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Thursday, 28 December, 2006 • Issue No. 1011 • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf • www.yementimes.com

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Inside:



5
Dubai police train Yemeni youth to fight drugs



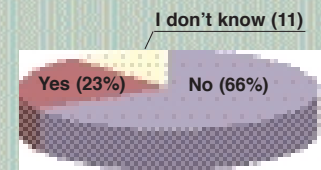
7
Hip-Hop with a Headscarf
Aygül Cizmecioglu reports



8
Computerized methods necessary to improve customer service

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
 Do you think president Saleh deserves the UNESCO award for maintaining human heritage?



This edition's question:

Will the recently drafted Anti-Corruption Law help stop the corruption phenomenon in Yemen?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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

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Arab press: Between freedom and challenges

By: Yemen Times Staff
 SANA'A, Dec. 26 — The state-run Al-Thori daily newspaper held a symposium Monday on the Arab press, its margins of freedom and its challenges and obstacles.
 Several Yemeni researchers and those interested in press-related issues attended the event.
 The symposium discussed numerous issues concerning shortcomings in journalistic performance, which are responsible for journalists' harassments and restricting press freedoms.
 Lebanese poet Jawdat Fakhreddin affirmed that press freedom in the Arab world has no effective role and that the press scope varies from one place to another. "It's difficult for our press to be free amid current social and cultural situations," he noted, "Whereas the press margin is expanding in the area of literary journalism, Arab writers and journalists must work in compliance with mechanisms set by their press institutions; thus, they can't express themselves freely."
 Senior Yemeni journalist Abdulbari Taher discussed obstacles and challenges to freedom of the press due to governmental laws, high illiteracy

rates and other tough measures.
 Taher emphasized that a nation with a good press law can develop and prosper, stressing the necessity of caring for the journalistic experience in Yemen, which remains in its infancy.
 According to the senior journalist, more attention must be paid to press-related issues in order to overcome the profession's obstacles and challenges. However, he noted that the journalistic experience has grown over the past two years.
 Poet Shawqi Abdulmir, main supervisor of the serializing effort, 'A Book in a Newspaper,' spoke about challenges and obstacles to the book, which is published in numerous official Arab newspapers.
 He added that such difficulties vary from country to country, for example, "The book faced a persistent problem when it first was published due to publishing standards in those countries where it was distributed."
 Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, Cultural Advisor to the President of the Republic and member of the consultative board of 'A Book in A Newspaper,' praised the great success attained by its issuance, noting that the book serves both culture and intellect and attributing its success to sincere efforts by UNESCO. He ascertained that the project's long-term goal is to unify Arab culture via joint reading.
 Yemeni Minister of Information Hassan Al-Lawzi explained, "The world has become a small village, which makes press freedom a persistent demand. Despite hard conditions left by totalitarian regimes and occupation in the Arab world, we can say that freedom is a vital part of our daily life, irrespective of any difficulties or shortcomings."
 "We hope government legislation and laws will help promote press freedom, as well as help officials do their best regarding defending it," he added.
 Many papers were discussed at the symposium, which coincided with issue No. 100 of 'A Book in A Newspaper.' Organized by Al-Thori daily, the occasion was celebrated in Sana'a in the presence of a UNESCO representative.
 A quarter of a billion copies of 'A Book in A Newspaper' were distributed to all Arab nations with the aim of unifying Arab cultural works.

After a lengthy wait, anti-corruption law issued

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi
 SANA'A, Dec. 26 — Yemen's first anti-corruption law was issued Monday, following parliamentary approval earlier this month.
 Article No. 3 of the law dictates establishing a Supreme Independent National Committee with vast legal authority to fight corruption and track all of its practitioners.
 The new law seeks to prevent and combat corruption while attempting to diminish its risks, as well as seize and confiscate those belongings and revenues resulting from its practice. Additionally, it stresses the importance of cooperating with foreign nations, as well as both regional and international organizations to help fight corruption.
 Based on the United Nation's corruption combating agreement, the Yemeni law emphasizes transparency and objectivity in all financial, economic and administrative practices in such a way ensuring optimal administration and utilization of state financial resources.
 It also will enact concerned authorities' observational role and facilitate citizen's access to information, together with encouraging the role of civil society organizations to actively participate in fighting corruption.
 According to the law, the supreme committee will include 11 impartial, expert and capable members appointed via republican decree. Civil society organizations, as well as the private and women's sectors also will be represented on the committee.
 The new law also urges every individual to report corruption either to the authority or other concerned authorities, together with documents proving such accusations.
 It goes on to highlight the role to be played by civil society organizations in creating a general awareness of corruption risks, as well as promoting a culture that doesn't tolerate corrupt officials. It further classifies corruption crimes and dictates that corrupt Yemeni officials should be held accountable for their crimes, whether inside or outside Yemen.
 Yemen's anti-corruption law came into being after widespread criticism of corruption in all state institutions, with numerous international reports mentioning the Yemeni government's

inability to control corruption. Further, international organizations have designated grants and aid to help Yemen fight corruption, declaring that any national reforms should be preceded by rooting out corruption.
 Toward the end of last year, the World Bank decreased its aid to Yemen to 34 percent due to rampant corruption. The European Union also warned that Yemen will face problems unless it takes sufficient measures to fight corruption in coming years.
 Over the past few months and prior to Yemen's presidential and local elections, opposition parties waged intensive media campaigns against corruption, later exchanging accusations with the ruling party about practicing it.

Such corruption's spread has badly defamed the ruling party, prompting President Ali Abdullah Saleh to include fighting it in his electoral platform, wherein he promised to make such a fight among his top priorities in the near future.
 Transparency International ranked Yemen at the bottom of its 2006 corruption index, although Yemen has signed a number of agreements pertaining to corruption, the last of which was the U.N. Anti-Corruption Agreement.
 Many academics and specialists said the success of November's London Donors Conference arose from Yemen's real wish to fight and control corruption.

No pilgrims killed in fire at Yemeni Hajj mission



By: Yemen Times Staff
 SANA'A, Dec 25 — No Yemeni pilgrims were reported killed in the Yemen Hajj mission during a fire that broke out Monday due to a short-circuit at the Dar Al-Gazaa apartment complex, which housed about 2,200 Yemenis.
 The fire that started from the basement and spread to the first floor was quickly put out by the Saudi authorities. Twenty-six Yemenis were reported affected by the fire, most of them suffering from smoke inhalation, including the Minister of Endowments and Guidance, Hamoud Ubad, who is the chairman of Yemen Hajj mission to Mecca.
 Sixteen people were taken to the hospital and were in stable condition. The Saudi Press Agency quoted interior ministry spokesman General Mansur Al Turki as saying that "16 pilgrims suffering from smoke inhalation were admitted to hospital, where their condition is stable."

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Scientific symposium on stamps' historical significance

ADEN, Dec. 25 — Titled "The Historical Significance of Stamps as a Yemeni Identity Component", the Cultural Development Programs Establishment held a symposium on Dec. 24 under the frame of its third national exhibition in Aden's Yemen Mall.

Dr. Raufa'a Hasan Al-Sharafi, Chairman of Cultural Development Programs Establishment urged concerned authorities and researchers to collect and document the Yemeni postal stamps issued during the last century as they are historical sources reflecting the different events and incidents in Yemen's history.

Al-Sharafi's further indicated the importance of the stamps as a documentary source, providing a lot of information about events that took place in Yemeni field together with outstanding Yemeni figures who played an important role in all political and social aspects over different periods of our contemporary history.

According to Al-Sharafi, the symposium aims at shedding light on



1964 Hand stamped in violet FREE YEMEN FIGHTS FO GOD, IMAM & COUNTRY on issue of the 1961 HODEIDA Port commemorative. On stamp written: Al-Mutwakilia Kingdom

and attracting attention to stamps' political, social and historical importance. It further aims to identify us with the way we look at ourselves and how outside world looks at us.

The symposium was attended by a number of researchers together with university teachers, political and social figures and interested people.

According to stampdomain.com, Stamps of India were used from 1854 to 1937 stamps in Aden. Most Indian stamps from the 1854 issue up to the 1935 issue can be found with Aden postmarks. These can be recognized by the word Aden appearing in the

postmark or from the numerals 124, 125 or B-22 which were used on their own or in a duplex with an Aden datestamp. From 1937 till 1964 Aden issued its own stamps.

This information was documented because Aden was a British Colony at that time. North Yemen, at that time was under the Imam rule. The Yemen Stamps and Postal Stationery covers the time of the Imamate of Yemen, Civil War Period and the Royalists, Aden and Kathiri and Qu'aiti States, Federation of South Arabia and States, Yemen as Yemen Arab Republic, and Republic of Yemen of today.

Symposium takes aim at traffic problems in Sana'a

SANA'A, Dec. 25 — A number of experts disused traffic problems during a symposium held on Saturday to tackle the traffic regulations in the capital city of Sana'a. Participants also discussed a comprehensive plan set by international specialized companies to regulate the traffic in Sana'a.

Minister of Interior Rashad Al-Alemi, who attended the symposium, said the comprehensive plan set by international specialized companies aim to address the traffic problems in the capital city and further indicated the plan will contain the present and future developments.

All people should positively response to the plan, Al-Alemi added,

stressing on the importance of getting government and foreign finance to implement the three-stage plan as set by the consulting company.

Prepared by Arabs Experts for Engineering and Administration, the plan tackles different traffic problems and potential solutions for them over three different stages. It also includes the establishment of a central control center to observe the traffic using special programs to decide upon the vehicle's size and create alternatives.

During the symposium, the general manager of Arabs Experts for Engineering and Administration, presented the plan's objectives and components together with implementation stages over the next

20 years, classified into immediate, short-time and long time plans.

Over US \$ 300 million dollars are the total estimations for implementing the project in its three phases. The private sector will have the chance to make partnership with the government to implement establish goods-collection points.

Participants suggested setting up more than 3000 car parks in the capital and making a comprehensive traffic plan.

The symposium was organized by the General Administration of Traffic, in collaboration with Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the Capital's Traffic Department.

Yemeni student designs program for deaf-dumb

SAYUN, Dec. 26 — A female Yemeni graduate from Sayun's Faculty of Applied Sciences innovated an educational program to help deaf-dumb people. The program is considered an addition to the electronic library which is of concern for deaf-dumb group. As reported in hadramout.info website.

The program enables deaf-dumb receive basic education via modern technological means and thus riding of their impairments.

Program designer, Fatma bin Abdul explained that the program operates in both Arabic and English and contains over 800 signs adopted by the Unified Sign Dictionary issued by Arab Union of Deaf.

Each chapter has a test at the end to

make sure they have comprehended chapters' contents. Further, the program includes live scenes that embody the tragedy of dumb-deaf people.

Bin Abdul also indicated the program took her four months earlier to her graduation so she was unable to insert new ideas, assuring she will work on improving it in the future to include computer using and prayer performing.

She additionally commended the unlimited help of her parents together with a number of those people who helped her perform the project.

Concluding her remarks, bin Abdul called upon all associations concerned



Fatima bin Abdul explains the operation of her program which aims at helping deaf and dumb people to learn.

with deaf-dumb people to make use of this program as it will help deaf-dumb read and write together with computer use.

In brief

DHAMAR

Discovering rock cemetery

An ancient cemetery was discovered in Dhamar about 11 meters underground. The cemetery is made of two rooms and has an opening of around 90cms. The rock cemetery was created in a natural cave. Yemeni authorities are now working to find the historic details of the cemetery.

SANA'A

A study on preventing child abuse

University of Sana'a has conducted recently a study on how to prevent violence against children and solutions for child abuse in Yemen. The Gender Development and Research Center at the University, which will launch the results in a public event, conducted the study.

AL-BAIDHA

Live musical concert in Rada'

The culture office in Al-Arsh district of Al-Baidha governorate carried out a live musical concert as the last event among 2006 festivities. The event included a poetry session and a dance performance of the traditional dances in the governorate.

SHABWA

First commercial and trade exhibition

The first exhibition of its kind was concluded on the 26th of this month in Shabwa. It contained food stuff, domestic items and other goods for sale. The exhibition was organized by the Yemeni exhibition establishment in cooperation with the Dutch technical support project.

ADEN

Seminar on human rights in national and international laws

The Faculty of Law of Aden University conducted a scientific seminar on human rights in the national and international laws. The seminar included working papers on protecting human rights, freedom of speech and the role of lawyers syndicate in protecting these rights.

LAHJ

Disability education training

A training for teachers around Lahj governorate on disability education was carried out by the special needs association in the governorate and funded by save the Children-Sweden (Rada Barnen). Fifty teachers participated in the training and were informed on how to deal with special needs students and how to overcome their disability in learning.

HAJJA

Training for illiteracy teachers

Sixty female illiteracy eradication teachers in Hajja were given training on how best practices of adult education in order to improve their performance. The workshop targeted female teachers in order to help reduce the high illiteracy among

Women's participation is necessary, Al-Arhabi says

SANA'A, Dec. 25 — The involvement of women in the country's political and economic life is very important, and edging out the role of women, means cancelling the role played by half of the society that contributes to the comprehensive development. This was stated by Minister of Planning and International Development Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi in a workshop on women's development on Saturday. The workshop was conducted by the Yemeni Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in cooperation with the UN Development Program. During the event, the participants discussed the Human Development Index in the Arab World for the year 2005.

Al-Arhabi confirmed the government's interest in women's participation in different political, social and economic areas. He said Yemen approved many international laws and legislations concerned with women rights.

Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, Political Advisor to President Saleh, stressed the necessity of improving women's participation in different political, economic and social areas. He called for eliminating any discriminations contained in some legislations that control or restrict women's participation.

According to Al-Eryani, Yemen has taken a pioneering step toward women's empowerment. He insisted that all Yemeni women have to be granted all their legal rights ensured

by the law.

At the workshop, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Yahya Al-Mutawakel discussed the content of the Human Development Index in the Arab world for 2005. Al-Mutawakel indicated the report contained several matters focusing on women development.

Many academics presented several work papers, discussing all the main themes, which were the focus of the Human Development Index in the Arab world in 2005.

The report calls for societal reform aimed at enabling the rise of women, in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), is envisioned as one of the two wings of the bird symbolising the rise of women in the Arab world. A bird, however, needs two wings to fly. The other wing would be a wide-ranging and effective movement in Arab civil society that engages both women and their male supporters in steadily extending and consolidating targeted societal reform initiatives on the one hand, and on the other, empowering women - and the society at large - to benefit from them.

In particular, the report calls for the adoption of time-bound affirmative action, tailored to the specificities of each Arab society, in order to expand the participation of women in all fields of human activity. This is considered imperative to dismantle the structures of centuries of discrimination.

Cause of Coast Guards' death still mystery



Coast Guard boat.

SANA'A - Dec. 25 — Media sources announced finding last Monday the body of a soldier belonging to the Coast Guard near the Red Sea coast.

About nine bodies are still missing with no success from the search efforts over the last ten days.

The Coast Guard Authority denied the accidental drowning of its soldiers in the Red Sea coast.

Coast Guard authorities said that the boat and soldiers belong to the Ministry of Defense, who did not comment on the incident.

So far, no one knows how the boat was lost or how the soldiers may have drowned.

The Coast Guard forces number more than 20,000 and are still in the process of establishment and training.

A pioneering report on children conditions discussed

By: Khalil Al-Khaubari

SANA'A, Dec.26 — The Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood (HCMC) has finished preparing the draft of the first national report on children's conditions, which is the first of its kind in the Arab world.

On Tuesday, HCMC, in cooperation with Swedish Rada Barnen Organization, . Inaugurated the consultation meeting for discussing the draft of the children's conditions in Yemen. Government representatives and civil society organizations attended the meeting. "Before this meeting, we used to work in teamwork by the end of each year to collect information from the concerned authorities, which became as the base of this national report," said Saleh Abdullah, deputy minister of social affairs.

"Children issues must have priority in the development project for achieving development and human goals. Childhood is the first and most important stage of people's lives," Abdullah added.

Yemen has presented three reports to the International Committee since it ratified the convention on the rights of the child in 1991. Same recommendations were repeated in the three reports as they were not achieved.

"In Dec 2005, we discussed the third report and found that the same recommendations are being repeated in each report, so we decided to set up a plan, whereby every concerned ministry is to participate in order to



"Reports are only means and not goals by themselves," Waleed Al Bashher.

achieve some of these recommendations," said Abdul Rahman Ali, who is a local expert in children rights, wishing to see the achievements of concerned authorities in terms of implementing the plan's goals.

Getting the exact data from concerned authorities was the big challenges during preparing these reports. "There is no coordination on the part of the concerned authorities in collecting data on children rights and now we are asking the participants to work together for a data base concerned with children rights," said Ali.

The report takes unprecedented step in terms of achieving the international committee's recommendations on the rights of children, said Fathia

Abdullah, who is the assistant secretary general of the HCMC.

"These reports are only means and not goals by themselves. We work to coordinate between the two reports in order to enhance the children position," said the Yemen Country Manager of Save the Children, Waleed Al Bashher.

"Now we have a joint plan with the ministry of education in order combat violence against children in schools and provide the alternative means. We also work towards integrating the disabled children into schools, which is one of the report's positive results," said Al Basheer. Recently Yemen has signed agreements with Saudi Arabia concerning children trafficking which has as of late increased on the borders of the two countries.

Appeal

To all opposition political parties, Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate and Yemeni Artists and Writers Union, I have been subject to suppression, wrongfulness, salary suspension and prison over the last few years.

Media silence made the wrongful people in the authority amplify their suppression and wrongfulness against me. They also violated my human rights and closed the door before my legitimate demands. They have gone beyond limits in torturing me psychologically.

I ask you here, in this appeal, considered the second of its type, to stop the aggressive practices of the authority that have violated my rights and deprived me of my salary since 1997. Additionally, they have deprived me of my deserved promotions for 22 years.

Though there are opposition political powers, syndicates and civil society organizations, the authorities' mocking me is a mocking against all. The silence of political powers as for the exploitation of power encourages suppressing authorities to exercise more arrogance

against all, with an aim of weakening opposition parties and making those sympathizers feel despair. The Yemeni authority intended to sideline the opposition and suppress journalists and public opinion makers.

Under the frame of its political programs and ideological faiths, together with self-respect, I call upon all opposition parties to stand by me and support my just case.

Aref Mohsen Al-Khaiwani
A member of Al-Haq Party

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المدير العام



FSA

Dubai police train Yemeni youth to fight drugs

“Give youth the opportunity to develop society because they’re capable of building their society, as well as leading it,” says Ahmed Zaafan, guardian of the Future Protectors project and coordinator of the Right Start Foundation in the Middle East.

By: Nisreen Shadad

Yemeni youth are joining forces to fight drugs in Yemen. Future Protectors, an international youth NGO, organized a Dec. 16-23 training course for Yemeni youth to learn about drug addiction and how to fight it.

Life Makers Foundation in Yemen selected volunteers working on the Future Protectors project from seven governorates: Aden, Taiz, Dhamar, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Hadramout/Mukalla and Sana’a, to participate in the course, which was held under the auspices of Deputy Minister of Interior Mutahar Rashad Al-Masri.

The course aimed to qualify train-



Saba'a Al-Harazi, leader of the Future Protectors team in Taiz, came to Sana'a to be trained in leading a team and proudly discussed her future projects.

ers, who will undertake the responsibility to train other volunteers working in the same field in Yemen. In each country, someone is authorized to be in charge of directing the project and training courses.

Dubai police prepared the course materials and developed the training methods. The World Health Organization is in charge of reviewing the Future Protectors project, while Metro, which is located in Dubai, is responsible for evaluating the project.

The idea for the entire project was that of Amer Khalid, head of the Right Start Foundation and Chairman of its Board of Trustees.

The project aims to protect youths from becoming addicted to drugs. Established in 2003 and registered as a charity organization in early 2005, Right Start Foundation works to promote the role of the family, focusing on solving family problems alongside empowering youth.

Right Start aims to assist in integrating ethnic minority groups into the wider society by initiating a number of unique projects and courses to provide volunteers necessary skills and training, thus enabling them to make a difference in their communities.

Courses are run in partnership with the United Nations of Drug Crimes, Dubai Police, West Midlands Police, Drug Concern, the National Health Organization and the Mentor organization.

Dubai police officers Saleh Morad and Ibrahim Al-Dabel contributed to training volunteers in Yemen and Arab nations as a whole, as well as being in charge of preparing course materials.

Morad explained, “The course program involved two parts, the first of which were presentation and commu-

nication skills, wherein we aimed to prepare lecturers, who have the ability to convince listeners. The second part regarded a team and its leader, providing information about characteristics of a leader, organizing a team and how to obtain financial resource to support a team project. At the end of the course, each team presented a project capable of being achieved in real life. There were 60 trainers and each team consisted of 10 members.”

Zaafan enthusiastically described the system Right Start follows. “We intend to use youths’ time more effectively, as well as help them to be positive wherever they are, whether in university, school or in anywhere else. Therefore, we work to form teams at each public gathering to caution others about the harms of drugs, smoking, etc. This system is called, ‘Peer pressure,’ as we train youths to be the cautioners of their peers because young people greatly affect those who are similar to their age, to some extent.”

The course was the 20th instigated in the Arab world in general and the second launched in Yemen. Zaafan said there are 800 well-versed volunteers in 12 Arab countries and the U.N. is the 31st organization. Additionally, 800 volunteer trainers and 63 Yemeni trainers have been awarded certificates by the U.N. regional office, Right Start Foundation, the supreme command of the Dubai police office and Life Makers Foundation.

“Such numbers indicate the success and improvement of the Future Protectors project,” Zaafan noted, “This project is leveled to be the best project for cultivating youth in Arab nations. It’s also a message to unify all nations’ efforts. Here in Yemen,



Future Protectors leaders from various nations gather together, greatly concerned to learn about drug addiction and consequently, fight it.

youths came to the course from different governorates and received training to promote their society.

He continued, “We’re also in Egypt, where Christians and Muslims are working in the same field and share a similar concern – improving society and fighting drug addiction. I think this is one of the most important issues the West and East have agreed to fight.”

“Moreover, international statistics regarding addicts policemen have detained are 30 percent. Therefore, we’re working hand in hand to complete the police role. They’re decreasing the number of those offering drugs and we’re working to decrease the number of those requesting drugs,” Zaafan pointed out.

Abdullah Al-Akwa’a, deputy of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum, hopes for more cooperation between youth and police.

“This is a national effort represented in Life Makers Foundation to contribute to facing the worst epidemic from which all nations suffer. We hope for more competition in this field and more cooperation between youths and such foundations,” he added.

Saba’a Al-Harazi, leader of the Future Protectors team in Taiz, came to take the course in order to become more capable in achieving future projects. “This past year, we worked to fight smoking. We’re conducting the first scientific research to identify the pitfalls and problems we’ll face and working on them, taking a realistic process,” she explained, “We also study the rule that prevents smoking and consequently, we use it to fulfill our aim. After that, the programs we’re going to follow became lucid.”

She continued, “My future project is to make cinematographic cultiva-

tion against drugs using a cinema van. Because pictures have more influence than lecture, I’ve begun preparing a 20-minute documentary film about drugs; however, financing remains the only obstacle. Once I find the financing, my future project will come true.”

Future Protectors volunteer Abeer Al-Thahibi added, “I feel I’ve done something for my society.”

Right Start Foundation International recognizes the need for youth and ethnic minority communities to be proactive in a positive integration process.

Right Start has instigated similar projects around the Arab world and such proactive participation from youth and individuals has been outstanding. Rallies, literature, songs, foundation training courses and numerous other activities have resulted from projects Right Start Foundation International has offered.

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Freedom doesn't pardon legal accountability

By: Dr. Ubaid Al-Shaqi

It isn't important simply to express, but rather to be aware of and understand what we express.

This is the core of the matter regarding freedom of opinion and expression. Because they lived for years under blackout and suppression, the first thing Arabs do is seek a wider space for freedom of opinion and expression – no two can differ on this portion of the topic.

There are increasing demands to grant media outlets more spacious areas of freedom. Various restrictions emanate from the social ideology of controlling an individual's practices and

even his thinking. Such demands are natural in societies presenting themselves as independent and they refuse subservience, but political systems may preclude this.

Modern communication means such as mobiles and the internet have enabled those peoples suffering under a small space for freedom of opinion and expression, making the individual both a source and correspondent at the same time. If these communication means enable individual to go beyond restrictions and evade censors, as well as open up a more spacious area for freedom, have they also become able to overstep the limits of the law?

Freedom is connected to two impor-

tant matters: ethics and the law. Ethics answer questions concerning what's ugly or good, what's reasonable or rejected and what's good or bad in society according to a group of constituents, including religion and prevalent societal norms.

In many aspects, the law is linked to morals and benefits toward serving the individual and society, which should be protected against any violations. Such an understanding makes freedom not absolute, nor should it be so long as man lives amid the social environment, both influencing it and being influenced by it.

Freedom of speech or action should will end when it collides with moral or legal aspects or both. The question is

whether those who seek such freedom will realize its moral and legal aspects while exercising it.

Modern communication means have given so many individuals the chance to exercise these freedoms; however, they've done so at the expense of moral and legal aspects. Thus, this freedom has become settling personal accounts, delving into personal matters and moving from discussing what one does to discussing that person himself.

This matter indicates that some aren't keen on how to utilize the freedom that's available to them, nor do they realize that we're accountable for our actions, not just our character. However, some would like to exceed this and dis-

cuss personal things, such as color, form and size.

The other matter that should be considered is the dividing line between what's prohibited and allowed and what's acceptable or refused. In some matters, the line is only as wide as the breadth of a hair.

Talking about an official regarding his administrative practice or how he exercises his authority may be acceptable, but libel changes the acceptable to unacceptable, as well as legally accountable. Thus, such account or disclosure must be done within the framework of removing harm from an individual or group and seeking to achieve reform rather than settle accounts. Practicing

freedom of opinion and expression must be within moral and social responsibility rather than an absolute process.

Freedom of expression doesn't allow an individual to libel and to the contrary, nor does it allow him to hide things in favor of individual interests. Freedom and responsibility are interrelated issues that have become able to be expressed freely via new communication media; otherwise, such means will become 'yellow press,' attracting people but offering nothing more than entertainment.

We don't need networks publishing rumors and family secrets; rather, we're in dire need of a process to reform.

Source: Al-Thori newspaper

If the two giants unite

By: Farouq Luqman

In the Indian economic capital, which provides half of India's total tax revenue, some told me that the nicest gift for a groom in the 1950s was a table fan, if his house had electricity. Therefore, that's what I did when I visited in 1958, a time when electricity was widespread in the houses of Aden, as well as televisions, refrigerators and washing machines. My contemporaries may remember that the most famous type of fan was OSHA, whose showroom was in Crater district and was able to compete with imported British products.

Other than electric fans, there was also the usually good Indian cloth made of cotton and other common fibers. Up until then, economic policy impeded importation from other countries so as not to compete with British imports. People also may remember that most cars at that time were British until Japanese cars were imported. Indian cars weren't available because India's car production was insufficient to meet local consumption. Since Indian products were still in their beginning and had a low reputation, Yemeni consumers didn't buy them.

Despite this, most doctors, lawyers, engineers, technicians and teachers were Indians, who controlled the cloth trade, navigation, banks and beverages.

I remembered all of this while following the Chinese prime minister's historic visit to India last month and his indications about the possibility of establishing a common market for the two nations, which, if realized, would include three out of every eight persons in the world. India alone represents more than 200 million of the world's population living on 1.2 million square miles of land extending from the Himalayan Mountains in the north to the outskirts of Sri Lanka to the south, as well as bordering Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan and sharing common borders with Myanmar to the east.

Although China has a larger area and a higher population, the two nations are competing at a high rate to win the world's highest proportion of economic growth. It's said that China will be superior to Japan by 2020 and that India will be the second nation in Asia and one of the largest economic and industrial powers in the world if things continue in this way and the two nations have wit-

nessed no terrorist acts or dangerous ethnic disturbances during that time.

The Chinese leader's remarks aroused amazement, with repercussions not simply confined to Asia, but outside it as well. Current observers can't imagine that nearly half the world's population may form a common market with the largest proportion of both skilled and unskilled workers and seemingly imaginary natural resources and educational standards, especially in India, whose graduates are in-demand by many world governments and thus, work for them at high salaries. For instance, an Indian master's graduate presently makes \$75,000 annually in his country and \$200,000 annually if he works in a Western nation.

I remember what I used to offer journalists I recruited from Mumbai and Delhi from 1980 to 1985, offering them \$1,000 per month and \$100 for their residence, in addition to a transportation allowance. However, when I visited Delhi a year and a half ago, I couldn't tempt any good journalist to come with me for less than \$4,000, including allowances and the cost of educating his children in the Gulf, even before he could leave his city. This is why we find English newspapers in the Gulf advertising

their needs to Indians living in the region.

The question of the two giants' economic unification will remain suspended for several decades because it's larger than what minds in the two nations can imagine. Undoubtedly, the United States, Japan and even Europe will resist as much as possible through various means, not just the two giants' unity, but rather any closeness between them.

China is expected to continue its march toward growth for many decades because more than 1.25 billion people still need all that its government can offer. While the Chinese government continues pursuing a strong centralized regime, most of its southern regions experience a capitalist system similar to Hong Kong because it's no longer able to stop the wheels of openness to capitalism.

India now is growing at a rate of more than 8 percent annually and it hopes to reach 9-10 percent within the next decade. This has created for it a middle class amounting to approximately 200 million people. Because of its openness to the world, India has managed to attract tens of millions of investment dollars annually, which leads to employing hundreds of thousands of its educated

and skilled citizens.

It's true that a majority of Indians and Chinese still live at or below the poverty line, but we're talking about a population equal to half of the Earth, so it's just not possible to offer jobs and a means of living to every

one of them. However, there will come a day when trained Indians won't need to leave their country except for tourism or to deliver lectures at other universities.

Source: 26 September newspaper

Letters to the Editor

Improper tires cause vehicle accidents

I want to state wholeheartedly that lack of awareness and carelessness are the prime reasons for the alarming number of vehicular road accidents, brutally snatching lives and injuring many, according to statistics.

Motorists need guidance in selecting the correct tires for their vehicles. Drivers generally have a very limited knowledge of the technicalities of tires fitted on their automobiles. Tire dealers have only one main interest, which is how to get money from consumers by selling their products, whereas public motor safety apparently isn't their concern. Well, for the sake of the public's lives, that attitude ought to change.

Incorrect tires on vehicles are contributing factors in the increasing level of accidents due to the following factors:

Winter tires meant for European climates are sold openly in markets. Such tires are perfect for snow and mud in that part of the world. Moreover, motorists in such climatic regions are obliged to change their

vehicle's tires for safety and better performance, which is when summer arrives. The technical characteristics of winter tires are rather soft and compounded, while summer ones are designed to resist the heat of the road. Indeed, it would be devastating to use winter tires in our region's climatic variations.

Also sold in the market at rattling prices are industrially defective tires and I assume tire treads is a risky business too. It's useless to talk about worn out tires without drawing attention to the lifespan factor, as well as the correct method of storing tires, which most dealers hardly maintain the required standard.

Concerned authorities should take this matter seriously in order to ensure that measures are taken against non-compliance and whoever deals in the vehicle tire market. More importantly, what's essentially required is to raise public awareness periodically via mass media for the sake of our beloved compatriots.

Ali Al-Sharif
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Greek Cypriot converts

A Greek Cypriot who converted to Islam 10 years ago reportedly has written a letter of invitation to Islam to Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos. Yusuf, a former resident of Qatar who worked at Al-Ahli Hospital, has made the formal invitation as a sunnat of the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh), when he invited rulers of nations to Islam.

Yusuf, who wishes his full name to remain anonymous, is worried about the reprisals of such an invitation because Greek Cypriots who convert to Islam are humiliated in Cyprus and harassed by both the police and MATH (equivalent to the U.K.'s CID, the Criminal Investigations Department involving plainclothes police detectives). His struggle to help Cypriot Muslim converts is an uphill battle. His love for Islam is like no other I've seen and his perseverance is second to none.

The number of Greek Cypriot Muslim converts is increasing, all of whom are living under the hatred of the Greek Cypriots, receive no help from any Islamic nation, so they're left to fend for themselves as orphans.

He's currently helping another convert, Khatija, make others aware of

the importance of the mosque near Larnaca Airport, where the prophet's aunt, Umm Haram Bint Milhan, is buried. Using all of her own time and money, Khatija stands outside the mosque and informs visitors about its true history.

The mosque has been used as a tourist attraction and Greek Cypriots working there mistreat it by continually walking through it with their shoes on and even taking uncooked pork there and cooking it on the premises.

Yusuf and Khatija used their own finances and knowledge to free the mosque from its non-Muslim "owners" and returned it to the ummah. The mosque's land stretches for acres, but slowly has been eaten away by the Cypriot government.

Khatija passed away this week, while the now jobless Yusuf used the last of his finances to print a pamphlet containing the history of Umm Haram.

It's a shame that these converts to Islam continuously strive on the path of Allah but seem to receive no help from their Muslim brothers and sisters.

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By Samer A.

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Berlin Rapper Sahira

Hip-Hop with a Headscarf Aygül Cizmecioglu reports

Sahira is currently one of Berlin's most successful hip-hop artists. She raps about Islam, the Koran and life in Germany as a Muslim who wears a headscarf.

"I just don't get why she likes that scarf in her hair," 27-year-old Sahira raps. The Berliner of Palestinian origin has big, doe eyes and is wearing trendy jeans, a shiny top and a hijab, a tight-fitting headscarf. She is one of Berlin's most successful hip-hop artists.

Until a few years ago, Sahira wore her hair uncovered. But Sept. 11 changed all that. She was shocked that Islam was portrayed as a religion of terror and that Muslims as a whole came under suspicion. She started reading the Koran so she could make her own opinion, and she liked what she read. She was attracted to the spirituality and peaceful philosophy of this world religion – aspects which were hardly ever mentioned in the media. She started to pray five times a day, and, in November 2003 for the first time, she went out in public wearing a headscarf. It was her own decision, as she explains in her lyrics:

"For me it means freedom. It's my head, my hair, it's me. Only my man sees me exactly as I am, (...) coz that's what I want."

Different approaches

Sahira comes from a family of eight. Her

parents placed great value on education, insisting that all the children learn perfect German. The family is a good example of different approaches to Islam and to practicing religion as a whole. Some of Sahira's sisters are more religious and wear headscarves, while her mother and other sisters do not. And the fact that Sahira is a single mother is not a cause for shame for the family, but rather a reason to support her.

The singer wishes there were as much tolerance within the whole headscarf debate. It annoys her that in Germany and other parts of western Europe the headscarf is often perceived as a symbol of the oppression of women.

She said it was wrong for people, whether religious or not, to use a political platform to call for all women to remove their headscarves, as German Green party politician Ekin Deligöz recently did.

"I wouldn't want women to be told they had to wear one either. In general, I don't like the idea of such a dictatorship," Sahira said.

Respect for wearing the headscarf

Sahira, who's been making music for a decade, hasn't encountered problems wearing her headscarf in the hip-hop scene. From the start of her career, she has felt that her male colleagues respected her for her music. She wore a headscarf when she recorded a song with successful – and controversial – rap artist

Bushido, and it wasn't an issue. On the contrary, she felt that she was handled with respect for having worn it. In the meantime, she can't imagine going out with her hair uncovered.

In contrast to some of her male colleagues in the rap scene, glorification of violence and machismo are strictly taboo in her work. Her lyrics, she talks about what she sees happening around her – the lack of prospects among Germany's youth, conflict between old and young and, above all, the question of roots.

Feeling at home, but not entirely

Berlin is Sahira's home, she says in her songs, but she also sees the problems that immigrants and the children of immigrants – like her – experience.

"Home for me is somewhere where I don't cause offence and I can feel myself as a whole," she said. "I dream in German, I think in German, and among Arabs I also feel pretty German, but there is a difference. It's weird that you can't really settle here completely, that you never see someone like yourself in the media."

That's why Sahira tries to be a role model for young people, whether of immigrant origin or not, and to show that a practicing Muslim can be just as emancipated and self-assured as any other woman.

Source: DW-World.de



Berlin rapper Sahira rejects the notion that headscarves are a symbol of female oppression.

We have become our own worst enemies

By: Joharah Baker

JERUSALEM - Nothing could be worse than the murder of a child, except perhaps the murder of three. As we, as a society, attempt to fathom the unthinkable act of violence that transpired in the early morning hours of December 11 in Gaza we are also forced to take a long hard look at ourselves and ponder on how we could possibly have drifted so far from our goal.

Three small children, on their way to second and first grade, one – sitting on the lap of a bodyguard – on his way to preschool. Just minutes after pulling away from their home in the Rimal quarter of Gaza city, they were intercepted by three cars. A group of masked and armed men jumped out and opened fire, spraying the vehicle and those inside it with more than 60 bullets. After escaping, the men left a bloodbath

behind -- three children and one bodyguard dead, another passenger -- the children's small cousin -- injured, and four bystanders also on their way to school wounded and lying terrified on the Gaza street.

The attackers, widely believed to have been targeting Palestinian intelligence officer Baha' Balousha, have yet to be apprehended, although the interior ministry announced on December 13 that they had made several arrests of people suspected of involvement in the crime.

Immediately, condemnations were abundant. From the presidency, the government, the factions and shocked individuals, everyone expressed their horror that such a crime could be committed among Palestinians, who have always prided themselves in drawing the line at "spilling Palestinian blood".

These days, it is not just Palestinian blood that is being spilt but the blood of

innocents. It is irrelevant whether the target was their father, a well-known Fatah loyalist, or not. The fact remains that a mother is now bewailing the loss of her three beloved children -- Osama, Ahmad and Salam -- taken from her in a pointless act of violence, and our society is facing a perilous threat of unprecedented magnitude.

The perpetrators of this heinous act may or may not have been tied to a certain political faction. It would not be the first time hard-line loyalists of this or that faction took shots at each other. Just the other day, the convoy of Hamas-affiliated interior minister Said Siyam was shot at in Gaza city. Armed clashes have become the common mode of dispute lately between the rivaling Hamas and Fatah parties. It has even gotten to the point where firearms are drawn for the sake of a parking space, a suspicious look or a heated argument.

What has our society been reduced to when parents cannot feel safe in sending their children off to school in the morning and not because they fear an Israeli tank shell? Isn't it enough that we still must face the oppression of an Israeli occupation that has proven its ruthlessness time and again? Did we not raise our voices in rage when our children were pulled lifeless from their beds after Israeli tank shells ripped them from their sleep?

Those who opened fire on the children have been called collaborators, mercenaries and traitors by various Palestinian personalities and factions, who are all scrambling to clear their own names of the unforgivable crime. It is a heavy load to have the blood of babies on your hands and each and every Palestinian faction involved in the current state of disunity knows that if they were found responsible for the children's

deaths, they would suffer dearly among the people.

Still, whether factional loyalties are behind the killings, the assassin was guilty of mistaken identity or the culprits were indeed "collaborators" intent on driving even deeper wedges between our people, what rings poignantly true is that the current state of chaos and lawlessness in our society has provided a breeding ground for such crimes.

Our leaders are good at "talking the talk," eloquently praising our people's steadfastness and their own commitment to national unity and forwarding our noble cause. But behind the scenes, our leaders are setting a poor and potentially disastrous example for the masses. While they have not lowered themselves to actually shooting at one another, the verbal sparring and the flying insults and accusations are creating an atmosphere of hatred and contempt between a people who cannot afford such discord.

The perpetrators must be brought to justice; that is indisputable. Then, after they are settled in their prison cells for what should be the rest of their lives and the babies are nestled into their final resting place, our leaders, our factions and our people must reflect on how we

allowed ourselves to reach this point.

National unity must never be merely a slogan on a wall or flowing words from an otherwise cunning politician. We must live it, breathe it and embrace it if we ever to survive and continue on the path from which we have long gone astray. It does not matter whether the prime minister is loyal to Fatah, to Hamas or to either for that matter. What matters is that we have a strong, responsible leadership comprised of competent, qualified people who love their country and are willing to show calculated flexibility in their own stances for the benefit of Palestine and the Palestinians.

If this society does not rescue itself from this treacherous abyss, our dream will be gone, drowned in the blood of our children.

Joharah Baker is a Writer for the Media and Information Programme at the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH). She can be contacted at mip@miftah.org. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.

Iraq is a political mess

The bloodshed in Iraq is not looking to decline. A study group claims over 650,000 Iraqis have been killed after US occupation of Iraq since 2003. Iraqi government figures say around 150,000 killed, US has own estimates. Whichever figure is true, one thing is sure that Iraq is dealing with death



By: Imran Khan
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getting to any better situation? My answer to this question would be "the inexperienced Iraqi leadership" is more responsible than any other factors. The government has no clues what to do and how to manage things in proper way. The main reason behind is that they have no prior experience, no clear ideas of any kind to run a county and that is

why everyone in Iraq is paying a huge price. If we look in the past, Saddam Hussein ruled the country for many decades (1979 – 2003) and he was the only power in the country. Saddam dictatorship never allowed any other political force to challenge his rule. So there was no political process and when suddenly his rule was over, Iraq found itself without any leadership. Democratic elections were held in 2005 and were called historical and considered as begging of a new era. But since then things are even worse. The only reason behind the failure is not the commitment but inexperience. Proper assessments of situations is lacking so decisions are also wrong. Biographies of current Iraqi leaders clearly shows that they were involved in political struggle against Saddam Hussein but top leaders remained out of the country for long time and had no real political life in Iraq. So they never were in a position to understand ground realities or to work in a proper democratic setup. Where they could have learned the techniques to become more effective leaders to understand and solve the problems.

Democracy is a long learning process and it requires time to take its effects.

There is no argument about its worthiness for any country. But it needs time to take its grip. Leadership is not an easy job. To run a country proper planning required and that comes with the experience. This fact is quite visible from history. If west is developed and their leaders can manage to overcome problems than it has taken a huge time and that's only happened because of continued democratic process.

If Iraqi soldiers got training from American troops than it's very simple that newly elected Iraqi leaders also needs to learn to do the job properly. It's not easy to run a peaceful country how can someone assume that a war torn country would stand on its feet with democratic elections only? Previous Iraqi Prime Minister Mr. Ibrahim al-Jaafari was not considered best for the job and was removed. Now Mr. Nouri al-Maliki, the current Prime Minister is also facing the same situation. A classified White House memo expressed doubts about him. The document, written by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley, said "the reality on the streets suggests Maliki is either ignorant of what's going on, misrepresenting his intentions, or that his capabilities are not yet sufficient." It's easy to judge someone's performance and call him with any name like ignorant. But has anyone ever thought that they might have tried their best but because situation is too complicated for them to handle? Even the seasoned leadership in USA had no clues that what will happen after occupation of Iraq. So putting all the blame on new Iraqi government is not fair.

This situation is not limited to Iraq only and we can see that in Afghanistan where elections were held in 2004, they were also called historical and ground

braking. Even as in Afghanistan there is no such bloodshed as it is in Iraq but Karzai government facing huge problems to run the country smoothly. Experts believe that his authority is only limited to the capital Kabul and many warlords in Afghanistan show their own powers in different parts. Afghanistan history is similar to Iraq as there was no political process before these elections for many decades.

The solution would be to learn from others and if there is no experience inside. USA has to do more than anyone else as the situation is all because of its invasion. So it's very important that USA lead the Iraqi leaders in their way to get knowledge about running the country. Only putting doubts on Iraqi leadership would not help. Democracy is all about respecting everyone's rights. Listening, compromising, trusting and cooperating with everyone.. Shias and Sunnis in Iraqi government need to trust each others. Calling each other traitors will never lead towards a solution. In Islamic world there are differences between Sunnis and Shias but there is no such big enmity as it looks in Iraq. Neighboring countries can help them to understand and rectify the mistakes they have made in the past. The good thing is that now Iraqi government is trying to work with the neighbors and it will be fruitful. Unlike other countries Iraqi situation demands quick actions and leaders have to learn quickly. The more quickly they learn the better it would be for the future of Iraq.

Muhammad Imran Khan is assistant director of Pakistan's National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). He is an economic and commerce specialist and a freelance writer for several international newspapers.

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Computerized methods necessary to improve customer service

By: Iskander Saeed

Although customer service is a well-established concept in business, little is implemented in that regards in the Yemeni business environment. Customers are always complaining that businesses do not keep up their promises once the sale

is through in terms of warranty, after sale service, and availability of spare parts. This issue matters the most when customers purchase durable goods for which these expectations are far higher.

Several brands and retailers have terrible customer service to the extent that they have risked their reputation and created bad publicity. It is true that Yemen is an underdeveloped market and with

mostly immature business practices. However, proper customer service can be an opportunity for growth and excellence in business, adding a competitive advantage and increasing customer loyalty among other benefits.

Good customer service can be one of the hardest business skills to master. Therefore, technological solutions have been developed in order to ease this process and enhance its efficiency. On top of those solutions stands CRM software packages.

An acronym for Customer Relationship Management, CRM is an industry term for software solutions that help enterprise businesses manage customer relationships in an organized way. An example of a CRM would be a database containing detailed customer information that management and salespeople can reference in order to match customer needs with products, inform customers of service requirements, and so on. This will help maximize customer retention and churn reduction.

But the business should define the business's needs carefully to get a positive impact of CRM on your business. So, to get the full benefit of CRM, the company should develop data warehousing and business intelligence tools to support CRM and retention strategies.

CRM applications often track customer interests and requirements, as well as their buying habits. This information can be used to target customers selectively. Furthermore, the products a customer has purchased can be tracked throughout the product's life cycle, providing enterprises with information on alternative products for the customers once a product begins to be phased out.

Many enterprises outside Yemen, especially the private ones in the region, have made progress as result of applying CRM because they determined what they needed to achieve, which comes from a deeper understanding of customers and their individual needs. CRM is an alternative to the "one size fits all" approach. In industrial markets, the technology can be used to coordinate the



Why is CRM important? (www.crmondemand.com)

conflicting and changing purchase criteria of the sector.

Benefits of CRM:

CRM saves time, effort and money. CRM is a computerized system with the objective of producing valuable information as inputs for business decisions, such as changing the product line or introducing new products, holding promotions, boosting sales, and monitoring trends of sales as well as the repeat purchase of customers.

The business applications of CRM are numerous, ranging from risk reduction and taking calculated risks to integrating sales and marketing strategies as well as identifying potential problems before they occur. For example if a defected product was found, then the company

can call back all such products for repairs without allowing customers to discover the deficiency and then file a complaint. In summary, CRM benefits can be measured and quantified if we are using CRM applications to increase the revenue by reducing operation costs, increasing profitability as a result of enhanced marketing intelligence, attracting new customers, closing sales faster and quicker, and responses to customer leads and customer information more efficiently.

Mr. Iskander Saeed Qaid is a Billing & Streamserv Expert administering Information Technology at Sabafon Telecommunications. He can be reached at:

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Business In Brief

President approves new anti-corruption legislation

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has approved a new piece of legislation to establish an independent high-level anti-corruption organization with supreme authority and responsibility to combat corruption on par with existing laws in that regard.

Presidential decrees enhance cooperation with Egypt

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has approved presidential decree No. 189 for 2006 regarding cooperating with Egypt in several economic and social sectors, including transportation, energy, media, sports and youth. Yemeni-Egyptian cooperation has a substantial history, especially during the second half of the 20th century.

Oil exports increase to \$3.7 billion in 2006

Crude oil exports by the Yemeni government hit \$3.74 billion during January-November 2006, compared to \$2.8 billion for the same period in 2005. The increased revenue is due to increased global oil prices, which averaged \$63.5 per barrel in 2006, compared to \$51.1 per barrel in 2005.

Central Bank foreign assets increase 0.71% in November

The Central Bank of Yemen has indicated that its foreign assets amounted to YR 1.65 trillion by the end of November, compared to YR 1.64 trillion at the end of October, for a net increase of YR 11.6 trillion [that can't be right, as Oct. was 1.64 trillion and Nov. was 1.65 trillion, so that's only a difference of .01 trillion] during November.

Kuwait Energy to assess Block 18 gas reserves

Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company has contracted Kuwait Energy Company to conduct a study and assess the feasibility of exploring and producing gas in sector A of Block 18 located in Marib governorate. Safer is Yemen's first oil company to conduct oil exploration and production activities. It plans to enlarge the span of its operations in Marib.

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A tour of ancient Yemeni artifacts

By: Ismail Al-Jandari
For Yemen Times

Yemen's National Museum contains a number of archeological artifacts our forefathers handed down throughout history and Yemen is famed for such artifacts among Near East nations.

Due to the advancement and progress achieved in Yemen, historians were prompted to call it Arabia Felix. Since water was necessary for peoples

and societies, most ancient societies, such as the Egyptian and Iraqi civilizations, existed along riverbanks, whereas Yemenis overcame water scarcity difficulties by building dams, thus enabling them to build cities and large farms.

Over the past few years, the National Museum has progressed a lot as its monument collections increased and were documented. Most of these collections also were restored. Further, exhibition halls were rearranged and new halls added, while others received new monuments.

The museum's wing for Pre-Islamic Monuments dedicates two stories to the period:

First floor

The ground floor contains statues of Dhamar Ali Yahber and his son Tharan Yahnem and the wing is named for them. Upon their discovery in Al-Nakhlah Al-Hamra (Red Palm city) in Dhamar, they were in a bad state, so they were sent to Germany's Hahn-Meitner Institute in Berlin for maintenance and restoration. There, two copies were made, modeled after the originals.

A new antiquity, a bronze boiler (utensil used in cooking) discovered in Qataban's capital of Tamna, was added to the wing. The circular-shaped boiler, one of the world's largest, has a strip written in ancient Al-Musnad script and also underwent 10 years of maintenance at the same institute.

Further, a number of tableaus written in Al-Musnad and discovered in Al-Jawf and at a Shrine in Marib are offerings presented to Yemen's ancient lunar god, Almaqah, from the seventh century B.C.

Second floor

Antiquities are exhibited chronologically, with each grouping placed in a separate room according to the room's size and shape.

Himyarite Kingdom Hall

This hall includes archaeological pieces of various shapes and sizes. Such statues made of marble, red granite, bronze and pottery, representing human beings and animals.



Sheban Kingdom Hall includes a number of bronze pieces depicting human and animal feet.

Inscriptions Hall

This is a separate hall which includes documentary inscriptions written in Al-Musnad on marble, stone and bronze were offered to gods on different occasions, some of them narrating war stories between two factions.

Wood inscriptions written in ancient Al-Zabour (Holy text of David) script recount individuals' correspondence and privileges.

Hadramout Kingdom Hall

This hall opened after collecting a group of antiquities including human heads, incense containers and pottery.

Ma'een Kingdom Hall

This hall holds a great portion of new archeological artifacts, including gold pieces dating to the first century B.C. found in Hamadah Kharbat Hamdan in Al-Jawf.

Sheban Kingdom Hall

This hall includes a number of bronze



The Inscriptions Hall contains documentary inscriptions written in Al-Musnad on marble, stone and bronze were offered to gods on different occasions.

PHOTO BY IBRAHIM AL-HADID

pieces depicting human and animal feet and another artifact with shapes of ibexes and lions with human faces, all of which underwent restoration and maintenance operations at the


museum. Further, various marble, pottery and limestone pieces represent human heads, the most important of which are two cornices in the form of ibexes.



The Himyarite Kingdom Hall contains statues made of marble, red granite, bronze and pottery, representing human beings and animals.

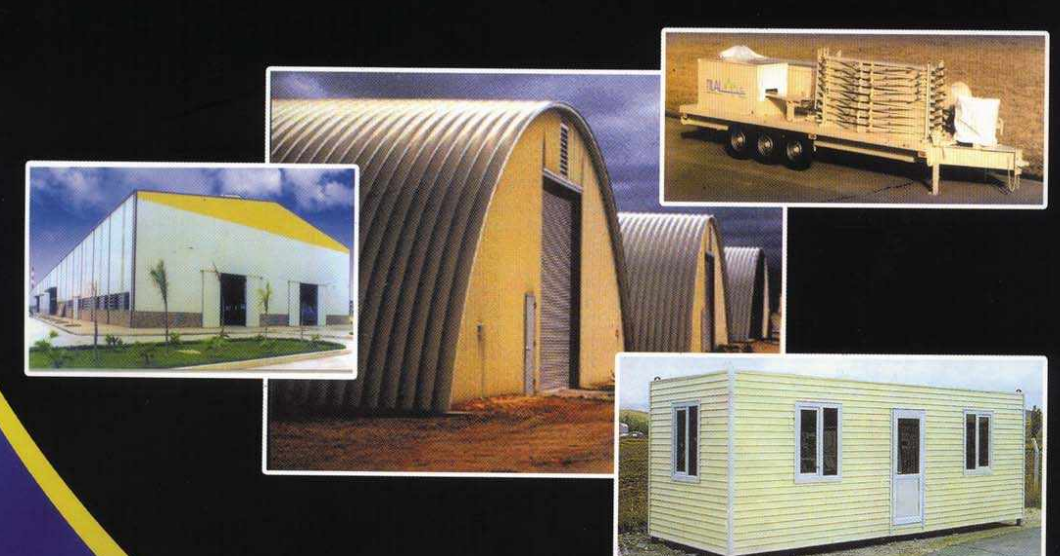
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