



Thursday, 31 January, 2008 • Issue No. 1125 • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf • www.yementimes.com



Price 40 Yemeni Riyals









Women Workers: The ongoing struggle with stereotypes and perception

# **Arms-carrying ban leads** to a 39 percent decrease in crime

#### By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Jan 30 – Fifty eight lives had been saved in four months because of the weapons ban strategy activated by the Ministry of Interior in August last year.

Mohammed Abdullah Al-Qawsi, deputy minister of interior for the security section and director of the weapon banning project in the secretariat, explained that this time the weapons banning strategy has proved more effective compared to previous times.

"The law on possessing arms is now pending in the Parliament and waiting for approval. Our previous strategies were not as effective because we were

# **4U**

Take part of the weapons ban campaign by calling 199 if you see any citizens or vehicles carrying weapons.

not as strict or as comprehensive," said Al-Oawsi

The previous strategy began in mid-2006, and only 16,000 weapons were seized between then and mid-2007. In the first four months of this strategy, 70,000 pieces were collected, which is an 87 percent increase.

Al-Qawsi says this strategy is

Data	Last four months before imposing the ban	First four months after imposing the ban
No of deaths	113 persons	55 persons
Threat by weapons	251	154
Exploding of bombs or		
other explosives	42	21
Weapon shooting	571	393
Fire (shooting) exchange	119	47
Land seizing by force	36	13
Number of injuries	517	374
Total number of crimes	1163	710

Source: Ministry of Interior, Weapons control sector



The new weapon-banning strategy is more effective than before. However, the ban needs to be enforced in the rural areas.

stricter with "no exceptions." The type of banned weapons have changed too, as this time it is allowing only concealed pistols, while last time it allowed hand guns and Kalashnikovs.

uted to the strategy's success is the media campaign that accompanied the strategy.

The third point that Al-Qawsi attrib-

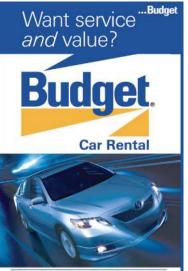
Continued on page 3

# Sa'ada clashes continue, efforts fail to assess human situation

#### By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Jan. 30 — Government troops attacked several areas of Haidan district in armed confrontations with Houthi supporters Tuesday, thereby hindering Qatari mediation efforts to contain the crisis, according to tribal and media sources from Sa'ada governorate.

They add that army forces fired seven



Katvusha rockets at Jeza area from a military site in Malahidh area west of Sa'ada, while Al-Jaoun village in Haidan was subjected to extensive heavy machine gun fire from another army site.

On Monday, military troops resumed operations in various Sa'ada areas and villages, but mainly in Matra area where Houthi hardliners and their leader, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, are believed to be hiding. Juma'a Bin Fadhel village also experienced heavy mortar strikes from a military outpost in Marran district.4

Indicating that military reinforcements arrived in Sa'ada Monday via two different routes, Houthi sources noted that "Some came via the Sana'a-Sa'ada highway while others came via Haradh Media sources report that Juma'a Bin

عبرالعالم في الوقت تماماً

The World on Time

خدمات التخليص للعملاءمجانا

sana'a Tel.: 440170/67 صنعاء

For Oilfield Services

(A Member of Al-Shaif Intn'l Group)

Qarnaw provides highest

quality services through

the provision of **Competent** 

personnel and State of the

Art well-maintained

equipment.

Tel: 01 448447/8, Fax: 01 448446. 3rd Floor, Sana'a Trade Center, Sana'a, Republic of Yeme

M: godwin@qarnaw.com W: www.shaifgroup.co

clashes between army detachments and Houthis, although such clashes reached their climax earlier this week.

The same sources maintain that Houthi supporters attacked military outposts in Juma'a Bin Fadhel village earlier this week, seizing three army positions after troops evacuated; however, a military source denied such report to Al-Ayyam daily newspaper.

"Houthi followers attempted to seize some military positions and raided one on Sunday," the military source stated, 'The commander of the site was killed and four other soldiers injured in the raid, but other troops later retook the site after extensive clashes through Monday. More than four Houthi loyalists were shot dead in the clashes."

Local confirm sources

SAMSUNG

dozens on both sides have been killed or injured through Tuesday evening, but no reports have indicated the exact number of casualties.

Security and military troops have increased their road checkpoints Monday and Tuesday, most notably on the roads and mountains between Majaz and Sehar districts, in order to prevent any supplies or reinforcements from reaching Houthi supporters.

This comes after several security checkpoints failed to discover which road three Houthi vehicles - loaded with huge quantities of weapons and ammunition - traveled from Dhehian to Haidan, according to reports released by security monitoring centers. Such reports reveal that the three vehicles entered areas of military and security

# Dr. Burrowes warns of collapse

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

In an article written for Yemen Times and titled "The Salih Regime and the Need for Reform," the American political scientist Dr. Robert Burrowes warns Yemenis and international community of the danger of economic and societal collapse in Yemen. Burrowes, who is known among Yemenis as sheik Bob,

thinks "[t]he regime of President Ali Abdullah Salih has demonstrated clearly since the mid-1990s that it lacked the will and capacity to adopt the major economic and political reforms needed" to create "enough jobs and income." The results, according to Burrowes, have been "alarming levels of unemployment, poverty and malnutrition." Read full article in page three.

# Presidential system may not work under totalitarianism, MP says

#### By: Adel Al-Khawlani For Yemen Times

SANA'A, Jan. 30 - "The move toward a presidential system, as suggested by President Ali Abdullah Saleh's most recent initiative, is unlikely to work in Yemen under a totalitarian regime," said Parliament member Abdulrahman Ba Fadhal, who is also head of the Islah Parliamentary Caucus, at a symposium entitled "Political Systems under Democracies," on Wednesday.

Ba Fadhal recommended that Yemen understand the real concept of democracy and what democracy means before moving toward a presidential system with a bicameral legislature, adding that the authority never recognizes the peaceful transfer of power. "The Yemeni authority alone controls power and doesn't allow chances to other political partners to share it in running the country's affairs," he commented.

Focusing on the political system's impacts on the Parliament, media, tribes and judiciary, the symposium was organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) as part of its efforts to foster Yemen's democratic development.

"Yemen is a pioneer in the region's democracies and the Yemeni public remains supportive of democracy," said NDI Country Director Peter Dimitroff at the event. "For more than a decade, the NDI has conducted programs in Yemen with the aim of increasing women's political participation, strengthening local councils, providing Parliament members with core skills and improving the representative nature of Yemen's political parties."

Yemen's democratic development, as well as provide all the forms of technical assistance in the country's presidential, parliamentary and local council elections.

The symposium was moderated by Dr. Wisam Sa'ada, a political systems expert from Lebanon, who gave a general overview of the presidential and parliamentary systems, plus the advantages and disadvantages of each in democratic development.

Three papers were presented at the symposium by Sana'a University professors Mohammed Abdullah Numan, Mohammed Muhsin Al-Dhahiri and Samir Al-Abdali respectively, while a fourth one was submitted by former President of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate Abdulbari Taher.

Presented by Numan, the first paper discussed the political system (presidential and parliamentary) and the positive and negative impacts of each on the judiciary while Al-Dhahiri's paper touched upon the relation between the political systems and tribalism and how each influences the other. The third paper, presented by Al-Abdali, focused on both systems' positive and negative impact on Parliament's role.

In his paper, Taher highlighted the presidential and parliamentary systems' impacts on the media role with specific reference to the Yemeni environment.

The two-day symposium was attended by U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Angie Bryan, embassy staff, Parliament members, party leaders, NGO representatives, academics and media personnel. The symposium is due to conclude Thursday, Jan. 31, with the General People Congress's and Joint Dimitroff confirmed that his organi- Meeting Parties' approaches to the pres-

National and International Reservations Reservation Tel. 309618 - 506372. Reservation Fax. 240958, Hadda, Reservation Tel. 411727 24 hours (Hot Line) 733652317



Tel: +967 (4) 232727 (10 Lines) Fax: +967 (4) 223851 / 231642 / 219112 E:mail: alsaeed@alsaeed.com.ye Website: www.alsaeedtrading.com



Fadhel continues witnessing fierce between the two sides, adding that

continued fighting and exchange of attacks operations within the governorate.

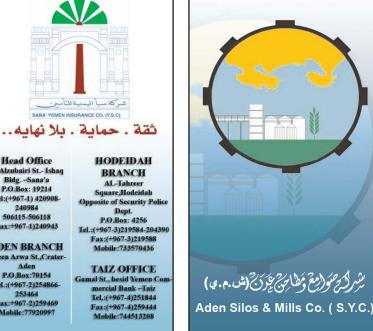
Continued on page 2

zation will remain a key partner in idential and parliamentary systems.











# **Around the Nation**



# National campaign against torture, illegal imprisonment launched

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

SANA'A, Jan.28 - The Yemen Organization for Defending Rights and Democratic Freedoms, in conjunction with the Changing Organization, and Social Forum, and other NGOs, Al-Nada, the Yemen Times and Al-Balagh newspapers launched on Monday a campaign entitled "The National Campaign for Defending Torture Victims and Illegal Detainment." The ceremony was held in the Yemen Times premises.

At the commencement of the activity, Ali Al-Dailami, executive director of the Yemen Organization for Defending Rights and Democratic Freedoms, delivered a speech in which he said that the campaign came because of the increasing number of illegally detained people, including children.

He also pointed out that the campaign will carry out several programs in series, aimed at defending and supporting every citizen exposed to detainment, torture, abduction or other illegal acts. The campaign will organize



During the ceremony man stands on the stage covering his face carrying names of the 900 illegal detainees.

peaceful sit-ins in front of relevant locations, such as prisons and the Ministry of Interior.

The Yemen Organization for Defending Rights and Democratic Freedoms, however, launched last month a special website called "The Detainees" in order to receive files and photos of detainees and publish them on the website

"By now, the campaign has received 900 illegal detainee files. These files are related to people thrown into prisons for months or a year without charges. They were not referred to the prosecution or presented to trial. We will work on re-opening the files of the detainees who were unfairly tried," Al-Dailami further added.

The ceremony was attended by a huge number of media personnel, human rights activists and some of the detainees' relatives. The attendees discussed the tough circumstances the detainees were exposed to and conducted negotiations on the campaign programs.

In turn, Abdul-Kareem Al-Khaiwani, a well-known Yemeni journalist, called on deleting the word "illegal" from the campaign title because there is "no

legal torture and illegal torture, as torture must not be allowed at all" according to him.

'To gain the sympathy of Condoleezza Rice," Dr. Al-Murtadha Zaid Al-Muhatwari, a mosque preacher stated, "women are to run demonstrations and men to hold sit-ins.'

MP Fuad Dahaba stressed the importance of educating the public so as not to accept detainments and torture in the long term.

Moreover, Abdul-Rahman Berman, acting with the HOOD Organization, confirmed that some officers and soldiers working in the prisons admitted that they tortured detainees by slapping and electrifying them in order to coerce confessions

At the end of the national campaign, a committee was formed to defend the victims of torture and illegal detainments. The committee will have branches in a number of governorates, such as Sana'a, Aden, Hodeidah, Ibb and Taiz. Another committee was also instituted to follow up the campaign programs.

# Saleh urges Spain to free detained **Al-Jazeera correspondent**

MADRID, Jan. 30 - President Ali Abdullah Saleh urged the Spanish government to release detained Al-Jazeera correspondent Taysir Alluni, who has been detained more than four years in a Spanish jail for allegedly collaborating with Al-Qaeda operatives, local media reported Wednesday.

This came as part of Saleh's official three-day visit to the European Union member state this week, during which he met with Spain's King Juan Carlos to discuss a variety of issues and matters concerning both countries.

Arriving in Spain Monday, Saleh was expected to renew Sana'a's offer to hand over to Madrid Nabil Nankali, a Spaniard of Syrian origin, to Spanish authorities. Nankali was arrested in Yemen in 1997 on terrorism charges, along with a number of suspects. A Yemeni court sentenced him to death in 1998

President Saleh asking Alluni release in exchange for handing over Nankali

A Spanish court imprisoned Alluni in 2005 after accusing him of acting as a financial courier to Al-Qaeda while in Afghanistan

A Spanish national of Syrian origin, Alluni is best known for his interview with Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden in Afghanistan just weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States. Al-Jazeera, the Arab satellite television largely financed by Qatari authorities, has always insisted that he is innocent.

During his talks with the king, Saleh also urged the Spanish government to play an effective role in pressuring Israel to cease its aggression against the Palestinian people and lift its lockdown of the Gaza Strip, because according to Saleh, such action may help boost the comprehensive Middle East peace process and reinforce international legitimacy resolutions.

Saleh has pledged his government's support in the fight against terrorism, having renewed such a vow following a

suicide bombing last July that killed eight Spanish tourists and two Yemenis.

The Spanish king praised Yemen's efforts to capture the killers of eight Spanish tourists whose convoy was bombed in the historic city of Marib, located some 240 kilometers east of Sana'a. Both governments on Tuesday stressed their interest in boosting all types of cooperation, including the fight against terrorism, Spanish media reported.

In this vein, the two countries will sign cooperation agreements in sectors including health care, tourism and protecting investments, Spanish media quoted Carlos as saying at a news conference regarding Yemen's contributions to Spanish culture when the European country was largely under the rule of Muslim Moors more than 500 years ago. The entire Yemeni delegation attended the press event.

Expert Gema Martin Munoz acknowledged that Yemen had made "a notable contribution to Andalus culture," as the Muslim part of Spain was known.

Carlos warmly received Saleh at Zarzuela Palace, the royal residence on the outskirts of Madrid, at noon Tuesday. The two were to later lunch with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who also was to conduct talks with the Yemeni leader that evening at government headquarters

Last April, the Yemeni and Spanish governments signed an agreement in the fields of education, science and culture, under which the two nations would develop their relations by exchanging educational materials and research.

On the same front, Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratino and his delegation, who visited Yemen at that time, met with President Saleh, discussing aspects of cooperation between the two countries in fields of tourism, energy and fisheries, in addition to topics related to security and counterterrorism.

# Journalist faces execution, while another man faces death at hands of extremists

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

ADEN, Jan.30 — The Syrah Primary Court in Aden experienced last Sunday the first session of the lawsuit lodged by the General Prosecution against the journalist Feras F. Yafa'ei as the latter was accused of drinking alcohol and tearing the Holy Quran into pieces and throwing it into the street.

Since the early morning of the session, the court hall and corridors were fully crowded by a huge number of religious extremists, making it difficult for the judge to go into the hall.

According to some locals, the mosques preachers called on the locals last Friday to head toward the court Sunday morning in order to attend the trial of the drunken man who tore the holy book. The purpose of the attendees is to pressure the court measures.

Some of the trial session attendees told the Yemen Times that two senior lawyers, namely Mohammed M. Nasser and Moneer Garadah, attended the trial to defend the suspect, who confessed that he drank alcohol but denied that he tore the Quran.

Judge Jamal A. O'mar demanded the general prosecution to bring witnesses in for proof in the court's next session, which will be held next week. Central Security personnel carrying teargas bombs and firearms were viewed around the court premises,

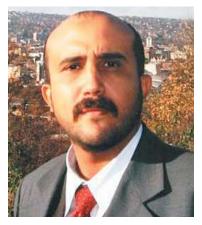
according to press sources.



Feras F. Yafa'ei

Local press sources also said that since the arrest of Feras Yafea'ei at the last December, Al-Adhah Eid, the extremists conducted several campaigns to defame and sway public opinion against the suspect, who has not yet been convicted.

Some of the religious extremists emphasized the necessity of making the suspect repent, as Islam law stipulates the obligation of making the suspect confess and request repentance,



#### Aymen M. Nasser

80 lashes.

Some observers expect that the issue will be prolonged because the suspect is accused of tearing the Quran, and there are a large number of extremists led via mosque preachers of the Salafi group who are keeping tabs on the case.

Likewise, Al-Sheik O'thman Prosecution Court in Aden investigated with Aymen M. Nasser, the Editor in Chief of Al-Tareek newspaper, as he and other people participated in the Reconciliation and Forgiveness Rally which took place on Jan.13 in Al-Hashemi square in Al-Sheik O'thman

Accompanied by three lawyers, Nasser requested the prosecution court to let him know the charge directed against him. He was told that investigation was based on a notification made by the governorate security in Aden against him and others. The charge, according to the governorate notification, security is. "Transgressing the Republic's independence, shaking security and social stability as well as exposing transportation to jeopardy, and damaging private properties."

Attended by his lawyers, Nasser was being investigated from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

"I was asked 23 questions regarding my relationship with the rally and its preparation and the names of the organizers," said Nasser.

"As a journalist and a participant, I was also investigated about the purpose and reasons why committees were formed to organize the rally and also the number of banners and slogans chanted. The investigators also asked me about if there were slogans chanted against the national unity or inciting violence and feuds. I denied all these charges," he said.

Nasser was in charge of the media committee for the rally, in which three people were shot dead and tens were injured. This came after fierce clashes

# **Illegal herbicide trafficking continues to increase**

By: Almigdad Dahesh Mojalli

SANA'A, Jan. 27 – Illegal trafficking of harmful and inactive herbicides is on the rise, according to the Association of

smuggled." While the government accuses the cer.

AACB of bringing poisonous herbicides into the country, Al-Aqel says the

percent of herbicides on the market are recent nationwide study found that 22,000 Yemenis annually contract can-

Al-Hawshabi affirmed that the ministry will complete preparations for a still are being circulated on the market. laboratory for herbicidal analysis and qualify a team of specialists to operate the lab. Abdulqawi Abduljalil, general manager of [Yemen's?] Plant Protection Administration, stated that last year, his agency decreased the number of herbicides circulated on the market from 1,024 to 441, and further decreased the quantity of imported herbicides from 2.600 tons to 1.100 tons. Abduljalil noted that the Yemeni government has confiscated five tons of illegal herbicides and prevented eight trucks carrying illegal herbicides from entering the country in Al-Bouq and

Haradh on the northern border of Yemen. Further, Abduljalil indicated that his agency has issued a list of 335 types of invalid herbicides, 79 of which

Agricultural Commodities Businessmen (AACB).

The group's leader also accused government authorities of helping to smuggle, market and distribute the often-poisonous chemicals throughout the governorates.

Yemen's many farmers use herbicides to stave off blight and increase the production of fruits, vegetables and qat.

"We've noticed a huge increase in illegal herbicide trafficking recently," AACB president Ahmed Al-Agel said at a three-day conference on agricultural chemicals last week, "We believe 60

Yemeni government itself traffics the illegal substances.

"We see many government apparatuses helping to smuggle these herbicides into the country and also helping market and transmit them among the governorates," Al-Aqel says.

Agriculture Minister Mansour Al-Hawshabi maintains that the agricultural sector's use of herbicides is mandatory to raise crops. However, many people are unaware that some herbicides include poisonous substances; hence, they overuse them, which can cause disease, particularly cancer. The most

Last week's conference also featured talks by academics from Sana'a University and representatives of various administrations within the Ministry of Agriculture.

Participants agreed that smuggled herbicides damage both human health and the environment because most include poisonous chemicals.

They also discussed how to better circulate and distribute agricultural chemicals, safe alternatives in fighting blights and the role of agricultural research in restricting unsafe use of such chemicals.

or otherwise be killed.

The court will enact the punishment according to the Islamic law regarding the crime of drinking alcohol because the suspect confessed that before the court. According to the Islamic law, the punishment of drinking alcohol is

took place between the security personnel and protesters who chanted secessionist slogans.

Nasser also said that the charge against him in the security notice also carries the penalty of the death sentence according to Yemeni law.

# Yemeni cartoonists display talents at Culture House

SANA'A, Jan. 28 — A cartoon exhibit at the Culture House dazzled the few visitors that came to see the show, the first of its kind in Sana'a.

The featured drawings were the outcome of a seven-day training course for 12 professional and amateur cartoonists. Yemen's Ministry of Culture sponsored both the training and the exhibit. Many of the cartoons turned a criti-

cal eye on socio-political and economic issues, while others depicted famous proverbs and sayings.

"There are a number of cartoonists and the art itself is very popular in Yemen, especially in newspapers," Culture House manager Yahya Al-Dailami noted, adding, "We trained these cartoonists to improve their skills and encourage others."

"Many hidden cartooning talents haven't been exposed because talented cartoonists haven't had the chance to show their drawing talents," remarked Mazin Shuja, a popular cartoonist for Al-Thawrah newspaper who participated in the exhibit.

In May, the Culture Ministry will

hold an international fine arts meeting in an effort to encourage artists from different countries to exchange experiences.

"This current exhibit for Yemeni caricaturists and the meeting in May are positive signs of the Yemeni government's intent to improve caricature art in Yemen," Al-Dailami noted.

Due to the rarity of shows like these in Yemen, aside from opening day, few came to see the exhibit.

"People are concerned about other things such as increasing their low income and providing their families a better life. Such exhibits just may not interest them," commented Mustafa Omran, a Yemeni writer who visited the show.

However, he did have a few words of encouragement for the cartoonists. "I suggest the Yemeni government establish a union or even a club for cartoonists where they can meet to exchange ideas and experiences," he proposed.

Having begun last Thursday, the show concludes today.

#### Arms-carrying ban leads to a 39 percent decrease in crime

## Possessing vs. Carrying The strategy, in essence, does not pre-

vent possessing arms or weapons. The law allows every citizen to own light arms but does not allow them to carrying arms in public. This misunderstanding causes tribal people and other citizens to hesitate before registering their weapons. Every citizen is required to register the type and number of weapons they have, in order to assist in crime investigations, according to the weapons sector at the Ministry of Interior.

The local community has shown widespread support for this campaign by reporting cars or people carrying weapons. Most calls have come from near Sana'a and Aden.

### Resistance

Continued from page1

Contradicting some reports in the media, there was no violent resistance against the police who stopped armscarrying in public. Even influential tribal sheikhs let the security people take their arms without resorting to violence. Mareb and Jawf are the two governorates where the strategy is being implemented slowly and thoroughly. Al-Qawsi said that de-arming is a process, and he hoped that with time, the main cities will be completely weapon free.

"If there is anyone who thinks they are above the law, we let them understand exactly where they stand," insisted Al-Qawsi.

As people become more dependent on the legal system and look for peaceful solutions to settle their disputes, the number of crimes caused by

weapons has decreased by 41 percent.

#### Sa'ada clashes continue, efforts fail to assess human situation

Regarding the humanitarian situation. Gareth Richards, country director for the international CARE organization, said in an interview with female journalists at the Yemeni Female Media Forum Monday that, "[The]organization faces difficulty assessing the Sa'ada situation because the Yemeni government has prevented non-Yemenis from visiting the restless governorate. As a result, we can't obtain adequate information about the human situation there."

Richards points out that CARE, in association with other local and international organizations, has exerted effective efforts to help save Sa'ada residents' lives. These organizations have provided those in war-affected areas with food, supplies and medicine

He further indicates that his organization is paying close attention to refugee issues and currently constructing 100 homes. Once finished, CARE will provide the homes with electricity and water.

At a human rights symposium at the Yemen Times on Monday, Al-Nida weekly Editor-in-Chief Sami Ghalib denounced what's occurring in Sa'ada. "Citizens of various age groups in the governorate are suffering unprecedented human rights abuses," he said, noting that "Dozens of Sa'ada residents have been forced into exile despite the availability of numerous human rights groups within the government, which aren't responding to this phenomenon."



# WHAT IT MEANS...

## What it means is an analytical feature of Yemen Times, in which Yemeni topics are discussed and analyzed by Yemeni and international experts. Contributio ns and comments are welcomed, they could be sent to the feature's coordinator: Dr.

Abdullah

Al-Faqih

(dralfaqih@

*yahoo.com*)

The Saleh regime and the need for reform emen's economy and society are in danger of collapsing in as few as several years. The regime of President Ali Abdullah Saleh has demon-

strated clearly since the mid-1990s that it lacked the will and capacity to adopt the major economic and political reforms needed to reverse this descent.

Specifically, after a good start from 1995 through 1997, it failed to implement the International Monetary Fund and World Bank package of structural reforms and aid designed to attract the domestic and foreign investment required to replace the remittance economy that had fueled growth in the 1970s and 1980s.

### Lack of Will

The evidence for this lack of will and capacity was overwhelming in 2004, as well as in 2006: The Yemeni economy, now so dependent on the state, modest oil revenues and outside donors, has not created enough jobs and income to keep up with the rapid growth in population, with the result that the alarming levels of unemployment, poverty and malnutrition have remained as high or higher than they were a decade ago; the once-promising middle class has been pauperized and has shrunk, and the gap between the rich few and the many poor has grown much wider and more visibly so; and, finally, the education, health and other social service systems are worse than they were, qualitatively and quantitatively, and are now close to being dysfunctional.

For a growing majority of the people, life has become a struggle just to make ends meet and a sense of despair and hopelessness is pervasive and growing. Longer term and more intractable, Yemen's small and finite reserves of oil and water are rapidly being depleted. Aquifers in densely populated regions are being tapped at a rate that far exceeds that of their being recharged, and known oil reserves will probably be exhausted before 2020. As water and oil go down, the population goes up, driven by one of the highest birthrates in the world.



By Dr. Robert D. **Burrowes** 

#### **Regime Composition**

The evident lack of the will and capacity for reform can be traced to the composition of Yemen's political regime and the nature of its state. The trappings and beginnings of democracy notwithstanding, the ROY is still best described as an oligarchy, an example of rule by the few. Most of the relatively small number of persons and families who get the most of what

there is to get-be it political power, economic well-being, good health or high social status-come from the northern highlands of old North Yemen. They have either or both strong tribal and military (or security) connections.

To the military-tribal complex of the late 1960s and 1970s was added a northern commercial-business element after 1980. Political power was increasingly concentrated in the hands of these sheikhs, officers and northern businessmen in the 1980s: this trend accelerated after the war of secession in 1994 eliminated or weakened politicians from the old South Yemen and their Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP). These oligarchs rule through their tribal and military or security positions and connections, and these are more important than the offices or titles they have in government or in the president's party, the General People's Congress (GPC).

Late in the same decade in which the current regime crystallized-the 1980sthe Yemeni state became the recipient of oil revenues as well as increased economic aid from abroad. The state quickly, and for the first time, became a principal source of wealth and private gain for the well-placed and fortunate few. As a result, the system has evolved largely into a special variant of oligarchy, a kleptocracy-i.e., government of, by and for the thieves. The occupants of key government posts and offices through which flow revenues and development aid have been able to enrich themselves, usually at the expense of development and other policy goals. They have used their positions in the state "profit centers"-to extract a price for the rendering of services or granting of permission, thereby increasing the cost of government and development. The associates, friends and relatives

of occupants of key posts and offices are cion-army and police-that were subalso enriched in this manner, the reaping of riches being a matter of connection as well as location.

#### Corruption

The degree of corruption, not just the fact of it, is key to an understanding of contemporary Yemen. Graft, bribery and other forms of thievery pervade the system at all levels of a steeply sided pyramid of patronage. At the broad base of this pyramid are the hundreds of thousands of employees of the government and the military who are paid extremely low salaries and have to take petty bribes-have to "eat money"in order to barely make ends meet. Perhaps the most visible measures of this corruption high up the pyramid are the growing number of high-end SUVs and new villas-some virtual castles-on the outskirts of Sanaa, the capital, most of which are owned by high government officials receiving modest salaries.

A nouveau aristocracy of sheikhs, officers and businessmen has been born with its own set of motives and values and its newness is masked by a pervading, unquestioning sense of entitlement. The second generation of this aristocracy is now slipping silently into key positions and is even less doubtful of its entitlement. This small part of the total population is on the take, and without apology; an even smaller part senses that this cannot last much longer, and that they must get as much as they can while the getting is still good. These are the kleptocrats of contemporary Yemen. They regard oil revenues and aid from donors in terms of, first, enrichment of self and associates and, only secondly if at all, in terms of public policy and the public good.

#### **Arrested Statehood**

Their News

Yemen also suffers from what might be described as arrested statehood, a legacy of the recent political history of North Yemen. The Hamid al-Din imamate, in place from the early twentieth century until the 1962 Revolution, did not have a monopoly on the legitimate use of violence in its territory, whether for the purpose of maintaining internal order and providing defense or for the purpose of realizing other goals; nor did the imamate have instruments of coerservient to it and readily available for use in its pursuit of order, defense and other goals.

In this regard, the old description of the Hashid and Bakil tribal confederations as "the wings of the imamate" is suggestive. The major tribes and their leaders conceived of themselves, and were conceived by others, as outside and not in or under the imamate, not subject to or "subjects" of it. They often acted accordingly, and were able to use their armed tribesmen sometimes to support and protect the imamate and sometimes to contain or oppose it in defense of their perceived tribal interests.

North Yemen's first-generation modernists were prevented by events after the 1962 Revolution from creating the modern state to which they aspired. The severalyear civil war between the republicans and the royalists in the 1960s diverted the modernists from the task of state building, and the reconciliation that ended it in 1970 determined that the republic would be a conservative one. It would preserve much of the traditional order, political as well as socio-cultural; in particular, it would assure a prominent role for the tribal leaders and the tribal system. The Saleh regime that came to power in 1978, crystallized over the 1980s, and continues to govern Yemen reflects this history. As a result, the ROY today in vital ways is still more like the old imamate than like a modern state. Even in 2006, the state is severely limited in terms of what it has the power and authority to do and where it can do it.

This arrested statehood is both cause and effect of the predominantly tribal-military regime that remains firmly in place today. It suited and helped make possible the maintenance of this group in power for a quarter-century. In turn, this group has used its power to oppose and minimize further efforts at state building, especially those that require the reining in of rampant corruption and incompetence.

#### Restructuring the regime

Given these salient features of Yemeni politics and the Yemeni state, it seems that the coalition of groups that comprises the regime has to be quickly reoriented, reconstituted or replaced in order to increase its will and capacity to effect the socioeconomic reforms that were so urgently needed. The goal has to be a ruling coalition more able, if only for the sake of survival, to act in terms of its enlightened self-interest. Perhaps the regime as currently constituted could not be reoriented or replaced by one means or another. If so, then regime elements resolutely opposed to the needed reforms would have to be deleted somehow from the coalition and opposition elements that are credible partners would have to be added to the regime in order to broaden its base and maintain its political viability.

It seems that if the regime was not quickly reoriented, reconstituted or replaced, then Yemen is at risk of imminent political collapse. Unable to deliver on the wants and needs of most of the people, support and legitimacy are already declining steeply. Underway for nearly a decade, this process had accelerated over the past few years. As a result, the fragile Yemeni state is already a failing state-and it risked becoming a failed state in the next several years. If the state did fail, then the country could quickly slide into anarchy (Somalia) or civil war (Lebanon). Under these circumstances, Yemen could become an arena in which transnational revolutionary Islam becomes a serious contender for power, as was the Taliban in Afghanistan beginning in 1994.

Dr. Burrowes is adjunct professor (retired) at the Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington. He is the author of "Yemen: Political Economy and the Effort against Terrorism," in Robert I. Rotberg, (ed.), Battling Terrorism in the Horn of Africa (Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press/World Peace Foundation, 2005); "The Famous Forty and Their Companions: North Yemen's First-generation Modernists and Educational Emigrants," The Middle East Journal (Winter 2005); Historical Dictionary of Yemen, the Scarecrow Press, Inc (September 1995); "The Other Side of the Red Sea and a Little More: The Horn of Africa and the Two Yemens," in David A. Korn, Steven R. Dorr and Neysa M. Slater, (eds.), The Horn of Africa and Arabia (Washington, DC: Defense Academic Research Support Program, December 1990), and; The Yemen Arab Republic: The Politics of Development, 1962-1986 (Boulder, CO., 1987).

Adjibade to fill UN resident coordinator position in Yemen

International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) Forum gathered endar to host a small farewell party to thank http://ycmes.org/sanaa\_events\_calen- sertation or thesis written during 2007

In honor of Pansieri's departure, the service by alerting other organizations about the site. You can access the cal-

at the countries listed above, for a dis- are already underway now. that addresses the rule of law or press

1973), who is a national from one of the American primary elections that

In the conference, which was attended by activists and journalists,

under 35 (born on or after 2 June ference to explain the significance of and that some polls hints to her winning.

> Concerning issues of Iraq, Israeli security and fascism in Islam, he said that these issues do not have a strong



Aboudou Karimou Adjibade, former of UNICEF, will take over the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator post in Yemen in place of Flavia Pansieri, who recently left the position.

Pansieri will leave Yemen on February 6 for her new post as Executive Coordinator of the UN Volunteer Program (UNV), based in Bonn, Germany.

The UNV works to promote volunteering and works closely with countries to ensure that appropriate legislative and institutional frameworks are in place, with the goal of helping local residents to better their communities. The UNV fields upwards of 7,000 volunteers per year in over 160 countries

UN Development Program (UNDP) Country Director Selva Ramachandran will continue to manage the day-to-day operations under the leadership of the new Resident Coordinator, Karimou Adjibade. The Country Director is not a replacement for the Resident Coordinator, but an additional staff member who helps to oversee UN activities in Yemen.

her for all her work.

Khalid Al-Mulad, Chair person of the forum, stated that Pansieri played a key role in bringing the donor community together with the INGOs working in Yemen.

"I really wish the INGO Forum success in all their activities in Yemen," said Pansieri. "I think what you do here is vitally important and you will certainly face many difficulties and challenges, but have patience."

"I shall continue to have a keen interest in Yemen and shall continue to follow up on its progress, through both media and internal UN reports," said Pansieri.

Pansieri said that she won't have any direct involvement in Yemen's programs except those relating to volunteers. However, after spending three years in Yemen, she is sad to leave and hopes to come back for a visit in the future.

#### YLC Sana'a events calendar

The Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies has begun an online calendar on which to list events happening in or around Sana'a. We hope that this webpage will be a useful resource for our students and the public, and promote attendance at cultural events in the city. If your organization is hosting an event in Sana'a and would like to publicize it, please email a short description of the event (or flyer) and the time, date and location to sanaaevents@ycmes.org. Please also help us spread the word about this

dar\_homepage.htm, or go to our homepage (ycmes.org) and click on the "calendars" link.

### Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the Pres

Journalists from the Middle East and North Africa are invited to apply for the third Samir Kassir Award for Freedom of the Press, which aims to promote media freedom and the rule of law in the region.



The Freedom of the Press Journalist award of 15,000 Euros (US\$22,000) is open to print or online journalists from the following counties: Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Qatar, Syria, the Palestinian Territories, Tunisia and Yemen.

Candidates must submit work published between 15 March 2007 and 15 March 2008 that tackled issues of the rule of law - good governance, struggle against corruption, freedom of expression and human rights.

A Young Researcher award of 10,000 Euros (US\$14,700) will also be conferred to a university student freedom. Samir Kassir is a Lebanese journalist who was assassinated in 2005 by unknown assailants for criticising Syria's policy towards Lebanon. The award in his name is given each year by the European Commission Delegation in Lebanon, in association with the Samir Kassir Foundation.

The deadline for entries is 30 March 2008.

YLC Sana'a events calendar

The Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies has begun an online calendar on which to list events happening in or around Sana'a. We hope that this webpage will be a useful resource for our students and the public, and promote attendance at cultural events in the city. If your organization is hosting an event in Sana'a and would like to publicize it, please email a short description of the event (or flyer) and the time, date and location to sanaaevents@ycmes.org. Please also help us spread the word about this service by alerting other organizations about the site. You can access the calendar at

http://ycmes.org/sanaa\_events\_calendar\_homepage.htm, or go to our homepage (ycmes.org) and click on the "calendars" link.

Yemen Times Hosts Conference on U.S. Primary Elections The Yemen Times hosted a press conthe United States Embassy's public affairs officer Ryan Gliha delivered a lecture on importance of these elections in the United States.

The primary elections are crucial in deciding which candidate will win the sponsorship of their party, Democratic and Republican, thereby going on to run in the general election for president. Nominees who belong to neither party have nearly no chance of winning the presidential election.

Gliha also discussed the effects of money on the results of the U.S. election campaigns, saying that candidates who poorly-funded do not fare well in the elections.

"Costs of U.S. election propaganda have reached \$ 1 billion," said Gliha. He expected that by November, when the final presidential election takes place, that the two parties will have spent more than \$ 3 billion on their campaigns.

Gliha said that there are strict laws banning the use of public funds in election campaigns, which is why the candidates spend their own money on their campaigns. Candidates must raise this money for their campaigns through private, legal donations.

He pointed out that such campaigns are conducted mostly in large states, such as Iowa, which have the greatest effect on election results.

When asked why no woman has yet to reach the White House, Gliha said both US parties lacked successful women, but added that Hilary Clinton has good chance to win in November

effect on presidential elections, and that American voters neglect them.

"They focus only on interior politics and issues that serve the country," said Gliha.

The next primary election is scheduled for the Republican Party in Maine on February 1.

#### 2nd WASH Media Awards Now **Accepting Entries**

The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) and The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) are now accepting applications for the 2nd WASH Media Awards.

The competition is part of the activities of the International Year of Sanitation and is open to journalists in developing countries who publish or broadcast original investigative reports on issues relating to water supply, sanitation or hygiene (WASH) in their countries. Journalists can submit up to two pieces of work.

Eligible works must be published or broadcast between July 1, 2007 and Apr. 30, 2008. Articles or broadcasts can be submitted in French, English or Spanish. Works not originally published or broadcast in one of these languages must be translated into one of the three competition languages.

The award ceremony will take place during the forthcoming World Water Week in Stockholm where the winning journalists will be invited as special guests of WSSCC and SIWI.





# **DHL Yemen Celebrates 2007 Achievements' Success** and Awards Its Employees for Excellent Performance

Sana'a January 16, 2008: Held at Shahran Hotel the 2007 Achievement Event for DHL Express whereby more than 50 employees from the Country Office and substations had come together to celebrate the company's success in 2007.

Mr. Omar M. Omar, the General Manager and Dr. Monsoor Alabsi the Country Manager expressed their high level of satisfaction of DHL Yemen Achievements coming future".

Commenting on the future plans, The Country Manager said "we have solid plans to develop our sales and explore strategic growth and expansion prospects as well as technology and system enhancement to achieve best practices and quality service".

He added "DHL Yemen is in the process of opening its new office in Belhaf in



From right to left: Omar M. Omar - DHL General Manager, Hussein Ba Shuaib -2007 Employee of the Year, Dr. Mansour Al-Absi - Country Manager, Mohamed Helmy - 2007 Outstanding Achiever.

in 2007. "These achievements would not have been possible without the total commitment by top management and collective effort of all members of the staff," stated General Manager, Omar M. Omar. In his talk to audience, the Country Manager commented on high growth of business and the awards that DHL Yemen received from the Area Office during 2007. He added "these achievements clearly suggest that we are moving in the right direction to further enhance our market leading position and maintain the annual sales growth in the

January 2008 and prepare its plan to building an airport facility in the new Sana'a Airport. The new expansion demonstrates how our plan is focused on anticipating and meeting the growing needs of our customers especially in gas and oil industry. As a leading Express company, we are aiming at growing fast and will continue to invest with the assistance of our partners, DHL Global -Deutsche Post World Net". We are proud to say that our company operating 24 hours a day. Seven days a week and 365 days a year. With its main office in Sana'a and express centers in Taiz, Ibb,

Aden, Hodiedah, Seiyun and Mukalla it has the largest geographical and operational coverage among all courier companies in Yemen with daily round trip by land and air transportation to all main cities.

During the years, DHL Yemen contributes effectively to DHL global success and has accepted the difficult market challenge and become the major market leader in the country and continuously pushes for business expansion to serve and improve its customers' satisfaction.



The company awards for excellence in performance were given to the winners in 2007.



2007 Employees of the months with DHL-Yemen management.









Dr. Mansoor Alabsi **Country Manager** 

Osama Bahakim Sales Manager

Amir Saeed Aden Branch Manager



Enas Al-Shaibani **Customer Service Advisor** 





The achievements would not have been possible without the total commitment by top management and collective effort of all members of staff







All employees have been awarded Mr. Ken Allen prizes for 2007

# Report

# When migration results in degradation

**By: Mohammed Al-Jabri** 

young man proudly stands behind the Oromo flag in a small room where Jamal Abdu Wadai often spends hours discussing the social affairs regarding Yemen's Oromo community. Wadai claims to be the leader of the Oromo community in Sana'a.

The word "Oromo" is written boldly on the wall of another room where three mothers sit with their small children. On the other wall of the room is a poster of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. A medium-sized television in the corner broadcasts Oromo programs.

The Oromos gather in the first room with the flag after the second becomes too crowded and likely has no window for ventilation, which reflects their poor conditions. They begin speaking about their life and the problems they face in Yemen.

Wadai explains that the Oromos are the largest refugee group in Africa, dwelling in Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Djibouti, South Africa and Somalia.

Some have sought refuge in the United States and Europe, while there are more than 40,000 Oromos in Yemen. He continues, "We used to have our own independent state, but Ethiopia besieged our land 120 years ago. When the Ethiopians - whom we call Abyssinians - occupied our country, they changed the name of our capital, Finfinne, to Addis Ababa. Our country, Oromia, was rich in agriculture and natural wealth; thus, it was a land of

blessings." Oromos are an indigenous African ethnic group found in Ethiopia and to a lesser extent in Kenya. With a population of 25 million, they are the largest single ethnic group in Ethiopia. Oromo nationalists established the Oromo Liberation Front, or OLF, in 1973 to promote the Oromo people's self-determination against the Ethiopian government.

Wadai was an active member of the OLF, for which Ethiopian authorities detained him several times. Four of his fellow inmates died from torture, but he survived. "The last time I was imprisoned in 2005, I got out only after my relatives bribed the guards with \$1,000," he recounts, noting that he

immediately came to Yemen.

Hailing from a strong family that has struggled alongside the OLF for a long time, Wadai maintains that approximately 45 of his family members have died in the struggle for liberation since 1994.

With three wives and four children, the eldest of which is a 21-year-old son, one wife lives in Djibouti while the other two remain in Ethiopia. "Because of my support of the OLF, my daughter, who is 17, was refused permission to study in Addis Ababa. Ethiopian authorities even threatened her with death and detained her mother for a month before releasing her on bail," he recounts, describing how he misses them, "My eagerness to see them is immeasurable, but I'm helpless here."

He explains his badly injured left thigh, which has left him crippled, saying, "Ethiopian forces shot me when I joined the OLF in 1977."

Besides translating Arabic into Oromo back in his home country, Wadai also sold Harari qat – Ethiopia's best - to Yemeni officials. "I sold qat from our qat fields to Yemeni officials through Yemen's embassy in Addis Ababa, selling between 20 and 25 kilos per day. The Yemeni Embassy then transported it to Yemen by air, with each kilogram costing \$50," Wadai recalls.

#### **Illegal immigrants**

Oromos began flowing into Yemen in 1991, the same time Somalis were fleeing to Yemen due to war in that country. While Yemen is a party to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, it only grants automatic refugee status to Somalis. Other African migrants, including Oromos, are regarded as illegal immigrants and therefore, not granted refugee status. Only in exceptional cases does Yemen's branch of the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR, grant Ethiopians and Eritreans refugee status.

According to Ministry of Interior statistics, there are 800,000 African immigrants in Yemen, mostly Somalis. However, UNHCR estimates 113,000 Africans - again, mostly Somalis registered in Yemen through the end of 2007; and, in fact, it says the number is even more because not all Africans entering Yemen register. More than 29,500 arrived at Yemeni shores in 2007 alone, with more than 1,400 dying or still missing - and presumed dead - while making the hazardous journey.

"Oromos keep coming to Yemen, particularly after the Ethiopians efeated the Islamic Courts and entered Mogadishu," Wadai notes. According to him, 380 Oromo migrants arrived to Yemen Jan. 27 on smuggling boats and 120 died when their boat capsized offshore. He maintains that the main reason Oromos come to Yemen is persecution by Ethiopian authorities, adding that Yemeni authorities arrest many of them and deport them back to Ethiopia. "When Oromos are deported, Ethiopian authorities treat them harshly, torturing them even harsher Israeli than forces torture Palestinians," he claims. Oromos living in Yemen have menial jobs, with some working in sewage works and women working as house cleaners. "Very few of us have good jobs, such as translators or medical lab specialists," Wadai laments. Oromos also work in qat fields, particularly in Al-Beidha governorate.



A child from the Oromo Community sitting behind the Oromo flag.

YT PHOTO BY MOHAMMED AL-JABRI



Oromo face a lot of handships in Yemen.

baby, health workers request to see her marriage contract and if she doesn't have one, she's arrested and accused of prostitution. In such cases, we intervene by obtaining a letter from the Yemeni leader of her neighborhood, affirming that she's married. However, many married Oromo women don't have a marriage contract," he notes.

For this reason, Wadai says many married Oromo women prefer giving

obtaining of which increases the chances of getting a job," he explains. Renting a house is another problem for those without refugee cards, which only five or six out of every 100 Oromos in Yemen have, Wadai indicates.

Oromo children can't attend public schools in Yemen for the same reason. "Children are left home alone while their parents work or look for work.

YT PHOTO BY MOHAMMED AL-JABRI

ensure that they stay in the house. What kind of a life is this?" he asks.

Despite all of these hardships, Wadai is exceedingly thankful that the Yemeni government at least has allowed those Oromos already in the country to remain.

However, concluding his comments, he declares, "We call on international and local charities to assist us, in addition to Yemeni businesspeople to



Oromos live a miserable codition.

YT PHOTO BY MOHAMMED AL-JABRI



Sereval Oromos find dificulties getting jobs in Yemen. YT PHOTO BY MOHAMMED AL-JABRI



Many Oromo children attend public can't schools. MOHAMMED AL-JABRI

**YT** рното ву

#### Hardships and trampled rights

The biggest problem the Oromo community faces in Yemen is that they aren't granted refugee status and, unlike Somalis, they don't possess refugee cards. As Wadai explains, "When they [Oromos] seek work, they are asked to show their refugee card, which they don't have; thus, they lose out on many job opportunities."

Further, he indicates that Oromo women also face problems in Yemeni hospitals because of not having a refugee card. "When a woman is sent to a government hospital to deliver a deliveries.

He cited another example of an Oromo woman who encountered



Are you Interested in supporting Oromo community in Yemen? Please contact Jamal Abdu

Wadai at 00967-733 311 782

problems on the job due to not having a refugee card, recounting, "Beginning in 2007, one Oromo woman worked as a maid for a Yemeni family for about a year. She received her monthly salary regularly, but they procrastinated giving her money during the last four months. In the end, she resorted to shouting outside their house, demanding her money, so they took her to a Sana'a police station."

He continued, "Because she had no employment contract, police jailed her, but then released her on bail shortly thereafter. However, when her husband went to file a complaint against the family at another police station, they jailed him and took his refugee card, which had been issued by UNHCR. They demanded he pay \$100 to get his card back and it remains there until now."

Wadai claims that the members of his community don't enjoy their full rights because they aren't recognized as refugees. "Getting a job is contingent upon a refugee card, the

birth at home rather than hospital Their parents tie them up like dogs to support us

# Vacancy Announcement

The Yemen Red Crescent Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies would like to employ a national coordinator for planning and organizational development with the following core skills and <u>competencie</u>s

- Strong background in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting with high level analytical skills in English and Arabic
- Sufficient background and experience in organizational development including
  - Human resource development (training of leaders, managers, volunteers, staff)
  - Financial and material resource development
  - Development of systems and procedures
- Proven capacity to coordinate with others for greater results through team work

Qualified applicants are invited to send their application and CV as soon as possible

E-mail: mohammed.sharif@ifrc.org Fax No: +967-1-481871 Deadline : 10 February 2008

# Opinion



This article was written by the Chinese Embassy in Yemen in response to the advertisement titled (Are you planning to watch the next Olympic Games) published on page 6 issue 1124

# China resolutely opposes to politicize the 2008 Olympic Games

he 29th Olympic Games will be held in August, 2008 in Beijing of the P. R. China. This is a proud and magnificent historic event for all Chinese people. Both Chinese government and Chinese people have been making greatest efforts to ensure the success of this session of Olympic Games. VIPs, athletes and Press media from various countries, for whom the Chinese government and Chinese people will try their best to provide all necessary conditions and convenience,

have been invited to attend this session of Olympic Games in Bejing. The People from many friendly countries all over the world have sent their best wishes to Chinese people by now on the magnificent games.

At present time all kinds of preparations for the Olympic Games are being undertaken as per schedule, and all necessary conditions are fundamentally ready. However, some organizations and individuals in the world take the chance of Olympics Games to play up topics such as human rights, free press and regional hotspots on the purpose of politicizing Olympic Games and defaming China.

The stand of Chinese government on above issues is definitely clear. We resolutely oppose politicization of Olympic Games, which is in violation of the principles and spirits of the Olympics Games and doomed to failure. Any

including protecting human rights and free press in China have been witted and are obvious to all. The Chinese government protects freedom of speech and all kinds of fundamental rights of Chinese citizens in accordance with the laws and regulations. The Chinese media and press institutions also carry out activities freely under Constitution and relative laws. Everyone stands equal under the laws and no one has privilege beyond it. Punishment will be only imposed upon those who break the laws or regulations.

# **Yemen and Pakistan: Toward better bilateral relations**

he ties between Yemen and Pakistan are distinguished and historical, with deeprooted relations in diplomatic, political, economic, cultural, educational, trade and a host of other areas. Both countries have stood by each other in times of need, thus reflecting the vision of their lead-

Because Yemen desires extensive investment relations with Pakistan, it would be keen to promote its bilateral relations in all areas, particularly regarding the economy, trade and investment in Aden Free Zone.

Yemen values its relations with Pakistan because they stem from a common faith, history, a commonality of views and shared visions on various world affairs. In fact, such bilateral relations further consolidate areas of investment in Yemen as well as stability in the region.

In 2005, Yemen and Pakistan signed

four agreements and a memorandum of understanding to develop mutual cooperation in trade, agriculture, vocational education and training, oil and air transportation, with both countries expressing their hopes and aspirations that the agreements would further strengthen ties between them.

Additionally, both sides discussed relations regarding coordi-

nating their efforts to combat terrorism and drug smuggling as well as exchanging expertise in technical and vocational training fields. They also discussed fraternal relations that aim to strengthen cooperation in various fields such as the economy, investment, trade and education. The issue now is expanding the horizons of such mutual cooperation between the two countries



ing official visits, this falls within the framework of exchanging experience, vision and expertise. Such mutual visits contribute to pushing forward these ties as well as increasing the amount of commercial exchange between them. Previous official visits between their presidents

Regarding exchang-

have contributed to strengthening mutual relations between the two countries.

Yemeni-Pakistani relations fall under the title of brotherhood through developing shared relations in various domains and there is a strong desire and willingness to intensify and improve relations with Pakistan to push fields of cooperation ahead.

One can't forget or ignore the role of the Pakistan School, which the

Pakistani Embassy established in 1989. This is one form of such bilateral and brotherly relations between the two countries. Additionally, the school enjoys continuous cooperation with Yemen's Ministry of Education.

Its educational role can't be denied due to its role in offering quality education in an Islamic atmosphere, with the objective being to promote goodwill by providing quality education for Yemeni children and other nationalities residing in Yemen. Specifically, its main objectives are to develop children's linguistic skills and their ability to write lucidly and effectively.

Under President Ali Abdullah Saleh's leadership and guidance, Yemen is pushing forward in its sound policies toward stabilization, civil peace, democracy and freedom of press.

Sameer Abdul Haq is a senior specialist in the Premier Office.

# Media without professionalism

emen's official media (the visual, auditory and readable means) have lost their credibility to the extent that people in and outside Yemen stopped depending on them as a source for reliable information.

These media have turned into a costly machine for producing temporary impressions, which are often negative and can never achieve the goals awaitperformance is impossible to be a democratic state. These outputs are themselves the tangible evidence of oppression controlling the nation, thus making the official media's care for an existing democracy in Yemen a convincing proof of the lack of democracy in the

country. This is clearly



ment-run media are more backward and disabled to convey facts as they happen. They lack the minimum criteria and requirements of professionalism, thereby lacking the required credibility and ability to attract people's

ruling authority's assets. They also show how these forces are ready to mercilessly assault many activists they described as "conspirers against the revolution, republic, democracy and unity".

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni Socialist Party. Source: Al-Ahali Weekly.

## COMMON SENSE

# What soes Uncle Sam qant from the people of the Middle East?

o one in this region is hesitant in saying that if there is anything that anyone here wants from the American people, they are led by mainly two things that will cost the American people nothing and perhaps relieve them of a lot of their domestic ills as well. These two things are: 1) to ensure that the next American Administration does not have a real anti Semitic streak running down its spine (against the major Semitic race - the Arabs) and an anti Islamic vigilance piercing its heart, as the current American Administration in the White House seems to display;



and 2) to start seeking a different Middle East policy that is more responsive to the feelings and aspirations of the people of the region. In this context, the American people should please forego the Arab leaders in this regard, for the latter have sev-

ered themselves from the interests of their people a long time ago). For well over seven years now, the American people have been misguided by an Administration that is governed by narrow interests manifested in the American military industrial complex and the evil concoctions of the International Zionist Establishment. For sure, one is comforted to see that in the United States, there are indeed literally millions of people who have voiced similar aspirations and have strongly expressed their clear disapproval of having the American policy dictated by the interests of the International Zionist Establishment. These voices hail from a cross-section of American opinion makers and leaders of all social classes and categories (including former Presidents of the Untied States). They hail from the indisputable and prudent halls of academia to many people, who hail from the corporate establishment and many civic organizations. All the latter and others are rightfully concerned that the George W. Bush Administration has allowed American foreign policy to skid off tracks and to coax the American people into worthless military and political adventures. The leadership of the United States in the world is unquestionably there and perhaps all the right reasons are there, to a certain extent to justify such an important position. However, this leadership entails that such a great country that the United States is, unquestionably, warrants that great care and sound arithmetic should be used in the formulation of its foreign policy. In nowhere is this more important than it is in the Middle East. This is not so much, because the Middle East sits on the world's largest reservoir of energy sources, but rather because the people of the Middle East highly respect the great American people. The people of the region truly recognize that the many of the standards set by the American people t to be guided by in most spheres that are indeed sound and worth pursuing, in addition to being detrimental to most people in their lives in these modern times. Unfortunately, especially since the Bush Administration took over the White House, the Americans have been misled to believe that the people of the region should not even be masters of their own destinies, let alone be considered worthy of similar rights as all freedom loving people should enjoy. To start with this is done by a horrendous misrepresentation of the facts, thanks to the unrelenting output of false propaganda and staged covert operations of ethnic feuds and hate mongering, as well as staged ignorance (like the so called Jihadists movements), mainly drawn up by years of preparation and installation pursued by the International Zionist Establishment and diligently implemented by the well entrenched Zionist lobby in the United States and everywhere else in the world, if not decades. The American people are led to believe that this region breeds animosity and hatred and a craving for blood. First of all this is done to whitewash the real menace of the region, which has thrived on the blood of the people of the region, not to mention on the bleeding of the resources of the American taxpayer, since even before its creation - namely Israel. Second of all this is done on the pretext of fighting an enemy (terrorism), whose existence is dubious and raises serious questions of credibility as to the ability of the US Government in truly assessing who its true friends really are and who are its real enemies. Needless to say this whimsical and equally dangerous redirection of American thinking is taxing on the American people, as a whole and surely has turned all the factors of national synergy towards serving the interests of those, who have the least disregard for the overall interests of the people of the Middle East, with carelessness in determining where the true interests of the American people lie as the undisputed superpower of the world.

This important realization would be further enhanced, when one sees how the current Administration insists that it can overrule all prudent judgments and advice (not to forget that most of this is emanating from wise American members of academia, the business world and the general public) as to how to conduct its policies in the region. Much of this advice has warned that submission to the International Zionist Establishment is seriously endangering the peace of the world and undermining the real interests of the United States and its great people. There is more on this to come

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

attention. I was shocked at a state-

ment made by a western

## activities trying to interfere the Olympic Games should be also opposed resolutely by the international community. China is a country under the rule of law. The progresses on various fields

ed by the security and political mentality that controls media outlets' movement and activities.

This inference doesn't necessarily mean that Yemen's official media have lost its entire relation with the audience since there are still two types of people obtaining media outputs. The first type represents a group of people led by the chance and sometimes by the necessity because they are unable to observe the other [non-official] media means. This type immediately feels tedious and then ceases pursuing media means lacking utility and joy.

The second type is limited to those who record and analyze the impressions produced by the official media at the different times and conditions. They touch upon issues, which the official media select as a material for recording impressions about it.

The most prominent matter in the generated impressions about official media outputs is that the country that spends billions of Riyals on media demonstrating poor and unacceptable manifested by the Information Ministry's application of the Nazi methodology, once pursued during reign of the dictator Adolph Hitler in Germany, since it is devoted to shaping an impressive image of the ruler, marketing his policies and considering him the only pivot for the evolvement of events and concerns.

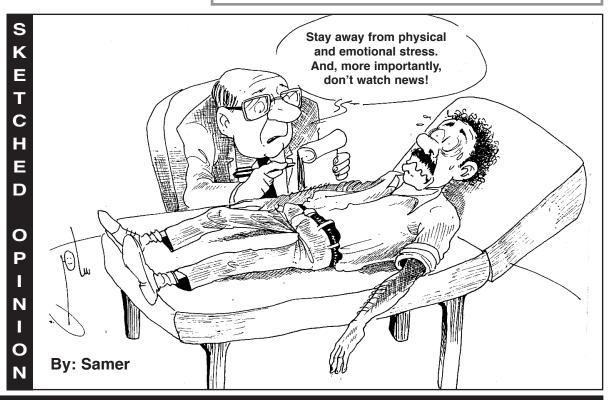
At this point, it is natural for the official media mechanism observer to question, "Is it possible for Yemen to be a democratic state and does this country have various and competitive options?" Obviously, Yemen seems to have only one leader that makes achievements, scores victories and manage politics, and therefore this leader is the only source of wisdom. He is the only authority for monopolizing talents and to whom everything in this country is affiliated.

In fact, Yemen is one of the few countries in the world where the official media is still administered in a sterile manner with a minor but critical difference that the Yemeni govern-

diplomat whom I met in the first year of the unity's age, that was 17 years ago, when he confirmed to me that the government television broadcast in Yemen is the last thing, which, one expects, may have positive influence on shaping the public opinion.

According to the western diplomat, the official media in Yemen is extremely engaged in producing a simple political propaganda. Adding that the government media is bound to deteriorate and demonstrate weak performance over time, the diplomat inferred that simplicity of the political propaganda will double in a way making the government media lose its value.

Anyway, the objective assessment of the message, which the Yemeni media is engaged in distributing since the first day of 2008, leads us to identifying the consequential damage on the media performance and professionalism as a whole. Since the first day of 2008, the official media have been caring for projecting appearances and tools of the security and military force, one of the



YEMEN TIMES	<i>Publisher &amp; Editor-in-Chief</i> Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf	<i>Head of News I</i> Mohamed bin	*	Offices Aden Bureau:		Policies: - All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed
www.yementimes.com First Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf	<i>Managing Editor</i> Amel Al-Ariqi	<i>Senior Reporter</i> Ismail Al-Ghabri		Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596 Fax: +967 (2) 347056 Email: <i>ytaden@y.net.ye</i>		and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences. - Letters to the Editor must include your name,
Tel: +967 (1) 268-661 Fax: +967 (1) 268-276	<i>Feature Editor</i> Mohammed Al-Jabri	Head of Design Ramzy Alawi A	<b>^</b>	<i>Taiz Bureau:</i> Imad Ahmed Abdullah	Subscription rates:	mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length. - Submissions will not be returned to the writer
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen	Copy Editor	Editorial Staff		Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,	Individuals: YR 7.000	under any circumstance.
E-mail: editor@yementimes.com Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com Letters: letters@yementimes.com	Dana Patterson	Al-Ajel, Fatima Addu'ais, Essam	Mojalli, Almigdad Thabet, Hamed	Telefax: +967 (4) 217157 P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz Email: <i>yttaiz@y.net.ye</i>	Yemeni companies/corporations: YR 8,000 Foreign companies/organizations: \$ 80	<ul> <li>For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices</li> </ul>

# **Op-Ed**

# It's al-Qaeda, stupid!

#### By: Bilal Y. Saab

his time in Middle East relations, it is crucial to get it right...and fast. Why? Because the stakes are so high. Failure to have comprehensive peace between Arabs and Israelis is going to have consequences and repercussions of a magnitude we have never seen before. In other words, failure, at the risk of sounding too cliché, should not be an option.

A realist pause would suggest that failure can never be discounted in the Middle East given the miserable record of the many ambitious attempts to solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, or to make serious breakthroughs on the Syrian-Israeli track. So far, those anticipating the failure of Annapolis appear more rational and more confident than those betting on its success. And it's not just a hunch or a feeling. Events on the ground speak for themselves:

Israel continues to collectively deny ers, namely Iran, Syria and their prox-Palestinians their basic rights for what Hamas and other militants do, while Hamas continues to provoke and threaten Israel by terrorising its people.

Predicting who will have an upper hand in screwing up the process of peace is impossible and futile. It could be anyone or all of them, separately or at the same time. It could be Israel not agreeing to freeze its settlement expansion; it could be Hamas conducting a terrorist operation resulting in mass casualties; it could be Olmert and/or Abbas not being able to deliver on their promises, weak leaders that they are.

But process, we are told, is better than no process at all. True, but what has fundamentally changed is the rise of a new and much more fanatic evildoer in the Middle East: al-Qaeda. Today, located at the heart of the Arab world, al-Qaeda has become a real player in the peace process; its voice is much louder and its actions much deadlier than those of the other spoil-

ies. The Middle East peace puzzle has a new piece. The problem is, this piece does not and cannot fit.

The continuation of the status quo – no peace, just process - will unquestionably empower the already powerful forces breeding radicalism in the region.

Popular frustration, despair, realisation and conviction in the region that Annapolis will not produce any meaningful results and will not give Palestinians a viable state is going to persuade people in the region that the use of force is the only tool to achieve their aims. Some will fight like nationalists. For example, Syrians have repeatedly said they might recover the Golan by creating a Hezbollah-like guerrilla force. Others will stray, go extreme and join the global Islamic insurgency. This means more recruits for al-Qaeda music to the ears of Osama bin Laden, whose focus these days has been redirected toward Palestine, after he apologised to Palestinians in his latest

message for not giving enough attention to their cause.

You can imagine from here the sort of nasty scenarios that could happen were al-Qaeda to expand in the Middle East: Gaza could become an Islamic emirate in Palestine (Fatah al Islam, an al-Qaeda sympathiser group, which recently fought the Lebanese army for more than three months in the northern part of that country, has already named an emir in Gaza) and Lebanon, already experiencing one of its most serious political crises since its second civil war, may well sink into the abyss were another Nahr al Bared scenario to emerge in another refugee camp.

By spilling over from Iraq into neighbouring countries and gaining new safe havens, al-Qaeda could start working on its tactical and strategic objectives. On the tactical level, al-Qaeda would work on triggering wars between its adversaries and has already begun trying. The recent firing of rockets by al-Qaeda in Iraq from southern Lebanon into northern

Israel is only one example. We have seen that scenario before, only with different actors: the 1978 and 1982 Israeli invasions of Lebanon were largely in response to Palestinian attacks from southern Lebanon. At the same time, al-Qaeda would assiduously work on causing a war between Syria and Israel and a round two between Hezbollah and Israel. The biggest prize for al-Qaeda, obviously, is to ignite a war between Iran and the United States - something al-Qaeda's Iraq leader, Omar al Baghdadi, has talked about in a recent message. On the strategic level, al-Qaeda would start planning for one of its most precious goals: taking ! the fight to Israel's backyard by actively supporting Palestinian radical jihadists in their war against the Jewish state.

So how do you stop these terrible scenarios from happening and how do vou reverse the powerful trend of radicalisation? Through peace. With peace comes hope, prosperity and human development. From a counterterrorist perspective, peace wonderfully dries up the swamp of terrorism and puts a serious dent in al-Qaeda's recruitment process. Al-Qaeda, more than ever, has turned into an ideology and without its foot soldiers. This ideology can be neutralised if we realise that defeating it once and for all will require winning the war of ideas.

At Annapolis, the Bush administration got it mixed up.

There is nothing wrong in rallying the pro-US Arab states to better contain the long-term threat of Iran, but the real and more imminent danger is not the Islamic republic, it is al-Qaeda.

Bilal Y. Saab is a senior research assistant at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. This article was written for the Common Ground News Service, and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.

Source: Common Ground News Service, 25 January 2008, www.commongroundnews.org.

lence by hurting your enemies' chil-

dren. On the contrary, you guarantee

MJ Rosenberg, Director of Policy

Analysis for Israel Policy Forum, is a

long time Capitol Hill staffer and for-

mer editor of AIPAC's Near East

Report. This article is distributed by

the Common Ground News Service

and can be accessed at www.common-

that it continues.

groundnews.org.

# Gaza: Frozen and dark

#### By: MJ Rosenberg

he latest news from Gaza is that Israel's Minister of Defence Ehud Barak has ruled that, starting now, even the transfer of medicines and humanitarian aid into Gaza would be allowed "only in exceptional circumstances."

He said that the IDF "will carry out continued, decisive actions with the goal of battering the Kassam crews until they can no longer target Israel. It won't be simple and it won't happen by the end of the week, but we will bring an end to the assault on Sderot."

Does Barak really believe he is freezing and denying medicine to Kassam crews?

Watching the news from Israel, it is clear that he isn't. It's regular people. Its kids.

It is always a little jarring to watch news reports from Gaza in which the Palestinians comment on their situation in fluent Hebrew. There they are, the supposed enemies of the Jews, easily speaking the Jewish national language, a language hardly any Jews here in the states can manage a sen-

the actions of a government they -may or may not have - voted for.

Assume the worst. Assume that they did vote for Hamas. Does that mean they should be denied the necessities of life? What about kids and babies?

I recall a conversation I had in Israel with a Canadian during the Vietnam War. He was very unfriendly. I asked him what his problem was and he told me that he "despised" Americans. He said he believed we were committing "war crimes" in Vietnam and he "hated" us for it.

I told him that blaming a random group of American kids, almost all of whom had demonstrated against the war, was outrageous. His response was "America is a democracy. All Americans are responsible for the actions of a government you elected."

I thought that argument was obscene then and I think the same now. Happily the self-righteous student could only snub my friends and me; he couldn't hurt us. No big deal.

But freezing people is a very big deal. And I don't see that it accomplishes anything.

The leaders of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad surely have enough fuel to keep themselves snug and warm. Leaders invariably are protected from the consequences of their actions. Even if the people of Gaza rose up and tried to stop the shelling of Sderot, does anyone believe they could? Here, in this great established democracy, the clear majority of Americans that want an end to the Iraq war are incapable of bringing it about. Palestinian democracy, rudimentary at best, is infinitely less 2000, and Oxford University

are simply people being punished for reflective of popular will. We can hardly expect Gazans to take policy into their own hands.

> Humanitarian concerns dictate an end to the punishment of ordinary Palestinians, and so does international law.

> Under international law, occupying nations are responsible for the welfare of the local population. Although the Israeli army left Gaza, along with the civilian settlements, Israel still controls Gaza's borders, its air corridors, and its sea lanes. To put it bluntly, the difference between people in a prison and people who are free is that free people control their own destinies. By no definition do Gazans control theirs.

> Accordingly, Israel may not punish an entire people whose fate lies entirely under its control.

> Punishing innocent people damages Israel's reputation worldwide. It makes negotiating more difficult for President Abbas, and it clearly endangers the life of Corporal Gilad Shalit, the captured Israeli soldier.

Furthermore, it hastens the day when Israel will have to all-out invade Gaza, an eventuality the military fears would be more difficult than the US action in Mogadishu. And it raises the very real possibility that Hamas will be replaced by Al Qaeda, which would love to have Gaza as its capital for worldwide terror.

Palestinian issues. "Synchronicity is key," they write.

"The Israeli government, President Abbas and Hamas all need to act in parallel and simultaneously."

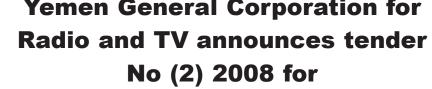
"Fatah and Hamas will need to reach a new political arrangement, this time not one vigorously opposed by Israel. Hamas and Israel need to achieve a cease-fire and prisoner exchange, albeit mediated by Abbas. And Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert will need to negotiate a political deal with Abbas, who will have to

Professor Hussein Agha, an expert in receive a mandate to do so from Hamas."

Israelis and Palestinians, and their supporters abroad, must "cast aside their dysfunctional, destructive, ideologically driven policies. Instead, they should encourage a choreography that minimises violence and promotes a serious diplomatic process. Otherwise, no matter how many times President Bush travels to the region, there is no reason to believe that 2008 will offer anything other than the macabre pattern of years past."

You don't break the cycle of vio-

Source: Israel Policy Forum, 18 January 2008, www.israelpolicyforum.org. Tender No (2) for 2008 **Yemen General Corporation for** 



Procurement, guaranty, delivery of mobile broadcasting and digital (professional) recording devices and their accessories for the Public Program broadcasts- Sana'a and the Second Program-Aden as well as local broadcast.

tence in. For me, hearing Palestinians describe their suffering in Hebrew makes it all the more real.

Gaza is totally dependent on Israeli supplies of fuel: gasoline for cars, gas for cooking, and diesel fuel to operate generators, hospitals, and public utilities, including Gaza's sole electrical plant. Europeans finance the fuel itself, but Israel controls Gaza's borders and decides how much can get in.

The cuts have already left 220,000 Gazans with running water for only an hour a day. The streets are empty of cars and there is a huge demand for donkeys to replace them. In short, a modern, although poverty-ridden, society is being pushed into the Third World.

The fuel cut-off does not make news here. We see the rocket attacks on Sderot and Israeli retaliations against Hamas fighters. We do not see shivering kids and nursing mothers, young people whose jobs disappeared along with the fuel, or the elderly who are contracting infections and dying. Imagine trying to take care of an infant or an aged grandparent in the depth of winter with no heat. It is an awful thing to contemplate.

I cannot imagine any justification for freezing kids in Gaza, just as I can't imagine any justification for traumatising kids with incessant rocket attacks in Sderot.

That is why I will not criticise Israel for going after the terrorists who are inflicting these horrors on its citizens. But the people freezing in Gaza are not the people bombing Sderot. They

## So what should Israel do about Sderot?

Writing in Thursday's Washington Post, recommendations were offered by Robert Malley, President Clinton's adviser on Middle East affairs who was a key player at Camp David in

تعلن شركة يمنية رائده في مجال البرمجيات ونظم المعلومات عن حاجتها إلى موظفين عدد أربعة في المجالات التالية:-۱ – مهندس کمپیوتر ۲- میرمج کمپیوتر ۳– مندوبی تسویق ٤- سکرتیرۃ على أن تتوفر في المتقدم الشروط التالية:-۱- أن يكون يمنى الجنسية ٢- أن يكون حاملا للشهادة الجامعية ٣- خبرة لاتقل عن ثلاث سنوات

٤- العمر من ٢٥ - ٤١ سنة

فعلى من يجد في نفسه الرغبة في العمل معنا إرسال السيرة الذاتية على البريد الألكتروني التالي:ytshrdept@yahoo.com

The manufacturing companies specialized in this field must apply to the headquarter of the corporation Engineering Sector- General Administration for Projects - Sana'a-next to the Ministry of Health and Population during the working hours....

## Tender fees \$ 100 non-refundable

Those interested to have a copy via courier (postal) \$100 will be added as postal fees

## **General Conditions:**

- 1- Bond guaranty with 2.5% of the total value of the bid and valid for four month of envelopes opening date.
- 2- Copy of the tax card valid for 2008.
- 3- Copy of the register certificate for the general tax on sales valid for 2008.
- 4- Copy of the commercial register valid for 2008.
- 5- Copy of the insurance card effective for 200.
- 6- Copy of charity card valid 2008.
- 7- The bids are to be presented in envelopes sealed with red wax.
- 8- Abiding by special and general conditions available in the tender documents.

## Date and place of opening envelopes:

Envelopes will be opened at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, in the corporation headquarter.

For more detail please visit our website: www.ygcrtv.com, or send email to info@ygcrtv.com

# **Business**



# Women Workers: The on going struggle with stereotypes and perception (Part 1)

**By: Rasha Jarhum\*** *jarhum@gmail.com* 

ccording to the latest population survey of 2004, women economparticipation accounted for only 9.3% in comparison to 67.7% that accounts for male economic participation. The statistical Report of Women and Men 2007, that was launched last Monday, justified the low percentage of women's economic participation to be a result of the social customs and traditions that restrict women economic participation to certain economic participation. Additionally, the report noted that the low levels of education among women in comparison to men plays another major role. Furthermore, a significant problem causing lower economic participation of women was accounted for the early marriage problem among women, more specifically after giving birth to children and providing child care and attending to domestic responsibilities. However, the bottom line of all these problems lies in our perceptions and stereotyping to the gender roles that is derived from our culture and more specifically customs and traditions. In this report, certain perceptions affecting women's economic participation were researched by interviewing different people representing both genders. The report is hence based on qualitative rather than quantitative data provided by the evidences based on examples of the participant's verbatim statements.

#### Priority in employing women:

Although the statistics provided earlier reflect a sad truth, It was found that men believe that women are giving a priority over men when it comes to employment. Women seem to agree but illustrating that this fact is restricted to particular economic sectors that are viewed as female jobs.

Kamal, a 28 year old employee, indicated "In comparison to the past years ...yes ..a woman receives priority in recruitment and the Yemeni reality is the witness..."

Huda, a 26 years old employee, partially agrees stating that "Yes [women receive priority in employment] in some jobs like secretary, receptionist and mainly in superficial jobs ..and I feel this is injustice..they don't give her a decision maker position and only give her a position that is for superficial appearances.." [women] improve the working atmosphere of the institution..and make the organization look good before foreigners.. and sometimes the organization might need a woman's opinion for example about a socially sensitive topic ..we usually consult with a woman...and sometimes the background of women and her being a woman may provide us with interesting opinions and ideas..." However, I felt that female employ-

However, I felt that female employers may have understood the importance of gender diversity and valued women workers better.

Nadia, employer stated, "It is very important to have a gender diversity, especially in media because readers are both males and females and every issue has to be dealt with from both perspectives in order to maintain objectivity. Also having both males and females in a working environment will facilitate natural flow of information and communication and will neutralize the corporate culture and corporate jargons, without it being over masculine or too feminine."

# Perceptions towards Women's Decision to Work:

It was found that almost all women believe that it is their right to decide to work on their own. Most women indicated that opting to work was their decision. However, many thought that the opinion of the husband and family is important in work decisions. Some of them also stated that they will submit to their husband's wishes to discontinue working or will try to negotiate. I have also noticed that the more educated a woman is the more she is willing to defend her right to work.

Rana, employee in the private sector stated: "I think a woman as a free human being should make any decision by herself whether to work or for anything else..but I think a decision whether made by a man or a woman should always be discussed with the family and the partner.....[however] the norm in our society is that the decision to work is in the hand of the family and the husband ..but for me it was my own decision and I have supportive parents.."

On the other hand, It found that almost all men believe that they have the right to order their wives, sisters, or females in their family to stop working. They believed that since they are the heads of the families and Maharem, they have the right to exercise any majors to protect the interest of the women and the family. It was also noticed that those strong views do not differ among males according to their education and that if they don't believe in the notion of letting women work, then that's it. However, It was also noticed that older men are more open minded and realize that the decision for women to work is an exercise to their basic rights.



The majority of women employees reported that the main problems that they face persist in gender equality.

dignity at home .. I totally object"

Families who support their daughter's decision to work now insist on the husband by imposing a clause in the marriage agreement that he has no right to ask her to stop working.

Abeer, employee with the private sector states: "in our family we have put a conditions in the marriage agreement of my sister that her husband will let her continue to work and that the decision is hers to continue or stop working.."

# Perceived Societal View on Working Women:

Many of the respondents whether males or females believe that the society's view is divided into two perspectives; those who reject the notion of working women and those who support it.

Soa'ad, employee in the government stated " I think our Yemeni society is divided into two parts...a society with women's work and a society who rejects the notion of women work ... .. from their point of view [the team that rejects women's work], women's work is not necessary and women are not capable to work and if she does work it does not reach up to the required quality level..and in their point of view letting women go out to work means letting her compete with them to get jobs, or compete to get promotions..all these characteristics are met in the rejecting team...But the other team are those who encourage working women but they are few whether they were decision makers or development planners or members of the society in general..this team views women's participation in the labour force as a vital necessity which goes

with the perception that a woman who stays home is respectable or easily controlled. Hussain, employee, states: "I prefer a stay home wife...I will tell you I'm

very selfish man and I want her for myself only.." Indicating that It's almost like if a

woman gets out of her house she becomes the propriety of everyone in the society, more specifically propriety of other men too, and that's why some men prefer a stay home wife.

It was found that perceptions and stereotypes associated with working women may cause them

to face problems at the time of recruitment or later on when they are already employed.

### Women's Age and Material Status:

The majority of male and female employers expressed their preference towards hiring young women verses older women. They also expressed their preference to hiring single and unmarried women.

It was found that the perception of married women with overwhelming family commitment lead to believing that a woman will be overloaded with responsibilities and would not perform well at the workplace and hence might affect recruiting her.

Khalid, employer states: "I don't want older women who are unwilling to learn or understand the nature of the work and I also don't want a woman who have overwhelming family commitments .."

Lamya'a , employee in the private sector indicates: "I think a woman who is not married may have a better chance to be recruited because she won't get

women encounter sexual harassment prefer that women stay home and prefer that his future partner to be a stay home wife.

Hamdan, employee in the private sector indicated: "...a woman may face immoral harassments from some of the guys that work with her or clients who might treat her impolitely.."

However, The was a low number of women reporting and perceiving this to be a problem at work and this could be due to the fact that Yemeni women are relatively shy and fear for their reputation, they might not find the courage to speak about any sexual harassment that they faced.

Enas stated: "...you find them [men] stair and over stair ...but thank god in my work place this doesn't happen..but it happens when we go to other working premises ..they just stair because they are not used to see women..."

Additionally, one female employee in the government sector reported that she witnessed one of her colleagues getting harassed by a male supervisor. The respondent stated: " .. I saw one of my colleagues getting harassed by her supervisor..and he's a playboy man..he married three times and he's not getting enough..she used to avoid him..but he still was bothering her..so she asked for a transfer to another department and she started wearing a face veil...."

#### Discrimination in Career Advancement Opportunities:

The majority of women employees reported that the main problems that they face persist in gender equality in terms of career advancement opportunities. They feel that they do not get promotions as fast as men if they get them at all. They also feel that although salaries may be equal, there's huge gap in financial rewards.

Lubna, employee in the government sector indicated: "...other difficulties may be in getting a promotion .. even after a woman gets a job and even if she possess the necessary competencies, qualifications and potential, she will not have a chance to get promoted in comparison to the man...the third thing is in rewards and not the salary because their could be equality in salaries but huge differences in rewards...and rewards are always given to the man whether in the private or public sector even if he doesn't not work ..even in our organization and I say it frankly..some men take much more than women who are dedicated to their work and those men are less qualified and less dedication and do not perform as women ... " In addition a relationship was found between the discrimination in financial rewards and promotion with the male employers' and employees perceptions of how working women spend their income.

# women encounter sexual harassment prefer that women stay home and pre- channels:

It was found that the Yemeni women employee and employer do not have access to a very important informal communication channel, which is the famous Qat sessions that usually take place from 3 pm to 6 pm. Those Qat session are exclusive to men where they gather to chew Qat and talk business or even discuss high government policy making.

A government female employee states: "everything is decided in Qat sessions whether it was a big issue or a small issue..and we find ourselves not having a say in anything..just following whatever is decided..."

\*: Rasha Jarhum is a Social Scientist Working with Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights.

# **Business** in Brief

## Fisheries Ministry to Develop an

Aquaculture strategy ources at the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Wealth stated that the ministry is working on developing an aquaculture strategy based on fish farming. The strategy will focus on high-yield fisheries production such as shrimp and lobster, and will expand to other types of fisheries across the country.

# GIA: 360 new projects to generate 13,143 jobs

he General Investment Authority has stated in a report that the year 2007 witnessed the registration of 360 new investments in Yemen, which, once operational, will provide 13,143 jobs. The report also stated that the total costs of the investments is 277.3 billion Riyals.

# UK businessmen delegation to visit Yemen in March

S cheduled in upcoming March, a British businessmen delegation will visit Yemen in order to learn more about the possible investment and business opportunities in Yemen. The visit is organized by the Middle East

# Gender Diversity in the Organization:

Looking into the gender diversity issues and organizational hierarchy in terms of gender provided good insights on how women are valued in the organization. Sadly, It was found that almost all male employers value women workers according to their feminine assets, rather than to their qualifications or experience.

Ali, an employer in the private sector states " [I encourage gender diversity] to a certain extent... I think they Walid, employee in private sector indicated "I don't believe that women should work.. why should she work? ..she doesn't need to work..I will provide for her..she should stay with her

t inline with the developments and the cultural, social and economical changes that is happening in the world and looks at this issue with strategic perspective.."

Some women manage to blame other women for the negative view of the society.

Noha, employee in the government sector indicated: "I think 90% of the society have a bad view towards working women and no respect to her at all..and it might differ from a person to another and maybe the woman is responsible to define the look of the society through her behavior.."

The majority of single female employees believe that ones a woman get a job her chance of

social stability in marriage decline if it does not totally vanish.

Sawsan, employee in the private sector indicated "I believe the brave decision that a woman may take in her life is to work, make the society perceive her, as a trouble maker and potentially not obedient for her husband and therefore her marriage chances decrease .... " Kawthar, employee states: "my dad told me before I get employed: ' my daughter I want you to choose something either a job or a husband' and I told him why my father, and he said because in the Yemeni society if a girl get employed she never get married..and it proved right as all of my sisters got married except me..."

Many single men expressed that they want to get engaged to stay home wives. This view is also associated pregnant and won't take many holidays.."

However, female employers in the government sector expressed their preference towards hiring older married women with independent children. Additionally, the male employers in the government sector did not identify a preferred age or material status for women.

A female government employer states: "I prefer to recruit a married woman who has grown and independent kids...from my personal experience, single women start working then once they are married, she gets pregnant and give birth and whether we like it or not the job gets behind ..and for a married woman who has young kids also has many problems and excuses..one time she wants to take them to school and bring them back from school..and one time the kids are sick and so I prefer a married woman with grown and independent kids..."

Many problems were identified by the respondents of both gender, those are: sexual

harassment, discrimination in rewards, and access to informal communication.

# Sexual Harassment in the Work Place:

It was found that all the male employees in both the government and private sectors think that

the main problem that a woman faces in the workplace is sexual harassment. It was also found

that usually a man who thinks that

Ali, employee indicated: " I think they mainly spend on their cloths and make up and it's is very rarely that they spend for the interest of the house..."

Additionally, it was also found that the traditional gender roles associated with the man as the sole breadwinner and head of the household also have a relationship in discriminating against women.

Hani, employee in the private sector indicated: "A woman is the mother, wife, housewife, not working, gives more attention to house duties and family and the man is to work, an unemployed man staying at home is a loser...."

Salih, employer in the government states: "...we help the men [financially].. they have many responsibilities.. feed the kids... educate the kids...dress up the kids.."

On the other hand, women urged a change in this perception.

Sabah, employer in the private sector states: "...many women are head of households..they are either single mothers or have lazy husbands who rather spend on Qat rather than buy some food for their children...and I have plenty of friends who suffer from lazy husbands.." organization for promoting British-Arab trade.

#### Mujawar: Internal Audit and Control is needed

Prime Minister Mujawar has recently stated that government institutions and agencies shall develop their internal audit and control mechanism in order to limit bureaucracy and combat corruption. He also added that the government needs to adopt a management-by-objective strategy in order to improve efficiency.

# Saudi Arabia funds construction of vocational training institutes

The kingdom of Saudi Arabia is funding the construction and equipping of 18 vocational and technical training institutes throughout the country, with a total cost of US\$ 50 million. This support comes as a part of a bilateral assistance agreement between the kingdom and Yemen signed in 2002.

#### Agricultural exports exceed 8.6 billion Riyals during 2007

n official source at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation stated that agricultural exports through the Haradh border point between Yemen and Saudi Arabia has exceeded 8.6 billion Riyals, adding that total volume of exports has exceeded 182,855 thousand tones, consisting mainly of fruits and vegetables.

A leading industrial company has the following vacancy for immediate filing in Sana'a:

# **A Secretary**

Bachelor or Diploma in Secretary, Business Administration,

Commerce, etc (Female, male)

Experience: 2-3 years

Good communication skills in both English & Arabic Good administrative skills.

Pls e-mail your CV to invest.inter@yahoo.com

VACANCY



# **Advertisement**



www.sabehagroup.c

Offices: 01-201359 / 201319 Fax: 01-209532



The European Commission, for and on behalf of the Ministry of Human Rights, announces the launching of a

# **Call for Proposals**

under the "Sharaka" Programme, addressed to Yemeni NGOs active in the field of Human Rights.

The relevant Guidelines can be obtained from the Delegation of the European Commission to Yemen (address below) or downloaded from EuropeAid's website at http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl (Select "By Country"; Select "Yemen" and tick on "Open" and "Grants", and click on "Submit")

Interested organisations are strongly encouraged to attend the

# **Information Session**

on this Call for Proposals, which will take place on Wednesday 6 February 2008 from 9 am - 2 pm at the Sheraton Hotel in Sana'a

The deadline for the submission of concept notes is: Saturday, 1 March 2008 at 15.00 PM

Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Yemen Diplomatic Area, Junction St. no. 1 and no. 16 (Opposite Hawaii Billiard Club), Sana'a, Yemen, tel. 01-440883/4/5

emirates.com/ye

# Ignts week

# Introducing an additional weekly flight to Dubai and beyond.

Emirates gives you more flexibility and choice with an extra flight every week from 5th February 2008. You can now fly to Dubai and onward to over 90 destinations around the world at your own convenience.

## Fly Emirates. Keep discovering.

Days	Depart Sana'a	Arrive Dubai	Flight
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	1015	1345	EK962
Days	Depart Dubai	Arrive Sana'a	Flight
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	0710	0900	EK961



300 international awards and over 90 destinations worldwide. For more details contact your local travel agent or Emirates on Tel: 01 444442 or visit emirates.com/ye

# **Readers' View**

You® View

Every month, there will be a fixed topic on which we would like to encourage Yemen Times readers to participate in. It could be an article, a short story, a poem, or even a picture. The person with the best contribution will receive a Yemen Times cap, T-Shirt or Mug. Send your contributions under the title of YOUR VIEW to: eljabree@gmail.com

## This month is about: *An experience with a nutcase* Have you ever encountered a crazy person and lived through a worth telling experience?

# A disastrous situation

By: Ahmed Abduljalil Al-Qubati Student, Jamal Abdul Nasser School Ahmedalqubati@Yahoo.com Ahmedalqubati@Hotmail.com

ike every Friday afternoon, I called my friend Anwar to decide what we were going to do that afternoon. Anwar suggested to go shopping, so we met in our usual spot. After an hour, we bought some things.

Because it was my habit to use the internet every Friday afternoon, I suggested we go to Al-Ertika Net, so we went there immediately. As we entered the internet café, we met our friend Ali and a guy from his neighborhood. After greeting and speaking with them for a while, Anwar and I sat down to use the internet. However, Ali and the guy left quickly. After 15 minutes, Anwar's mobile

phone rang. He answered and it was Ali, wanting to come to his house immediately. He met us near the door of his home and we entered. I wondered what the problem was because Ali looked scared.

We sat down and Ali began to speak loudly in a quivering voice, asking, "Do you remember the guy who was with me today?" and we replied yes. He went on to explain that the guy's brother had been killed last week and he thought Anwar did it. Anwar was shocked.

Ali continued, saying the guy had gone to bring a friend of his to kill Anwar. Anwar and I were scared and Anwar asked, "What can we do?" While we were talking and thinking, there was a knock at the door. Anwar and I didn't know who it was, but we

heard loud voices coming closer and closer.

Suddenly, without warning, Ali entered the room with the guy who wanted to kill Anwar. I was so surprised that my heart stopped beating and I could see from his eyes that Anwar also was scared. We couldn't move.

Ali suddenly smiled, but I couldn't understand why. After awhile, he asked, "Why are you scared? Don't worry, it was only a joke!" After taking a long breath, Anwar exclaimed, "Oh my God! I can't believe it! I'm going to kill you, Ali!'

Afterward, we learned that the guy was Ali's best friend, Hamza. It's hard seeing your best friend about to be killed and not being able to do anything about it. If I'd had gun, I would've killed Ali right then and there.

# **jrong**i **By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy** majed\_thabet@hotmail.com



# Iran & Iraq: A comparison (Part 2)

n part one, I shed light on the others, with each further divided into current status of Iran and Iraq prior to the U.S. invasion. In this article, I will survey the common the differences between

these two nations, as the former remains in a state of being threatened while the latter already has been invaded.

In Iraq's case, Saddam Hussein wasn't elected by the nation; rather, he obtained the presidency by overthrowing the country's previous president. Subsequently, many people, political parties and religious sects didn't accept him.

Hussein's treatment was tough and harsh, especially concerning political issues. Just as he was accused following the U.S. invasion, he carried out many aggressive acts during his rule. Thus, this situation was a good catch for the United States, which began propagandizing Hussein as a dictator and stirring up Iraq to rebel against him. Although Iraqis did not rebel against him, this made invading the country easier, as some Iraqis liked the idea of having their dictatorial president removed.

Iran's president, on the other hand, is elected; thus, the U.S. can't call him a dictator. With no background of aggression or violence against his people, Iranians like him as president, which gives Mahmoud Ahmedinejad the power to face the U.S. and its allies. So, how will the United States destroy Iranian unity?

The number of religious sects in Iraq was exploited excellently. Iraq has Sunnis, Shi'ites, Aqrads and

similarities between the smaller groups. Thus, operating under forming relations with other nations between them.

assassinations, murders and bombings have been a daily occurrence in Iraq, with each sect or group accusing the other and vowing revenge. The story

today. The majority of Iranians are

Shi'ites, thus, there are no social, political or religious sects with old employ its policy of divide and

conquer in Iran? Iraq's declaration of having nuclear weapons was just a lie, as proven following the U.S. invasion. It also has been proven that the United States knew this before it invaded Iraq, but it invaded Iraq with no fear of facing war. nuclear weaponry.

No one is sure if Iran actually possesses nuclear weapons or not. If it does, the U.S. will be forced to as part one - what is the future for consider the situation from all aspects Iran? Because there are many and may not launch a war against it. But if Iran doesn't have such is it like the current Iraq situation? Or weapons, will the U.S. invade it as it did in Iraq?

international relations during his rule, he made decisions without consulting other nations for support. For Majed Thabet Al-kholidy is a writer

example, invading Kuwait was his from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at personal decision not approved by English Dep, Taiz Uni. He is an exmany other countries. As a result, Iraq editor of English Journal of the was left alone in its war with the U.S. University.

On the other hand, Iran continues a policy of "divide and conquer," the through its president's continued U.S. stirred sufficient conflicts visits to establish relations of any kind, as evidenced by his signing For more than five years now, contracts to exchange goods or expertise in various fields. Such relations may benefit Iran if the United States seeks to invade it.

Another major difference is that in began as such and remains so until its invasion of Iraq, the U.S. was strong enough to engage in a war because its forces dominated the Middle East. Additionally, Americans weren't strongly opposed to the war, conflicts and Iran is marked by peace coupled with the fact that the and security. So, how will the U.S. country's financial status was better than its current status.

U.S. forces now are trapped in Iraq, where several soldiers are killed every day. The American people have begun opposing the war, demanding their president withdraw from Iraq. At the same time, the country's financial used this as a pretext for the invasion. status isn't as strong as it was, so it Because of this previous knowledge, won't be able to engage in any other

These are the major differences between the situations of Iraq and Iran. Again, I raise the same question similarities, which I cited in part one, will Iran face another end due to the differences cited in this second part? I Because Hussein established no hope the issues are clear and I anticipate your responses.

# The "other" India

#### By: Rajendra K. Aneja rkaneja@emirates.net.ae

s India marks another euphoric Republic Day in the throes of becoming an economy growing at 8 percent annually - which foreign businesses are eyeing romantically - it's crucial that we don't ignore the "other" India, which involves approximately 400 million people, or about 40 percent of the country.

Dwelling in villages and slums, these other Indians are a bewildered group these days. Many live within the 727,000 hamlets with populations as low as 100. Economists claim that approximately 100 million of them belong to the middle-income class, but in reality, between 250 and 300 million of them actually are below the poverty line, earning less than \$30 per month – the cost of a meal for one in a posh Bombay restaurant.

Many of these Indian villagers

part of their wages. Illiterate, they pos-60 years after independence, they have no electricity in their huts.

Living in small towns and cities, these "other" Indians often flock to larger cities, seeking employment and affluence. They are influenced by films such as, "Amitabh" or "Rajnikant," in which they see impoverished people coming to the city and soon thereafter surrounded by a fleet of cars, servants and huge mansions.

However, these "other" Indians find no "pot of gold" at the end of the urban rainbow; instead, those who do go to the cities are swallowed by slums, also known as "jhuggies." In fact, 40 percent of those residing in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras live in slums.

Full of hope, these "other" Indians slog to get out of these shanties and into an apartment someday, but eventually, the pavement becomes their bed. They fight hard in the beginning, but then the sheer drudgery of living in filthy, stinking slums kills their soul and their fighting spirit. As a result, their children don't go to school and they simply work the streets, scavenging and/or pickpocketing. This is the other India no one is

thinking about. Economic liberalizasess no radios or televisions and even tion - with the availability of Sony and Canon products - isn't going to touch their lives. These "other" Indians are anguished at the discovery that the fruits of such liberalization frequently are only wafers, chocolates and televisions, which they can't afford. They are embittered that Bombay shops sell suits for 100,000 rupees (approximately \$2,500) each, while they don't even possess one decent shirt. These "other" Indians are being cajoled that the bounties of liberalization will trickle down to them...perhaps.

I wrote my first article, "There will be no revolution in India," in 1973 when I was a student and, naturally, a leftist! Today I advocate a free economy, but I can't help believing that there will be no revolution in India now either.

Someday, the "other" Indians will demand to be counted and ask about the growth in the number of buses, trains and homes, but unfortunately for them, providing water faucets and electricity currently aren't on the national agenda; rather, we're just too busy with public relations and megaprojects in Davos, Switzerland [annual host of the World Economic Forum]

# My experience with Night

**By: Ammar Al-Hawi Teaching Assistant** Taiz University ammaralhawi@yahoo.com

> s I was making my first appearance on life's stage, I abruptly caught a glimpse of black. Unable to deter-

sluggish form into a fixed style of dress, stood before a motionless mirror for grooming and then slammed my apartment door behind me in a habitually rough and violent manner.

Fearing to arrive late, I thrust my way outside through the overcrowded and over-polluted streets toward my workplace. Arriving at my destination, I found my day consumed with the

I then looked around and saw Earth washing away her pains in Night's dark bath of purification. Sensing my presence, Night smiled at me innocently in recognition and welcome as he stirred and turned over to snuggle closer to me. It was as if he was fully acquainted with my hidden pain and sorrow!

Consequently, the awkwardness of our first meeting was soothed and I soon dissolved into greater intimacy with him. Never before had I known such intimacy with any other as I had with Night! Thus, I was encouraged to reveal to him my deepest thoughts and feelings. In return, he listened carefully to my sad sighs and whispered fears, seeming to reflect back affection and understanding. "Why do so-called modern people always think badly of Night? Why do they often attribute ugliness and sinisterness to his darkness? Why don't they try to see the bright light of reality in his dark depths?" I wondered disappointedly. The answer to my musings was that such people had become very materialistic and utilitarian in their view of the usefulness of anything in life. They always looked down upon Night and his darkness in disdain, even though they constantly escape to him for salvation from their daily boredom in order to receive his blissful comfort and silence. From my long talk with Night, I eventually came to realize certain characteristics that I believe I have in common with him. His darkness resembles my dark inner reality, while his simple and quiet mood is akin to my own inclinations toward simplicity and a quiet life. Likewise, his natural and real behavior manifests my dislike of artificiality and falsehood. But above all, we both experience humiliation and loneliness due to others' deliberate neglect in this hollow and empty world.

trudge 5 to 10 kilometers daily to a well or river to fetch a container of water. They essentially subsist on what they grow in their small patches of land or food grains that landlords, on whose farms they labor, give as

# The eternal quarrel

#### **By: Taiseer Ahmed** taiseers22@yahoo.com

n the final scene of life's play, two well-known stars appear onstage in their final attempt to end their eternal quarrel. Will they succeed?

Heart: I am the king of feelings, passion, sentiment, ardor, forgiveness, mercy and sympathy, but hatred, aversion, hostility, spitefulness, malice and meanness also take place in my kingdom. I help people accomplish things. I inspire them to make critical decisions. I am the sign of lovers, the inspiration for poets and the guide for mothers. In my kingdom, people live peacefully because I am the world of romantic dreams and the source of humanity.

Mind: You foolish heart! What are you talking about?! I'm better than you because I'm the king of reason, rationale and knowledge. Your idiotic feelings mean nothing to me! You'll find what humans need in my precious kingdom - science, grand ideas, eleintellectual ability. In using me, people develop their lifestyle and solve their tribulations. I help them get rid of your fake and deceptive temptations. I'm the guide of scientists and realists, not those living in the tides of your fancies. Your followers live in either nightmares or daydreams!

Heart: Rubbish! You're too tough, always encouraging people to act without feeling. Don't you remember that guy you encouraged to leave his sweetheart because she was poor? Or that mother who left her children for the sake of money?...

Mind: I'm sorry for interrupting you, Mr. Heart, but don't you remember that mother who spoiled her son because of love? Or that lover who was a slave to his passions and memories after his beloved's death until he was destroyed?! Is this what you mean?!

Heart: Please, Mr. Mind, imagine people living without me and without my love and emotions. Life would be

like a forest and the poor people would gant solutions, comprehension and be like machines.

> Mind: You're partially correct, but I also want you to imagine people living without realistic thought, living with absent minds and simply living in order to love or hate! What kind of life would they have? A life of fake dreams and whimsical desires – what a life!

> Heart: So, brilliant rival, what then is your solution? I confess that you are important, but I too am important for people. Oh, this endless battle makes me sick!

> Mind: We should remember that we're twins and although we're opposites, we complete each other, so in order to flourish human life, we should work hand-in-hand.

Heart: Yes, dear equal, this means my feelings aren't guided by your reason or that your realism is without my emotions because both may destroy lives and that's something neither of us wishes.

mine what it was, the image continued appearing in my newborn vision from time to time throughout my early childhood, often leaving me speech-

Only after becoming a conscious child did I first come to understand that this black was simply the darkness of Night. I also learned from others that Night - or Dark Night, as I usually called it – falls upon the Earth when there's no light outside and when most people are sleeping.

Having, to some extent, recognized something about Night's mysterious identity, I loved to watch him slowly come down upon the Earth, remove her spent sunlight and then cover her naked surface with his dark veil. However, the spontaneous feelings of excitement and enjoyment I once experienced deeply throughout my childhood meditations upon Night gradually receded from my mind and vanished into the reckless carelessness of youth.

As soon as I stepped foot onto the fearful threshold of youth, the materialism of daily life beguiled my childhood innocence, kidnapped the purity of my sensations, throttled the fertility of my imagination, murdered the vitality of my manhood and even greedily devoured the morality of my humani-

Voluptuousness consumed the energy of my days and numbness absorbed the nectar of my nights.

I often arose in the early morning to the noise of car horns, quickly ate my ready-made breakfast, packed my delegation of duties and obligations; thus, I spent my entire day lost in the hustle and bustle of life.

However, I remembered Dark Night, when daylight would depart and darkness would arrive to replace it. Night's darkness always reminded me of the time to return home and relax from Day's boredom and frustrations. Completely exhausted, I would quickly throw myself onto Night's dark bed and immediately sink into a deep sleep.

The next morning, I would awaken to repeat the same boring activities as yesterday or the days before.

Despite my reluctance, poor Night would come again and spread his blanket of calmness over my restless dwelling, thereby affording me safe shelter from Day's arrogance and emotional sterility.

Once, I decided to rebel against the vanity of my daily obligations and release myself from Day's worries and anxieties by hobbling toward the deserted ruins of my childhood and celebrating the happy anniversary of my first meeting with Night.

An absolutely charming silence haunted the scene. There was nothing to disturb the quiet state Earth was enjoying with delight. The blue sky above was wearing the Moon's royal crown of honor.

Our lovely Moon was too happy to be accompanied and encircled by a cluster of brilliant stars, which seemed to enjoy listening to his wonderful hymns of glorification of Nature's beauty.

# إعلانات مبوبة

## **31 January 2008**

# **URGENTLY REQUESTED**

**Foreigner Workers to work in a fast food restaurant** 

- Pizza chief
- Burger chief
- Waiters

**To apply contact Mr : Ammar Mansour** Tel: 733317802

Email: ameer733@yahoo.com

## مكتب أحمد محسن المريسي للخدمات العقارية حدة – الحي السياسي –الأصبحي – بيت بوس سيار : ٧٣٣٨ ، ٢٨٥٥

للبيع:أرضية حر مساحتها ٢٠ لبنة ، حده ، مسورة ، مسجلة بالسجل العقاري ومدفوع ضريبتها. سعر اللبنه ٢،٠٠٠،٠٠ ريال يمنى أرضية حر مساحتها حوالي ٣٥ لبنه ، حده، الحي الراقي ، مدرسة أزال . شارعين ركن. جنوبي وغربي. رائعة وشبه مستطيلة. َ فيلا جديد عظم. دورين وبدروم، حي الوزيرِ، بيت بوس. مساحة لأرضية حوالي ١١،٥ لبنه حر. تصميم رائع جداً، بناء شخصي وليس تجاري ، حجر حدائي دائري. شطب على ذوقك ومزاجك . تُخفيض فى سعر اللبيع إلى خمسة وخمسون مليون ريال . ثمنها وقدم عرضك . فيلا دورين وملحق مسلح ، تشطيب ممتاز ، في جامع سنان ، المدينة لسكنية ، مساحة الأرضية حوالي ١١،٥ لبنه حر ، شارعين تجاري. معر اللبيع ٦٣،٠٠٠،٠٠٠ مليون ريال.

\* فيلا دورين وبدروم ، جديد ، حي علوي ، حده ، جاهزة للسكن، ساحة الأرضية حوالي ١٦ لبنه حر . سعر اللبيع ٥٥٠ ألف دولار

# وظائف شاغرة

• يعلن المعهد الفنى للمساحة auto عن حاجته لمدرسين Excel + ، رسم هندسی, Cad word + windowsالعمل في الفترة المسائية.

للتواصل: ٤٧٢٩٣٩ ٧٣٣٦٥..٤.

# باحثون عن وظيفة

• كمال اسماعيل – بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية – خبرة طويلة في تدريس اللغة الإنجليزية وفي مجال المبيعات. يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أوفى أي مجال مناسب. للتواصل: ٧١١٤٢٣٩٣٣

• معاذ عبد الواحد – بكالوريوس محاسبة – جامعة تعز – يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر – خبرة في النظام المحاسبي (يمن سوفت) الإصدار السادس لمدة سنتين – خبرة في النظام المحاسبي اليدوى - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه.

. 1/٣.٦.٦٢ للتو اصل: ٧٧١٥٧٢٩٩١ • متوكل – بكالوريوس تمريض • عدنان محمد – بكالوريوس لغة •عبد الباسط أحمد حسن – بك المبيعات والحسابات. عمل في مستشفى مصطفى إنجليزية (أداب) – يجيد اللغة W كيمياء (جامعة الحديدة) – حاصل التخصصي – مستشفى ابن سيناء الإنجليزية بطلاقة – خبرة عالية في على عدة دورات في مجال الكمبيوتر –المستشفى الأهلى الحديث– مجال الترجمة واستخدام الكمبيوتر واللغة الإنجليزية. مستشفى التضامن الإسلامي – والإنترنيت. خبرة سنتين في مجال الصيدلة. للتواصل: ١ ٧١٣٢٨٢١ التواصل: ١ ٥ ٧ للتواصل: ٧١١١٨٥٩٦٥

•محسن سيف – بكالوريوس في مجال الصيانة والبرمجة – التجارية وتدريس اللغة الإنجليزية هندسة معمارى- خبرة في مجال خبرة في مجال بيع وبرمجة التلفون - يجيد استخدام الحاسب - يرغب التصميم والإخراج المعماري السيار – دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية في العمل في مجال تخصصه (في بإستخدام الكمبيوتر – خبرة في وفي مجال المبيعات – له القدرة مجال الترجمة). مجال الإشراف – يجيد اللغة على تصميم المواقع – يرغب في للتواصل: ٧٧٧٥٣٦٩٢٩ الإنجليزية العمل في مجال تخصصة.

للتواصيل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢٠ للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٨١١١٢ مصمم ثرى دى معمارى – خبرة
 ثانوية عامة – كلية التجارة مستوى
 (خريج الهند) – يجيد لغة ++ C طويلة في هذا المجال على استعداد ٣ – دبلوم كمبيوتر حديث – حاصل يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقا. لتدريب موظفى الشركات الهندسية على عدة دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية للتواصل: ٧١٢٧٧٤٢٦٣ والمهندسين المعماريين على برنامج والإنترنيت + دورة في النظام • مربية أثيوبية لديها إقامة رسمية 3dsmax في الوقت المسائي. المحاسبي يمن سوفت + خبرة في التواصل: ٧٣٣٤١٦٤٠٠ للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٨٩٤٠

• يحى حسين حسين – بكالوريوس خبرة في مجال العلاقات العامة. ممتاز في استخدام الحاسب الآلي لغة إنجليزية + دبلوم سكرتارية للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٠٢٩٢١ خبرة لمدة سنة أشهر فى • أحمد على – حاصل على دبلوم والكتابة باللغة الإنجليزية. شركة سياحية كبيرة في اليمن – سكرتارية كمبيوتر بتقدير امتياز – للتواصل: ٧١١٠٠٣٢١٢ يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية واستخدام مصادقة من قبل وزارة التعليم الفني • بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة الكمبيوتر.

فی مجال تخصصه. للتواصل: – ٧١٢٤٨٧٤١٠ للتواصل: ٥١ ٧١٣٠٦

صنعاء - شارع حده - أمام مركز الكميم التجاري Baddah st. infront of Al- Komaim Center

للتواصيل: ٧٣٣٤٥٣٠٢

Tel: 266375 - 505290

**Fax: 267619** 

P.O Box: 5465

• مروان / ىك لغة إنجلىزية – خبرة •بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب – خبرة في مجال الترجمة والمراسلات

•دبلوم صيانة كمبيوتر وشبكات

مجال الحسابات والسكرتارية + •بك محاسبة – خبرة ٤ سنوات – والأنظمة المالية – يجيد القراءة

والتدريب المهني – يرغب في العمل صنعاء – دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر

النظام المحاسبي من(يمن سوفت) الإصدار السادس – خبرة في مجال للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٦٧٠٣٥

# عقارات

 للإيجار: محل في وسط شارع للتواصل: ٧١١٧٠٤٣٩١ هايل + غرفة + حمام المطلوب: نقل قدم. للتواصل: ٧٣٣٨٦٣٥٨٢ • للإيجار : محل على دورين على شارع كلية الشرطة مع ديكور جاهز - المطلوب دفع قيمة نقل قدم . قيمة الإيجار ٨٠٠٠٠ ألف ريال للمحل

> المكون من طابقين. للتواصل: ٧١١٧٥٥٢٢٢

## کمبیوتر ،اثاث ، ادوات كهربائية، تلفونات، و اشیاء اخرص

• للبيع: نادى حديدى رياضى في حالة جيدة جدا وبسعر مناسب. للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٧٨٢٩٠ • للبيع: ثلاجة طولية كبيرة جدا

# سیارات

• للبيع (للجادين فقط): سيارة کامری – فاصل (۱) – مودیل .... ٢٠٠٠ – نظيفة جداً. السعر: ۸۵۰۰ دولار للتواصل: ٧٣٣٢٧١٠٣٧

DHL :441099/8/7/6

📥 شحن وتوصيل

M&M Logistics & Aviation Services

ت:۱-٤٤٤٥٥،،٤٤١٩٣٥

ت: ۱۱۲۹۸۱ -۱۰ ت: ۲۰۰۰۸/۱۰۲۰۰۸ -۱۰

فاکس: ٤١٨١١٦

Tel: 01-531221/531231

مستشفيات

عدن ت:۲۲۳۲۲۶ تعز ت: ۲۱۳۶۸۹ المکلا ت: ۳۰۹۱۹۰ الحدیدة ت: ۲۱۹٦٤۳

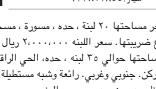


الىنەك

νπμινενν

كوبون للأعلانات الشخصية المحانية (كل الأعلانات الشخصية يدون أي مقابل)

11



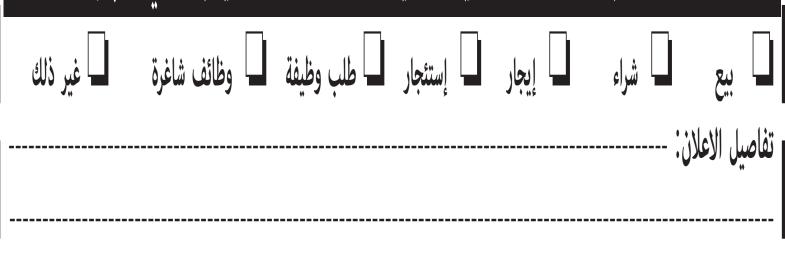


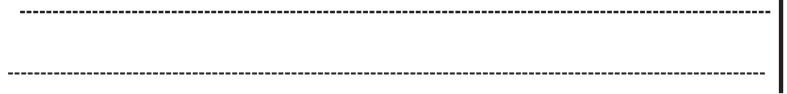
Email: shaibani@yemen.net.ye

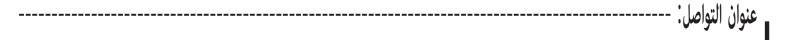
تلفون: ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - ٢٩٠٥٠٥

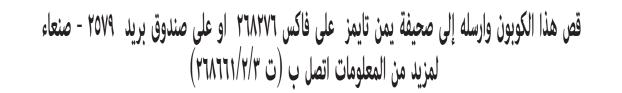
فاکس : ۲٦٧٦١٩

ص.ب : ٥٤٦٥









للإعلان في هذه الصفحة يرجى الإتصال على الرقم التالي 01/ 268661 وإرسال الإعلانات المجانية على فاكس68276



ت: ٤٠٧٠٣٠ -١٠ بنك اليمن الدولى ت: ۲/٥٨٥/٢ -١٠ لبنك العربي بنك التسليف الزراعي ت : ٠١-٥٦٣٨١٣ ت: ۲۷٤۳۱٤ -۱۰ لىنك المركزي:

#### تأجير سيارات

اویه ( Budget ) ت: ۳۰۹٦۱۸۰۰۰۶۳۷ فاکس: ۲٤۰۹۵۸ ورب کار ت: ۲۷۰۷۵۱ فاکس: ۲۷۰۸۰٤ هیرتز لتآجیر السیارات صنعاء ت: ۰۱-٤٤٠٣٠٩ فرع شیراتون ت: ٥٤٥٩٨٥ عدن ت :۰۲-۲٤٥٦٢٥

### مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر

آبتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر(تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة ايزو ١. صنعاء ت: ١-٤٦٨٣٠٥ فاکس : ٤٠٧٤١٩ - ٠١ عدن ت: ۲۰۰۲۳۷۱۹۹ تع; ت: ۲۵۰۳٤۳۰ المكلاء ت: ۳۰۷٤۹۲-۰۰

> Infinit Education T:444553 ت: ٤٤٥٥١٨/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٣ NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر

البريد السريع



ىنعاء ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٦٧ الحديده ت: ۳٤٩٨٢ ت: ٤١١٩٨٨ المكلا ت: ۳۰۲٦٤١ شبوه ت: ۲۰۲۳۲٦ سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٦٩

فنق شيراتون ت: ۲۳۷۵۰۰ - ۱۰ فندق موفمبيك ت: ٥٤٦٦٦٦ - ١٠ فاكس: ٥٤٦٠٠٠ فندق تاج سبأ ت:۲۷۲۳۷۲ -۰۱ فندق ریلاکس ان ت: ٤٤٩٨٧١ -٠١ فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي ت: ۸/۱۰۲۱۳۰ - ۲۰۲۱۳۰۸

فنادق

#### معاهد

معهد یالی ت: ٤٤٨٠٣٩-٤٢/ ٤٤٥٤٨٢ فاکس: ٤٤٨٠٣٧ ت: ۲۰۰۹٤٥ معهد اللغة الألمانيه المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٢٦٦٢٢٢ فاكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥ معهد کاروکوس ت: ٥٣٢٤٣٤/٥ فاکس: ٥٣٢٤٣٦ معهداًیکتک ت: ۲۲۰۸۳۳ - ۵۱۰۶۱۳ فاکس: ۲۲۵۵۳۷

## شركات للتأمين

الوطنية للتأمين ت :۲۷۲۹۲۳/۲۷۲۸۷۳ فاكس:۲۷۲۹۲٤ صنعاء ت: ۲۰٦۱۲۹/۸/۱۳ مأرب للتأمين الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين صنعاء ت: ۲۸٤۱۹۳، عدن ت: ۲٤٤۲۸۰ تعز ت: ۲٥٨٨٨١ شركة اليمن للتأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٧٢٨٠٦/٢٧٢٩٦٢/٤٣ عدن ت: ۲٤٧٦١٧ تعز ت: ۲۵۰۳٤٥

#### مدارس

ت: ٤١٤-٠٢٦/٤٢٤-٤٣٣ مدرسة رينبو ت: ۳۷۰۱۹۱/۲ فاکس:۳۷۰۱۹۳ بدارس صنعاء الدولية ت: ۹/۸۵۲۸۶۶ مدرسة التركيه الدوليه ت: ۲۰۶۱۵۹ بدرسة الماجد اليمنيه

مدغربات

sont.

ت: ۲۷۰۷۵۰ النسيم للسفريات العالميه للسفريات والسياحه ت: ٤٤١١٥٨٩/٦٠

## مطاعم

مطعم ومخبازة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني) تلفون : ٢٦٦٣٧٥ – ٢٩، ٥، فاكس : ٢٦٧٦١٩



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



# A Yemeni in the Land of the Rising Sun

By: Mohammed Shamsaddin For The Yemen Times mshamsaddin@yahoo.com

espite the fact that I visited Japan from 2005 to 2006, my memories and impressions of the country remain fresh in my mind. I spent nine months in various Japanese cities, but primarily in Osaka. Funded by the Japan Foundation, my language and cultural visit was organized for those working with Japanese offices in Yemen, such as embassies and cooperation organizations. I am the Ministry of Planning's local coordinator for the Japan International Cooperation Agency, or JICA.

Even before going to Japan, I had admired Japanese civilization and its people. I'd heard that the Japanese are a very conservative people who prefer to stick together and don't interact much with strangers. However, this turned out to be wrong – at least in my case – as I found the Japanese very welcoming and friendly. They wanted to know about me and my culture, as much as I wanted to know about them.

Although my Japanese isn't so good, I did mingle with people, and in fact, I was the first student in the course to start venturing out on my own during my second week there.



The Katana, a traditional Japanese sword, was the preferred weapon for the Samurai warriors.

#### **Religious history**

Ancient Japanese civilization and heritage has led to the existence of unique civilizations and various religions in Japanese life. Japanese society reacts positively to such traditional and religious beliefs, with Japan's constitution affirming freedom of religion and belief. "Kamisama" means God in Japanese.

Originating in Japan, Shinto became the Japanese Empire's official religion

during the Nara Era (710-794), while Buddhism entered the nation in the mid-sixth century via Korea, spreading

among the ruling upper class. The empire's support at that time led to the vast spread of Buddhism and the building of Buddhist temples. With more than 10 types of Buddhism, another school known as Zen, which entered via China, spread among Japanese soldiers.

While Shinto was the official religion

during the Meiji Era (1868-1912), it no longer was following Japan's surrender in World War II.

Although Christianity and Islam represent only a small percentage, there are a number of churches and mosques in city centers; thus, all may perform their religious rites and ceremonies freely.

While Islam appears to be new in Japan, entering via Indonesian and Malaysian immigrants, Japan deported Christian missionaries during the Tokugawa Era (1603-1868), but they were allowed to return during the Meiji Era.

#### A warm people

My time in Japan included field visits to many places and I stayed with several Japanese families, who mostly were retired, as they had the time to host and entertain visitors and, because of this, I realized that the Japanese are very generous and giving.

I still remember Yuku Cya, head of a cultural organization and my hostess for two days. Because of her home's proximity to the language center where I studied, I visited and spent time with her regularly and it is from her, as well as many other Japanese people, that I learned about their nation's traditions and its people's habits.

I learned that the Japanese deeply respect others' traditions and religions; for example, they never imposed anything on me and understood my objection to drinking alcohol.

I also was highly impressed by how engaged Japanese students were in their own culture. Nearly every day, schools would arrange field trips for students to visit their national monuments and sites. Everywhere I went, I saw groups of students and their teachers visiting some office or historical site and I was deeply touched by their appreciation of their history.

The Japanese have many beautiful but difficult to wear traditional clothes, as evidenced by the tough time I had donning the traditional clothing for men. I also liked their food, which was mainly seafood, and found it very healthy, so I quickly adjusted to the local living and eating habits.

The first thing I did upon my return to Yemen was work on a project to put up a page in Japanese on Yemen's



Sumiyoshi shrine.

Ministry of Tourism web site; however, such project has yet to be completed due to waiting for an answer from the Japanese Volunteers Association, which will help create the page.

#### New Year's Day

While Japan has numerous religions, nearly all of which are connected to the four seasons, climate changes or the agricultural season, New Year's Day is its most famous religious holiday. Japanese families start preparing early for the day's celebration. Women rearrange the house while markets become crowded with those buying gifts, as the Japanese are famous for exchanging gifts on such religious occasions, as well as out of basic courtesy.

Millions visit religious temples before midnight on New Year's Eve, but larger numbers go on New Year's morning, when newborn babies also are taken.

Train stations are extremely crowded New Year's morning, with most Japanese wearing traditional kimonos, thus creating a beautiful scene. However, wearing such traditional clothing has lessened in the past few years due to increasing prices and the amount of time to put it on.

Former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's wearing of a kimono on New Year's Day 2006 was a sign of attaching importance to wearing such traditional clothes and sought to encourage other Japanese to wear the kimono during temple visits and other occasions.

Additionally, the New Year's Day meal differs from everyday meals and members of cultural associations organize and hold New Year's Day parties and celebrations at their own expense.

Before returning home, people hang pieces of paper or wood in the trees around temples, on which they write their hopes and what they want to achieve in the New Year. The Japanese donate much money to such temples.

#### From Japan to Yemen

In an attempt to tell them about Yemen and Yemeni traditions, I represented Yemen at a cultural gathering and gave presentations on two occasions, during which I talked a lot about Marib. They especially liked my pictures of Shibam. They were very interested and wanted to know more. During my nine months there, Japanese television aired a tourism documentary on Yemen three times.

Unfortunately, because terrorist acts have occurred against tourists in both Marib and Shibam, I received emails from my friends in Japan asking why anyone would want to harm tourists – but I had no answer for them.

I can only hope that Yemen will become stable and peaceful so my Japanese friends can come and visit here as they would like.



Japan trditional clothes.

# **Odd News**

#### Nose means new Thai PM in sign language

BANGKOK, Thailand – (AP)- Sign language interpreters in Thailand have run afoul of some ruling party supporters by holding their noses to refer to the new prime minister.

Samak Sundaravej, chosen in parliament Monday as the first elected prime minister since a Sept. 2006 coup, has been nicknamed "Mr. Rose Apple Nose" because many claim his nose resembles the fruit.

Thai sign language interpreters often indicate prominent facial features as shorthand for dignitaries, and during a live broadcast of Monday's parliamentary session, they held their noses between two fingers numerous times to refer to Samak.

One interpreter, Kanittha Rattanasin, said this gesture has long been used for Samak but is drawing wide notice only now.

"It is not meant as a nose joke," she said. "We have touched our noses for years to refer to Samak but people noticed this time because we had to repeat the movement over 300 times."

Juthamas Suthonwattanacharoen, another interpreter, said Samak supporters have called the National Association of the Deaf in Thailand to say the sign does not befit the country leader, and the Thai daily newspaper Matichon said the gesture angered some members of Samak's party.

Samak, 72, a combative right-wing politician, easily beat Democrat party candidate Abhisit Vejjajiva, 43, to head the country.

"We refer to a person's most unique physical appearance and for Abhisit, it's

his good looks," Juthamas said. "If someone has very long eyelashes, or prominent ears, we use those."

Kanittha said some reference to Samak's popular cooking show might work as a new sign for him. But for now, there are no plans to change it, Juthamas said.

### Swedish bank stops digital theft

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)- A gang of Swedish criminals was seconds away from completing a digital bank heist when an alert employee literally pulled the plug on their brazen scam, investigators said Wednesday.

The would be bank robbers had placed "advanced technical equipment" under the employee's desk that allowed them to take control of his computer remotely, prosecutor Thomas Balter Nordenman said in a statement.

The employee discovered the device shortly after he realized his computer had started an operation to transfer "millions" from the bank into another account, Nordenman said.

"By pulling out the cable to the device, the employee managed to stop the intended transfer at the last second," he said.

The foiled heist happened in August at a bank in Uppland county, north of Stockholm, police said. They announced it only Wednesday after seven suspects, all from the Stockholm region, were arrested this week while allegedly preparing another heist.

Police did not name the suspects, but said many of them have prior fraud and theft convictions. Investigators did not give other details on the device, or how it was placed under the desk. Man wins, then loses, then wins lottery

SYDNEY, Australia - An Australian retiree won a \$1.8 million lottery prize, then lost it, and then won it again Wednesday through a court ruling

Werner Reinhold bought the lottery ticket at a newsstand in Australia's largest city of Sydney on Sept. 19, 1995. His original ticket did not print correctly, so he asked for a new one, which turned out to be the winner.

But when Reinhold, now 73, went back to claim the \$1.8 million jackpot, he discovered that the replacement ticket had been canceled, not the misprinted original, and was unable to claim the prize.

He sued NSW Lotteries, which oversees lottery tickets in New South Wales state, and the newsstand which sold him the ticket.

Supreme Court Judge Reginald Barrett awarded Reinhold \$1.8 million in damages, citing negligence and breach of contract by the newsstand and the state lottery company. Barrett had not yet ruled on what portion of the award each party should pay.

#### Japanese firm offers "heartache leave" for staff

TOKYO (Reuters) - Lovelorn staff at a Japanese marketing company can take paid time off after a bad break-up with a partner, with more "heartache leave" on offer as they get older.

Tokyo-based Hime & Company, which also gives staff paid time off to hit the shops during sales season, says heartache leave allows staff to cry themselves out and return to work refreshed. "Not everyone needs to take maternity leave but with heartbreak, everyone needs time off, just like when you get sick," CEO Miki Hiradate, whose company of six women markets cosmetics and other goods targeted for women, told Reuters by telephone.

Staff aged 24 years or younger can take one day off per year, while those between 25 and 29 can take two days off and those older can take three days off, the company said.

"Women in their 20s can find their next love quickly, but it's tougher for women in their 30s, and their break-ups tend to be more serious," Hiradate said. Hime & Company staff can also take two mornings off twice a year as "sales shopping leave", so they can race to stores to hunt for bargains.

"Before, women could take half-days off to go to sales, but you'd have to hide your shopping bags in lockers by the train station," Hiradate said.

"But with paid leave, we don't have to feel guilty about bringing our shopping bags to work, and we can enjoy the best part about sales shopping -- talking about our purchases afterwards."

> Man sets station on fire over playlist

AUSTIN, Texas - A volunteer at a community radio station set fire to the station because he was upset that his song selections for an overnight Internet broadcast were changed, police said.

Paul Webster Feinstein, 24, has been charged with second-degree felony arson for the Jan. 5 fire that caused \$300,000 damage to the studios of 91.7 FM KOOP. He faces from two to 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted.

Feinstein told investigators that he was "very unhappy" about the changes to his playlist, said Austin Fire Department Battalion Chief Greg Nye. The songs were intended for an Internet broadcast that occurs when the station is off the air.

"He had a dream of a career in radio and was very disappointed about where it had led him," Nye said.

An attorney for Feinstein could not be reached for comment.

Station president Andrew Dickens said Feinstein had been in a dispute with another volunteer about what kind of music should be put into a digital library for the Internet program.

Feinstein was a jazz fan and his Internet program was called "Mellow Down Easy," Dickens said.

"We knew there was a disagreement, but I would characterize it as a little clash of personalities over types of music to be played and not a big blowout," Dickens said.

Feinstein, who had volunteered at the station for about a year, quit a week before the fire, saying he was going to do other things, Dickens said.

"He seemed like somebody who was young, enthusiastic, had a life, was a professional and was educated," Dickens said.

Nye said Feinstein acknowledged making a copy of the station key and then waiting for the station to clear out on the night of Jan. 5. Feinstein poured gasoline on the control panels in two studios to start the fire, Nye said.

The fire department's trained dog smelled gasoline at the scene, tipping investigators to the arson, Nye said. Nye said Feinstein had no previous criminal record.

The fire was the third the station has dealt with in the past two years. The first was ruled accidental. The second was caused by a malfunction in a heating and air-conditioning unit of a nearby business and forced the station to move.

This month's fire knocked the station off the air for 19 days. It resumed broad-casting last week in donated space.

"We are kind of worried that people will look at us like a bunch of idiots," Dickens said. "This is really just one of those out-of-the-blue situations. Who the hell would have thought somebody would have snapped?"



