience suffering wherever he is. But what I intended ty (as indicated in the Prophetic saying: by this statement is that in some Muslim countries extremely atheistic ideologies and narrow security concerns dictate the decision making process and dealings with Islam are still based on superficiality and an absence of understanding that Islam is a comprehensive way of life.

The upshot is that there is no way to insure national security except through advantage of the situation and use it as an the people, and it is also the rulers' the presence of a Moderate Religious opportunity to spread their opinions. If responsibility to take the extremist by the Discourse, but some of the regimes in the one was to take a look back through hand and admonish them so that they Muslims world are unaware of this fact. Muslim History one would find that leave their position. The responsibility of This absence has overshadowed the religroups such as the Qaramitah, and the the cultured elite is to insure that the mod- gious discourse, to the point that some erate position is prominent in the public scholars cannot even hold a lesson or domain, instead of just sufficing them- grammar with four or five students with-It is the Custom of Allah that extremes selves with polemics against those hold- out exposing themselves to being questioned and investigated. The woman who wears Hijab cannot walk in the street in qualities that insure permanence and con- YT: What is the impact of the events of some Muslims countries without compro-September 11th upon your work in dis- mising her security or being harmed, These opinions spread when there is a seminating knowledge on Islam? And whereas a Muslim woman would not have any such problem in many Western

#### terror and what it entails. But there is a building was hit, at the time I was on my Hadramout had a huge role in spreadsecond reason one which is deeper and way to deliver a lecture at one of the ing Islam to the four corners of the has a more profound relation to the Islamic Centres in New York. We then earth. But in the last few years some human soul and it is the fact that extrem- received a call telling us what had hap- **people have been demeaning the huge** ism by its very nature is repugnant to peo- pened so we turned back to the place we role Hadramout played. What is your

and because moderation is the Foundation negative impact of this event upon the As I am a product of this centre of learnof the Islamic Discourse. The voices of lives of Muslims living in America. We ing I do not want to praise it too much, but as they say the facts and the numbers speak for themselves. A third of all Muslims on the face of the earth are so as a result of the missionary activities of this school and as a direct result of the way Islam was taught in this centre of learning. It was taught in a way that was and still is peaceful, morally rectifying, sublime and moderate. You begin to realise the greatness of this school when you realise that many areas of the world map were changed from non-Muslim into Muslim lands at the hands of men who were the product of this school.

and suchlike.

These are the means used to facilitate

existence in the Muslims states.

You also realise the greatness of this school when you come to realise that this thousand years - something truly rare in crimes committed during the last political era (by the Communists of Yemen) against the men who belonged to this school and see that this school still has in matters of faith. What we reject is The truth is that the government and school of Hadramout is well known... plenty to give, you will realise the great-someone taking advantage of the weak-people of Yemen will not accept Yemen, a and the people who paid for Yemen's ness of it.

the success of this school are sincerity, the thing quite disgusting in taking advantage balanced callers to Islam who were able unbroken chain of transmission, modera- of the dire straits of another human being to convince others to embrace Islam, be tion & balance, in addition to benevo- to bring him round to your way of life or turned into a country which produces lence in dealing with people coupled with thought addressing them with clear proofs. Those who repeat these demeaning remarks YT: What is your evaluation of the students extremist views. This reflected about the school of Hadramout are not the freedom to call to Allah in the Western badly on Yemen and its moderate schools first people to stand against it and if they understood anything they would look There is no doubt that there is a freedom home countries carrying those views, and back at those who preceded them in doing to call to Allah in the West, despite the this of course is unacceptable. this historically, and how they only had a existence of a minority belonging to the superficial success in their endeavour political extremes in the West who stand YT: What enabled you to make Dar albefore they disappeared while the school against anything Islamic and look for Mustafa the destination of so many remained. Those who had good dealings faults in every caller to Islam in an with this school, whether as individuals or attempt to place him on the Terror List. It world? groups, disappeared yet their good mem- would also be a mistake to say that there The first reason is that the school of orv remained

callers to Islam is that they permit themselves to call to Islam in the West the Muslims to make their faith better yet they would not permit a Christian Missionary to call people to his faith in the Muslim lands, and the fact that Mosques are built in the West yet the building of churches is not allowed in some Muslim countries, is this not a image of Islam; this is what must be dealt were converts to Islam. This led to the form of hypocrisy? The answer to this question is multi-

faceted: Firstly: the West cannot really be considered Christian so the comparison does

not really exist... you build a Mosque we It is true that I was asked to leave certain around them long to go to Hadramout. build a church. Western governments are Arab countries. They are countries which Thirdly, the spiritual environment that is largely secular in outlook, and secularism I love and hold in high regard. accepts the mutual coexistence of differ ent faith communities, Jewish, Muslim, YT: Could you tell us a little about Dar Buddhist, so the comparison is flawed al-Mustafa? from the outset. I do not think there is a Dar al-Mustafa is an institution set up on ty, and this alone had a great impact on need to bring up the historical facts sur- three main objectives. First, the dissemirounding how the Church dealt with Islam and other faiths in Europe.

Secondly: The building of Churches in terms of understanding and transmission. Muslim lands which have an indigenous Christian population is permitted, and if you were to visit Egypt or Syria you would find Churches which are attended by worshippers and which are very appar- ogy of calling to Allah and the work it turn in times of instability and discord. ent. All this talk of how the Christians or entails, and tempering these three objec-

The elements that have contributed to ness we are going through. There is some-

## World?

is absolute freedom of opinion anywhere; be it America. Europe or any other place. YT: Among the things held against the But there is a greater proportion of freedom in those countries, and this allows understood by the people they live with. The problem is whether or not the Muslims know how to deal with this. The their hands coming to Hadramout. misuse of these liberties by certain Muslims has given rise to a negative

> YT: Is it true that you were barred dents returning to their countries carrying from entering into or were asked to leave certain Arab countries?

nation of knowledge, which will revive the unbroken chains of learning both in **YT: What is your evaluation of the** Second, wayfaring on the spiritual path; disciplining the lower self, taking on good world is undergoing a pre-birth crisis character and travelling to Allah. Third, to revive the understanding of the methodol-

in Muslim Lands is not without exagger- study at the institution.

#### the process of conversion to Christianity. YT: Do the foreign students in Dar al-This is something totally rejected by us as Mustafa face any pressure from the YT: The School of Hadramout is it is based on taking advantage of some- government?

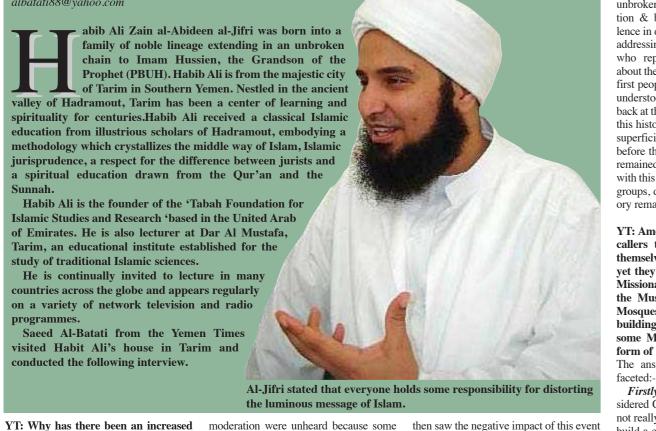
one's misfortune as a pose to convincing On the contrary we found a great deal of a person. Whoever has a convincing argu- co-operation from those in positions of with the ruler. What is your reply? ment is welcome to come and try to per- responsibility in the government. The talk Ten years ago we had the exact opposite. suade people. The history of Islam is full of some about the Government putting The ruler was on the side of those who of examples of open dialogue between the pressure on foreign students of the sacred make these statements, they were even school has been around for more then a Muslims & Christians, Muslims & Jews Sciences is contrary to the truth. The only part of the government. We do not want to and even Muslims & Atheists. The demand of the security services is that live though a period where each party is this time. When one looks back at the Christians and Jews lived an honourable they do a check on the students to ensure blaming the other. We can answer by saythey do not belong to any groups or ide- ing the ruler allied himself with you one There is no problem in this regard ologies that could be detrimental to day in order to strike at his opponent, then between us and those who differ with us Yemen.

Habib Ali Zain al-Abideen al-Jifri with Yemen Times' repoter other faith communities were persecuted tives in the being of the students who needs be reorganised Dar al-Mustafa is a fruit of the school very great and can be seen in the dedica-*Thirdly:* the problem with the work of of Hadramout, as the founder of Dar al- tion of today's youth and the receptivity the Christian Missionaries is that it is not Mustafa, Habib Umar Bin Hafiz, is one of of so many people to understand it, based on proofs and convincing argu- the men produced by this school. despite globalization. Maybe this is one ments. If that were the case we would not Students come to Dar al-Mustafa from of its good points in that it has made the have stopped them but rather have every part of the world. There are lodg- world into one huge crucible in which allowed them to come, and had open dia- ings for students who want to board, and everyone brings forth what they have. logue based on factual proofs and persua-it has branches in Yemen and internation-The information explosion and the comsion so that it would become manifest ally which were established by graduates munication revolution are an opportunity which side holds the truth. Missionary of the school. The international branches to take the message of Islam to the world. work is usually based on taking advan- include Indonesia, and parts of East The weariness of the northern hemisphere tage of a situation such as poverty, the Africa . There also exists Dar al-Zahra, from materialism and the southern from need for medical help, educational needs which is similar to Dar al-Mustafa and oppression have made people receptive specifically for women. ever could present his case well.

## accused by some quarters of being progovernment; meaning it always sides moved you to one side. The history of the

Habib Ali's house in Hadramout.





### Interview

extremism and radicalism. There are some places in Yemen that taught Western when those students returned to their

## seekers of knowledge from all over the

Hadramout had a hand in the spread of Islam in South East Asia, East Africa and India, and some of those living there moved to the West. They carried with them the methodology which they took from their families and forefathers and this led to those who accepted Islam at Secondly, the strong link that Habib Umar has with the Sheikhs who themselves them sending their students to Dar al-Mustafa, the fruit of which was the stuthemselves in a praiseworthy manner and embodying good character, moving those present in Tarim. Tarim is a city of knowl edge, light, uprightness and spirituality Anyone who enters it is pervaded by a feeling of deep inner peace and tranquilli those who came seeking inner peace.

### worldwide call to Islam today?

The call to Allah in the contemporar which manifests itself in the absence of mature authorities to whom people can The institution of calling to the faith



The opportunity for calling to Islam is and willing to listen objectively to who-

period under Communism by being murdered and assaulted were scholars from this school and not from the people who talk this rhetoric... but we do not want to go into this narrowness.

TIMES

Praise be to Allah that there is understanding with the groups from whom such statements are made. Amongst these groups are men of discernment and we have open channels of communication with them, love & respect, and they have made clear their displeasure at some of the statements that came from within their ranks.

Regarding the ruler the statements of the people of knowledge (the scholars of the community) are clear. One cannot revolt against a Muslim ruler except if he does something which is open disbelief. He cannot be obeyed in disobeying the commands of Allah, and he has the right of being given counsel. The ruler does not have absolute lovalty or absolute enmity. Now is a time we need to heal wounds as rulers & ruled, caller & called, politically and socially. This a difficult phase and we cannot overcome it except with our hearts united. I say: "My brothers, leave this rhetoric; more important things face us."

YT: The number of schools of thought in the Muslim world differ as a result of different understandings. You can hardly find a Muslim country which does not have a number of schools of thought. Do you find the existence of these schools agreeable?

Differences and plurality of thought is not a fault, but could be indicative of something positive. The problem arises when these differences are used as a means to achieve the personal goals of those who to bring each leader the biggest following them into no more than a means to an end.

its organization.

languages, is a must.

Arabic & English

for an interiew

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This is a mistake we must overcome.

YT: Jihad has become an area hard inderstood, giving rise to many debates and much controversy. What is the sound Islamic position on Jihad? Linguistically the word Jihad is derived from the words (Translators addition: tri-used to take advantage of the emotions of what is happening to the Muslims? lateral root words made up of 3 conso- an exasperated people, and lead them to a It is difficult for people who are angry to were made. The dialogue achieved more sible resources, and Jahd defined as: tak- parameters of the sacred law - by leaving people of understanding who live the minds of people and the fact that ing oneself to the limit. This essentially means expending every possible resource armed conflict. This is by leaving the uniple about the root of the problem ... and

make the word of truth reign supreme. to creation. As for the Jihad of fighting in based on narrow minded interests. and the best winnings, thereby reducing the way of Allah, it is either to fend off an aggressor who has come to take another's YT: The global Muslim community is

JOB VACANCY

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land or honour, and it is honourable to ing ones' society - educationally, economically, socially and other areas where occurs a shortfall. Jihad is the pinnacle of YT: What's your message to all the Islam. The problems lies where Jihad is people out there who are angered by it's universal principle and reducing it to amongst the angry masses. Remind peo- many of them were able to understand the

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out must come through a comprehensive strategy which necessitates the involve- by which he can draw near to Allah. ment of scholars, leaders, intellectuals and politicians who congregate the global heal its wounds. As for asking for a quick fix solution during a newspaper interview has compounded the wounds of the global Muslim community. Part of the probwe're experiencing today is an accumula- have put us in this position. tion of complex issues. Due to negligence in trying to understand the faith and acting upon it, mistakes arose from many problems is the disunity seen within our Muslim Speakers. What was the goal of sacrifice your life for your faith, land, or societies and the lack of trust between the visit? honour. There is also the Jihad of better- Muslims. These events can only be The visit to Denmark was in obedience to resolved with patience and diligence.

need to shed even more tears for the attended our yearly summer program in Muslims and non-Muslims

going through a difficult period in its Muslims who go to bed drunk and those Dar al-Mustafa. The problem is that some history – its enemies are pursuing it who fill the dance floors. As long as our people do not know how to distinguish like a pack on a hunt and in every place community feels more pained by these between dialogue and negotiation, and one finds a part of it injured. In your fatalities than it does by these sins, it will ask us "What did you achieve, did they opinion what is the way out of this cri-lag behind and not progress. In our golden era the community feared falling into The answer and way out will not come sin more than it did being killed in a con- Organization of the Islamic Conference through a newspaper interview. The way flict, for a Muslim to die when he stands as it has been granted the right to do so. for the truth is martyrdom and an honour and it is not the responsibility of an indi-

What is more painful to my heart Seeing a Muslim killed inside a mosque fuslim community upon a united front to hit by a missile causing him to fall as a and other callers to Islam? martyr or seeing a Muslim male or female Our relationship, praise be to Allah, is betray one another or their community, - this is another one of the problems that people who bear false witness or take or many instances to the level of co-operaaccept bribes, or cheat, or spend the night tion. Our outlook is that this is a weight dancing in a night club and consuming lem is that people think we can answer it alcohol. I am not trying to belittle the involved in carrying the burden of through a newspaper interview, when in magnitude of the disasters we are facing responsibility, the lighter the burden reality it is much bigger than that. What but we need to look at the reasons that becomes for each person.

YT: After the events that unfolded because of the Danish Cartoon, you vis- I've had a number of opportunities where quarters. The result of these cumulative ited Denmark along with a number of I advised and saw a great deal of

Allah's command that a Muslim should seize any opportunity to call to Islam wherever the opportunity is given. We went following an invitation to dialogue. Praise be to Allah, great achievements nants) Juhd defined as: expending all pos- course of action that falls outside the listen to a message. Our message is for then we had expected in terms of opening reason behind the contention. It became armed conflict. The second problem The enemies of truth have been allowed problem in order to place obstacles before it for its most exalted purpose which is with these differences, which are a mercy, ing the truth in the presence of a despotic ing a barrier for people coming to Allah breasts because of the suffering of our fel-delegation came to Abu Dhabi from into a means by which we pull people into ruler." Another is the Jihad of exerting and a justification for the enemies of low Muslims, we should feel an even Denmark and we organised a conference an ugly spectacle of confrontation, used one's best effort to convey Allah's Word humanity to execute their plans which are greater pain for those who are being sac- for dialogue. After this a group of stu- live a life based on looking at creation rificed on the knife edge of sins and dis- dents from Denmark (including those through the eye of mercy, which was how

escaping the pitfall of showing off and doing things to please the ruler only to end up doing the same with the people YT: Do you have any final remarks? and working to the limit of ones ability to versal spirit of Jihad, and reducing it to the root is our turning away from Allah. apparent that certain groups created the Whoever has a position in life should use Jihad is of many kinds. One is as the occurs when Jihad is misemployed in a to overpower us because of our sins and the growing Muslim presence in the West service in Allah's way. A Muslim should lead the different groups' and schools of Prophet, peace and blessings be upon conflict in a way that contradicts the vices. We have to remind ourselves that and the growing acceptance of Islam look at himself and ask "... What have I thought. Thus we turn our interaction him, said: "The best Jihad is that of say- teaching of Islamic Sacred Law, becom- with the deep pain which tightens our among people in the West. After our trip a given the Muslim community? What have I given my society? What have I given my family?" And finally, we should obedience of the Allah's commands. We who were born Muslims and converts) the Beloved Mustafa looked upon both





apologise??" Negotiation is the responsi bility of other quarters such as the vidual or a group.

### YT: Is their a relationship between you

based on love and respect and evolves in burden and the more shoulders are

#### YT: Have you had the opportunity to visit and advise any leaders?

receptivity to it, as well as seeing its

results affecting things on the ground. Advising the rulers should not be a way to glory or gaining popularity. There is a vast difference between the one who gives advice and the one who attacks the rulers openly on the pulpit or through the media just to show his courage, thereby

#### Words of Wisdom Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more



money! It needs a system. Yemen need accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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



and informal gatherings to discuss the problems facing journalists and to find solutions, especially for press freedom and professional training. But it is sad to know this is, yet again, just another passing phase of alert and vigor. Perhaps the most crucial problem we face, and which is hardly discussed, is the lack of consistency whether among journalists themselves or that of concerned authorities. The recent judiciary sentences against the three Yemeni newspapers involved in the Danish cartoons fiasco prove the later point clearly. One sentence forbade the editor from writing for one month, with a suspended fourmonth jail sentences. A second editor was given one year in jail and the paper was closed for six months. And the third newspaper was fined YR 500,000.

The point here is not whether or not there should be such cases, it is about the way the legal system operates in Yemen. The judiciary system is incoherent and without standards. It worries me that we are not sure how the system will react towards media acts they consider a breach of the norm, which is again another question. What is considered professional reporting and what is considered abuse of media freedom?

The other side of the inconsistency is of the people working in Yemeni media. Many journalists and media establishments do not have a clear mission or strategic vision. For example, many political party newspapers prioritise the party's attitudes and perceptions towards professional journalism. The heads of the political parties think their priorities are above fundamental human rights. This point was brought to discussion when the political parties did not live up to their bragged enthusiasm about supporting female candidate in the elections. The argument then was that it was more beneficial for certain political parties to nominate a male candidate than to adhere to political minority rights or adequate representation.

Many newspapers lack vision and they do not learn from previous experiences - even their own. Every time the local media aggressively highlights an issue it becomes the momentary hot topic and then quickly fades away as though it never happened. The problem with Yemeni media is we don't know how to network and lobby for our causes. We don't know how to stick to our demands until they are met. The hype created about the media law, for instant, has quickly faded away. Then the abuse against journalists and violations of their rights has become less of a priority with the passage of time and only when someone is attacked or unjustly imprisoned do we remember to write and condemn the violations.

Yemeni media has so much potential and there is so much to achieve. But unfortunately we are not doing our country and our issues justice. When I was talking to a Lebanese taxi driver about Yemen's donation to two Lebanese villages in the south he said, "We hardly hear about your country, we don't know what you are doing and most of the time you are invisible in the Arab world. Your media is not doing a good job in publicising your country or promoting your deeds." That is true, we should start

nicking the pieces of our frag- Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## Opinion

## Yemen and the Gulf

#### By: Dr. Ahmed Ali Abdulillah

t is very well-known that the Gulf Arab states are presently living through the second price leap of oil products and it may take on a larger significance than the first one that happened as a result of ramifications of the October 1973 war and led to the big rise in oil revenues of the Arab oil exporting countries. That price change also resulted re-structuring the oil industry so that the full control of oil production returned to its legitimate owners.

Presently we are facing a new scene of a Gulf entity truly considered as a dividing line between two periods of time. Looking at the region as an integrated regional system, Yemen, which occupies a strategic position in the Arabian Peninsula and overlooks the major sea outlets as well as its possession of a land entertaining geological, geographic and environmental diversity, is qualified to be a strong country in the future with the various resources.

Unlike the neighboring countries Yemen is still new in its development of a petroleum industry and with limited production because the industry started five years later than neighboring countries because of political circumstances. The establishment of the united Yemen was the real beginning of the exploration of petroleum. Although oil production remained dependent on two main areas because of scarcity of digging operations and competition of companies on the areas neighboring the producing areas, but the coming years we will witness unprecedented intensity in digging operations covering vast geographical areas as well as places far and from the areas of the present production. We are standing before an operation of discovery of new oil and gas reserves and by continuing these works Yemen will witness new oil and gas discoveries successive throughout the coming decades.

There are spacious horizons for oil and gas investment in the Yemeni petroleum sector. In addition, the mountains, plateaus and valleys possess big stocks of industrial materials, construction materials and mineral wealth. All these resources give Yemen an advanced position as a country with abundant resources and the basic conditions to establish large economic activities for continuous local growth that can spread into international markets.

If other sectors are considered it can be said that Yemen is a country of tourism possessing the flavor of history and social originality and its diversified geography provides a large-scale space for tourist industry with all of its

forms. Yemen is also an agricul- called the higher interest of Yemen, considering that politics is tural country possessing diversified crops and fish wealth. the management of interests and

protection of sovereignty. We need

the institutional economic thought

to draw up the breadlines for the

comprehensive planning for

development based on assessment

of needs and the human, natural

and economic resources. We have

to set up the scientific and realistic

frame a multilateral development

process on the backdrop of geo-

graphical and historical unity of

the peoples of the Arabian

Peninsula and unity of interests

and destinies Yemen has to draw

up its economic policies to deal

with neighboring countries. It has

to attract investment and capital in

development projects out of recip-

rocal benefits and interests and

with the aim of achieving econom-

ic integration as the actual and

more concrete bond that comes

After Yemen overcomes all its

internal political files and bolder

questions and begins practicing

the democratic approach with

more openness and transparency

and proves its ability in dealing

with regional and international

variables Yemen has reached the

line of pushing forward towards

the real development. It has to

count its various resources partic-

ularly the human resources and

has to build a structure for its eco-

nomic basis capable of dealing

with requirements of the future.

above any political differences.

Regarding the strategic aspect, Yemen with its history, location, people, culture and political weight is qualified to continuously remain a fundamental and important player in the balance of growth. Yemen's growth and stability is an essential and vital condition for the growth and stability of the region's countries and with all its characteristics represents an economic and strategic depth, "the political and security aspect" and an important exporter of various human and natural resources.

Yemen, as a large country in the region and as a developing country, possesses an ability to attract investment in infrastructure, petroleum, agriculture, tourism, free zones, fish and services. It entertains absolute preference in attracting Gulf capital to achieve common benefits and ensuring movement of the monetary liquidity of the states and private companies in large projects in a close geographical area considered a vital part of the Arabian Peninsula.

The Gulf realizes these facts and also that the future will not be complete unless Yemen is part of the movement and growth. And far from politics and brokerage in economic analyses and whatever subjective and objective circumstances Yemen has to deal seriously and consciously with all details of growth.

We have with all our political Source: Al-Thawra daily newspaspectra to stand on one ground per

### Announcement The 2006 Lorenzo Natali Prize

The European Commission has committed itself to support and congratulate the written press journalists who will have shown remarkable judgement in their articles on Human Rights and Democracy issues in the developing world. A donation of 50.000 EUROS are envisaged for this year in order to reward the 15 selected journalists coming from the 5 continents invited to the ceremony of Handing-over of the Prizes which will proceed in Brussels in May 2007.

The 2006 Lorenzo Natali Prize applies to written and online press journalists who work for the local media in the following 5 world regions: Europe (Member States and Central, Eastern and Mediterranean Europe) - Africa - Arab World, Iran and Israel - Asia and the Pacific - Latin America and the Caribbean. Each candidate should submit an article on Human Rights and Democracy issues in the developing countries, which was published between the 1st September 2005 and 31st December 2006. The application deadline is 31st January 2007.

To participate to the Lorenzo Natali Prize 2006, visit www.nataliprize.eu.

'Gender Gap' survey"

ity. As the author rightly noted, even

their efforts to close the gender gap.

## SILVER LINING

### **The Post-Donors Conference challenges**

t is really good that the donors promised to channel some funds for development projects in the coming five years. But this money from the donors will not solve all our headaches. It is us who should do that.

Good infrastructure, law and order enforcement and security are necessary elements that will provide a good environment for investment and consequently help revive the already fragile economy of the country. Working towards this end is the responsibility of everybody in Yemen; both the government and the opposition should realize this



Al-Qadhi

goal when they play the game of politics and tricks and when they get serious about the future of the country.

The ruling GPC should seize this chance to make something concrete so the country can get more support in the coming years to enable us to build a good capacity that could bring more foreign investment.

The minister of planning and international cooperation, Abdulkareem Al-Arhabi, was right when he said that the challenge that faces Yemen is making a clear mechanism in which these projects will be implemented and ensuring funds are spent differently from the previous times. This goal is good and heralds a good omen that things will start moving on the right track.

Yemen needs serious reforms and serious steps in this direction otherwise the money given by donors will not do anything even if it amounts to \$100 billion unless we have good and competent administration that makes the best of the resources available and the funds of the donors. In this way we will be able to overcome our ordeals.

Yemen of course has a lot of challenges ahead to fulfill its commitments towards the donors, including administrative, crack down on corruption. However, such steps need a lot of courage and who will fight who is the main question; it is a big challenge. It is really challenging for a political regime to fight against long standing corruption.

Will President Saleh actually confront his cronies who are now rooted in his system? Real reform should start with the influential peeople who abuse their power for their own personal interests.

Yemen also needs to have a strong security system that reflects the power and modernity of the state; this cannot be in the form of deploying soldiers into the streets to also blackmail the people with security check points. We need to feel secure with the people in charge of our security. Sometimes when I drive and see a police car behind I feel insecure as it comes to my mind that it might create a problem by blackmailing me. We need to feel safe leaving our cars outside our homes without any worry. We need to feel that if we go to court that our case is dealt with quickly and without curses of nepotism, favoritism or bribes.

We need to feel secure that no influential figures will loot your land by force. We need to see that human rights and press freedoms are respected and the government will not resort to gang behavior to settle its accounts with critical journalists or human rights activists or freedom fighters. There needs to be an end to the bureaucracy in government offices where we see deals that give you headaches and we need to see transparency, accountability and equal citizenship.

These are the most important elements on the basis the donors will assess the type of governance our government is undertaking.

Certainly, enforcing reforms in all these fronts is the great challenge Yemen has to face to avoid an entire system collapse and aspire for a better tomorrow.

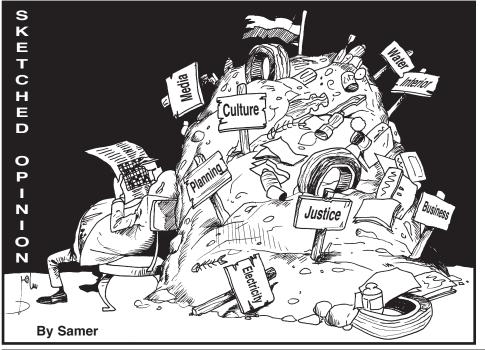
#### Good job for Journalism

I would like to congratulate my colleague Nadia al-Saqqaf, editor in chief of the Yemen Times for wining the 2006 Gebran Tuenii Award.

Such an award like that which was awarded to Jamal Amer from the Committee to Protect Journalist is really a concrete appreciation for the good work Yemeni journalism is doing, despite the hassles and intimidation some journalists face.

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

mented structure and prove our-Editor-in-Chief selves worthy of the profession.



Response to: "Yemeni women tically in different countries. As reject the indings of the latest her quote, low literacy rates in s a co-author on the Global Yemen may be due to early marriage trends; the same explanation may not Gender Gap Index 2006, I can assure you that our hold for low literacy rates in Benin, intention with the index is certainly however. It is our very hope that country experts, such as Sumayya not to signal approval or disapproval Ali Rajja and Al-Kadri, will use the of countries' efforts to empower women, much less create compla-Gender Gap Index as a benchmark cency within any country regarding upon which to improve using politheir progress in closing the gender cies and interventions that are approgap. Rather our goal is to motivate priate for the specific cultural and social environment in Yemen. all countries to strive towards equal-

As for Yemen's specific chalthe top performing country Sweden lenges there are many. But the main reason for its poor performance in is only 81 percent of the way the Gulf Region is its gender gap in towards equality. We are hopeful to see improvement in Sweden's and education outcomes: in Yemen the Yemen's performance in the years to female to male enrolment ratios are 0.73 in primary school, 0.46 in seccome and commend all countries on ondary school, and 0.38 in tertiary education. Almost all of the other Indeed it was precisely our inten-Gulf countries have reached parity tion to leave policies up to the countries themselves. This is because the (or better) in school enrollment rates. causes of, and thus policies to Perhaps as a result, Yemen also does address, gender gaps may vary dras- poorly relative to its neighbors in the

gender gap in economic participa-Husnia Ahmad Al-Kadri suggests in tion and opportunity, although it does score marginally higher than Saudi Arabia in this dimension. Ali Rajja's attempt at the presidency is a testimony to the strength of the women's movement and potential for positive change in Yemen. I hope she will run again and win

#### Fiona Greig. Harvard University Co-author of The Global Gender Gap Index 2006

#### **Curse to Democracy**

f Democracy means killing, rape and abduction so curse to democracy what is happening now in Iraq as something dreadful. Iraq has been completely destroyed by sectarian violence caused by U.S. and other territorial parts. This news is known to everyone, but all of us needs to find out the solution for this crisis.

In my opinion and through my

review to history, Iraqis are well known for their harshness and love for rebellion and the history narrates that whoever rules Iraq must be hard and cruel or he will not be able to rule Iraq.

As Abdul Malek bin Marwan said in 13th century, his famous statement, "No one for Kuffa but Al-Hajjaj." So I confidently say no one for Iraq but Saddam. Saddam is the only solution for Iragis.

I know Americans want Saddam to take rule of Iraq, but they are afraid of the international opinion because the only reason for their invasion for Iraq was to liberate Iraqis from dictatorship of Saddam what later discovered to be merely false and they only came to Iraq searching for their interests in the region.

I advice americans to handover power to Saddam and every thing will be solved.

> Mohamed Saeed Al-Dub'e alsaif\_444@yahoo.com

Www.yementtimes.comFirst Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-SaqqafTel: +967 (1) 268-661 Fax: +967 (1) 268-276 P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, YemenNadia Abdu Head of New Mohamed bHead of Des	bin Sallam Copy Editor	Al-Mayasi, Yasser Al-Omari, Moneer Al-Saqqaf, Raidan Khidhr, Mohammed Shadad, Nisreen Goffin, Glyn	Offices           Aden Bureau:           Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed           Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596           Fax: +967 (2) 347056           Email: ytaden@y.net.ye           Taiz Bureau:           Imad Ahmed Abdullah           Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,           Telefax: +967 (4) 217157           P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz           Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye	Hadramout Correspondent: Saeed Al-Batati Mobile (+967) 77383733 Email: <i>albatati88@yahoo.com</i> Fax: +967 (05) 360303	<ul> <li>Policies:</li> <li>All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.</li> <li>Letters to the Editor must include your name, mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length.</li> <li>Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.</li> <li>For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices</li> </ul>
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## Press / Op-Ed

By: Mohammed Khidhr

18 December, 2006

1 Jack



Al-Wahdawi weekly organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 12 Dec. 2006.

#### Main headline

- For the achievement of political reforms, enhancement of democracy and participation of the woman, The political parties sign democracy agreement under European sponsor
- Arrest of one of the wanted and injury of two soldiers, Armed confrontations between security forces and elements from al-Qaeda Libyan mediation releases 571 of Al-Houthi followers
- The Syrian president to visit Yemen - Six killed and tens of wounded in a
- tribal fighting in Amran National and regional activities on the world day on fighting corruption, al-Wajieh: distance of fighting corruption is still long
- Islah Shoura holds the government responsible for tampering with public property
- Acceptance in principle of the Sudanese initiative among Lebanese factions

Writer Ahmed Saeed says in his article the attack by the authority against individuals in the political patties and organizations and in the society in the hands of its oppressive tools are signs heralding real ignorance and tampering with running the country.

Some of those in power may think that by violating the law and using the position of service or security in committing acts against the citizens can strengthen the power and damnation of the ruling party. These are matters that have gone too far and their subject is pursuing the political activist in the opposition, to hide criminals of repelling and marginalizing others, scandals of violating human rights and carrying out large-scale campaign against the freedom of expression designed by men in the ruling party by violation of the law and constitution.

It seems that in the horizon of the ruling party there is nor space for the political and democratic changes that took place in the country since the establishment of the unity until the latest presidential and local elections because the totalitarian thinking is still dominating the ruling political mentality.

It cannot be tolerable that the government is incapable of arresting the murderer of democracy martyr Khalid Shamsan and it is unbearable situation of pursuing and kidnapping activists from the Joint Meeting Parities from inside Sana'a University campus.

It is also very difficult for any citizen not see members of the criminal investigation who have taken forced confessions from Basma Mohammed Salem al-Saghir under torture and coercion of killing her parents on 16 December 2004, not to be sent to an investigation committee and their standing trial especially after the Judge Abdullah Fazza'a al-Hassani issued a verdict of her Acquittal last week from the charges of killing her parents and using drugs and the annulment of her previous confessions as they were taken by force.

There are many aspects of failure in performance of the General People's Congress government and the situation is in need of strong criticism if the practices violating the law and there is

necessity for the expanding of investigative and judicial sides for disclosing those who perpetrate human rights violations.

قارير دولية: إنتخابات



and the seal

Al-Wasat weekly, 13 Dec. 2006.

#### Main headlines

- Al-Yadoumin election report returns the political bickering between the GPC and the Islah
- Yemeni detainee in Guantanamo offers his services to America
- GCC summit disappoints the regime
- in Yemen The European Observation Team

gathers the JMP and the GPC Large-scale condemnations for preventing al-Khaiwanin from

- traveling Al-Jamhuriya newspaper escalates its harassment against its employees After three months of expensiveness
- condition, the parliament fails in tackling issues of the citizens Official report warns against
- disorders of the national economy

The political editor writes in his article saying a conference on press is held in Beirut at a time its squares changed into huge human masses. A spectator would think that all were ready for confrontation and nothing remains but the sounding of alarm, which is a matter that did not happen throughout the period of more than ten days of demonstration, although the political factions and their supporters each occupy part of its squares.

While we were watching the crowds one Arab journalist asked me if the opposition in Yemen has taken to the streets. I remembered then when the official spokesman of the JMP had hinted after announcement of the results of the elections of instructing its masses to go to the streets to protect those results and how was the response of the ruling party threatening calling its masses to the streets.

Though matter of the two sides was not to go beyond fuss I was actually afraid while imagining the volume of the disaster that would result of such confrontation

The political crisis that involved all the government establishments in a country governed by sectarian sharing there are still conferences to be held init and life goes on normally except at the squares of sit-in where their streets suffer from traffic jam only.

In this regard I am not trying to compare with our regime because there are light years separating us from what is happening in Lebanon whether in the democratic practice or its implementation

With us there will be a threatening with the army and security merely for an unaccepted article or an angry statement of opposition member he expressed with it at a moment of a closed horizon. Many times I have written that there are some inside the authority who want to steal any gain Yemen or the president achieved or working for achieving.

Among them is the question of democracy that has been crowned with the recent presidential elections which have been considered a democratic conquering. All, inside and outside considered it an indicator to a coming stage that would witness a qualitative transfer in the area of freedoms and respect for human rights. but as usual our hope is disappointed.

There is no person respecting himself and values and likes to offend

his country or regime accusing it with false accusations. Also, there is no one who does not want to be proud of his homeland.

لحوش ينفى علاقته بال

The journalists are among those who wish to feel proud of their political regime based on freedom and respect of its citizens rights.



جوم كاست والحوثيون يوسعون نطاق المواجهة

26 September, organ of the Yemen Armed forces 14 Dec.2006.

#### Main headlines

- In his meeting with chairman of Islamic Courts of Somalia, President Saleh: We are keen on achieving peace in Somalia
- The president discusses the situations in the region with US Assistant Secretary of State
- Sana'a Grouping summit in Addis Ababa after Adha Eid Yemen-Saudi Coordination Council
- preparation committee meets in January US Assistant Secretary of State
- appreciated the president's steps for reforms
- 3452 houses compensation for citizens affected by nationalization in Aden
- Parliament Speaker sponsors ending disputes between 26 September editor in chief and MP Hamid al-Ahmar

The newspaper editorial mentions about Yemen's keenness and interest on the security and stability of Somalia is a matter does not need confirmation especially that it has become one of the Yemeni foreign policy towards the Horn of Africa in general and the

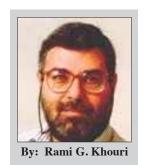
Somalia in particular. This country which is torn by wars and conflicts for more than one decade and a half, its lean years did not bring for its people but disasters of wars and, destruction and division. Throughout all this time Yemen used to exert all its efforts for the restoration of peace and building the Somali destroyed establishments of the state on the basis of the unity of Somalia as land and people and offering all forms of support to Arab, African and international efforts for the achievement of that end.

Yemen has hosted many reconciliatory meetings and dialogues among all factions without discrimination or bias to this party or that. all those efforts were under the direct auspices of president Ali Abdullah Saleh and they have been efforts appreciated by the people of Somalia and their leaderships. Yemen's ability to contribute to efforts of reconciliation in Somalia is attributed to its possession of good relations with all and it has never been a party in any conflicts and disputes or internal wars happening in Somalia out of its vision that the security and stability in the Horn of Africa and the south of the Red Sea area is an integrated system and any internal wars and conflicts would affect the entire region and consequently affect the international security and stability especially if we consider the vital and strategic significance the south of the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa represent geopolitically for the world economy..

Yemen will be always the party more understanding of the importance of and necessity of security and stability of, peace and unity of Somalia which represents the right direction for to come out of the situation that has continued for long and began to take a course threatening all.

## Thoughts after ending a seven-week American affair

ve just spent seven weeks in the United States and encountered hundreds of students, professors and other ordinary citizens all around the country who share a set of powerful ideas--personal liberty, pluralism, and equal rights and opportunities guaranteed by the rule of law. Yet America also runs into great difficulties when it takes its ideals around the world on the back of its army trucks and air force planes. Consequently, American society is tempered today by some humility, anchored in genuine perplexity. The militant arrogance and aggressive self-assuredness that often defined American public and foreign policy in recent years have given way in places to a more humble spirit of inquiry. Everywhere I went, Americans asked the same questions: Why does the world resist American attempts to promote democracy? Why do so many people all over the world criticize the US? Why is the American "noble" mission in Iraq going so badly? Based at Stanford University in northern California, then at Northeastern University in Boston, I traveled throughout the land and heard citizens everywhere ask honest questions about how the US should best behave in the world. I encountered only the rare wild accusations about Arabs and Muslims or equally jingoistic assertion that "America knows best." If the world changed for Americans after 9/11, it seems to be changing again these days, and for the better. Typical were the questions I had from a class of over 300 students at Northeastern University on globalization and international affairs — itself a sign of the growing interest here in learning about the world, rather than sending the troops abroad to rearrange it. A few energized students slammed me as a "raving



fanatic" and asked how I dared to

order to implement a truce and move both societies towards coexistence in this generation, and full peace in the next.)

Two brief encounters with elderly and young Americans during my trip clarified my appreciation for America's basic strengths. One was a conversation on an airplane trip with a semi-retired, elderly judge on the circuit court of appeals in North Dakota, who has been on the bench

evolved in his lifetime, and what he most admired about his work. He replied that judicial appointments had become more politicized, and that the legal system worked best when judges of all political persuasions worked together to interpret the law honestly and fairly.

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Politics often tips the system one way or the other, he said, but it always rights itself through the selfcorrecting democratic engagement of citizens. He added that ordinary

#### sure this happened.

The second encounter was with a student-soldier at a university in Boston, an earnest young man who was on leave from the armed forces to pursue his degree. He was clearly grappling with many political and ideological issues related to the use of the US military abroad.

He cut through the haze, though, with his assertion that he and his fellow soldiers focused always on the basic mission that defined their work

defend the Constitution of the United States, he said, not the particular ideology of any political leaders who come and go in Washington.

The judge, I thought, would have been pleased to know that his Constitution was in good hands, transmitted to a new generation of young and spirited Americans.

Rami G. Khouri: is an internationally syndicated political columnist and

deliver my "ideologically skewed views in a society with freedom of thought," and I thanked them for their candor and for keeping me on my toes.

Most students, however, actually engaged on the issues of the US in the world, asking thoughtful questions: Did I think the Arabs were guilty of the same sort of hypocrisy of which I accused the US? (Yes, in most cases). How can Arabs and Americans better understand each other if their mass media do a poor job of accurately portraying the other side? (Demand better media as consumers, and seek out people from the other side to meet and talk to.) If Israel acceded to Arab demands on a peaceful settlement, would this be taken as a sign of weakness, and thus exploited? (Not if a peace agreement were anchored in the rule of law, applied to both sides equally, and cemented with strong security guarantees for all.) Is the US using terror-like tactics in the Middle East by violently coercing the Iraqis to form a democracy? (Probably more intellectual than physical terror, in most cases.) What is the best course of action for the US to bring order to Iraq now? (Start withdrawing slowly, and let the Iraqis define their governance system and powersharing consensus, so that their own legitimate government can stop the violence that plagues them.) How can Israel talk to "terrorists" like Hamas? (Calmly, over a cup of coffee at the Notre Dame center in Jerusalem, in

ince the 1960s.

author. I asked him how the rule of law had impartial judges were there to make and life. As he put it: We serve to Source: www.dailystaregypt.com



Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law LL.M. in Democratic Governance and Rule of Law

### **Application Materials Now Being Accepted**

The Ohio Northern University LL.M. program in Democratic Governance and Rule of Law is now accepting applications for the class of 2007. This program is open to lawyers from countries with transitional democracies who are working in the public sector. The program is fully funded, including a monthly living stipend for the students.

Additional information about the program and all application materials can be found at the program website (llm.edu.onu). Please note that all application materials are due by March 31st, 2007.

To help facilitate the application process and pre-screen candidate's credentials, the program encourages all interested applicants to send their CV to the Assistant Director of the program at s-larrabee@onu.edu. He will immediately review your submission and get back to you with more information.



### **Vacancy Advertisement**

An immediate vacancy exists at the World Bank Office in Sana'a for a Program Assistant.

#### The applicant is expected to meet the following requirements:

- Have three-five years of office work experience including administrative and logistical support.
- Have excellent command of verbal and written Arabic and English.
- Have computer aptitude and proficiency with internet including ability to retrieve information from various sources.
- Have excellent interpersonal, communication and organizational skills.
- Be a committed team player able to work in a multi-cultural environment. Have flexibility to absorb ad hoc tasks and work under pressure.

#### The incumbent will perform the following duties:

- Provide assistance to the implementation of the unit's work program including some specialized support, like filing both electronically and hard copies, editorial assistance, basic interpretation/translation etc.
- Independently prepare correspondence and working documents and proofread materials using proper grammar, punctuation and style in Arabic and English.
- Use computer applications for processing and formatting variety of texts including charts, graphs and spreadsheets.
- Coordinate schedules and assist in preparation of events and activities.
- Participate in developing project/product timelines and participate in mission work as required including field activities
- Interact with different clients including government officials, external organizations and internal institutional units.

For full consideration, please send by e-mail your letter of application accompanied by the CV before December 31, 2006 to WBYemen@worldbank.org

#### 10 18 December, 2006

## Culture

sounds.

writing.

Which type of handwriting do you use? I don't know the various handwriting methods, so I use my normal handwriting.

More importantly, I make neither dots nor

tashkeela, the marks clarifying the letters'

It's a surprise, but I promise the Yemen

Times will be the first to know when I

complete it! My second project is to teach

What's the relationship between your

There's an immense relationship between

my art and all of my projects in general.

Since the first command sent to the

Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) was "Read,"

I believe the key that can open all

boundaries before us is reading. Besides,

Yemeni students have weak education in

Arabic language; therefore, I hope to

enhance students' abilities in reading and

How do you design your pictures?

First, I make a simple design of the whole

picture - once writing in the shape of the

crescent and another time in the shape of

the Kaaba – and then I draw. Sometimes

while I'm writing, several designs and

shapes appear, so I change it, but other

times I keep the design I made.

What are your future plans?

children reading and writing.

second project and your art?

## A single moment of understanding can flood a whole life with meaning

By: Nisreen Shadad

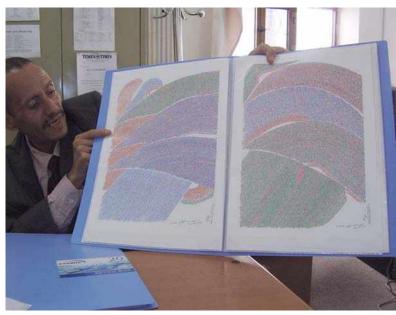
hmed Al-Robahi studied the Qur'an in order to enlighten his mind and purify his soul. "We need only concentration and meditation to feel that the one speaking to us is the Creator of the whole universe. We need to ponder more about the meaning of the verses in order to cultivate ourselves," Al-Robahi states.

He has illustrated whole passages of the Qur'an in picture form in an effort to melt the barriers between people and make it easier for them to attach their feelings to Islam. "I hope such new art of illustrating the Qur'an in pictures will cause all people – no matter who are they or in which religion they believe - to delve deeper into its meaning," he adds. Although Al-Robahi has no background in art or its various movements, he has created something innovative in the art world, particularly in Qur'anic art. With many types of Arabic handwriting, since the beginning of Islamic history, people have used their knowledge, art and elegance to write the Qur'an and create numerous valuable artistic and scientific masterpieces, many of which were kept to display in the world's creditable museums while others are on public display in different exhibitions around the world.

Al-Robahi's pictures are written in tiny handwriting that combines in unique harmony with winding lines blending together to form a particular shape. Not using any particular handwriting, he depended on his normal, simple handwriting, even omitting the dots of the letters to make his handwriting smaller. The smaller his handwriting, the fewer pictures required to write all of the suras of the Qur'an. He wrote Qur'an in its heavenly descending order fifteen times so far with very unique quality in 119 artistic plates in the measurements A3,A4 and A5.

Most of Al-Robahi's works illustrate the pureness of heaven, as well as the luster of the stars and the radiance of the planets. While he wrote with normal colored pens to depict his understanding of the Qur'an and its beauty, he states that his aim in doing such pictures was to





Proudly he went through his work. With experience Al-Rabahi's handwriting became smaller and more artistic

#### memorize the Qur'an.

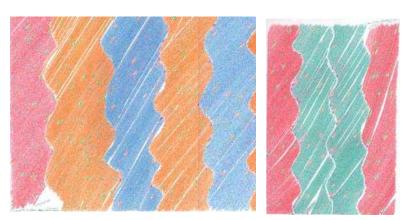
He recalls, "When people saw my pictures, they encouraged me because I had done something unique. I then presented them to the Ministry of Endowment and Guidance to document as a copy of the Qur'an. They first reviewed it and since there was no difference between the Qur'an written in my pictures and the original one, they admitted and appreciated it.

"They then nominated me to contribute to the 14th Qur'an exhibition in Tehran. Those attending the fair were amazed at such new works. [Iranian] President [Mahmoud] Ahmedinejad also attended and appreciated my contribution," Al-Robahi added.

At the Qur'an exhibition that took place during the month of Ramadan, 20 Qur'anic researchers and artists from 17 Islamic countries were invited to enrich the exhibition with their presence, as well as prove the cultural variety of the developed Islamic world extending from Southeast Asia to northwest Africa and the heart of Europe. Such variety is bringing Muslims delicate art and rich culture, as well as seeking thought and transforming them into active and effective partners in civilization.

Why did you write the Qur'an in such an unreadable manner when you aimed to memorize it?

I saw the letters clearly while writing; however, when I finished the entire picture, I couldn't read them. The reason for writing first in order to memorize was due to my understanding of the first sura sent to the prophet, which is named Al-Alaq. It begins, "Read! In the name of



Al-Rabahi wrote the entire Qur'an on a page and a third of artist paper with a unique design.

your Lord, Who created - created man out of a clot of congealed blood. Read! And your Lord is Most Generous, He who taught (the use of) the pen, taught man that which he knew not." Therefore, I used the pen to learn the Qur'an.

#### Your pictures are full of stars and usually contain the colors of heaven. What's the reason for that?

When I look at heaven, especially at 2 a.m., I'm inspired by the amazing multicolored heaven. The stars burning like a fire fill me with comfort and satisfaction. It empowers me and gives me a step forward. Even when I worked as a tour guide, I usually took tourists to Old Sana'a to see the unforgettable nighttime view of heaven

What message do you intend your pictures to convey?

People began to ignore the Qur'an; they recited it, but they didn't understand it. I hope I can represent such a great book in a picture that's available to all people - no matter who they are or which religion they believe in – so they can feel it. I want it to reside in every home, as well as in every soul. If one ponders the Qur'anic verses I present in pictures, he or she can be cultivated and purified from within.

#### What's your educational and working background?

# Culture News

### Socotran tenacity is amazing, reporter says

By: Mose'd Sowaileh For the Yemen Times

n Italian delegation recently completed a photographic report on Socotra, spending a week preparing it. Sandra Maglani of Italy's Mediaset TV Channel 4 and photographer Andria Bonina prepared a photographic report about Socotra, focusing on Italian and Yemeni cooperation and government. Financed by both the Italian engines.

government, and Yemen's Red Crescent Association, the Save and Develop Socotra project aimed to support the island's fishermen with boat engines. Maglani was impressed with the progress of the project as they observed it.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, she said their report also involved two French-financed projects, including training more than 100 beekeepers in modern methods of handling bees and supporting beekeepers with all necessary means. The second project concerns planting vegetables for individual use.

They further interviewed a mosque imam, who spoke about the Islamic religion in which the island inhabitants believe and explained its

projects Italy as well as the Yemeni Red Crescent

financed by the Italian Association financed a project to support Socotran fisherman with boat

magnanimity.

Though Socotrans live in dire circumstances, they aren't ready to depart their island at any cost, which was the most attractive element to Maglani and Bonina.

Maglani described her surprise as follows, "I'm attracted not only by the natural scenery, but also by the citizens' tenacity toward their island." She also marveled at the harmony and balance in which islanders live with their environment, never burning green plants or cutting them to kindle fires.

However, Maglani stated that their visit's timing was somewhat unsuitable due to the seasonal monsoon rains that limited their movements on the island.

### First exhibit of charitable and handcraft association products in Taiz

#### For Yemen Times

he first exhibit of charitable and handcraft association products launched Dec. 10 in Taiz and continued until Dec. 20 under the auspices of the Hayel Sa'eed Anam group of companies, the Yemeni-German Cooperation program and the German Organization for Development.

Following opening the celebration, a lecture focused on the history of handcrafts and their links with folklore heritage, as well as the role charitable and handcraft associations should take in society. Afterward, there was a discussion about the obstacles and difficulties such associations face, as well as their future expectations they

intend to achieve.

The Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture exhibit aimed to highlight the training and handcraft associations' various activities, as well as market all of their products at once instead of each association holding separate exhibits in order to encourage more citizens to take training courses and become qualified in such associations, in addition to creating a spirit of competition among the associations so they'll compete toward excelling and making a difference in society.

Moreover, such associations can be a source for particular products if they work on what society really needs. The exhibit also presented traditional works that help preserve folklore heritage.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad talking to Al-Rabahi during the 14th Qur'an exhibition in Tehran.

#### How much time do you spend on each picture?

Between three to seven months, depending on the size of the line. The smaller the line, the more time it takes.

I studied pharmacology in Germany, but I didn't complete it, so I then returned to Yemen to study political science. For many years, I worked as a tour guide and established a company for that purpose; however, after Sept. 11, 2001, tourism in Yemen began to disappear, so I stopped working in that field. I'm now studying the Qur'an, which gives me a feeling of comfort and stability.

Now In ICTECH

Body LANGUAGE

## **Bus route gestures: Al-Hasabah Street**

#### **By: Yemen Times Staff**

riving a Yemeni bus and calling riders to get on is slightly problematic because buses have numerous



This hand gesture means Al-Hasabah Street.

routes, but often use the same departure point.

In order for riders to communicate with bus drivers, Yemenis created gestures and signs that easily refer to where buses are going. In the past, illiterate men dominated as bus

drivers, so both drivers and riders needed a way to communicate with each other. Once citizens became more educated, the bus's direction was written on its front, as well as coloring certain routes red, yellow or green.

This week's issue will discuss the two types of hand gestures for Al-Hasabah Street, whose bus route is yellow. The first is used when going from Al-Hasabah Street to the new university and then to Hayel Street.

passenger move their forefinger forward (as if pointing to something ahead of them while wagging the finger downward). Bus driver Hussein Ahmed explains that this hand gesture means they're going immediately to Hayel Street, which other bus drivers also confirmed.

Both the bus driver and the

When traveling from the final point - Hadda (Al-Sakaniyya), Baghdad Street or Hayel Street - to Al-Hasabah, passengers use another gesture, which is making a fist while sticking out the thumb and pointing to one side (a sideways thumbs-up sign). "We move the thumb sideways to indicate that we're taking the opposite

Bus drivers and passengers use this hand gesture to indicate Hayel Street.

> way now and then returning to the departure point," says Hameed Al-Barari.

Many bus drivers and passengers used to use such hand motions, but they have no idea about their meaning.

"Though such gestures have begun to disappear, they're very important for us, especially at night because we can't see the bus sign so I try to make the hand motion to get the bus driver's attention," says Fatima Mohammed.





## **Advertisement**

## JOB VACANCIES

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquid natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden in the Republic of Yemen. The project headquarters are based in Sana'a, the capital city of Yemen. The project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years and will produce and export 6.7 million tons of LNG per annum. The multinational project partnership is led by Total SA of France. (Please visit the Yemen LNG website to learn more about the project) It is the strong preference of Yemen LNG Company to engage Yemeni Nationals on the project. However, if Yemeni nationals with the required skills cannot be located for all posts, other nationalities will be engaged on contracts of up to three years. All expatriate applicants must be aware that one of their major responsibilities is the training and development of Yemeni nationals. The Company is now recruiting a wide variety of technical staff for the positions listed below. At least two candidates are required for each position based in Balhaf, and one candidate for posts based in Sana'a.

WORK LOCATION	WORK SYSTEM		
<ol> <li>Balhaf, on the Gulf of Aden in the Republic of Yemen, for field positions.</li> <li>Sana'a, capital city of Republic of Yemen, for Technical Support positions.</li> <li>Block 18, governorate of Mareb for Field Production Engineer posts.</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Balhaf/Mareb: 12 hours per day on shift (including meal breaks) on a rotation of 4 weeks on site followed by 4 weeks of rest period in the candidate's home location.</li> <li>Sana'a: 8 hours per day, 5 days per week. In all posts, additional hours of work may be required on occasion. These are unpaid. Additional days worked are paid at the agreed day-rate.</li> </ol>		
APPLI Email your CV to HR@YEMENLNG.COM Applicants should clearly mention the position applied for and the position reference no Do not apply for more than 2 jobs. Do not make duplicate applications by post, fax etc. Mention the publication/website where you saw Yemen LNG advert. Applicants should not call Yemen LNG to check the progress of their applications: can Additional Recruitment Campaigns will be launched during 2007. Detailed job specification can be found on our website: www.yemenIng.com			
MANAGEMENT POSITIONS	QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING POSITIONS		
<ol> <li>PRODUCTION MANAGER - Rof. No. 078</li> <li>SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGER - Ref. No. 079</li> <li>HSE MANAGER - Ref. No. 080</li> <li>QUALIFICATIONS FOR MANAGER POSITIONS</li> <li>Bachelor degree in Mechanical/Electrical/Electronics &amp; Instrument or Chemical E discipline or higher</li> <li>18-20 years in plant operations or maintenance experience in the oil refining and years</li> </ol>	very good knowledge of Oil and Gas industry equipment, maintenance     successes and methods		
<ul> <li>petrochemical industry, including a minimum of 6 years in a management position years in an LNG Plant</li> <li>Excellent knowledge of plant operations or maintenance practices</li> <li>Excellent organisational and leadership skills with ability to direct a multi-discipline</li> <li>Sound experience in contractual and commercial negotiation</li> </ul>	with 3 - 6 SUPERVISOR & INSPECTOR POSITIONS		
<ul> <li>HEAD OF DEPARTMENT POSITIONS</li> <li>1. HEAD OF INSPECTION &amp; QA/QC - Ref. No. 081</li> <li>2. HEAD OF MAINTENANCE - Ref. No. 082</li> <li>3. HEAD OF PRODUCTION - Ref. No. 083</li> <li>4. HEAD OF PRODUCTION (OPERATIONS) - Ref. No. 084</li> <li>5. HEAD OF SITE MAINTENANCE - Ref. No. 085</li> <li>6. HEAD OF LOGISTICS - Ref. No. 086</li> </ul>	(SANA'A)       5. PLC SUPERVISOR- Ref. No. 109       (BALHA         (SANA'A)       6. ELECTRICAL SUPERVISOR- Ref. No. 110       (BALHA         7. INSTRUMENT SUPERVISOR- Ref. No. 111       (BALHA         8. PIPELINE MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR- Ref. No. 112       (BALHA         9. WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR - Ref. No. 113       (BALHA         10. FIFI BRIGAGE TEAM LEADER - Ref. No. 114       (BALHA         (BALHAF)       (BALHAF)         (BALHAF)       • Bachelor degree in Mechanical/Electrical/ Electronics & Instrument or		
SUPERINTENDENT & COORDINATOR POSITIONS	Chemical Engineering or equivalent     12 years in plant operations or maintenance experience in the oil refin		

- 1. UPSTREAM OPERATIONS COORDINATOR Ref. No. 087

<ol> <li>UPSTREAM OPERATIONS COORDINATOR - Ref. No. 087</li> </ol>	(SANA'A)
2. PRODUCTION (OPERATIONS) SUPERINTENDENT - Ref. No.088	(BALHAF)
<ol><li>MECHANICAL SUPERINTENDENT - Ref. No. 089</li></ol>	(BALHAF)
4. ELECTRICAL SUPERINTENDENT - Ref. No. 090	(BALHAF)
5. INSTRUMENT SUPERINTENDENT - Ref. No. 091	(BALHAF)
6. INSPECTION SUPERINTENDENT - Ref. No. 092	(BALHAF)
<ol><li>GENERAL SERVICES SUPERINTENDENT - Ref. No. 093</li></ol>	(BALHAF)
<ol><li>SAFETY SUPERINTENDENT – Ref. No. 094</li></ol>	(BALHAF)
9. FIFI SUPERINTENDENT - Ref. No. 095	(BALHAF)
POSITIONS	
<ul> <li>Bachelor degree in Mechanical/Electrical/Electronics &amp; Instrument or Che or higher</li> </ul>	emical Engineering
<ul> <li>13-17 years in plant operations or maintenance experience in the oil refinit petrochemical industry, including a minimum of 4 years in a supervisory p plant with 0 - 6 years in an LNG Plant</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Very good knowledge of oil and gas industry equipment, construction, ma inspection systems and methods</li> </ul>	intenance and
· Very good leadership skills and ability to manage a multi-disciplined team	

#### **ENGINEERING POSITIONS**

1. INSPECTION & CMMS ENGINEER- Ref. No. 096 2. MAINTENANCE PLANNING & CMMS ENGINEER- Ref. No. 097 3. SR. PROCESS ENGINEER- Ref. No. 098 4. SR. ROTATING MACHINES ENGINEER - Ref. No. 099 5. SR. SYSTEMS CONTROL ENGINEER- Ref. No. 100 6. SR. ELECTRICAL PDCS ENGINEER- Ref. No. 101 7. SR. INSTRUMENT ENGINEER- Ref. No. 102 8. SR. PIPING, VALVE & VESSELS ENGINEER- Ref. No. 103 9. FIELD PRODUCTION ENGINEER- Ref. No. 104

(SANA'A) (SANA'A) (BALHAF) (BALHAF) (BALHAF) (BALHAF) (BALHAF) (BALHAF) (MAREB)

Very good knowledge of oil and gas industry equipment, maintenance systems and methods.

and gas or petrochemical industry, including a minimum of 2 years in a

supervisory position in a process plant with 0 - 3 years in an LNG Plant.

Good team supervisory skills.

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YEMEN LNG COMPANY

#### QUALIFICATIONS FOR INSPECTOR POSITIONS

- Degree or Higher Diploma in Metallurgical or Mechanical Engineering discipline plus formal training in chemical engineering or inspection
- 10-13 years specific experience in inspection and maintenance work in the oil refining, gas or petrochemical industry, including a minimum of 3 years in inspection position and 0 - 3 years in an LNG Plant
- Good knowledge of oil and gas equipment, inspection codes and standards
- Good experience in CMMS (SAP) and RBI

#### SENIOR TECHNICIAN/ SENIOR OPERATOR/PANEL OPERATOR POSITIONS

- 1. PRODUCTION PANEL OPERATOR- Ref. No. 115
- 2. SR. PRODUCTION OPERATOR- Ref. No. 116
- 3. SR. MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN- Ref. No. 117
- 4. SR. ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN- Ref. No. 118
- 5. SR. INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN- Ref. No. 119
- (BALHAF) (BALHAF) (BALHAF) (BALHAF) (BALHAF)

#### QUALIFICATIONS FOR PANEL OPERATOR, SR. TECH/ OPERATOR POSITIONS

- Bachelor or Higher level Ddiploma in technical discipline with professional training in the oil and gas industry
- 8 10 years in plant operations or maintenance experience in the oil and gas or petrochemical industry and 0 - 3 years in an LNG Plant
- Good knowledge of oil and gas industry equipment, maintenance systems and methods

## WWW.MEMENILNG.COM



## Doctors warn about lead in Yemeni vehicle emissions

By: Mahmoud Al-Harazi mahmoud\_22@hotmail.com For Yemen Times

aleh Saif's aunt is in her 40s and has suffered from asthma for more than eight years. "My asthma increases whenever I go outside and inhale vehicle exhausts," she notes.

Mohammed Arraimi also has suffered from asthma for more than five years due to exhausts from vehicles daily passing his Sheraton Street grocery, which neighbors Sheraton roundabout where most cars stop. He confirmed that both local shopkeepers and residents constantly complain about car exhausts, saying their shops and homes are tainted with black spots due to such emissions.

Although there are no real statistics in Yemen directly linking respiratory diseases and vehicle emissions, many studies link air pollution in Yemen's major cities and the appearance of various diseases among such cities' residents.

Studies in 2004 by the Environment Protection Authority and the United Nations Development Program confirm the reason for such pollution is a rapidly increasing population rate, thereby



Doctors confirmed that lead in vehicle emissions is dangerous because it enters the body in immeasurable amounts.

increasing activities such as burning fossil fuels like gas, coal and oil to power industrial processes and motor vehicles.

"Environmental pollution leads to large numbers of humans being infected with many diseases. The danger of lead is its ability to cross barriers and cause strokes and other neurological diseases, especially in children. Lead also raises the rate of physical and mental underdevelopment and its deposit in the liver leads to various diseases."

Among the harmful chemical compounds such burning releases into the atmosphere are carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and tiny solid particles, including lead from gasoline additives.

The EPA/UNDP study found that Sana'a consumes 29,000 out of 50,000 barrels of oil used annually in all of Yemen. However, the capital city's portion of poison-produced gases is very high and well beyond lower international standards. Moreover, Yemeni doctors have warned on various occasions about the increased impact of

increasing activities such as burning air pollution in general and the impact fossil fuels like gas, coal and oil to of lead emissions in particular.

Al-Thawra General Hospital Deputy Zaid Ahmed Atif says, "Environmental pollution leads to large numbers of humans being infected with many diseases. The danger of lead is its ability to cross barriers and cause strokes and other neurological diseases, especially in children. Lead also raises the rate of physical and mental underdevelopment and its deposit in the liver leads to various diseases.

He continued, "We have diseases in Yemen that don't exist in the world of medical books, so we mostly attribute the cause of these diseases to the unknown. Yemen doesn't have the laboratories to examine the causes, but pollution tops the list of causes, especially liver disease."

According to doctors, lead pollution has a significant impact on the presence of many diseases generally, such as respiratory, arterial, cardiovascular and neurological diseases. If one is affected by lead, it will remain in the body for 25 years.

Lead penetrating fetal membranes during pregnancy eventually can cause lung cancer, which has a high proportion. "Regrettably, lead also affects metabolism via skin absorption and moist skin membranes, as well as the digestive and respiratory systems," added Atif, who confirmed that lead in vehicle emissions is especially dangerous because it enters the body in immeasurable amounts.

Continually and involuntarily sniffling and breathing causes particles to combine with large carrier toxins in the air. Such toxins deposit in the lungs, liver, kidneys, heart and blood vessels as they circulate with oxygen in the blood. With each breath, these toxic particles accumulate in small quantities and then interact in the body. If it reaches a certain level, the body won't be able to survive as cells fill with poison.

Respiratory diseases, which begin from the nose (and sometimes the



Many shops and homes in Sana'a are tainted with black spots due to car exhausts emissions.

mouth), enter through the mouth, pass to the lungs and then develop into a disease like asthma, which is the lungs' inability to absorb enough oxygen and thus corrupts the bronchioles. "A scientific study shows that children's ability to absorb pollutants is higher than the elderly," Atif notes.

"To keep children from absorbing pollutants, the problem needs to be treated at the source of pollution," he added.

Besides lead, Atif referred to other materials resulting from burning gasoline, which consists of solid particles. "Poisonous carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen and sulfur dioxide and deadly lead oxides remain in the air for such a long time that humans, animals and plants breathe them, thus causing problems to their natural compositions.

"For example, lead affecting plants may result in forming additional toxic substances causing blood poisoning in humans as a result of deposits in plant tissues that humans considered foods. The same thing happens with animals that are exposed to large quantities of leaded gas emissions and then eaten by humans," Atif explained. Head agent for Toyota in Yemen, Mohammed Al-Audarous, says, "Vehicles are the key reason for lead in the air and in the human body. More than 70 percent of existing vehicles in Yemen contribute to the presence of lead."

According to statistics from the General Department of Traffic in Sana'a, nearly 250,000 vehicles are operating in Sana'a, more than 20,000 of which run on diesel. Additionally, more than 25,000 vehicles were seized in Sana'a due to poor exhaust emissions.

Yemeni officials are working to reduce lead emissions in the air. Marib Refinery is an example of a Yemeni firm working to produce unleaded gasoline, but some refineries still use leaded gasoline because they are old. Aden Refinery also hopes to improve and replace lead with less damaging materials. However, the existing older cars running on leaded fuel won't be replaced entirely.

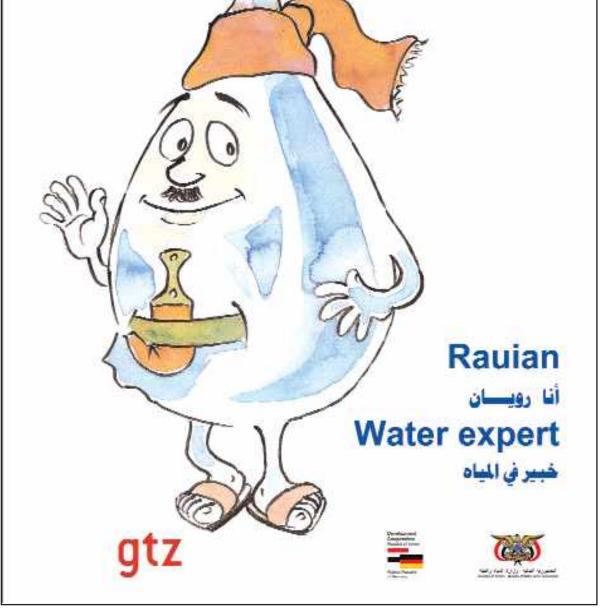
The elimination of air pollutants is persuading the Yemeni government to reduce customs on new car imports and it is working on procedures to prevent importing cars with diesel engines. It also is assisting owners of older vehicles with diesel engines to change them to lead-free gasoline engines. Some Yemeni oil refineries like Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company have begun producing leadfree gasoline.

The EPA recently has held numerous discussions and workshops with the ministries of oil, transport and water and environment, wherein they discussed methods to get rid of lead in gasoline. In this regard, Minister of Water and Environment Abdul-Rahman Al-Eryani confessed that the idea to eliminate lead in gasoline may have come too late. "Yemen has been slow to ban lead due to a lack of awareness about this subject," he noted.

EPA Chairman Mahmoud Shedaiwa pointed out that Yemen is one of 22 countries still using leaded gasoline. "Replacement with lead-free gasoline will be within the framework of the third five-year Plan for Development and Alleviating Poverty (2006-2010), in keeping with the Arab environment, Arab ministers and other Arab nations, including the Gulf Cooperation Council, which are decreasing the use of leaded gasoline."









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## **Sports**

## Sha'ab Hadramout wins President's Cup

#### **By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri**

The Sha'ab Hadramout team was crowned champion of the President of the Republic Cup for the second time in the team's history with a 2-1 defeat of Helal Al-Hodeidah 2-1 in the final encounter last week at Al-Morisi Stadium in Sana'a.

Both teams were not at their best, possibly because the two coastal area teams had to play the final match in Sana'a. The match took place on a cold evening and this had its effect on the players' performance.

In minute 3 of the game Helal Al-Hodeidah netted the first goal of the match and they took that lead into halftime.

The Sha'ab Hadramout coach conducted two substitutions as the second half began and this tactic helped his side to answer in minute 17 of the half. The Hodeidah team launched many offensive strikes in their attempt to go back on top, but all efforts were turned away.

Sha'ab Hadaramout exploited defense mistakes among Al-Helal teammates to score the second goal in minute 90 of the game, thus clutching the President's Trophy.

#### The championship history:

Ahli Al-Hodeidah won the first trophy in the season 1995-1996 after it beat Sha'ab Hadramout 1-0 and Sha'ab Ibb clutched the second cup in the season 1997-1998 with its 1-0 victory over Al-Shu'lah.

Sha'ab Hadramout won the third championship in the season 1998-1999 when it defeated Al-Shu'lah 5-4 on penalties after a scoreless game. Ahli Sana'a held the title in the season 2000-2001 following its 2-0 victory over Al-Telal while the fifth championship for the season 2001-2002 went to Sha'ab Ibb team that thrashed Tadhamun Shabwa 4-0 in the final.



Sha'ab Hadramout team.

Winning 2-1 over Sha'ab Hadramout, Sha'ab Ibb clutched the sixth title for the season 2002-2003. In the seventh championship for the season 2003-2004, Ahli Sana'a became the titleholder after it defeated Sha'ab Ibb 2-0 in the final.

Ahli Al-Hodeida won the eighth trophy for the season 2004-2005 with its 3win over Al-Rashid team from Taiz.

The Sha'ab Hadramout champions were warmly received at Mukalla Airport when returning from Sana'a after they won the President Cup for the season, with a 2-0 victory over Helal Al-Hodeidah.

The governor of Hadramout Abdulqader Ali Helal, his deputy and the local council secretary-general were among those who welcomed the winners.

Sa'eed Al-Nohi, the Sha'ab Hadramout goalkeeper and captain of

the team carried the trophy to the governor, acknowledging his efforts for supporting the team.

The team was accompanied by thousands of fans on board coaches and small vehicles, as well as on motorbikes. The team drove to the city of Mukalla chanting songs reflecting their happiness.

The team then moved to the residence of Sheikh Abdullah Baqshan, who held a dinner reception for the champions. The governor of Hadramout and several other government officials attended the event.

Helal gave a speech expressing his deep gratitude to Baqshan for his lavish support of the team. The governor gave each player YR 50,000.

Meanwhile, Bagshan allocated a special plane to transport the players to different Yemeni cities and donated YR 23 million to the team.

Palestine was one of the Group A

( La stright

Yemen.

## Arab Cup kicks off

Games of the Arab Cup first group, which includes Comoro Islands, Djibouti and Yemen, kicked off at Al-Morisi Stadium in Sana'a. Yemen's national football team won 2-0 over Comoro Islands in the first meeting.

With a new formation under the Egyptian coach Mohsen Saleh, the Yemeni team put forth a good International Football Association performance. The meeting showed only one year ago. Comoro Islands that the team still needs several will meet Djibouti in the second game matches to help teammates achieve and Djibouti will play Yemen in the harmony with each other in the field. third. For the Comoro Islands team, this is members, but the team could not fly to

the first international participation, as the country joined the Federation of



## Yemen football prepares for **Arabian Gulf Championship**

The 18th Arabian Gulf Championship is due to kick off Jan. 7 in the United Arab Emirates. The competition involves teams with ancient and brilliant history in football plus our national team that joined the event recently.

The Yemeni national football team is participating for the third time in the championship - one of the largest competitions in the Arab World.

The competition is widely enjoyed by fans not only in the Gulf, but also at the Arab, regional and international levels.

The national football team has become the seventh team to enter the championship. The Arabian Gulf Championship, which has been successful and distinctive for its strong competition, has a vital role in improving the level of the Gulf football. Yemen will use the competition to get back on track after a weak showing in Asian Cup qualifying.

Currently the Yemeni team is looking to move forward, but some feel the team is lagging behind the other Gulf countries. Some observers are concerned about how the Yemeni team will perform in the championship and how it is preparing for the competition.

Although the draw didn't place Yemen in the most difficult group, Yemen is mated with strong teams. During the past competitions, the national team demonstrated poor and disappointing performances and the players did not perform their best. This compelled the sport authorities to reconsider the team's situation and hire foreign coaches with the aim to improve performance of the players.

The team was given only two months to prepare for the event under their new Egyptian coach and many are worried it will not be enough time for him to bring the team together before the competition.

## Qatar beats Iraq, wins football gold

Hosts Qatar ended their Asian Games experience on a high by collecting the last gold medal on offer by beating Iraq 1-0 in the final of the men's football.

With both teams struggling to create chances in open play, it was fitting that the goal was to come from a corner as Bilal Mohammed Rajeb guided the ball home in the 63rd minute.

The victory made Oatar just the second Arab country to win the title, following Iraq's gold medal effort in 1982.

Iraqi coach Yahya Manhel was gracious in defeat and felt the future was bright for Iraqi football.

"I should think that taking silver in such an important competition with 32 countries involved with a team mostly of players aged under 20 is a very good start and I am very hopeful the future will be really good," said Manhel.

"It would of course have made a huge impact on the people back home if we had won gold."

His Qatari counterpart Dzemaludin Musovic felt that his team has fulfilled

their destiny. "From the first game I knew our players deserved the gold medal," admitted the Bosnian.

"I knew we had to use this post in frustration. opportunity to show we were the best.

"Iraq played well tonight and they were the best team to play against us." Qatari midfielder Wesam

Abdulmajid said it was a dream come true.

"Finally we reached our goal and we obtained the gold medal," said the 25vear-old.

While disappointed, Iraqi captain Ali Rehema was proud of his team's performance.

"We played well in the match and we have made a great effort during this tournament," he said.

The home side had an early chance in the sixth minute when Uruguayanborn striker Sebastian Soria beat his marker to a corner but it cannoned off the post with the 'keeper Mohammed Khadum well beaten.

Qatar should have gone ahead in the 30th minute as a beautifully floated freekick by Ali Nasser Saleh found Abdullah Obaid Koni totally unmarked five metres out and with a free header.

But the 27-year-old failed to even connect with the ball and slapped the

Iraq's sole chance of the first half came with 10 minutes as Alaa Khashen went on a mazy run cutting right into the heart of the defence but

he was greedy and failed to pass to Karrar Muhamed who was unmarked in the area and the chance went begging.

The second-half saw both sides lacking a cutting edge in attack but just as people starting thinking about extra time Qatar broke through.

A Majdi Abdulla's Sidiq corner was flicked on at the near post by Abdulmajid and tamely palmed out by Khadum.

The ball struck Majed on the side of his head as he looked to his right and went into the net.

Qatar looked to have scored a second a couple of minutes later as Quintana prodded into the net but the linesman correctly called him for offside.

Quintana should have all but wrapped it up with 20 minutes remaining when he was set free on the right of the box but with just the keeper to beat his shot hit the side netting.

Source: Aljazeera.net

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## **THINK before you drive**

**By: Yemen Times Staff** 

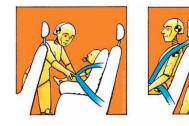
five-day national he "Think before you drive" campaign is ongoing in Yemen as part of a global road safety. The initiative is by the French International Automobile Foundation.

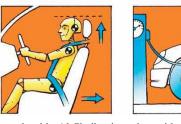
The campaign program includes safety awareness lectures and workshops for three days at the Police Officers Club and was launched through free tire testing at the Modern Petrol Station on 60 Meters road.

Think Before You Drive has been launched all over the world and now it has reached Yemen. In partnership with the Yemeni Club for Touring and Automobile, chaired by Alwan Al-Shaibani, the national launch took place on Dec. 16.

The private sector has taken on this initiative in Yemen because of the importance and urgency of the road safety situation.

"Our people should start taking responsibility each in their own job. The reason for increasing car accidents in Yemen is because of speed, violating traffic laws, lack of sufficient traffic and road signs, bad roads and lack of awareness," Al-Shaibani said. In his inaugural speech Al-Alimi





agreed with Al-Shaibani as he said, "The problem in Yemen is that there is no regular vehicle maintenance and people go to the mechanics only when there is a problem. This campaign targets drivers in the first place because they are the main reason behind road accidents."

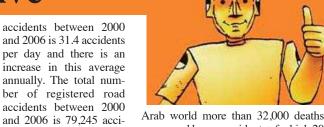
Gen. Mohammed Al-Qaidi, public relations deputy, at the Ministry of Interior, gave an astonishing narration of the road accidents situation in Yemen. Al-Qaidi, who is also chief editor of the army newspaper "Al-Hurras," said the average number of



- Low and middle income coun- Children under the age of four tries account for more than 80 percent of global deaths from road accidents and fatality rates are rising. By contrast, industrialised countries is of three decades of falling road deaths
- Seat belts are conservatively estimated to have saved more than 300,000 lives and prevented more than 9 million injuries in highly motorised countries over the past 25 years.

### are 10 times more likely to be killed in a car crash if unre-

- strained. Unrestrained infants are at risk of death in a car crash at speeds
- as low as 8 km/h. On a wet road the difference in stopping distance for new and worn tires can be about one cars length - potentially the difference between braking safely and having a crash.



dents causing the death of

15,279 people, with an

average mortality rate of 6

In 2006 alone 2,511

people died in Yemen

because of road accidents

and the average increased

from 4.2 in 2000 to 7.6

deaths per day in 2006, he

people per day.

exclaimed.

The aim of the campaign is to edu-

cate Yemenis about the dangers of

reckless driving and what can be done

to avoid the huge losses in lives and

because of road accidents. And 60 per-

cent of the vehicles on the road are not

suitable for use anymore. This ought to

start us thinking what we are doing

driving behaviour and to raise aware-

ness about road safety, locally and

safety messages: Highlighting actions

that take a few seconds but could save your life and identifying the main caus-

The road safety campaign uses a

crash test dummy to show the effect of

poor driving and to show the experi-

ences from the car crashes we hope you

The director of the Arab Road Safety

Organisation, Afif Al-Ferithy, explaing

the importance of safe driving. He

highlighted importance of road safety

The campaign aims to promote safe

The campaign promotes simple road

wrong," commented Al-Qaidi.

es of serious or fatal crashes.

"More than \$25,000 is lost every day

machinery.

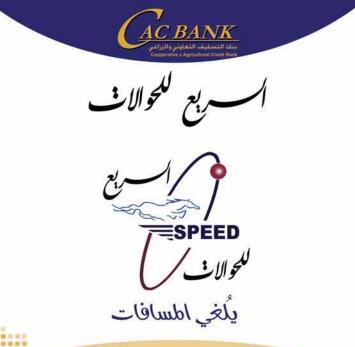
globally.

never have.

are caused by car accidents of which 20 percent are children," he explained.

The organization, of which the Yemeni Club for Touring and Automobiles is a member, is considering establishing a branch in Yemen, stating that this is a practical way to enhance local awareness and improve road safety in Yemen. The organisation will be working on a scientific survey on drivers' behaviour while chewing qat. He explained, "The study will examine the behaviours of pedestrians, traffic officers and drivers and the affect qat has on their conduct."





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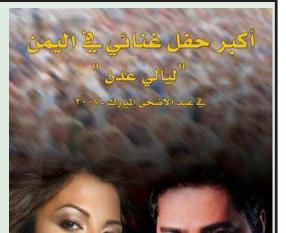
The economical capital of Yemen (Aden) welcomes tow of the best stars Fadhl Shaker and Assala Nassery in the beginning of January 2007, and this event is the first of its kind here in Yemen.

This event will be included in (Lyali Aden) festival which will be held in the 4th and 6th day of Eid aladha.

The tow stars were that much interested to make this festival and meet Yemeni audience.

All the preparation related to this festival like (laser-sound-ect..) will be forwarded by one of world wide known and special company.

Even though the cost for the (Lyali Aden )



stating that road accidents cause the Sanaa third highest amount of world deaths. "More than 1.2 million people die in car accidents around the world. In the NOKIA **Connecting People** 

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festival is too high which is offered by private sector, the target is not financial gain.

Ticket world wide are divided into four different class (V.VIP -VIP - Tourism- and general) each class has got its specialty and price will be very low.

Audience will come to Aden from different provinces and countries.





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