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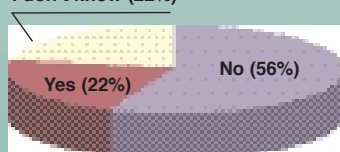
Ramzi Al-Ariqi: "Companies involved in corruption should be Black listed"

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Would the protests and solidarity with Sami Al-Hajj cause USA authority to release him?

I don't know (22%)



This edition's question:

Would Al-Islah party have a new leader other than Sheikh Al-Ahmar after the party's internal elections?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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Sheikh Al-Ahmar: "I won't nominate myself in Islah's upcoming elections"

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANAA, Feb. 14 — Just ahead of the Yemeni Islah Party's fourth conference on Feb. 24, Speaker of Parliament and Islah Party Chairman Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar has told Saudi Arabia's Al-Riyadh newspaper that he won't nominate himself as chairman in his party's elections, a post he has assumed since the party's establishment.

Islah will discuss numerous pressing issues during the forthcoming conference, including expanding women's participation in leading party positions and bodies, such as the Shoura Council and the General Secretariat.

Further, the party will hold elections to choose new faces to assume leading positions and replace those who have been linked with Islah since it first appeared on the Yemeni political field in 1991. Changes also will include all posts in all party sectors.

In his interview with Al-Riyadh, Al-Ahmar confirmed Islah's intention to restructure itself at all levels, including leading positions. He also tackled numerous other issues at both national



Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar

and regional levels.

The sheikh stressed that he knows nothing about alleged Libyan and Iranian support and involvement in the conflict escalating between Yemeni military forces and Al-Houthi followers on many fronts in Sa'ada governorate.

Al-Ahmar further asked Houthis to cease fighting, surrender to the state and behave as other Yemeni citizens, adding that they may form a political party if they wish.

Continued on page 3

Sa'ada clashes escalate while authorities monitor all telecommunications



Sadda, an under-privileged governorate, is suffering from reoccurring violence and armed clashes.

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Feb. 14 — Armed confrontations between government troops and Al-Houthi followers, which have killed dozens on both sides, are escalating in

the northern province of Sa'ada, located 245 km. north of Sana'a, media sources reported Wednesday.

"Jet fighters and heavy arms have been employed in the fierce two-day clashes, killing 96, of whom 80 were Al-Houthi supporters and 16 were military soldiers, including the contingent's commander, Col. Mohammed Jaber Othman, from Radfan district in Lahj governorate. Many of Othman's bodyguards also were killed in the fighting," the same sources added. "Sa'ada's atmosphere is tense and there's an unannounced curfew, which paves the way for more military strikes by the army to end the crisis."

The government has cut telephone and internet services in the restive province since last Saturday and security authorities have ordered telecommunication and internet centers in all Yemeni governorates to register the names of those making telephone calls and using the internet, fearing support for Al-Houthi rebels. The Interior Ministry demanded such centers provide nearby police stations with daily lists of their users.

According to the media, Al-Houthi supporters are living in a state of confusion after the government suspended mobile phone services in areas where fighting is occurring. This action helped increase the death toll among Al-Houthi aides due to lack of communication and coordination with each other.

While military sources refuse to reveal field procedures they are pursuing to fight Al-Houthi rebels, a source on the recently established mediation committee told the media, "We don't know what's happening on the battleground due to the lack of communication: however, there's fierce fighting in the mountainous areas."

Official media outlets harshly criticized the mediation committee, which holds government troops accountable for resuming the clashes between the two sides. The committee asserts that the army launched sporadic offensives in Sa'ada, thereby hampering dialogue and mediation efforts.

The ruling General People's Congress accused the mediation committee, formed under President Ali Abdullah Saleh's directive, of being partial to Al-Houthi aides and demanded that its members be investigated.

The mediation committee forwarded a report to Parliament clarifying the Sa'ada events, saying, "The army still is hunting Al-Houthi followers, who have agreed to abandon their mountaintop positions and return home. Al-Houthi aides welcomed dialogue and demonstrated a will to end the crisis via peaceful means, but military escalations are hindering the progress of any such mediation efforts."

Continued on page 3

Ra'ash locals stage sit-in before Parliament

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANAA, Feb. 13 — Dozens of Ra'ash locals staged a sit-in Tuesday in front of Parliament to protest against suppressive acts by Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Mansour and his son, Member of Parliament Mohammed. The sit-in came after local authorities in Ibb failed to solve their problems.

The demonstrators lifted photos of President Ali Abdullah Saleh while repeating, "We have none but Ali!" the same slogan frequently heard during last year's presidential campaign.

Protestors said they chanted the words in order to show that they belong to the General People's Congress and not to opposition parties as alleged by those close to Sheikh Mansour.

Reacting to the villagers' demands, Parliament formed a fact-finding committee chaired by Hymir Al-Ahmar to look into their complaints. The committee immediately sent a letter to Interior Minister Rashad Al-Alimi and Attorney General Abdullah Al-Olifi requesting clarification of the incidents.

Continued on page 3

Court orders arrest of journalist

SANAA, Feb. 13 — The Capital's South-West Court ordered on Monday the forcible apprehension of Jamal Amer, editor in chief of Al-Wasat weekly, and Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, chief editor of Al-Shoura.net, an opposition news Web site in order to attend the court's sessions. The order was made at the request of the prosecution during Monday's session.

Al-Khaiwani was surprised over the court's decision saying he did not reject to attend the court's sessions, Nasspress reports. He added he attended the last session while his lawyer, Jamal Al-Jaabi, attended this week's session.

"I wished the court showed a similar zest in Anisah Al-Shuabi's case or doing justice to Ra'ash villagers," he noted and hinted at his colleague Amer's issue wherein he is asking for arresting his abductors for two years, but in vain.

Amer is sued by Endowments Ministry after his paper published a report that spoke of pilgrims' mistreatment, whereas Al-Khaiwani stands trial against a case raised by the Ministry of Defense, when the paper wrote of Yemeni authorities' intention to hand

over Hadrmout's Al-Bada'e military airport to Saudi Arabia.

On Tuesday, Amer went to the prosecution and promised to attend the coming session scheduled for March 5.

In related news, Sa'ada Penal Court sentenced journalist Abed Al-Mahdhari, Chief Editor of Al-Diyyar Newspaper, to one-year in prison in absentia and to be immediately implemented against a case raised by Sa'ada's Saqeen Court Judge.

Al-Mahdhari told alshoura.net that his case has been delayed for four years and further expressed his surprise over the ruling and maintained that neither he nor his lawyer was notified.

He further asked Yemeni Journalists Syndicate and civil society organizations and his colleagues to act against this ruling contradicting Yemen's commitment to the international agreements and President Saleh's promises to halt journalists' detention over opinion and publication issues.

Al-Mahdhari has been targeted, attacked and detained many times and his car was robbed, according to reports in alshoura.net.

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In brief

ABYAN

Abyan governor ends land dispute

Feb. 13 — Abyan Governor Fareed Mojawer ended a dispute between his deputy, Saleh Hadran, and Commander of the 312 Military Division Brig., Ahmad Ali Al-Shamj. The two officials were disputing over a plot of land on the Abyan coastline, leading to clashes. According to Abyan sources, Al-Shamj sent five military vehicles with soldiers onboard to the land after he learned that Hadran's fellowmen were dominating the land. The governor settled the dispute and order the case to be referred to the concerned parties in the housing and estate authorities to identify the actual owner of the land.

Injuries and deaths in tribal clashes

Feb. 13 — Up to 19 people died and 30 others injured in fierce armed confrontations between Al-Mudhaffar and Al-Kasad tribes in Abyan. Media sources said the clashes are currently taking pace in the mountains of Kasad tribe and the two parties are using heavy machineguns and explosives. Security forces couldn't enter the battleground because of the fierce fighting over border demarcation. The issue dates back to the early 1980s while government and tribal efforts failed to contain the issue.

IBB

Students prepare for National Unity's 17th Anniversary

Feb. 13 — The Celebration Subcommittee in Ibb Governorate announced during its Tuesday meeting, chaired by Ibb Governor Ali Bin Ali Al-Qaisi, the engagement of 4,000 schoolboys and girls to participate in a parade while celebrating the 17th Anniversary of the National Unity, scheduled to take place in the green province on May 22. In its meeting, the government leadership approved a celebration subcommittee, made up of the governor and his deputies, local council secretary general, rector of Ibb University and other officials, to make the necessary arrangements for the occasion.

HODEIDAH

Port development programs in Hodeida and Makha

Feb. 13 — The General Authority for Ports and Marine Affairs approved an amount of YR 663.9 million plus \$2.6 million for developing and rehabilitating Hodeidah and Makha ports. Hodeidah Governor Mohamed Saleh Shamlan stressed the necessity of activating works in the port and developing it in order to compete with the neighboring international ports. In addition, Shamlan demanded establishing an electronic website for the Hodeidah Port to popularize the port, as well as the services and facilities it provides to ships and containers.

SA'ADA

Authorities demand religious cleric to evict his home

Feb. 12 — Local authorities in Sa'ada governorate demanded Majdaddin Al-Muaidi, former religious cleric (Mufti) of Yemen and Hijaz, to evict his home in the area of Sudan Bani Muadh. The authorities announced that they care for Al-Muaidi's safety, but they told him to leave his house because it is located in area mapped for military operations, according to Sa'ada sources. The same sources said the government plans to expand the scope of its military operations with the aim of hunting rebels in the area.

SANA'A

Meyon Island investment plan completed

Feb. 13 — The Yemeni Islands Development Authority has completed the first and second phases of preparing the Meyon Island investment plan. In a statement to the state-run Al-Thawrah daily, General Manger of YIDA Yahya Mutahhar Al-Kaine'i said that his authority is due to implement projects in the island in the areas of fisheries, tourism and trade. He mentioned that Meyon Island enjoys a strategic location closer to the international navigation route. "We expect the government to discuss the law presented by the authority regarding investment and development in the islands to encourage local and foreign investors to initiate businesses in the Yemeni islands," he concluded.

Yemen marks 4th anniversary of Omar's death

By: Adel Al-Khawlani

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — Yemeni political parties marked on Tuesday the fourth anniversary of the death of Jarallah Omar, the Yemeni Socialist Party's assistant secretary-general. Omar was assassinated in a conference hall in February 2003.

Organized by the Political Development Forum in the presence of party leaders, the symposium discussed several concepts, which the late Omar pursued throughout his political career.

Assistant secretary-general of the Islah Party Abdulwahab Al-Anisi said the Omar had been famous for hard work and clearly investigating the demands of others.

During the symposium titled "Jarallah Omar: The Knight of Dialogue and Engineer of Harmony" Al-Anisi added that Omar had been supporting dialogue in any political issue, as he believed that dialogue paves the way for a safer climate to resolve the most difficult issues posed toward political action in Yemen.

According to the Islah Party secretary-general, Omar gained sufficient experience during his political work and learned how to forget about the past and benefit from politics and life experience in shaping the future.

"Omar helped in creating opportunities for the political life opponents to express themselves without any pressure," Al-Anisi said. "He was more able to make available wider scopes for dialogue and tackling crises. His courage stemmed from truth and credibility but not arrogance."

Mohamed Mansour, a Yemeni poet, gave a glimpse of Omar's political history. He said that Omar used to pre-



The late Jarallah Omar

fer dialogue in tackling various political issues. "My 3-year imprisonment with the martyr in the 60s constituted an important move in his life since these years were devoted to an extensive dialogue with different politicians," Mansour, who first knew Omar in the Police Academy in 1963, noted.

"Before our imprisonment, we had been engaged in political disputes with some national parties, but later on we perceived that the disputes were caused by political immaturity," the famous Yemeni poet went on to say.

Abdulmalik Al-Mekhlafi, a Shoura Council member and former secretary general of the Nasserite Unionist party, explained that marking the fourth Anniversary of Omar's death is not for commemorating the martyr, rather it is for contemplating on its political and national history. "Great historians cannot be born once again as they are the product of their age and own experience. From their lives, we learned lessons, which we benefit in the present time and in the future,"

Al-Mekhlafi continued.

He added, "Three days before the assassination of Omar, I and the martyr were returning from abroad. Upon our arrival in Yemen, we were received by some Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) leaders. We then visited Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar in his office and handed him a letter in protest against the anti-demonstration Law."

"The martyr hadn't realized that the assassination bullet would end his life three days following our arrival in the homeland, Al-Mekhlafi lamented. "Despite the various causes of death including road accidents and poison, Jarallah Omar, who sacrificed his life for the sake of homeland, was selected by the Almighty to be a martyr of the merciless assassination bullet."

Mohamed Abu Luhoum, Head of the General People Congress's Foreign Relations Department and member of the ruling party's General Secretariat, acknowledged that Omar was an honest and frank man, who used to listen to others in an attempt to reach suitable solutions and compromises with other political parties.

On the occasion, Bassam Omar, elder son of Omar, indicated that his father's fourth death anniversary came at a time the political intellectualism lost its sense and content. He confirmed that his father proved through his thinking and cooperation with others that the political forces can reach their goals without facing negatives.

According to Omar's son, Yemen's political parties can make a reference from the past for teaching themselves and dealing with changes and demands of time. He urged these parties to benefit from his father's experience.

Raymah local council, governor exchange accusations

By : Almigdad Dahesh Mojali

RAYMAH, Feb. 11 — The local council in Raymah governorate denied that it offered a request to the president to withdraw authority from governor Ahmed Mosa'ed Husain.

The local council member Mahmoud Al-Jabeen said there was only a misunderstanding between some members of the local council and the governor over the distribution of aid for flood victims in the governorate.

There was a misunderstanding of the authorities of both the governor and the members of the local council," said Al-Jabeen.

The members of the local council alleged that the governor authorized the deputy of the governorate to distribute relief supplies to the villagers who were affected by the heavy rain last month that caused the death of at least three people, damaged 70 houses and displaced 205 people, according to a governorate report.

They alleged also that the governor authorized the deputy to distribute the civil jobs, while these are not involved in the responsibilities of the deputy but in the responsibilities of the local council members. Consequently, the members requested the minister of the Local Administration to hold a meeting between them and the governor to discuss the authority of both sides, said Al-Jabeen, adding "the governor and the local council members will discuss



what was published in the press about the story of withdrawing the authority from the governor."

Abu Al-Fadle Al-Sa'adi, the general secretary of the local council in Raymah governorate, stressed that "the council will not be silent toward the legal violations of the governor." He accused the governor of not adhering to the law as the governor doesn't give members of the local council powers which are granted by law.

Early this month, many villagers rallied, protesting "the unequal distribution of relief supplies" according to local press reports which also confirmed the killing of a person during these demonstrations.

Sadiq Ameen Abu Ras, head of the Ministry of Local Administration, suggested

in a meeting with members of the Raymah local council on Jan. 28 to form a fact-finding committee to investigate the accusations of the councils' members against the governor. Sources mentioned that this suggestion came when members of the local council discussed legal violations of the governor with the minister, indicating that there is consensus over withdrawing the trust from the governor.

Item No. 16, Law No. 4 for 2000, concerning the local administration, gives the local councils the rights of directing, supervising and observing the activities of the executive authorities and gives them the authority to hold them accountable and to withdraw authority from them when abusing their power.

Bayhan Museum to document antiquities

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — A team from the General Organization of Antiquities, Museum & Manuscripts has been assigned to Bayhan museum in Shabua to document historical pieces that are related to the Shaiba and Qataban periods. The process of documenting began on Jan., 27, and will last 25 days, according to Ahmed Shuja'a Al-Dean, the general director of the museum.

The team headed by Ahmed Shuja'a Al-Dean, consists of 17 members: Five of them are archaeologists, and the others are technicians and workers.

"We are going to record all the data for each piece on a card attached to the item along with a picture. Then, we are going to archive them as hard copies as well as on the computer. This data will be only for the General Organization of Antiquities, Museum & Manuscripts and Bayhan Museum," said Shuja'a Al-Dean.



The Museum would be a source for information on the Shaiba and Qataban periods of Yemeni History

The team is about to finish documenting all antiques. "About 1063 ancient pieces have

been documented, however no manuscripts have been found," said Shuja'a Al-Dean.

Antiques at Bayhan Museum were stolen. Even the old archives of these pieces are neither systematic nor accurate. "The obstacle we really face here is the antiques' condition. They are not organized and clean," Shuja'a Al-Dean added.

The team is going to spend 24 days in Bayhan museum. After that they will be directed to Zunjobar Museum.

On the process of protecting the antiques, Khairan Al-Zabydi, the general director of General Organization of Antiquities, Museum & Manuscripts said: "We asked the General Organization of Antiquities, Museum & Manuscripts to send a specialist engineer to prepare a study on restorations at the museum since it is considered one of the oldest museums in Yemen, built in 1966.

Penetration attempt into Yemen foiled: Saudi Arabia

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — The Saudi Interior Ministry said on Monday that it foiled a penetration attempt into Yemen by a car carrying two people. Saudi border guards discovered the car while it was trying to cross the Saudi border at high speed.

The ministry added the Saudi guards exchanged fire with those in the car and hunted the car until it stopped.

"The clashes resulted in serious injuries among border guards, and the car's driver was slightly injured. Concerned authorities are conducting

investigations to understand the circumstances surrounding the incident," said the Interior Ministry spokesman.

Recently, Saudi Arabia announced its security apparatuses managed to control a group who tried to mobilize Saudi youth to join extremist organizations and collect money to support the activities of those groups.

These Saudi actions come within the framework of security agreements signed between the two countries, especially combating terrorism.

30 refugees drown near Yemen coast after boat capsizes

SANA'A, Feb. 14 — At least 30 migrants drowned on Monday when their boat capsized off the Yemeni coast.

"Once again the Gulf of Aden has claimed the lives of at least 30 Somalis and Ethiopians when the boat smuggling them from Somalia to Yemen capsized on approach to the Yemeni coast on Monday," said UNHCR spokesperson Ron Redmond. Unconfirmed reports from survivors placed the death toll as high as 78. The dead are being buried near the beach. Three other boats carrying 120 migrants to Yemen reached the shore safely, Redmond said.

"In less than a month, we have seen a dramatic increase in people smuggling from Somalia, with over 1,600 arrivals in Yemen aboard some 20 boats. At least 30 people died making earlier voyages since mid-January," said the UNHCR spokesman.

In recent months, UNHCR has reported cases of migrants being savagely beaten to death and thrown overboard by club-wielding smugglers just for requesting water. "Despite the increase in price for

the journey, from \$40 to \$100, hundreds of desperate people continue taking the risk," Redmond noted.

"Last week alone, at least nine smuggling boats arrived at six points along the Yemeni coast. Many of the newly arrived migrants were badly beaten and told UNHCR that the smugglers stole their money during the voyage. The Somalis said they fled their homes during and following the end of hostilities between government forces and the Islamic Courts Union. Many said they were exposed to shooting by the armed militias and had their money and belongings taken at checkpoints manned by the same militia."

Redmond said that the smugglers have changed their tactics and are now arriving at different points along the Yemeni coast. "It's harder for Yemeni coastal patrols to catch them and for UNHCR and its partners to register them and provide aid."

According to UNHCR figures, more than 27,000 people fled to Yemen from Somalia last year, with 330 deaths and another 300 still missing.

Accused monument smugglers stand trial

AL-MAHWEET, Feb. 13 — Al-Taweela Primary Court in Al-Mahweet began Monday the first session to investigate the case of a group accused of destroying and smuggling monuments from Al-Taweelah's Bait Shathan.

During the session, seven smugglers were accused of destroying two archeological sites in Bait Shathan, together with looting and trading in embalmed mummies.

Four of them admitted to the crime, while the other three denied the crimes.

The court decided to give the prosecution additional time to bring more evidence in the next session next week.

The Monuments Office in Al-Mahweet, in collaboration with security apparatuses arrested the seven in mid-

January while they were trading in mummies looted from an archeological site in Bait Shadhan.

Yemeni monuments were subjected to regulated and random looting by gangs specialized in monument smuggling. The biggest scandal of monument selling took place in November 2005 when a large group of monuments smuggled from Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Saudi Arabia was auctioned.

Most researchers believe that most of these monuments were smuggled in an organized way.

Yemeni security forces managed to arrest different gangs possessing a large number of monuments, and recently restored a number of looted books and monuments to the Sana'a Great Mosque's library.

Taiz campaign teaches students traffic safety rules

TAIZ, Feb. 12 — The Traffic Department of Taiz commenced a three-month campaign in local schools to raise awareness of traffic safety among students. The campaign targets 150,000 students who participated in lectures on traffic safety rules.

The Head of Traffic Department Yahya Zahir told the Yemen Times that the campaign plans to cover about 60 schools, with about five schools a day.

The campaign targets school students because they are more at risk from traffic accidents than adults. Students represent 30 percent of the

population of Taiz governorate.

According to Zaher, there were 1429 accidents in 2006, resulting in 281 deaths and 2200 injuries.

The lecturers will also touch on the role of car emissions in polluting the environment, and methods of reducing pollution. The lecturers are given by experienced traffic officers.

Al-Ofoq Association, an NGO, participates in the campaign. The campaign will commence with the beginning of "traffic week" in which the traffic department will launch a campaign of vehicle and license inspection, and traffic awareness.

First Yemeni women join the inspection field

SANA'A, Feb. 13 — Yemeni women are taking a step forward by, for the first time, joining the inspection sector in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, said Ali Bin Mohammed, deputy minister of labor and social affairs for the labor sector, in a workshop on Saturday.

Entitled "Exchanging Arab Experiences and Developing Abilities," the workshop was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in collaboration with the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower & Employment and the International Labor Organization.

International Labor Organization expert Nagwa Al-Khosaifi said they noticed that Yemeni women have a very weak role in the ministry's inspection

sector. "We discussed this issue with the deputy minister for the labor sector in order to allow more women to work in inspection administrations and vocational health and safety. Consequently, the ministry selected several competent women for training at this workshop," she noted.

Al-Khosaifi said the workshop aims to enhance the general administration's competence and abilities to develop working women in order to contribute in activating the national strategy for women's labor, which essentially is in harmony with labor organization aims.

Egyptian Ambassador in Sana'a Mohammed Morsi Awad noted that the workshop is an application of protocols Yemen and Egypt signed last May.

Continued from page 1**Sheikh Al-Ahmar**

As for joining the Gulf Cooperation Council, Al-Ahmar pointed out that Yemen is qualified enough to join the council, which is the wish of the Yemeni people.

Regarding the arms-bearing issue, he hinted that an arms-bearing law exists dating back to 1992; however, the Interior Ministry hasn't applied the law efficiently. Further the ministry submitted a new draft arms-bearing law, but the speaker noted that

Parliament won't discuss it because the 1992 law could be amended.

Al-Ahmar also seemed optimistic about Yemen's future, declaring that the nation greatly benefited from last November's London Donors Conference. However, he asked concerned Yemeni officials to boost efforts aiming to develop Yemen, maintaining that the political leadership is serious about reform at all levels.

In related news, Islah's Media Office

will conduct a political symposium entitled, "A Reading for Islah's Political Experience," at the Movenpick Hotel in Sana'a, wherein numerous aspects related to the party's progress over the past 16 years will be discussed.

Many academics, politicians and thinkers will attend to hear three different papers presented, the first of which, prepared by Sana'a University political science professor Abdullah Al-Faqih,

will deal with Islah's progress throughout its history.

Mohammed Saif Abdullah will present a second paper, which will address the party's attitude toward several debatable issues, including women, terrorism and political transfer of power. Mohammed Al-Mikhlaifi will present the third paper dealing with Islah's role in activating opposition performance via the Joint Meeting Parties experience.

Sa'ada clashes escalate while authorities monitor all telecommunications

The committee says authorities insist that military action is the only solution to the problem, noting that the Higher National Defense Council, which President Saleh chairs, made a totally different decision. The Shoura Council and Parliament gave military soldiers in Sa'ada the green light to handle the situation militarily before the clashes spread to other areas.

The mediation committee says that hope for any peaceful solution to the crisis has weakened due to the increasing death toll on both sides, as each side stands firm. The area has become home to a mixture of political, tribal, sectarian, military and security problems.

Observers of the crisis warn of a human catastrophe negatively impacting innocent citizens who live in the mountains and can't evacuate to safer locations due to excessive military presence in the area.

Sa'ada sources reported that Al-Houthi rebels recently blocked the main highway between Sana'a and Sa'ada in an attempt to hamper advancing troops and on Wednesday, they bombed a small bridge on the highway.

"Jet fighters are striking Al-Houthi tribesmen in several areas, including Naga'a, the main Al-Houthi stronghold, with the aim of foiling the guer-

rilla wars," the same sources noted, "Bloody clashes are occurring in the areas of Safra'a, Al-Shabaka, Saqain and Dhahyan."

Via media, a military source denied that the army is using jet fighters in the clashes, pointing out that troops usually await directives from higher authorities when confronting the rebellion led by Abdulmalik Al-Houthi. He said the army and Houthis engage in periodic clashes wherein the latter usually plots ambushes against military and security soldiers on the Sana'a-Sa'ada highway.

The military source indicated that Al-Houthi rebels are detonating explosives at military sites and using heavy machine guns and mortars, thus compelling the army to return fire upon them. He revealed that the mediation committee, comprised of a group of religious scholars, demanded its task be extended until Wednesday in an effort to prevent eruption of a third war in Sa'ada.

Last Saturday, the government gave the rebels five days to surrender their heavy and light arms and evacuate their mountaintop positions. The government considered the five-day deadline sufficient for negotiating with Abdulmalik Al-Houthi regarding Higher National Defense Council conditions.

The current events represent the

third round of fighting between the army and Al-Houthi supporters in Sa'ada. They are preceded by two rebellions, the first of which was led by cleric Hussein Badraddin Al-Houthi, who was killed in September 2004. The second rebellion, led by Hussein's father, ended in April 2005.

Abdulmalik Al-Houthi denied any relations with Iran or Libya and urged Saudi Arabia not to listen to what Yemeni authorities are saying regarding the Sa'ada fighting and its motives. "We've never received support from any foreign parties. Arab states were supposed to intervene in the situation and end the bloodshed," he noted.

Asked by Nass press whether the issue has something to do with tense relations between Saudi Arabia and Libya, Al-Houthi explained, "I have a comment regarding Arab regimes, particularly those bordering Saudi Arabia. I advise them not to believe what's said by the authorities, who claim we are conducting hostile acts against Arab regimes and pose a risk to them.

"For both us and the Arab regimes, the U.S. and Israel are the real source of danger. The government exploits false rumors to receive support from some Arab nations [hinting at Saudi Arabia]," Al-Houthi claimed.

During his most recent visit to Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein

Al-Ahmar carried a letter from President Saleh to Saudi Arabia urging it to surround Al-Houthi followers from the north and east in order to move toward the Empty Quarter Desert.

Authorities conducted several arrest campaigns against citizens in Sana'a and Sa'ada for alleged links with Al-Houthi and his tribesmen. According to media sources, up to 60 people have been arrested up until Tuesday.

A group of policemen believed to belong to national and political security organizations stormed Abdulkarim Al-Houthi's house in Sana'a on Monday and took him to an unidentified location. Abdulkarim Al-Houthi is Abdulmalik Al-Houthi's cousin and has been living in Sana'a since the first Sa'ada rebellion in 2004. He has been in daily contact with top government officials, including President Saleh, and has contributed to reducing tensions between the army and Al-Houthi supporters.

According to media, on behalf of his uncle, Badraddin Al-Houthi, Abdulkarim Al-Houthi had been engaged in negotiations with Sana'a authorities regarding the Sa'ada crisis. Abdulkarim Al-Houthi was arrested in a series of governmental arrest campaigns against those suspected of links with the Shi'ite rebellion

Sana'a hosts international literacy Conference

Yemen will seriously tackle the problem of illiteracy with the help of the international community

By: Nisreen Shadad

Eighty adult literacy experts from across the world traveled to Sana'a to attend a meeting dealing with international literacy. The experts include government officials from BMENA and G8 countries, in addition to specially invited members of civil society organizations. All members are from countries that have high levels of illiteracy such as Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, Mauritania and Yemen.

The purpose of the meeting is to review progress made since the last meeting, to focus on innovative approaches that are being made to reduce illiteracy, particularly amongst women within communities, and to strengthen coordination across the region.

The agenda features presentations from across the BMENA region and opportunities to share best practices and debate ideas.

From the Yemeni side, the Ministry of Education, the Literacy and Adult Education organization, donors, and international and local NGOs participated in the meeting and showcased projects in Yemen aimed at reducing illiteracy.

Our meeting today is to discuss the teamwork and the efforts we made, and we are going beyond the individual works and programs and unify the strategies and programs we follow," said Ahmed Abdullah, the director of the organization.

"The G8 and BMENA initiative has two main goals: impart literacy skills to 2 million by 2015, with a view to assisting the governments of these countries in halving the illiteracy rate over the next decade and to improve and reform

educational system," said Renate Schimkoreit, G8 and BMENA Literacy Task Force chair in the conference.

Raafat Rwdwan, G8 and BMENA Literacy Task Force co-chair confirmed that literacy is a right for all. He wondered how we can imagine a man who looks to the letters as if they are unknown and weird signs though they are the ones that form their lives.

Vijitha Eyano, G8 and BMENA Literacy Task Force co-chair commented it is important to identify and follow up literacy programs, "We should set up and maintain a region network for sharing best practices and experience in literacy."

Experts say literacy is important for economic progress. More importantly, literacy should concern women. If women aren't included, you leave out half of the potential of the population that can contribute to economic progress.

Abdul salaam Al-Joufi, the Minister for Education said, "This meeting is to assess our accomplishments and our future expectations in this field."

Al-Joufi deems the subsidization one of the biggest challenge Middle East face.

The strategy of literacy and adult education began more than four years ago, however it has achieved little, according to Al-Joufi.

An exhibition of adult literacy initiatives ran alongside the meeting with a particular focus on programs in Yemen. It involved numerous handicrafts. The adult literacy experts and the attendees visited the local adult literacy initiatives in Sana'a at the Ministry of Telecommunications.

Ra'ash locals stage sit-in before Parliament

The committee said it will make a field visit to Ra'ash to better understand the circumstances of the incidents if both the Interior Ministry and prosecution don't respond positively to their letter.

Attorney Khalid Al-Anisi, executive director of the National Committee for Defending Rights and Freedoms (known as HOOD), criticized the committee's delay in making a field visit to investigate the issues, which have become public knowledge and known both inside and outside Yemen.

He also requested the majority ruling party bloc stand by their party

affiliates in Ra'ash and furthermore, to visit the area and sort out their affiliates from those of other parties.

Attorney and HOOD member Abdurrahman Barman expressed his surprise at the lax attitude of Ibb security authorities toward Sheikh Mansour's violations.

He told opposition newspaper Nass press that such attitude reveals their leniency toward the sheikh. He further declared that those who appeared on the Al-Jazeera satellite program, "This Evening" were all from Ra'ash and that HOOD has the material evidence.

For their part, the Joint Meeting

Parties in Ibb denounced Ibb security department's stance regarding the troubles of Ra'ash villagers and asked the authorities to form a national committee, including representatives from Parliament and civil society organizations, to conduct a field visit to more fully understand what's going on.

In their letter to Parliament, Ra'ash locals alleged that Sheikh Mansour's militia had arrested and abducted numerous villagers, adding that many also had been detained in the sheikh's private prisons.

The letter mentioned other violations the sheikh's henchmen commit-

ted, including levying taxes on villagers, confiscating furniture, cattle and land, forcing citizens to buy back their own land and suspending employee salaries.

Earlier this month, dozens of men and children left Ra'ash and camped for seven days in a deserted area approximately an hour's walk from the village. They sought to make a political statement to protest Sheikh Mansour's continual mistreatment and violations against them, implying that they couldn't bear it any longer and asking concerned authorities to curb such violations.

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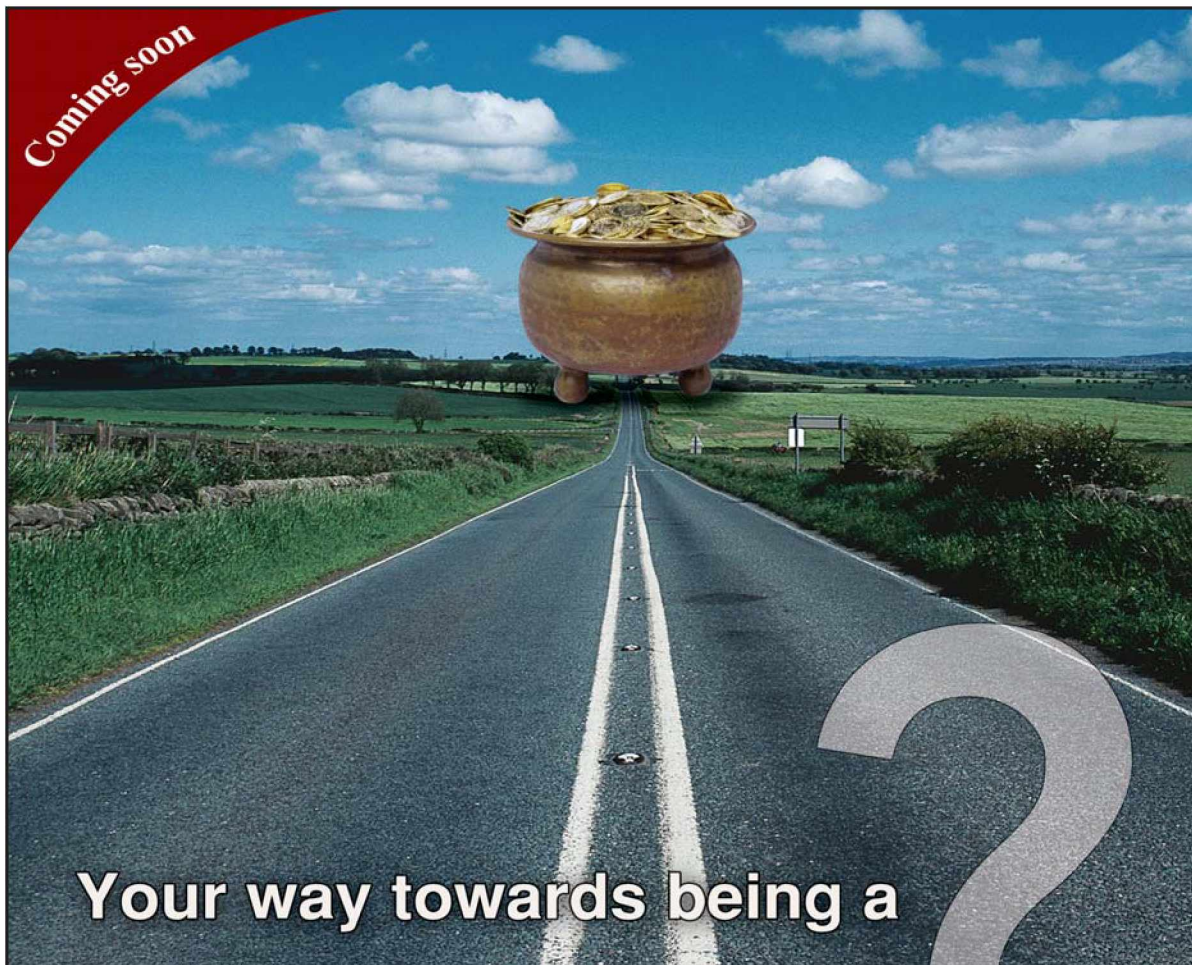


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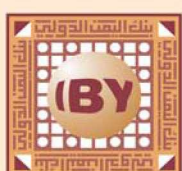
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Sana'ani wedding processions... Some gladden, others bring you down

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
fatimafnfr@yahoo.com

Wedding-related events such as engagements, weddings and special women's parties flourish during the summer. The wedding procession is considered the most important wedding ritual and every Yemeni region has its own unique procession carrying happy emotions for the bride, her family, friends and relatives.

However, Sana'ani wedding processions involve both happiness and sadness at the same time. While the bride's mother is happy that her daughter will move to her own house, which is considered her domain, she worries if her daughter will be able to accept her new life and uphold her responsibilities as a wife and later, as a mother.

Yemeni weddings have their own ceremonies and etiquette, which vary from one region to another. Such variety reveals Yemen's traditional civilization, as well as reflects Yemeni civilization's richness from one end of the nation to the other.

The Sana'ani procession is one such Yemeni procession rich in rituals, but there are different types of Sana'ani processions, each with its own ceremony.

ny, words and music. The groom's procession also differs from that of the bride. In this piece, we'll concentrate on the Sana'ani bridal procession and all of its types.

Because a Yemeni bride's feelings vary from happiness to sadness, bridal processions have specialized rites, words, music and even feelings. Thus, the rites vary from welcoming her to bidding her farewell. A Yemeni bride has at least four different processions, which are performed in the following sequence:

Al-hammam procession

Considered the wedding celebration's first procession, the bride goes with her friends to a steam bath as a type of Sana'ani custom. She goes from early morning while her mother and some of her neighbors await her return near the door to welcome her with a special procession and shrill, trilling cries of joy.

Singers also must join them to sing and chant words about going from the steam bath as attendees clap and shrill amid the fragrance of incense and aloes; a type of incense has a very nice smell.

Al-naksh procession

Al-naksh procession is distinguished by happiness and delight. The bride's

friends, relatives and neighbors gather and start chanting, beginning by praising Allah and praying for the bride and her family and then describing the bride's beauty and charms. It's called al-naksh procession because it's the day the bride decorates her hands and legs with either black-colored naksh or henna.

Al-thibal procession

In this procession, the bride's entire family, relatives, friends, neighbors and the groom's family gather. It's a custom to light candles when the groom's family arrives and place them on al-mashab, a large plate to which candles are affixed and colorfully decorated eggs are placed. The procession begins only once the candles are lit.

At the end of the procession, the bride's sister puts al-mashab in the middle of the room. Girls begin to dance and make the bride join them in a very delightful mood. At the end, one of the bride's relatives takes the inscribed eggs from al-mashab and extinguishes the candles.

Wedding day procession

The procession of the wedding party day is the essential one and is characterized by delight and enjoyment. Longer than al-naksh procession, it may contain a mixture of Sana'ani and other non-Sana'ani processions. Many girls and women attend this party to participate in the ceremony and encourage the singer or group of singers to sing more.

Al-takhrooj procession

Considered a tradition in Sana'a, as well as its surrounding areas, this is a procession to bid the bride farewell as she goes to her husband's house. The groom's family brings a singer for al-takhrooj procession.

It's the most difficult moment for the bride as she leaves her family and friends, for whom it also prompts tears and sadness. It begins by remembering Allah and praying for the bride to be happy in her new life under the shade of her husband and his family.

Those attending this procession usually feel sad due to the event's tone and

words, which begin with a dialogue between mother and daughter. The bride describes the last moments of her departure, while the mother describes the degree of her sorrow and how difficult the situation is for her; however, she accepts that the fate must befall her.

In the same song, the daughter responds, saying she'll never forget the days she lived under her family's roof and promising to visit them from time to time. Following this dialogue, the mother advises her daughter to be a good wife, sister and her husband's beloved. She must be everything in her husband's heart and the daughter replies that she will listen and obey.

During this dialogue, tears flow from the mother's eyes. Although she tries to seem happier and hide her tears and sadness, the signs on her face reveal what's concealed in her heart. Her daughter's feelings also are moved while listening to the song, so she tries to think of something different as a type of escape from reality – her departure. During these moments, many visitors are moved and also begin crying.

Many girls and families prefer not to revive this ceremony due to the sad feelings it brings to all of those around the bride. Visitors to the procession also deem the ceremony unnecessary because marrying and going to the groom's home is a certainty and a happy occasion requiring people to be happy and joyful rather than sad and gloomy.

Sana'a schoolteacher Salwa Saleh says, "I'd rather not have this ceremony anymore because the wedding party will change from sharing the bride's family's happiness to crying. Then each one will try to hide his tears, which have no place on that day."

"Whenever I attend al-takhrooj procession, I cry because the words and the songs have an effect upon me. It really moves me, so I cry and all of those around me cry too," Eshraq Al-Sirri commented.

However, many Sana'a families consider the occasion an essential thing they must do and some brides like to go to their groom's house with a procession.



Aisha Sultan notes, "In our family, we must bring a singer for this occasion because my family brought a singer for my wedding party and those of all of my sisters."

Al-laqfa procession

In this ceremony, the groom's family must provide a singer to welcome the bride and her family at the moment of their arrival. This procession is important in some families, but others are satisfied with al-mejera, which is one wherein there's shrilling for the bride when she arrives. They also are accustomed to break eggs in front of the door to the groom's house in order to break the eye of envy or any evil that might happen to the bride or groom.

Sana'a Center employee Raja'a Jaber says, "My family considers al-laqfa procession an important thing, whereby the two families agree upon the exact time of the bride's arrival in order to be ready to do the procession when she comes."

The singer sings for the bride and her family by mentioning their attitude and prestige in the viewpoint of the groom's family, the happiness the groom's family has regarding her arrival to their house and how the bride will move to her husband's house and that she will live under his roof.

Haifa'a Al-Aros, one of the most famous singers in Sana'a, confirms that every type of procession has its own happiness, joy, sadness and crying, saying, "A singer has a very important role to motivate participants' feelings during the procession. In the wedding party procession, she encourages them to participate with her in the procession, whereas in al-takhrooj procession, she makes them feel sadness at the situation."

When asked about the different lyrics and how such variety came about, she replied, "The words are considered an old tradition, especially in al-laqfa and al-takhrooj processions, and they can't be changed like those of the wedding party procession."



After the procession, the bride sits among her guests, wearing a special dress that fits the day's events.
YT PHOTO BY SADDAM AL-ASHMOURI

Qaid Tarboush: Legal scholar focuses on Arab constitutions

By: Imad Al-Saqqaf

Qaid Mohammed Tarboush, head of the Constitutional and Legal Research Center in Taiz is one of only a few Yemeni intellectuals to receive a doctorate in law sciences. He has written 17 books on general law and social affairs, as well as a 10-part encyclopedia on Arab regimes. Additionally, he has translated 12 books on Yemeni and legal affairs from Russian into Arabic, published 12 research studies and presented 25 more at numerous symposiums and conferences.

According to Tarboush, the Constitutional and Legal Research Center has begun a process of legal enlightenment in Yemen and Arab states in general by issuing publications on the conditions of Arab regimes in 10 volumes.

The second work is an encyclopaedia (in Arabic) on the world's constitutions, including 150 Arabic constitutional documents. The center has translated 95 constitutions from Asia, Africa, Europe, the United States and Latin America.

"Some nations issue and amend constitutions due to important circumstances and amendments are made when needed, as seen by the political elite of those countries," Tarboush noted.

According to Tarboush, Arabic readers need to know the relationship between making Arabic law and making foreign law. Readers also need to know the extent to which constitutional legislations recently have been stabilized in the Arab world.

The center's main task is to issue great



Qaid Tarboush

works that can remain forever. "As part of cooperation, we sometimes contact non-governmental organizations to translate their constitutions.

"The purpose of this is to enable researchers, politicians and anyone interested in learning about the constitutions of all countries, instead of evaluating them without prior knowledge," he explained.

Constitutional amendments are common in Yemen. Tarboush says if amending the constitution is done for other purposes, then it's not a healthy phenomenon. "But when constitutional amendments are made in order to enact a change, then it's a healthy phenomenon."

According to Tarboush, the purpose of constitutional amendments whereby there are Parliaments and Shoura Councils is that each can monitor the other. He points out that Third World nations experience constitutional insta-

bility because they have no objective circumstances because their countries' regimes are unstable. When coming to power, every new regime introduces new laws and constitutions.

Quota system

Tarboush believes the quota system is the only solution to increasing women's seats in Parliament. "The quota system helps increase the number of women participating in the legislature and local authorities. Some nations like Pakistan, Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal allocate some constitutional articles for women's seats due to such countries' conditions during the 1940s and 1950s. Women's participation was high, reaching 35 to 40 percent.

"Our political, social and cultural conditions in Yemen are close to these countries. Arab states like Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan and Jordan have endorsed

the quota system, which has succeeded as women's participation in Parliament has increased remarkably. Here in Yemen, the problem lies in male views of women at the level of political parties. Because of our cultural habits, even women themselves won't vote for a woman."

Tarboush says the average citizen in the Arab world is unaware of his full rights. "Regimes and governments aren't to be held responsible for not granting citizens their full rights because a citizen sometimes uses his rights wrongly. Media outlets also don't play their effective role because they are busy with politics."

Local administration problems

The local administration system in Yemen faces numerous problems in applying local administration law, with Tarboush clarifying that the problem is that such law hasn't been understood well. He says the problem lies in applying the law, adding that the central authority is supposed to supervise the local authority, which in turn should supervise local councils, etc.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh recently announced that governors and heads of districts should be elected, "however, the exact formula hasn't been crystallized regarding this issue," Tarboush notes.

"Through local governance system law No. 4, we find that it's not conditional that a district secretary-general be a university graduate or at least 30 years old with professional experience. I don't think this project [electing governors and district heads] will ignore the requirements for governor and district heads. Regardless, political statements must be applied on the ground," he concluded.

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Editor in chief of the "Family and Development Magazine"

The first Yemeni magazine for the whole family

Interviewed By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Imad Abdullah Al-Saqqaf, is the founder and editor in chief of "Al-Uusra wa Al-Tanmya" magazine, translated into English as "Family and Development Magazine". The idea for establishing such a magazine specializing in the Yemeni family was born during his early years in school. During high school in Al-Hujaria district, Taiz governorate, Imad began his relationship with the media through school activities and published, with the help of friends, "Al-Manar" periodical in which they discussed various social and cultural topics. That leaflet received an overwhelmingly positive response from the students' parents and important personalities in the area. Paramount among these key figures was the late Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, founder of Yemen Times, who developed Al-Manar leaflet, both in printing and production, and at his own expense.

Through his work as a journalist with Yemen Times and other newspapers, Imad gained knowledge about Yemeni family issues and sufferings, especially in the rural areas, where the majority of the population are located. He discovered that the solution to family problems was not found solely in the reporting of their sufferings but rather by educating them so that they could change the wrong ideologies which had formed in their minds over the years. And it was from here that the idea of establishing a constructive magazine targeting Yemeni families and their issues came about.

The mission and importance:

The Magazine's mission is to enable the Yemeni family to know and understand its rights in all aspects of life in order that it can enhance its role in the development of society as a whole. The magazine especially targets Yemeni women who do not have access to other media outlets, particularly as there are no local magazines with which they can identify which could help to get rid of those prevailing social misconceptions that hinder development and freedoms.

Since Yemen is the least developed country in this region, education is very important in speeding up this development process. Yemeni families, especially the women, need a source of information that will educate them and help them to improve their lives. For example, field studies indicate that the illiteracy rate among females in Yemen exceeds 80%. They also indicate that 750 women out of 100,000 die during pregnancy and delivery due to a lack of

health education as well as early marriage. By augmenting levels of education within society, these scary numbers could be reduced significantly. This situation would be reinforced if the local community could trust in information coming from a national magazine rather than one coming from abroad, with its implications of change and the disintegration of local values due to external influences.

Furthermore, discrimination against females is prevalent through harmful practices such as female genital mutilation, depriving them of their inheritance and family-based violence on the part of fathers, husbands and male relatives.

Besides that, society should be aware of the rights of children and the fight against child labor, something which is still a growing problem, according to a recent report made by the Committee of Human Rights, Freedom and Civil Society and the Yemeni Shura Council.

The report shows that there are 326,000 child laborers in Yemen, 44% of whom, suffer from malnutrition. It also affirms that over 2 million children do not have access to education as well as 50,000 who were smuggled to Saudi Arabia during 2006. The apparent reason behind this is a simple lack of education and the absence of both the official and the opposition parties' media outlets input, both concerning themselves rather with political intrigues and the like.

Therefore, according to Imad Al-Saqqaf, the magazine came about in order to fill this vacuum; it aims being to



Imad Abdullah Al-Saqqaf

within most Yemeni governorates. It is mostly sold in Taiz Gov., which has the highest population of all Yemeni governorates (3,000,000 inhabitants), followed by Sana'a, Aden, Al-Hudieda and Ebb.

A magazine about life

"Our responsibility is to form the personality of women completely. So, through our daily and direct contact with the readers of the magazine, who are from different groups, we observe that women should be acquainted with a lot of the economic and political issues related to their goals and social problems." This is what Imad said regarding the scope of the magazine.

The Family and Development Magazine talks about various issues including



educate the society and eradicate the above-mentioned dangerous phenomena. It is the first magazine in Yemen concerned with Yemeni family problems and their future aspirations, targeting society as a whole and women in particular. The magazine is distributed

the economy, politics, culture and even the arts. This wide scope encourages the readers to broaden their thinking to include all

aspects of life. "The magazine is about life, and all which is included in life" says Imad, who further added, "It's true that women don't interact with some political issues. Nevertheless, we find these issues are important because of their relation to daily life. On the other hand, some of these topics are raised deliberately in order to attract the attention of male readers, since men play an essential part in women's issues and, therefore, we should gain their interaction through the magazine."

Challenging social taboos

Sometimes, the magazine's editorial staff face negative and embarrassing reactions as a result of some of the daring topics they publish. "We have even received death threats. For instance, the magazine issued an interview with Miriam Fariss, an artist, and her photo was put on the magazine cover. Gulf magazines consider such interviews as precious. Later, a man called from Sana'a threatening me and warning against issuing such photos. He also demanded that I should withdraw the rest of the issue from the market or I would be murdered. After that, someone broke the window of my car." Explained Imad.

The magazine probes further into the deep texture of Yemeni society and hence, the staff encounter a lot of embarrassing situations upon conducting sensitive social investigations and polls, because women often refuse to identify themselves or their social status, as this is considered by some as crossing 'red lines'. "It seems normal for women to act in this way because they are afraid of the traditions imposed upon them by the society," He said.

Nevertheless, Imad continues to direct the magazine to address such issues and offer solutions to them.

Unless they do, the problems will become further aggravated and become increasingly serious. Imad believes it is his duty as the editor of the first Yemeni social magazine to reveal such taboo topics so that society can take steps towards working around them.

Difficult times

The magazine faces a lot of obstacles. For example, the Yemeni government doesn't cooperate with the press in general, and the family press in particular. So, Imad explained that at the magazine they find it difficult to get the information needed for some topics. In addition, as the magazine's specialization is a new one, he needs to use information based on research and needs also to cooperate with specialists based at Yemeni universities, because

such research is not yet readily available.

Talking about this he says, "Unfortunately, we don't have research centers which can provide us with information regarding our society, and the Yemeni universities are not cooperative because economic problems have turned them into merely lecture-delivering centers and political platforms, not research centers that discuss people's issues and give solutions. Moreover, we don't have a female staff specialized in social affairs because the Yemeni pressmen don't interact with female issues on the one hand, and they lack the rehabilitation and specialization skills on the other."

Another problem the magazine faces is the politicization of the media in Yemen, as Yemeni pressmen seem overly preoccupied with political issues. Also, social traditions don't allow women to express their opinions. Consequently, access to the problems of women is indeed a thorny issue.

There also exist technical and financial problems, making it difficult to maintain the magazine's high quality levels for which they continually strive. Furthermore, the income raised from advertising is so small that it barely contributes to covering expenses. Imad considers that the private sector in Yemen doesn't realize the vital importance of such advertisements and, therefore, they pay so little in comparison to the Gulf Countries where advertisements are expensive, and hence sufficient to cover the cost of publication.

The future

Imad has many dreams and ambitions



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Continuation from back page

Little Giant: The largest clock ever constructed in the world

The first chapter is about light, its natural characteristics and the basic principles of human vision. The Little Giant has a major connection with light and its relation and characteristic because it's a powerful giant lighted clock.

In chapter two, Bajalla speaks about electronic lights, which have very important and effective elements in the research, since it deals with light.

In the third chapter, Bajalla discusses the project, which involves the Little Giant, its components and the project's various structural assemblies.

He also discusses suppositions for the clock's skeleton construction and makes a detailed study about the comparison between these suppositions and which is more positive than the others, which forms a scientific viewpoint without forgetting the natural factors for each supposition, as well as power and its connection with the mass.

In the same chapter, he discusses the other unstructured components, which are the electrical components the different optical lamps and the electronic component, such as sensors and the electronic light.

In the fourth and final chapter, Bajalla discusses the clock's maintenance, considering its lofty position, and suggests the need for alternatives when designing the giant clock, such as making spare lamplights and electronic wires, so as to be ready in case the components are damaged.

The research also dealt with the natural effects of weather, such as rain, thunder and lightning storms; thus, the clock is designed to withstand all climate changes. Bajalla also accounted for Mukalla's humidity, so the clock will be made of galvanized iron.

The final words regard the future horizons of operating the Little Giant by solar energy according to a modern progressive scientific study for alternative energy, so as to be ready in the future to assemble it in any high location as a land-

mark Mukalla, irrespective of whether it has public electricity.

After putting the final touches on his research, Bajalla met with Hadramout Governor Abdulqader Ali Hilal in the hopes of obtaining publicity for his giant clock. "I engaged in a conversation with Hilal, who asked me with interest about the world's largest clock and how and where I'll install it," he explained.

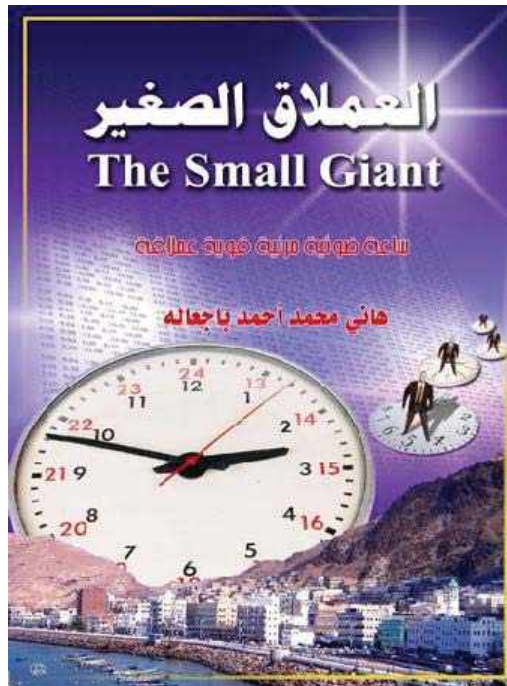
Bajalla said the governor was surprised by his idea and asked him to go ahead with his high-aiming project. The governor promised Bajalla with a laptop and 300,000 Yemeni riyals to conduct the preliminary research.

He seems confident and assured about his project's success, noting, "The clock is designed to operate automatically with minimum error," however, he doesn't rule out other possibilities.

"In science, predictions and extractions aren't definite with certain percentages in advance. That's what characterizes serious scientific research on literary or historical subjects. Scientific research must be characterized by new and creative ideas, as well as a modern scientific spirit; otherwise, it won't be satisfied with the research conditions," he observes.

Bajalla claims that his detailed research is unique because it's characterized by many new things that neither exist currently nor existed in ancient times, such as its huge size and high degree of accuracy for such a lighted clock. The clock's 60-meter diameter is a record, exceeding clocks like London's Big Ben and Tehran's 15-meter diameter Flower Clock, which is considered the world's largest clock.

The clock's preliminary total cost is estimated between YR 50 and 70 million, or approximately \$350,000. To support his colossal plan, via the Yemen Times, Bajalla is appealing first to Hadramout's local authority to finance the project for



Cover of the study Bajalla created.

the good of the city, so he is appealing to the government to grant him the money. However, he says he won't say no to any support from non-governmental organizations either inside or outside of Yemen.

He has high hopes that Hadramout's local authority will support him. "I'm always optimistic and we're used to the governor's support for creative individual and joint enterprises," he notes.

Bajalla faces many difficulties to make his dream become reality. "Current research merely is theoretical. We need to do it on the ground. Finding the money to finance the project is a major complication. I also need a working team outfitted with computers." The clock will be erected atop Mukalla's highest peak, whose rough and uneven road presents another difficulty.

Bajalla asserts that when the necessary funding comes in hand, the world's largest clock will be ready

within six months to a year.

The black-bearded engineer's life is a success story in the fullest sense of the word. In 2002, he invented HB (the abbreviation stands for Hani Bajalla), a machine to protect cars from theft. He registered it at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce as No. 130/2002 and obtained a patent for his invention.

Hoping for a slice of the pie from President Ali Abdullah Saleh's science prize, he nominated himself for the prize; however, although he applied for the

prize for two successive years, he was unlucky and thus, no one received the million-riyal prize.

In addition to being an inventor, Bajalla is also a writer, having authored a 280-page book entitled, "The Scientific Bases for Maintaining Electronic Devices," and currently working on two other books. Despite being in his 30s, Bajalla also is pursuing a bachelor's in engineering at Hadramout University's Faculty of Electronics and Telecommunications.

إعلان وظائف

منظمة ماري ستوبس الدولية - منظمة غير حكومية لا تتوخى الربح في مجال الخدمات الإنسانية وليس لها طابع سياسي أو ديني .. تهدف إلى زيادة الموارد المخصصة واستخدامها الاستخدام الأمثل وتتركز نشاطاتها في تقديم المساعدة للمجتمع لتسهيل الحصول على خدمات الصحة الإنجابية .

افتتح أول مركز في صنعاء في يونيو ١٩٩٨م وفي سيئون في نوفمبر ١٩٩٩م وفي عدن في يناير ٢٠٠٣م وأخيراً في تعز في يونيو ٢٠٠٣م ، يعمل في مراكز المنظمة كادر صحي مؤهل من الأطباء والقابلات والكوادر الصحية المؤهلة ذات الخبرة الطويلة .

الخدمات المتوفرة : تنظيم الأسرة ، معالجة الأمراض المنقولة جنسياً ، رعاية الحوامل ، تطعيم النساء والأطفال ، خدمات الصيدلية والمختبر، الفحص الدوري للنساء ، التعقيم صحي .

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 - قابلات قانونيات / ممرضات قابلات يمتلكن مهارات القيادة والتوجيه لإدارة مركز صحي ، يفضل من يجدن اللغة الإنجليزية ، كتابة التقارير .
 - مخبريين فنيين
 - موظفي استقبال
 - عاملات نظافة
 - كاتب حسابات (إجادة استخدام الحاسوب الآلي)
 - حراس
- الأولوية للإناث وذلك للعمل في المراكز الجديدة التي تتوى المنظمة افتتاحها في كل من محافظة : المكلا ، إب ، عدن ، تعز ، وأمانة العاصمة . على أن يكون المتقدم يمني الجنسية. آخر موعد لتقديم السيرة الذاتية في تاريخ ٢٠٠٧/٢/٢١ م وتقدم الطلبات على العنوان التالي :

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7. Candidates should be of first grade locally, and, in addition, foreign companies with experience in such a field.
8. Those who are given the tender must be 1% of the value of the bid as Governorate Beauty Fees.
9. Any bid not meeting all above mentioned conditions will not be considered.
10. The tender documents are purchased from the Project Department for non-refunded Y Rials 50,000/- only.
11. The tender documents shall be returned sealed with the bid.
12. The company is not obliged to accept a minimum offer.
13. The bid shall be valid for 120 days from the date it is presented.
14. The technical offer shall be supported with catalogues and the proposed samples.
15. Envelopes are delivered on Monday 5/3/2007, at 11 a.m. The day on which they will be opened in the presence of the tender committee and the applicants and their representative.
16. For inquiry and visit the site contact the director of projects at Tel: 376231 during working hours.

إعلان عن إنزال مناقصة عامة

تعلن شركة مصافي عدن للمقاولين المحليين من الدرجة الأولى وشركات المقاولات الأجنبية المتخصصة عن رغبتها في تشييد مبنى مستشفى شركة مصافي عدن على أن يستوفي الشروط التالية

- ١- نسخة من البطاقة الضريبية سارية المفعول. (المحليين)
- ٢- نسخة من البطاقة التأمينية سارية المفعول .
- ٣- إرفاق شهادة مزاولة المهنة سارية المفعول .
- ٤- ضمان بنكي أو شيك قابل للدفع بواقع ٢,٥ ٪ من قيمة العطاء صالح لمدة ١٢٠ يوماً صادر من بنك معتمد .
- ٥- تقدم العطاءات من أصل + نسختين بظرف مغلق مختوم بالشمع الأحمر ومعنون للأخ/ مدير مصافي ؟ رئيس لجنة المناقصات- مشروع تشييد مبنى مستشفى شركة مصافي عدن .
- ٦- على المتقدمين إرفاق صورة من خبرتهم في تنفيذ مشاريع مشابهة لنفس المشروع وذلك للتأكد (كسابق خبرة)
- ٧- يشترط من المتقدمين أن يكونوا مصنفيين من الدرجة الأولى محلياً وإلى جانب الشركات الأجنبية ذات الخبرة في مثل هذا المجال.
- ٨- على من ترسو عليه المناقصة دفع ١ ٪ من قيمة العطاء وذلك رسوم تحسين المحافظة .
- ٩- لن ينظر في أي عطاء ما لم يكن مستوفياً جميع الشروط المذكورة .
- ١٠- يتم شراء كراسة المناقصة من إدارة المشاريع بمبلغ ٥٠,٠٠٠ ريال يمني لا غير لا ترد .
- ١١- يتم إعادة كراسة المناقصة مختومة مع العطاء .
- ١٢- الشركة غير ملزمة بقبول أدنى عرض.
- ١٣- يكون العطاء ساري المفعول لمدة .
- ١٤- يوماً من تاريخ تقديمه .
- ١٥- يجب أن يكون العرض الفني مدعماً بالكتالوجات والعيينات المقترحة .
- ١٦- يتم تسليم المظاريف يوم الاثنين الموافق ٢٠٠٧/٣/٥ الساعة ١١,٠٠ صباحاً وهو نفس يوم فتحها بحضور لجنة المناقصة والأخوة المتقدمين ومندوبيهم .
- ١٦- للاستفسار زيارة الموقع الاتصال بالأخ/ مدير المشاريع تلفون رقم ٣٧٦٢٣١ وقت الدوام .

Will Yemen succeed in closing the Al-Houthi file?

By: Nassr Taha Mustafa

Confrontations between the Yemeni government and the militias of Abdulmalik Al-Houthi have renewed in the past two weeks after those militias benefited from the period of the general pardon President Ali Abdullah Saleh. They benefited in the re-arrangement of their situations in order to prepare for a new stage of armed confrontations in several areas of the governorate of Sa'ada that is situated in the north of Yemen and considered their major stronghold. Despite of all government initiatives, those armed groups known for their ideological hardliner think by carrying arms in the face of the government and the state is part of their religious duty taking into their consideration that the regime, in their view as pro to America and Israel and that to fight it is a legal duty until it falls and then the right to rule will return to its owners. It seems that the government has, this time, decided to put an end to this file for good and to close it because of the moral damage with regard to security image and to stability in Yemen. That damage was a result of the continuation of this rebellion for three years, beginning from June 2004.

Some local media are exaggerating the subject and the event, visualizing it as targeting a sectarian or political group or may be related to a ruling dynasty. It is in fact the determination of the state to emphasize the stability it is experiencing, which is truly a fact, in order to provide

atmospheres convenient for attracting investments in its bid to activate the Yemeni economy and to lead it out of the state of stagnation it is suffering.

The government thinks it has succeeded in an unprecedented way in dealing with other armed organizations such as Al-Jihad and Al-Qaeda without possible losses and also managed to close them through the security performance and intellectual political dialogue with members of those currents. It allows them to accommodate and absorb most of those socially and rehabilitation of some of them psychologically, as well as conviction of most of them to abandon the resort to violence as a means for expression of opinion. So the government has taken the same steps with the followers of Al-Houthi without any avail and now want to eliminate this tumor, as termed by Abdulkarim Al-Eryany, political advisor to the president.

President Saleh, as those close to him know, hates resorting to violence and prefers dialogue with the other parties whatever the matter as long as he has not decided to end his other options towards the use of violence.

Undoubtedly, the killing of the Youthful Believers' Hussein Badrudin Al-Houthi in the confrontations of 2004 and then the disappearance of his father and almost his death after the confrontations of the year 2005 and his son Abdulmalik Badrudin Al-Houthi taking over the leadership of the organization, give many implications and indications on the nature of this organization. The family is the dominating power on the organization, as

it is clear from the leadership chain. The loyalty of its members is purely to the Al-Houthi family as it is affiliated to the Alawite descent and they consider what is issued by one of its members as an obligation of blind obedience without any hesitation. Moreover many members of the organization do not believe that its founder Hussein had died actually. The affiliation of this family to one of the districts of Saada has made most of the organization members are from the sons of the governorate although it has simple extensions in other three or four governorates but that had been contained since the rebellion of 2004. Of important indicators is that most of those who established this organization with Hussein Al-Houthi in the mid-1990s with political members have abandoned him after the decision of rebellion and the resorted to violence. No one remained with him, but members of the military wing who insist on rebellion with him without comprehending the impossibility of achieving their goals in a large country like Yemen whose population exceeds 20 million people. The republican system managed during 45 years to melt the sectarian fanaticism through dissemination of education and unification of religious law visions in the school curricula and valid laws derived from Islamic Sharia, let alone that the process of social incorporation made in the past five decades has melted many of factors of sectarian fanaticism, though it did not eliminate it completely.

Finally, one of the important indicators is that this organization cannot, as it

seems, change into a recognized political party, as the Yemeni government offered that to it as an alternative to resorting to violence as a means for expressing its political ideas. This organizations inability to change into a political party results from the Yemeni law of parties that prevents the establishment of any political party based on tribal or sectarian basis. It seems that realization of its leadership of that constitutes one of the factors for continuing violence and refusal of handing over its weapons and members to the state authorities in return for safety with exception of those who have perpetrated crimes of murder of offence.

Usually, the price the states to pay for ending such ideological organizations will be high. Yemen has sustained more than 500 killed and more than 2,000 wounded and material losses exceeding \$600 million during the three months of confrontations in 2004 with Al-Houthi. Those confrontations destroyed the essential structure of that organization, but present confrontations, if they aim at closing the file for good, their cost will be high, not necessarily at the human level, but a material one. This now means that the army will endeavor to control all the positions the Houthis possess and become the permanent military presence in those areas in order to prevent the return of the rebellion. Then Al-Houthis will have no other choice but to return to dialogue or the return ordinary life, as was the case in the establishment of this ideological organization.

Source: *The Gulf*

COMMON SENSE

The Spotlight on Al-Aqsa Mosque

It is hard to believe that the West is still hypnotized to the goody-goody image of the Zionist thieves that took Jerusalem and most of Palestine from its rightful owners and are adamant on finishing up the job of ethnic cleansing and eating up the remains of the Palestinian homeland. What proof does one need to underscore the fact that the Zionist menace will ensure that the world faces another calamitous war just so a few eccentric Jewish fanatics show contempt for all things non-Jewish within their surroundings, including an important religious shrine like the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which for 1500 years was left without any claim to it by any Jewish faction as "the Temple of Solomon"? Yet like all Zionist fairy tales, to justify the pilferage of Palestine and the establishment of a fortress of western domination in the area, under various dubious claims of a Divine Promise to the Hebrews, the West continues to succumb to the hallucination impulses of Zionist dogmatists. Is it not enough that these dogmatists have distorted all values of religion or moral suasions developed and refined over the centuries, just so their devious schemes can be executed with the blessings of even the Catholic Church of all bona fide institutions of conscience!

Have Moslems become so weak and timid that they have forgotten that they are bound by their religious affiliation to safeguard all the symbolic tokens that represent their religious creed? If they think that the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will stand up for their rights and values, then surely they have been duped again. If they

think that Human Rights Watch or any other NGO will be able to bring this unholy violation of an important religious and cultural sanctuary to an end, then they are also mistaken. If they think that their leaders are going to do all they can to end this insulting disregard for Islamic spiritual emotions, they are wrong again. Will the Zionist thugs in Tel Aviv and their supporters in the International Zionist Establishment have it their way for the next century or even decade until they find the right opportune moment and demand to take Medina, on the false pretext of once belonging to the Hebrew Tribes of Khaybar and Quraitha? This is not far fetched, with all respects to the Saudi Monarchy for having presented a proposal for peace, that the Zionists are still studying and considering, with the hope that their final decisions will be aired in Mecca, just like the recently announced shaky peace that is not yet cemented between the Palestinian factions. The real answer will only come from the grass roots mainstream Moslems, who are now getting fed up by politicians and many religious leaders, who have succumbed to Zionist designs to have them sanctify bloodshed and war against only their fellow Moslems, while the Al-Aqsa Mosque comes tumbling down!

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The U.S. administration and Darfur

By: Abdulrahman Ahmed Al-Sharjabi

The American administration has to take into consideration the Sudanese stand especially in the current turbulent international and unstable situation in the neighboring areas of Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Chad.

Followers of the American foreign policy through its successive administrations in more than a decade will find it basically directed towards what it has been described as the Great Middle East covering Afghanistan, Iraq, the Palestinian issue, Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia, and the Western Sahara and Chad.

It is to be noted that this foreign policy pursued by all successive U.S. administrations have faced failure and were fraught with dangers and miscalculations.

The goal intended to achieve and the second is in the ways used for the realization of that goal. Here emerges the double standard of those policies represented by the declared and the hidden aims as well as the means used for achieving them and their difference according to different issues. That has led

to failure of those policies and contradictions of submitted concepts. That also led to disclosure of dimensions and aims of those American policies before many observers and followers who have monitored performance of the American administration and its ways.

They have concluded the endeavor of the American administration to expand the zones of its influence and to control natural riches, particularly the oil wealth and to dominate the regimes and states in its bid to achieve its interests and security and stability for its ally Israel and its consolidation of Palestine occupation.

The U.S has taken advantage of the 9/11 events to declare what it termed its war on terror. Accordingly, it has, in cooperation of some countries allied to it, mainly Britain and Israel, worked for imposing its policy on the rest of the international community countries without taking into account opinions of those states.

Out of those policies the America resorted to adopt means and ways opposed to international norms and laws and violating international legitimacy. Thus it embarked on launching wars and changing regimes by force, occupying countries and imposing the policies compatible with its interests and so it

imposed regimes subservient to it as what happened in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Moreover, the American administration has gone too far in imposing its policies on other issues through destabilization of security and stability in countries opposing its policies via encouragement extremist organization to topple and change their authorities that came to power via elections and democracy, to which America calls whereas it works for undermining them if the results of elections come to be contradictory to its interests and policies.

Thus there is no doubt that those policies characterized by contradictions and double-standard are considered as outlaw and violating of laws and norms and international agreements. They have strongly failed in achieving their goals. This can clearly be seen in the region where those policies produced reverse results leading to expansion of the phenomenon of international terror and emergence of extremist organizations and groups in addition to destabilization in many countries and regions. Those policies cost the region and the U.S. itself many material and human losses. Despite what the situation reached the American administration did not benefit from those

failures and has continued in its policy through fleeing forward. The pursuit of the American administration in its escape forward is represented by its policy regarding the question of Darfur in Sudan where it tries to besiege the Sudanese regime through encouraging extremist organizations in Darfur, west of Sudan with the aim of independence from the central government of Khartoum. The aim is to partition Sudan and separation of the areas of the south and the west that contain oil wealth. America had worked before to encourage some rebellious parties in the southern regions after a war lasted many years in which Sudan lost much and the rebellion ended up with a peace agreement under auspices of the African Unity.

The American administration succeeded in changing the movement of the liberation of south Sudan to Special Forces in the Sudanese armed forces instead of a rebellion movement and they are loyal to the U.S. administration. America is using the same method to impose a similar policy in the defer region in west Sudan and the aim is to push away the Khartoum authority from the country's oil-rich areas. The goal is to facilitate the western and the American oil companies to enter those areas and control the Sudanese oil wealth.

According to observers the American administration work for shaking security and stability in Sudan will nor enable it realize its aims and ambitions and the increase of pressure and surrounding the Sudanese regime will lead to expansion of the phenomenon of terror and extremism and encourage them in resisting its policies.

The importance of continuation of the efforts by the African Union to solve the crisis in Darfur will prevent the American administration from taking advantage of the present inability in order to pass on its policies. Consequently the conflicting parties have to understand dimensions of the American policy and to take the initiative in offering concessions to solve the differences between them. They have to work for preserving the Sudanese unity and stability which the matter that will consolidate stability in the Horn of Africa and will surround terror. It will end the war that does not serve the interests of Sudan or interests of the neighboring countries or Africa in general.

Source: www.shamsanews.net



Media for the sake of childhood

Childhood-related issues remain persistent worldwide and are in need of discussion, as well as suggesting any possible solutions to them. The more that governments concentrate on the state of children and solve their issues seriously, the greater the progress they will achieve in their development and advancement. Putting an end to childhood issues in an early way to ensure a better and safer future for children.

Helping children tackle their issues is not an easy task. Rather, it requires full attention so that the help may not change into negative consequences with negative effects on the life of children. Child trafficking is one of the biggest issues experienced in the developing countries where there is slow development. In most of the world countries, the UNICEF exerts great effort to help children and rescue them from various risks threatening their lives. The organization achieved great success in most of the developing countries and resolved several childhood-related issues.

In Yemen, child trafficking is considered a high concern phenomenon, particularly as children are regularly smuggled by professional traffickers through the borders to the neighboring countries. These traffickers have guilty conscience and are responsible for the agony and suffering of children.

Child trafficking in Yemen is so dangerous and requires total commitment of the concerned parties to put a stop to the phenomenon. Media played a primary role in discovering the terrible phenomenon and journalists shed

light on the phenomenon. They wrote reports about gangs trafficking children from Yemen into the neighboring countries in hard conditions. The organizations concerned with children observed the phenomenon and diagnosed it with the aim of provided the possible cures, thanks to the media's positive role.

The media may have a negative role when they discuss children's issues based on incorrect and inadequate information. In the past few days, a Yemeni newspaper published incorrect scores of children smuggled from Yemen to other countries. The paper attributed the scores to UNICEF, which denied that it published such incorrect scores. UNICEF's reaction to the scores reveals that the organization thoroughly observes the phenomenon.

As a journalist, I want to confirm that our duty as journalists is great. We should be on high alert while discussing the children's issues in order to produce authentic and correct scores. We have to bear in mind that children's issues are sensitive and that writing reports on children, youth and their issues still face numerous challenges. Work for the sake of human issues including that of children necessitates greater effort and clear conscience.

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By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SKETCHED OPINION

By Samer A.



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Yemen

Presidential elections provided the backdrop for a series of troubling attacks against Yemen's increasingly vocal independent and opposition press. As expected, President Ali Abdullah Saleh extended his nearly three decades in power by another six years, but the run-up to the September vote saw an upsurge in violence, intimidation, and legal harassment, along with a smear campaign directed by the state-controlled press against independent journalists.

Yemen's outspoken press is one of the country's most important centers of dissent and political debate, and over the last two years, it has become noticeably bolder in exposing high-level corruption and tackling sensitive political issues. Newspapers questioned the wisdom of Saleh staying in power, and they challenged the grooming of the president's son, Ahmed, as his successor. Some criticized Yemeni officials for supporting religious militant groups

at the same time Saleh cast himself as an ally in Washington's war on terrorism. Others criticized the president for harshly combating a regional insurgency led by tribal and religious figures in the northern Saada region that began in 2004. Authorities and suspected state agents responded aggressively to the critical coverage.

A series of brutal, unsolved assaults against independent journalists in 2005 prompted CPJ to send a delegation that included board members Clarence Page of the Chicago Tribune and Dave

Marash of Al-Jazeera English to the capital, Sana'a, in January. Journalists, human rights lawyers, and civil-society activists described a climate of intimidation and mounting restrictions on Yemeni journalists. In six cases of violent attacks documented by CPJ in 2005, the Yemeni government failed to conduct serious investigations or bring perpetrators to justice, while officials conspicuously failed to denounce the assaults. Witnesses and evidence point to involvement by government forces and suspected state agents in a number of assaults. Those targeted were journalists who covered protests, reported on

official corruption, criticized the president or government policies, or discussed the possibility of Saleh's son becoming president.

Yemeni officials who met with CPJ in January pledged to investigate attacks on the press, but they avoided explicitly denouncing the assaults on journalists. During a contentious meeting with the CPJ delegation, Prime Minister Abdelqader Bajammal said attacks against any Yemeni citizen were unacceptable, but he suggested that the assaults on journalists were unrelated to their work and had been staged to gain attention. "Some people are creating problems against themselves," Bajammal said. "They want to appear as fighters for press freedom. A journalist is drunk and then he clashes with people."

Despite dismissing the attacks, Bajammal promised that the government would investigate and make its results public. Yet by year's end, no findings were forthcoming, and attacks continued apace.

Qaed al-Tairi, a journalist for the Socialist Party weekly Al-Thawri, told CPJ that several men kidnapped and assaulted him in March in apparent retaliation for his writings. He said an assailant attacked him with an electric prod, while another attempted to break the fingers of his writing hand. They told him his column about local political factions had crossed "red lines" intended to prevent criticism of public figures, and that he risked death by continuing to write the column. The perpetrators remained at large.

In April, Jamal Amer, editor of the weekly newspaper Al-Wasat, who was abducted and brutally assaulted by suspected government agents in August 2005 after writing about high-level corruption, continued to face intimidation and harassment. On April 10, a known political security officer and four other men asked Amer's neighbors to identify the editor's apartment, provide the cell phone numbers of his children, name the schools his children attended, and provide the license plate of his car,



Amer told CPJ. The visit came while Amer was traveling in the United States. Amer's U.S. trip prompted the state-controlled newspaper Al-Mithaq to accuse him of being an agent of the West. In November, Amer was awarded CPJ's International Press Freedom Award in recognition of his commitment to independent journalism amid threats and harassment.

Also in April, Abed al-Mahthari, editor-in-chief of the independent weekly Al-Deyar, said he was targeted by suspected weapons traffickers in Saada, near the Saudi border, after he had investigated weapons trafficking and received several death threats as a result. Al-Mahthari said his car was being driven by a friend on April 19 when several gunmen took up pursuit. The assailants, apparently believing they had followed the editor, forced their way into the friend's house, threatened the friend's family at gunpoint, and stole the car, al-Mahthari said. The friend obtained the license plate of the perpetrators' car, and al-Mahthari reported it to the police. The attackers were not apprehended.

Yemeni journalists continued to face the threat of government legal action or spurious lawsuits for their critical coverage. Several journalists fell victim to an international wave of government reprisals related to the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad that caused outrage across the Muslim world after they first appeared in the Danish daily Jyllands-Posten. Mohammed al-Asaadi, editor-in-chief of the English-language Yemen Observer; Abdulkarim Sabra, managing editor and publisher of Al-Hurriya; Yehiya al-Abed, a reporter for Al-Hurriya; and Kamal al-Aalafi, editor-

in-chief of the Arabic-language Al-Rai al-Aam, were all charged with violating a press law provision that prohibits "printing, publishing, circulating, or broadcasting ... anything that prejudices the Islamic faith and its lofty principles or belittles religions or humanitarian creeds." The journalists were detained for several days and their publications suspended. Al-Aalafi was convicted in November and sentenced to a year in prison; he was free on appeal. The next month, a Sana'a court fined al-Asaadi 500,000 rials (US\$2,850). Sabra and al-Abed received suspended terms in December.

Meanwhile, other prosecutions moved steadily through the courts. In July, a Sana'a court ordered the opposition weekly Al-Wahdawi to pay 500,000 rials in compensation to the Ministry of Defense, fined the paper 50,000 rials (US\$285), and banned Editor-in-Chief Ali Saqqaf from practicing journalism for six months. The case against Al-Wahdawi stemmed from an August 2005 article alleging improprieties by members of the Republican Guard in taking over land in Dhamar province. The Ministry of Defense, which brought the case against Al-Wahdawi, accused the newspaper of revealing military secrets. Saqqaf told CPJ he intended to appeal the ruling. At the time, the paper faced nine other trials stemming from its reporting on government corruption.

In other court cases, Al-Thawri faced 13 defamation cases—the largest number against a single paper, according to press freedom lawyers.

During the year, the Yemeni parliament debated a press bill that threatened increased restrictions. Government officials touted the meas-

ure as a step forward for press freedom because it removed provisions from the 1990 law that stipulated jail terms for purported press offenses. But Yemeni lawyers noted that the change would be irrelevant since journalists would still face jail time under provisions of the country's penal code. The draft prescribed stiffer professional requirements to practice journalism, including membership in the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, and it stipulated that non-journalists could not work in the press. It also demanded expensive capital requirements for launching publications. Potential fines also drew concern. The draft before parliament did not specify the amounts of potential fines, and journalists feared that exorbitant penalties would be inserted by lawmakers or left to the discretion of judges under the sway of the executive branch.

Aside from legal means, authorities have resorted to dirty tricks against the press. Security agents were believed to be responsible for several incidents, including a January case in which a recording of a private telephone conversation between Al-Jazeera correspondent Ahmed al-Shalafi and his wife was distributed to senior Al-Jazeera staff in Doha, Qatar, and to journalists in Yemen. Al-Shalafi was said to have discussed potentially embarrassing personal matters. Journalists interpreted the recording as an attempt to get al-Shalafi fired; they suspected al-Shalafi had angered Yemeni authorities by interviewing the kidnappers of Italian tourists and by reporting on corruption and human rights abuses.

Source: www.cpj.org.

As democracy falters, Arab press still pushes for freedom

By: Joel Campagna

Across the Middle East, political reform gained momentum in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States and the U.S.-led invasion of

Iraq in March 2003. Egyptians and Lebanese clamored for democracy; elections in Iraq, Palestine, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia offered a more pluralistic future. In a number of Arab countries, the media seized the moment. Newspapers in Egypt and Yemen smashed long-held taboos by openly criticizing political leaders, while in Iraq the toppling of Saddam Hussein opened the way for a vibrant news media. Autocrats known for smothering dissent suddenly touted the virtues of democracy, a system of government that U.S. President George W. Bush, buoyed by initial military success in Iraq, vowed to spread across a region of princes and potentates.

Those heady days seem a distant memory. The Bush democratization plan barely got off the ground. Washington's prodding of several regional allies proved fleeting. Middle East autocrats thwarted significant reform altogether or implemented mere cosmetic changes. "[Bush] promised the sky and obviously could not deliver," said Marina Ottaway, director of the Middle East program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "U.S. strategies do not do anything about the central problem in the Middle East: How do you diminish the power of omnipotent executives?"

The implications are clear. Change, if it comes at all, will take many years. And while international pressure is important, sustained effort from within is essential.

Political reformers and press freedom advocates whose expectations may have been raised by the Bush administration ran into regional realities: entrenched, authoritarian elites in countries such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco; and what became murderous chaos in Iraq. Of the 34 journalists killed in the Middle East and North Africa in 2006, 32 died in Iraq, most at the hands of assassins.

Outside Iraq, scores of journalists who challenged the political order were threatened by government agents, hauled before the courts, thrown in prison, or censored in media crackdowns that stretched from Algeria to Yemen.

The Bush administration was able to engineer elections in Iraq, which it touted as a democratic model for the Middle East. But the carnage did not stop, and journalists found themselves in the middle. Not only were they targeted by murderers, they also came under political fire from government officials angered by their reporting. A growing list of Iraqi journalists endured harassment, censorship, or criminal prosecution under crude laws revived from Saddam Hussein's regime. Others were detained and harassed by the security forces. The government continued to arbitrarily ban satellite broadcasters, as it did in September when it shuttered the Baghdad bureau of the Dubai-based satellite channel Al-Arabiya for a month on vague charges of fomenting "sectarian violence and war in Iraq."

With few checks on their powers, governments across the region preyed on critical journalists, using draconian press laws or outright intimidation. When U.S. pressure was at its peak after the 2003 Iraq invasion, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak promised reforms that included the repeal of prison penalties for so-called press offenses. But by 2006, criminal penalties remained on the books, and a slew of Egyptian journalists faced the prospect of jail time for their critical writing. Egyptian journalists still spoke out but were confronted by arrests, lawsuits, and state-sponsored assaults. The government, like others in the region, maintained its tight hold on media ownership. "The broadcast media is still in the hands of the government, and [so is] 90 percent of the print press," remarked independent newspaper publisher Hisham Qassem, lamenting how the government has stalled the democratic reform movement. "You need credible media for civilians to address public opinion."

Half measures were the norm elsewhere in the region. Saudi Arabia, under enormous international pressure to open up its closed society following the

9/11 attacks, which were carried out mainly by Saudi nationals, initially loosened the shackles on its heavily censored press. Newspapers launched an unprecedented debate about the role of the country's powerful religious establishment in promoting extremism. But those once-promising media advances were followed by a government crackdown that included serial dismissals of outspoken writers and threats to others. That trend carried through to 2006, when, in April, journalist Rabah al-Quwai' was jailed for 13 days in retaliation for his writing about religious extremism. While Saudi media are freer than they have been in recent history, the government still bars them from covering central issues such as government corruption and the activities of the royal family.

Jordan's King Abdullah II has burnished an image of a reforming monarch, often telling journalists that the "sky is the limit" for press freedom. But reporters continue to chafe under an all-powerful security apparatus that has infiltrated much of the media and engendered widespread self-censorship. In May, security agents interrogated editor Fahd al-Rimawi for more than six hours over an article that cast a critical eye on an official announcement that the government had uncovered a Hamas arms cache. A month later, agents abruptly halted a live Al-Jazeera interview with the brother-in-law of the deceased Iraqi insurgent Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, briefly detaining interviewer Yasser Abu Hilala and his crew.

Press freedom in Libya, Tunisia, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates is either nonexistent or heavily constrained. And Syria pursues a relentless crackdown on dissidents that includes arrests of Internet journalists and bloggers.

The situation seems to beg the question of whether autocrats can be asked to reform themselves. In his 2005 inaugural address, President Bush pledged to "encourage reform in other governments by making clear that success in our relations will require the decent treatment of their own people." But the unraveling of the Bush strategy in Iraq has consumed Washington's attention and made the United States less

bullish in advocating real change throughout the region.

In February, then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld held security talks with leaders in Algeria and Tunisia, both of which have abysmal press freedom records. That very month, the government of Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika effectively decreed that the media could not investigate human rights abuses that occurred during the 1990s civil war, including the murders of at least 58 journalists. And editor Mohamed Benichou was still languishing in prison, completing a two-year sentence for his criticism of Bouteflika's presidency. In Tunisia, human rights lawyer Mohamed Abbou was behind bars for having published an Internet article that compared torture in Tunisia's prisons to conditions in Iraq's infamous Abu Ghraib; other journalists and rights defenders remained under relentless pressure from the state security operation.

Yet for all the discouraging trends, there is hope.

If authoritarian regimes are firmly entrenched, a new political dynamism is evident. Attacks against the press are on the rise in many countries precisely because journalists are becoming more outspoken in their criticism. Writers in Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen have aggressively seized on political openings to publish daring news and commentary that would have been unprintable just a few years ago. In the press, a small pack of independent journalists has pushed the boundaries of what is tolerated in print by exposing corruption and government misdeeds. The wall of fear that once prevented citizens from freely expressing themselves has eroded, even in the most repressive countries.

Most dramatically, the state's monopoly on information has been broken in recent years by the preponderance of satellite television and the Internet. "The days when states ran public debate are over," noted Amr Hamzawy, a senior analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. If calls for political reform have yielded few concrete results, they have produced unprecedented debate about



A Bahraini man casts his vote at a polling station in Manama in November.

democracy and pluralism, Hamzawy said. Popular channels such as Al-Jazeera have created a public expectation that the truth can be uncovered and the powerful held to account.

The prospects for achieving greater press freedom vary by country, but journalists in nations such as Egypt, Morocco, and Yemen express hope. "I am optimistic, not because the regime is allowing freedom of expression, but because I reckon that the internal forces in society are moving toward openness and liberalization," said Moroccan publisher Aboubakr Jama'i, who has weathered repeated government attempts to shut down his fiercely independent weekly Le Journal Hebdomadaire. "Having a free press is a demand of our society. The problem is that it isn't coming as rapidly as society would like, or demands." One indication is that papers such as Le Journal are more popular than ever despite severe pressure from officials.

In Egypt, democracy activists and independent journalists incur the wrath of authorities, but they continue to promote a robust political debate in the press and online. Even in the most politically closed states, like Syria, intellectuals and bloggers strike up debates that would have been impossible

not so many years ago.

The struggle for an effective free press is destined to be long, arduous, and buffeted by wider political forces. In many nations, the continuing absence of independent political institutions and the pervasive presence of state security services hinder the ability of the press to grow and to exert influence.

"I've come to the conclusion that I will never live in a Westminster-style democracy in Egypt," publisher Qassem said. "I will be part of the transition. Basically, there is no infrastructure here, and that is the problem." Infrastructure, for Qassem, includes not only judicial independence and effective political parties but also unfettered, commercially viable, and broad-based media.

Ultimately, political and media reforms are two sides of the same coin. "You need to have both processes happening at the same time," said Morocco's Jama'i. "They go hand in hand." Change, where it occurs, will be incremental, and journalists will be required to battle to preserve and expand the small pockets of independence they have carved out, especially in the all-important electronic media. In doing so, they lay the foundation for a true Fourth Estate.

Source: www.cpj.org

One-on-One with President of the Yemeni Association of Certified Public Accountants Ramzi Al-Ariqi:

“Companies involved in corruption should be Black listed”

Corruption is one of the main factors curbing the development of Yemen's economy and the main tool to detect and tackle corruption is accounting and auditing, a practice in spite of its importance is being ignored by both policymakers as well as the business community. Yemen Times met with Ramzi Al-Ariqi, President of the Yemeni Association of Certified Public Accountants.

Interviewed by Raidan Al-Saqqaf
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Please brief us on the role of your association in regulating accounting and auditing methods, standards and practices in Yemen.

The practitioners in Yemen work under the guidance of the current law of the accounting and auditing profession. However, our association, as per the law, does not play any role in setting the accounting and auditing standards in the country, and this task was given to the High Council of the Accounting and Auditing Profession in Yemen. And since 1999 this council has not been formed yet. The High Council was supposed to be an oversight governor body responsible for setting the accounting and auditing standards followed in the country, and operates also as a monitoring body for the accounting profession, but till now it has not been formed.

The responsibility of setting the accounting and auditing standards in the country was given to the High Council of the Accounting and Auditing Profession, WHICH DOES NOT EXIST!

How about other countries?

There is a different role for such associations in various parts of the world. In the U.S. or Europe such associations have a major role in setting the accounting and auditing standards and setting the best practice that should be followed, for example in the U.S. the American Institute for Certified Accountants play this role and issue the accounting and auditing standards to be followed by its members and affiliates. In some Arab countries like Egypt and Jordan the associations play a big role in setting the accounting and auditing standards. However, in Yemen at the time of issuing the Accounting and Auditing Profession Law in 1999, our association and the government were not on the best terms and as a consequence they reduced the role of the association in setting the standard and gave that authority for the High Council which never existed.

From your experience, how would you describe mechanisms of corporate governance among leading Yemeni corporations and trading groups?

Corporations in Yemen are mostly a one-man show; there are several companies with good corporate governance mechanisms in place here in Yemen, but most of the corporations and trading groups are a family business and therefore are dominated by one person – sometimes the father of the elder brother, so it's mostly a one-man show with it comes to governance. Even with the current laws in place with regards to public companies and also the limited liability companies, but still corporate governance mechanisms, although in place, are not completely enforced, and as a result the one man who is running the show has dominant and unquestionable authority and this creates problems in many companies and there isn't sufficient protection for minority shareholders here in Yemeni regulations as well as practices.

How does this affect International Investments?

This is a critical point for establishing partnerships especially for partnerships between local and international investors, and it depends on who has the majority of shares in the company, if the International Investor is the majority shareholder then he is entitled to formulate a management and governance

mechanism he sees fit, and the same applied for the Yemeni investor if he is the majority shareholder. There are cases where you find the international investor is very happy with how the local partner is running the company, but there are many other cases when international investors cannot cope with the Yemeni ways of management and governance and therefore they withdraw from joint ventures with Yemeni partners.

Having said that, I must elaborate that as per the investment law international investors need not involve themselves in joint ventures with Yemeni partners in many sectors of the economy, in fact they can establish Greenfield ventures in Yemen maintaining 100 percent of ownership with them. You see, the prime issue with regards to investment in Yemen is not the ownership stake or the partnership with local investors, the prime issue is the investment environment in Yemen and the fundamental setbacks it has.

As an auditor yourself, Have you detected any cases of corruption or improper economic management and how were these cases handled?

I think this is a case that takes place in any country, not only Yemen. Corruption exists in many countries, but the magnitude of corruption is the issue that differentiates Yemen per se, but corruption is far less evident in the private sector compared to the public sector in Yemen and I think it is an issue relating to the sense of ownership, as I mentioned most companies in Yemen are family businesses and you would fight very hard to eradicate corruption in your own company because you have a stake in it, but the same sense of ownership does not exist within government circles.

Addressing the other part of your question, corruption cases within the private sector depends on the philosophy of the management. Many businesses in Yemen take severe actions and punishment against cases of corruption detected to ensure that this corruption won't be repeated in the future, especially if it was a case of embezzlement of money or resources of the company. The real issue of corruption within the private sector is in the way of doing business; when corruption takes place as a directive from the management of the company, for instance with the company is trying to get business from the government or other companies, companies are willing to pay bribes and commissions to officials and otherwise, and they look at this practice not as corruption but as a part of doing business in Yemen.

I also don't think that there are



Al-Ariqi: We need a real one-stop shop for investors.

projects. If the government is serious in tackling corruption then it should black-list all such companies and never award them any more government projects, you would be surprised to see how efficient such a policy would be in combating corruption as it would make involvement in corruption and paying bribes an unprofitable strategy for the private sector and therefore limit the damage of corrupting business. But so far this notion is outrageous by many officials. The government of Yemen exerts efforts towards regional economic integration with Gulf States as well as joining the WTO. Are there any efforts to harmonize accounting and auditing standards and practices with the counterparts in the region or in an international level?

Actually when you study the accounting and auditing standards of GCC countries you would find that most of them have already adopted the International Accounting Standards and International Standards on Auditing, and I think that Yemen should adopt the International Accounting and Auditing Standards just like many other countries in the region and beyond.

The high levels of transparency as required by the Sales Tax law are unacceptable to many businessmen

However, until now, there is no movement in this direction despite the fact that the international standards have been adopted by the Central Bank in its dealings with commercial banks in

Again we are talking about finding the proper environment for establishing the stock market to ensure proper success for the stock exchange. One of the factors critical for the success of a stock market is setting the accounting and auditing standards, which will provide the disclosure required for a stock market. And therefore I don't see that we can establish the market in the near future. First you have to 'fix' the accounting and auditing profession, establish proper accounting laws and regulations, and Al-Asali is aware of this because he was brought-in many missions from abroad to help them in this regards and he knows precisely what is needed to establish the stock exchange. Especially when it comes to preparing several corporations to be listed on the stock market, as it is a valid question to ask if Yemeni corporations may be willing to be listed on a stock market.

Is Yemen an attractive destination for investments? How would you describe the administrative efficacy of the government in dealing with new investments and multinational corporations wishing to expand into Yemen?

Investments do not only require proper laws and regulations alone, as a strong legal framework is only one of many factors that make a country an attractive destination for investments. For instance infrastructure is an important factor, consistency of laws and regulations, review the taxing policy, as the income tax in Yemen of 35 percent is one of the highest in the region. Despite the fact that the investment law gives exemptions for seven years, but after the seven years period 35 percent is considered relatively high compared to other countries in the region, there are countries which give tax exemptions for fifteen years and after that the income tax is still lower than that of Yemen. I think that what they need to do is to change the attitude and mentality in dealing with local and foreign investments, and that the Investment Authority should have the power and should be a real one-stop shop for investors. It is equally important to have a sense of understanding of business orientation, as the Investment Authority still suffers from bureaucracy and it needs to become more efficient in handling the requests and demands of investors.

How can Yemen become a better investment location?

Attracting investments, fighting corruption and enhancing economic growth are all components in one package, if you are fighting corruption, enforcing a strong legal framework, efficient in dealing with investments, all these factors would help speed economic development of Yemen, but ignoring any one of these issues would not result in sustainable economic development.

Saif Al-Asali knows precisely what is needed to establish the stock exchange... But are Yemeni corporations willing to be listed on a stock market?

businessmen against the 2001 General Sales Tax and the proposed taxation mechanism is the additional costs involved. How valid is this argument?

No, I don't think that cost is the major issue here, I think there are many issues behind rejecting the General Sales Tax Law, the law resulted in a lot of discussions behind closed doors but the real issue is not the cost, the real issue is transparency and mistrust between businessmen and the Tax Authority, because the law requires full transparency in dealings between the businesses and the Tax Authority, and such high levels of transparency required by the law are unacceptable by many businessmen and they are happy with status-quo. On the other hand, as the law requires full transparency from the private sector, there should be reconsideration of current corporate tax rates and full transparency from the Tax Authority and its employees in dealing with the taxpayers.

Minister of Finance Saif Al-Asali promised to establish a stock exchange in Yemen in the near future. Is Yemen ready for a stock exchange?

Business objects in the Yemeni Market

By: Mohammed Esmael Al-Moayed
mesmael@vegasoftware.com

Business intelligence is a broad category of applications and technology for gathering, accessing and analyzing data to help enterprise users make better business decisions. It is imperative to have an in-depth knowledge about factors such as your customers, competitors, business partners, economic environment, and internal operations to make effective and good quality business decisions.

It's believed that business intelligence, especially from business objects, is one of the best ways for economic development. Furthermore, Yemen has a lot of pressure nowadays from international communities to improve its economy. Economic development is an important task; consequently, decision makers and economists must work to achieve this by adopting new technology, strategies and good planning.

However, Yemeni businesses need reliable information for making decision and planning. For example, the Telecom industry has been developing over the last five years; as result of this we now have three competitors in the market and a new one is opening soon. The banking industry is facing big

challenges in the coming years; therefore the private and public sectors in Yemen should seriously consider implementing a Business Intelligence solution to help with these changes.

Business objects solutions can help companies in Yemen in many ways. Every day, business objects customers use information to change the way they do business, becoming more efficient, better managed and more competitive. They innovate by integrating their data, turning it into information, and delivering it widely across and beyond their organization. The ability to take any piece of information and deliver it to where it can be best used—whether it be in the hands of an employee, a supplier, a partner, or a customer—has an amazing power to transform business objects customers' organizations. Business objects exist to enable that transformation.

Business objects is used by all sizes of organizations, from small to mid-size organizations all the way to global enterprises, by: First, CEOs, to align corporate strategy with execution. Next, CFOs, to improve visibility, accountability, predictability, and compliance. Then, CIOs and IT, to drive down costs and provide greater self service to employees, partners, and customers. After that comes line-of-business managers and executives, to analyze performance and track key

metrics. Finally, developers, to integrate reporting and analytics into applications.

Business objects provides solutions that help organizations leverage data locked in disparate enterprise systems to drive business performance and innovation. Business objects offer knowledge, services, and technology to: Access, integrate, and improve the data that resides in operational systems (EIM); Turn that data into information and use it to analyze and communicate performance (Core BI); Drive change through goal-setting and strategic planning and budgeting (EPM).

Now, Business Intelligence becomes one of the most concerns in most of the companies and organizations in the world. By Business Intelligence companies and organization will reach the right decision and good planning for their projects and strategies; on the other hand, Business objects is offering many services in this field and they are considered as number one to what they can do and to their position in market. Yemen is a thirst to this kind of technology, and I am sure dealing with Business Intelligence seriously will improve Yemen rapidly.

Mohammed Esmael Al-Moayed is a Business Intelligence and Business object Consultant at Vegasoft- Yemen

Business in brief

Compliance with Sales Tax becomes a requirement for public tenders

The Ministry of Finance now requires the presentation of compliance certificates with the General Sales Tax from companies that wish to participate in bids and compete for public tenders from the government. This measure was made in order to enforce the compliance of the private sector with the Sales Tax law.

COCA investigates corruption in Hodieda customs authority

The Central Organization for Control and Audit is investigating cases of fraud and corruption in the Hodieda customs some of which date back to 1996. The main violations were accepting uncertified and fraudulent documents on the nature of imported goods, where the goods imported were found to be different that the documents on which the customs were based.

Family Business Conference to take place next week

The Yemeni Businessmen Club has completed preparations for the Family Business Conference to be held in Sana'a on the 21st and 22nd of this month. The conference will discuss the development of family business and the problems family-based corporations face in this part of the world as well as the prospects for growth and development.

Al-Qudra investment group to venture into Yemen

Head of the board of directors of Al-Qudra investment group has recently announced that the group is seriously considering investing in Yemen in the sectors of infrastructure development, real-estate and other services. Al-Qudra constitutes of over 30 corporations spread all over the region.

GCC honors Hayel Saeed group

The Gulf Cooperative Council has honored the Yemen Company for Ghee and Soap with the Crest of excellence for their recruitment and Human Resources policy, as the company has increased the percentage of local manpower to 98 percent compared to 50 percent when the company was first established in the 1970s.



The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We operate in 110 countries. Our purpose is to build mutually beneficial relationships between people in the UK and other countries and increase appreciation of the UK's creative ideas and achievements.

The British Council in the Middle East is looking for high calibre professionals to support the region's ability to grow and develop and meet its targets. We are recruiting for the following positions:

Communications Manager - External Communications

The main duties include:

- To deliver external communications strategies for programmes and operations
- To monitor media throughout the region and the UK in line with corporate requirements.
- Maintain the regional contacts database for external communications

Essential Competencies and Skills:

- Proven experience in managing communications in an organisation or experience in journalism
- Educated to graduate level with a recognised communications qualification
- Excellent written and oral communications skills in English and preferably in Arabic
- Ability to work strategically
- Ability to work in virtual teams.

Communications Manager - E-Services

The main duties include:

- Maintain, develop and enhance the regional internet, intranet and other e-services.
- Provide an input into communications strategies and e-strategy within the region and the UK

Essential Competencies and Skills:

- Proven experience in web/internet creative design and web editing
- Educated to graduate level with a recognised qualification
- Excellent written and oral communications skills in English and preferably in Arabic
- Ability to work strategically
- Ability to work in virtual teams.

You can download a copy of the application form and job description from our website www.britishcouncil.org/me-about-us-working-with-us.htm Only completed forms will be accepted. The closing date for the applications is **25th February 2007**.

Creating opportunities...building partnerships

The British Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and is keen to reflect the diversity of UK society at every level within the organisation. We welcome applications from all sections of the community. We guarantee an interview to disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria. The United Kingdom's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We are registered in England as a charity.



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The British Council in the Middle East is looking for high calibre professionals to support the region's ability to grow and develop and meet its targets. We are recruiting for the following positions:

Marketing Manager - Market Research

The main duties include:

- To deliver marketing plans for the region
- To conduct or procure market research and intelligence as appropriate
- To aid programmes and operations in their event management needs.

Essential Competencies and Skills

- Proven experience in marketing in a large organisation preferably in market research
- Educated to graduate level with a recognised marketing qualification
- Excellent written and oral communications skills in English and preferably in Arabic
- Ability to work strategically
- Ability to work in virtual teams

Marketing Manager - Brand Management

The main duties include:

- To deliver marketing plans for the region.
- To ensure consistency of brand across the region.
- To work with programmes and operations to increase brand awareness

Essential Competencies and Skills

- Proven experience in marketing in a large organisation preferably in brand management
- Educated to graduate level with a recognised marketing qualification
- Excellent written and oral communications skills in English and preferably in Arabic
- Ability to work strategically
- Ability to work in virtual teams

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The British Council in the Middle East is looking for high calibre professionals to support the region's ability to grow and develop and meet its targets. We are recruiting for the following positions:

Regional Education Project Manager - Schools

The main duties include:

- To initiate, develop, deliver, publicise and evaluate regional education products and services relating to Schools
- To act as a professional education resource for the region
- To develop a regional network of teachers, school leaders and education professionals

Essential Competencies and Skills

- Proven experience of school education sector in UK and the region.
- Excellent written and oral communications skills in English and preferably in Arabic
- Ability to work strategically
- Ability to assign accountability

Regional Education Project Manager - Higher Education

The main duties include:

- To initiate, develop, deliver, publicise and evaluate regional education products and services relating to Higher Education.
- To act as a professional education resource for the region
- To develop a regional network of higher education professionals

Essential Competencies and Skills:

- Proven experience of higher education sector in UK and the region.
- Excellent written and oral communications skills in English and preferably in Arabic
- Ability to work strategically
- Ability to assign accountability

Regional Science Manager

The main duties include:

- To initiate, develop, deliver, publicise and evaluate regional science products and services.
- To act as a professional science resource for the region
- To support the development of an agreed regional strategy for science

Essential Competencies and Skills:

- Proven experience of the science sector in UK and the region.
- Excellent written and oral communications skills in English and preferably in Arabic
- Ability to work strategically
- Ability to assign accountability

You can download a copy of the application form and job description from our website www.britishcouncil.org/me-about-us-working-with-us.htm Only completed forms will be accepted. The closing date for the applications is **25th February 2007**.

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EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Is seeking to recruit one Contract Agent (CA – group III) for the position of:

Secretary to the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

The successful candidate will be offered a 3-year CA contract.

CANDIDATES MUST BE NATIONALS OF ONE OF THE 27 MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION WITH A PERMANENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE OUTSIDE YEMEN (DUAL EU/YEMENI NATIONALS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE AS THEY MAY NOT BENEFIT FROM ARTICLE 37(2) OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION, A PRE-REQUISITE FOR THE CA STATUS)

A detailed job description can be obtained from the **offices of the Delegation in Sana'a** and is available online at the following address:-

<http://www.deljor.ec.europa.eu>

Candidates are requested to send their applications to:-

Dr. Ralf Dreyer, Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
e-mail: DELEGATION-YEMEN@EC.EUROPA.EU
or fax: (00 967 1) 440887

No later than 08 March 2007



Taiz Water and Sanitation Local Corporation (TWSLC) is in a process of transformation. Supported by **Vitens** from The Netherlands a new structure is approved, consisting of a General Head Office and Operational Branches. The General Head Office covers water and sanitation policies within Taiz Governorate and is responsible for the performance of the Corporation. Operational Branches cover production and distribution of drinking water, sewerage, accounting, billing and collection for the main towns.

For the new corporation positions are available for:

• **A Manager for the Taiz Branch** who is able to implement transformations within the Branch and be responsible for Production, Distribution, Sewerage and Customer Services within the Branch.

Qualifications of suitable candidates are:

- Proven experience in management of operational processes, preferably within a water company;
- A degree in Civil Engineering, Business Administration or comparable subject;
- Ambition to build, develop and run the Taiz Branch and provide water services to Taiz people, and
- Strong personal integrity, leadership capacity, and dedication.

• A Human Resources Manager who is able to guide and support the transformation of TWSLC and capable to design and implement the Human Resources Development Plan, to formulate job profiles, to design a salary structure, and facilitate capacity building/training.

Qualifications of candidates are:

- Proven experience in Personnel Affairs;
- A degree (or equivalent experience) in Personnel Development, Business Administration or comparable subject;
- Ambition to build, develop and run the HRM Department within TWSLC,
- Strong personal integrity, leadership capacity, and dedication.

• A Manager Information Management & Control who is able to establish processes and procedures for the generation of management information, control of budgets (for TWSLC, branches, and projects), and guide the process for standardization of procedures within TWSLC and its Branches.

Qualifications of suitable candidates are:

- A degree (or equivalent experience) in Business Administration

or related subject;

- Ambition to build, develop and run the management information & control unit;
- Strong personal integrity, leadership capacity, and commitment.

• **A Manager Technology & Projects** who will be responsible for:

- Develop and maintain technical standards within TWSLC and Branches;
- Identification, formulation, control and implementation of investment projects within TWSLC and its Branches;
- Manage available technical experts and senior project managers within the department

Qualifications of suitable candidates are:

- A degree in Civil Engineering or comparable subject;
- Ambition and vision to develop technical innovations within TWSLC
- Proven experience to manage a department;
- Strong personal integrity, leadership capacity, and dedication.

• **A Head ICT Department** who will be responsible for the entire automation within TWSLC (system operations, networks, databases (ORACLE-based), spatial information (GIS)). The Head ICT is an important interface with concerned Unit Managers and Department Heads of TWSLC.

Qualifications of candidates are:

- B.Sc. degree in surveying, civil engineering or computer science;
- General knowledge about operating systems (Windows 200x, XP), networking, database systems (ORACLE), GIS (ArcView, ArcGIS), etc.;
- Service oriented to the Corporation;
- Ambition and capacity to build, develop and run the ICT Department;
- Strong personal integrity, leadership capacity, and dedication.

• **A GIS Technician** who will transform GIS-knowledge into business information processes and will manage and process the spatial component in automation.

Qualifications of suitable candidates are:

- Community College degree in surveying, civil engineering, architecture, or computer related field;
- Knowledge of GIS (preferably ArcView, ArcGIS) and knowl-

edge of Computer Aided Design, drafting systems (AutoCAD, or surveying);

- Affinity to work with and knowledge about computers as a user;
- Previous knowledge in using Computer Drafting Systems.
- Strong personal integrity, accurate and commitment.

• **An ORACLE Database Administrator** to develop, manage and maintain the ORACLE database within TWSLC and the link between databases and GIS.

Qualifications of suitable candidates are:

- Capability to build and run a clean integer structured database;
- Design and programming of data entry forms and queries;
- Knowledge of Windows 200x & XP operating systems;
- Experiences in other ORACLE application tools (DEVELOPER-2000);
- Ability to write procedures, functions, packaged procedures, database triggers, sql, pl/sql;
- Interest in GIS applications;
- Personal integrity, accurate, and dedicated.

All candidates should have: affection with the development of (the water sector in) Yemen and have a basic/good command of the English language.

Candidates should send their application letter, including CV and certificates, to Taiz Water and Sanitation Local Corporation, P.O. Box 55628, Taiz, attn. Mahmoud Abulwaly, within two weeks after publishing of this advertisement. Letter of application and CV should be in English as well as in Arabic.

TWSLC offers attractive salaries according to the responsibilities of the positions.

Selection procedure: selection of candidates will be based on application letter, CV and certificates. Selected candidates will be subjected to tests at the HRM Department of the Hayel Saeed Group in Taiz and interviews with the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will do the final selection based on transparent assessment of all information gathered.

The Selection Committee is composed of Mr. Mahmoud Abdulwaly, Director General of TWSLC, Mr. Sayed Makaddam, Manager HRM Department Hayel Saeed Group Taiz, and Mr. Jan Hoogendoorn, Program Manager Public Private Partnership. For all positions is valid that qualified TWSLC staff will have priority over new applicants from outside the Corporation.



Job Vacancy

Total E&P Yemen invites Yemeni Nationals only to apply for the position of Cost Controller within its organization in Sana'a.

Cost Controller.

The job holder will assist in the preparation of the company's annual budget. He/she will process invoices on daily bases. He/she will make a budget follow up at a detailed level. He/she will produce analysis reports (e.g. actual v budget) for the Management and Budget Holders with appropriate comments when needed.

The candidate must have an accounting / Finance degree and a good command in using the Microsoft office especially Excel. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English are essential. The applicant has to be well organised and rigorous. Previous experience in Oil and Gas industry will be an advantage.

All applicants should send their resumes in English enclosed with a cover letter to one of the following addresses:

Recruitment.ep-ye@total.com
Or

Total E&P Yemen
Human Resources Department
P.O. Box 842
Sana'a, Yemen

Closing Date: 25/02/2007

Short listed candidates will be contacted for interview by Total E&P Yemen

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بمناسبة الزفاف الميموه
فالف الف مبروك

المهنتون /
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Eng. Saleh Bin Mohammed al-Shanfari

Managing Director, Omani Invest Co.
Oman



Mr. Abdulghani Sinan

Manager, Family Business Consultancy Team Member
PriceWaterHouseCoopers, Dubai - UAE



Mr. Amin Nasser

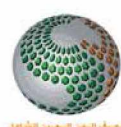
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Chemicals in our environment

By: Mohammed Alhifi
Environmental Sciences,
University of Sana'a,
Education Faculty of Arhab
alhifi@yahoo.com

One of the consequences of technological progress and industrial revolution has been the release of a large number of chemicals into the environment although considerable research efforts have been made into a variety of alternative pest control methods in recent years. Use of chemical pesticides is still a mainstay in modern agriculture and public health programmers.

At the same time anxiety over chemical pollution has made the study of hazardous effects of pesticides as one of the principle areas of research. In particular organochlorine insecticides have been extensively investigated and today several of them have been suspended from general application in the U.S. and other countries. Nevertheless, its felt for the time being that pesticides are a necessary evil and, in absence of any feasible substitute, their use will continue to combat the vast range of vectors of diseases.

With the slow development of civilization, so man has gradually realized the extent to which pests harm his crops, annoy him and transmit diseases to both human and domestic animals. The use of chemicals to kill pests is not a new concept. As early as the late 16th century arsenic could be used to kill insects and the Chinese used arsenic sulphide as an insecticide.

The use of arsenical compounds has continued, and during the early part of the 20th century, large quantities of such compounds as lead arsenate were used to control insect pests. Another arsenical compound Paris green (Copper Aceto-arsenite) was extensively applied to pools of standing water in the tropics, in attempts to control malaria-transmitting mosquitoes. It was not realized at the time how persistent arsenical pesticides were, although it is now known that they can persist in soil for 40 years, and many orchard soils still contain large amount of these chemicals.

For instance, in a recent survey of arsenic residues in arable soils in Canada, residues of arsenic ranging from 11-121 parts per million were reported. Although it was known that organochlorine were

very persistent, up till the early 1950s there was little anxiety as to possible long-term ecological hazards caused by their use. There was some evidence that large residues in soil could be pyrotoxic, small quantities of some were reported from plant and animal tissues and in cows' milk and there were some instances of fish being killed when water was sprayed in anti-malaria and other pest campaigns, but unavoidable hazards and of little concern.

As pesticides pass in most cases directly or indirectly into food products. For many pesticides legal limits (tolerance doses) are imposed regarding the residues that may be left in foodstuffs. By "tolerance dose" it is meant the quantity of a substance that may be absorbed by one person from his daily diet in the course of a lifetime without coming to any harm as far as can be judged from present scientific knowledge.

The level at which a pesticide dose not make damage to the biological system is expressed as milligrams per kilogram of body weight. In ordinary circumstances, one hundredth part of this dose is then prescribed as the safe limit for human being.

"Alo, ALO, ALO!!" Phone-cards, oh my!

By: Shadjar
writer01@hotmail.com

Phone-cards, ever try one? Ever had the unfortunate experience of dialing all the pre-requisite numbers of access then entering "the phone number you wish to dial" as prompted and then...nothing...an odd ring tone... a dropped call? Frustrated, you try repeatedly only to hear the computer say you now have ten cents less than before and you have yet to utter a word! Then again, in growing frustrating anger and anxiety you dial until the minutes are used up and still you have not "called home!"

Well, welcome to the 21st century version of communication rip-off! The cards, that if you dialed the house, landline, phone will let you talk home for an hour but will not connect you to a mobile. Then there is the card that is good only for a particular region or specific

country. There is a card that seeps away for every time you dial while also adding valuable minutes to your own phone: The one that if any amount left unused overnight is at a premium zilch when you dial the next day. The combinations and permutations to these cards are endless.

Then you need to add the frustrated party on the other side waiting for your call. They can hear you-but you cannot; you can hear them; but they cannot. So back and forth, it goes until a few phone-cards later, nearing a heart-attack stage, you finally connect only to spend 10 quality minutes with recriminations, or explanations as to how you spent the last hour and maybe \$20 trying to call home!

I live this daily, a natural occurrence in trying to communicate with my family abroad. And with members scattered across the world, I have had to become savvy in my selection of cards, times to call while I hope, pray besiege the All Mighty that I get through; puts a damper on connecting with loved ones. I fear

these cards even as I scratch away to reveal their access codes numbers that may or may not satisfy the need to say hello; convey important news; or simply to hear the voice of a loved one.

The worst is that many do not have this problem when calling from overseas while others agonize over it. The party being called at times, well most of the times, is clueless to the frustrations of the caller; and because others get through they don't believe you have joined "Frustrated Callers Anonymous" when you said you'd call right back 3 hours ago.

The wave of the future in so called more economic calls, my foot! 25 cents a minute calling direct never sounded so good when you just spent ten dollars to hear the computer tell you its spent all your minutes and didn't get a word in edgewise from your voice box!

If it were not so very, very important to connect with home I would have given up on these cards long ago.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

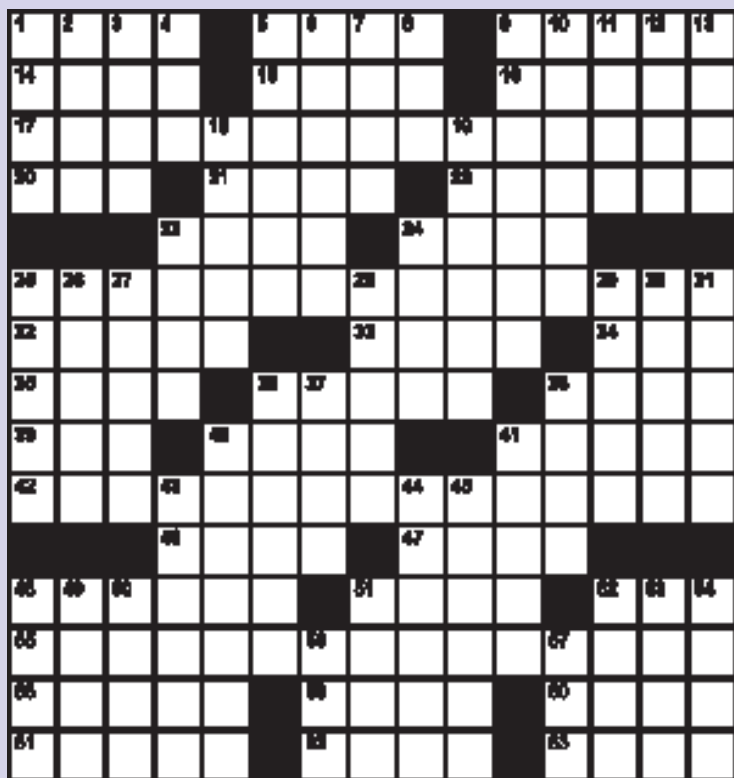
ACROSS

- 1 Gelling agent in some foods
- 5 Ready
- 9 Amtrak's bullet train
- 14 Picnic beverage, perhaps
- 15 British blueblood
- 16 Matronly title
- 17 Nursery rhyme fixture's protrusion?
- 20 Tokyo, once
- 21 "Marching ___ war"
- 22 Does a stock clerk's job
- 23 Portico in Athens
- 24 Spahn teammate Johnny
- 25 Hard-to-miss salad alternative?
- 32 Par ___ (airmail label)
- 33 Zeno's home
- 34 Heavy wts.
- 35 Glissando instrument
- 36 Watch sounds
- 38 Plant pouches
- 39 Concert ending?
- 40 Actress Rowlands
- 41 Walk proudly
- 42 American icons on the lookout?

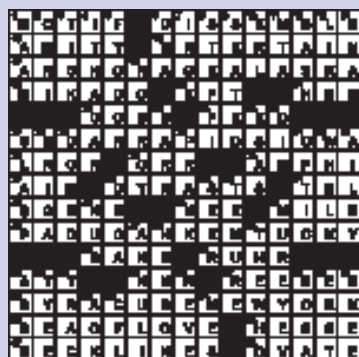
DOWN

- 46 Dolphin's cousin
- 47 Unaccounted for, on base
- 48 Martin of "Crimes and Misdemeanors"
- 51 "Believe ___ not!"
- 52 Maj.'s superior
- 55 Police informer's pocket problem?
- 58 Packing heat
- 59 Of two minds
- 60 ___ upswing (rising)
- 61 "Jerusalem Delivered" poet
- 62 Teetotalers
- 63 Scuttlebutt
- 1 High point
- 2 Kind of book or will
- 3 Type of sax
- 4 Cheer-leader's cry
- 5 Individual
- 6 Motley
- 7 Suffix with switch
- 8 Middle East org.
- 9 Kafka novel
- 10 Log homes
- 11 PTA concern
- 12 Hobbling
- 13 Sound boosters
- 18 Dine at home
- 19 Parking lot spots
- 23 Obey a red light
- 24 Mope
- 25 Sir, in India
- 26 Ex-Mrs. Trump
- 27 Alpine region
- 28 Model-airplane sticker, e.g.
- 29 Japanese port
- 30 Not edited
- 31 Attention-getting sounds
- 36 China item
- 37 Actress Swenson
- 38 Airplane with short runway requirements, briefly
- 40 First name in TV talk
- 41 Despire
- 43 Some extinct birds
- 44 Diner, e.g.
- 45 Reacts to a matinee idol, perhaps
- 48 Future DA's exam
- 49 Gillette brand name
- 50 Nice handles?
- 51 Composer Stravinsky
- 52 Mass. neighbor
- 53 Norwegian saint
- 54 Carson follower
- 56 "___ be my pleasure!"
- 57 ___ polloi

"YARDBIRD SONGS" By Frank Virzi



PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE

By: Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com



What is the criterion?

Is there today a new criterion for winning or losing a war? In the case of the American occupation of Iraq, or war in Iraq as some prefer to call it, many opinions expose great sorrow at the failures of the United States. Does the United States consider their actions an adventure or is this only the view of the interested politicians, analysts and others, while for the U.S.A. it is something else.

The adventure-criterion includes time as a factor in winning or losing that adventure. Accordingly, those who consider the U.S. occupation of Iraq as a failure justify themselves by saying that four years have passed without establishing a new stable, democratic Iraq. The U.S.A. is stuck there since militants daily murder soldiers of the American or allied forces.

What America has lost in Iraq has been considered extremely costly, having a clearly negative impact upon the economy. They actually claim that current estimations as to US losses of 25000 soldiers, 25 warplanes, 5000 armored cars and \$400 billion, are in fact far less than the reality. The reality is that it is a great loss. So let us therefore consider it as an adventure. But both parties involved must be taken into account in order to find out who are the winners and the losers.

The equation becomes clearer if we make a comparison between the losses and gains of both sides. When

we consider that America has now spent four years in Iraq, it is fair to say that "Iraq has been being occupied by the U.S.A. and allied forces for four years".

This clearly shows who is paying the cost of these four years out of the invaders or the invaded. Who are the ones living in a state of fear, hunger, imprisonment, and death-threats? Is it the oppressed Iraqi nation, or the armed American forces? Of course, the Iraqi nation is the loser.

The announced number of American soldiers killed in Iraq to date is 25000, although as already stated, it is considered that you could multiply this figure by two, three or even four. Undoubtedly, the loss of such lives is always taken in to consideration when invading any country or becoming involved in any war.

But does this number equal the number of the Iraqis killed in Iraq since the beginning of the invasion? The answer is of course no, according to human rights reports, the number of Iraqis killed reaches 750000. The killed soldiers came to Iraq ready for fighting, and are therefore to some degree ready for death. They do not, however, make any distinction between the armed militants, women, old people and others. Is it fair now to say that America has failed in this adventure?

The \$400 billion spent since occupying Iraq is a colossal amount.

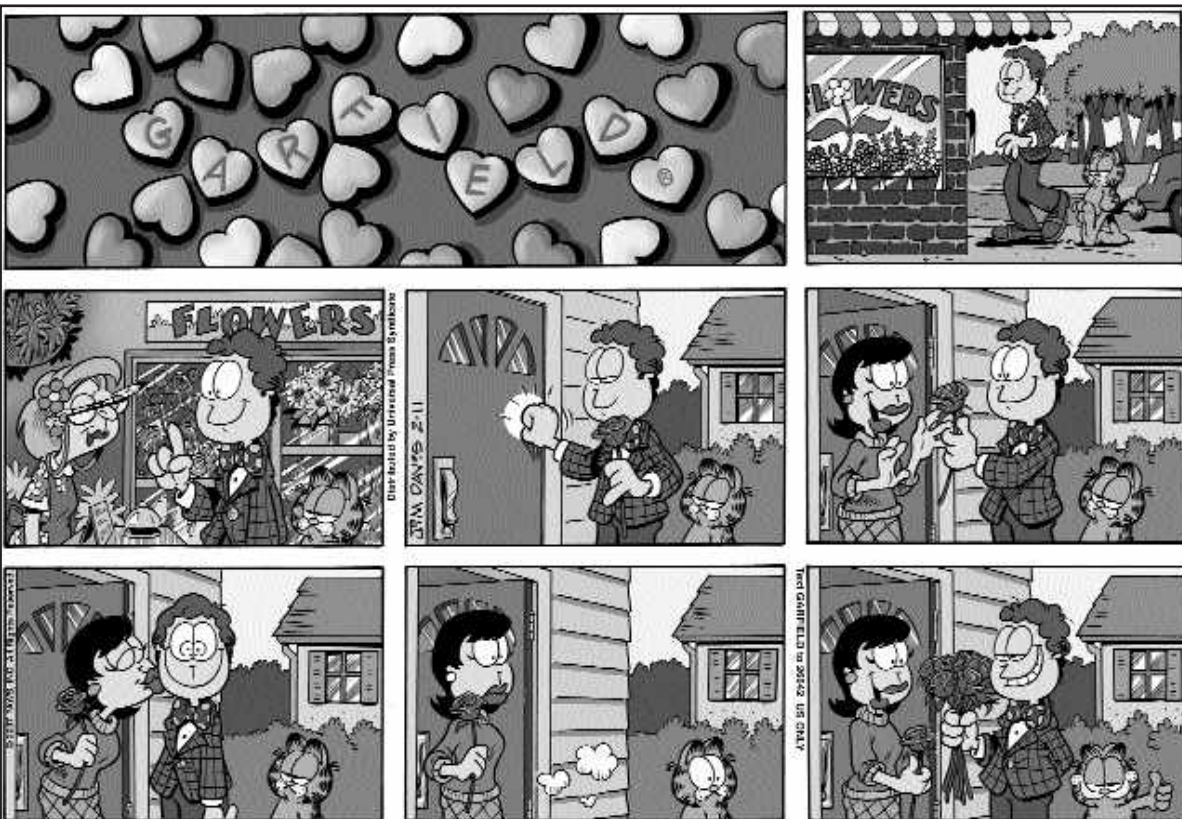
Let us consider it further. First of all, that money is paid by other countries, a fact which, I think, nobody ignores. Where then is the oil in Iraq? Is it sold for the nation's sake? Can anybody prove that? The money is paid by other countries, while the interests go only to the U.S.A.'s pocket. America gains without any loss, whereas Iraq loses without any gain. Which player then is the loser and which one is the winner in this adventure? Or, rather, this war?

Forget all of this for a moment. Let us look at the matter from another point of view. The U.S.A. considered Iraq as a threat. It was a source of power in the Middle East, and this was against American interests in the Gulf and the Middle East region. Compare that with the present situation.

Saddam is no more, Iraq is no longer in a threatening position, and subsequently, the U.S.A. has nothing to fear. So, who won that adventure? Iraq; which has nothing more than its name, or the United States of America which is dominating the whole area with its power, soaking up the oil of Iraq and other countries, and merely observing the conflicts being fought among sects or countries.

By what criterion can we consider America has failed in Iraq? The answer is best given not by the war-criterion, or adventure-criterion, but it is easy to be taken through the criterion of the mind's eye.

Maged Thabet Al-kholidy is a 26 year old writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz Uni An ex-editor of Eng. Journal of the Uni. (maged_thabet@hotmail.com)



Little Giant: The largest clock ever constructed in the world

By: Sa'eed Al-Batati
albatati88@yahoo.com

He's a real go-getter, a high-flyer and nationalist through and through. Born in Mukalla in 1971, Hani Mohammed Bajalla is passionately in love with his birthplace and praises it a lot. "When

you're on a long trip and then you return to her, your heart immediately dances in eagerness. And why shouldn't it, when nature is within her and she is tranquility, peace, love and compassion?" he said.

Since he was young, the idea of honoring Mukalla with a recognizable landmark has been in the forefront of Bajalla's mind "Don't you think this

beautiful city deserves all esteem and gratitude? Mukalla is where I was born and raised within her quarters. Today is a time of thankfulness and appreciation."

While surfing the internet, Bajalla finally found the best gift to return the city's esteemed favor. "While I was looking at the giant magnetized clock of Big Ben, a number of thoughts struck my mind. Why not build a clock like this in Mukalla to be one of the city's most famous landmarks in addition to Khour Al-Quwaizi Fort" he added, commenting on the early stage of the project. After a short discussion with himself, he made up his mind to honor the city with a clock.

This clock is designed to be a lighted clock 60 meters in diameter, thus exceeding the world's current largest clock in Tehran. Mukalla's clock will list the city in the Guinness Book of World Records as hosting the largest clock in the world.

Having received an electrical engineering diploma from Aden's Industrial Technical Institute in 1991, the 36-year-old father of a son and two daughters rolled up his sleeves and consulted his professors at Hadramout University, as well as his colleagues.

Bajalla said he chose his monument to be a clock because in the past, Yemenis in general and Hadramis in particular succeeded in business and their calling from Allah when they utilized every moment in life. "It's a beautiful gesture to the people to pay attention to time so as no single moment is shed in vain and to make use of every single valuable moment in our lives," he added.

At first, he decided to design a small, lighted clock "because I knew very well that designing a large clock was a complicated task requiring much effort." He



Bajalla: "Mukalla is where I was born and raised within her quarters. Today is a time of thankfulness and appreciation."

later discovered that he had the ability to make the small clock larger. "Ideas breed other ideas. The persistent thought of building the clock led me to design the world's largest clock, which I think will make Mukalla stand out among Yemen's cities."

For Bajalla, every project has an aim, and whenever that aim is noble and its purpose great, the inconveniences disappear.

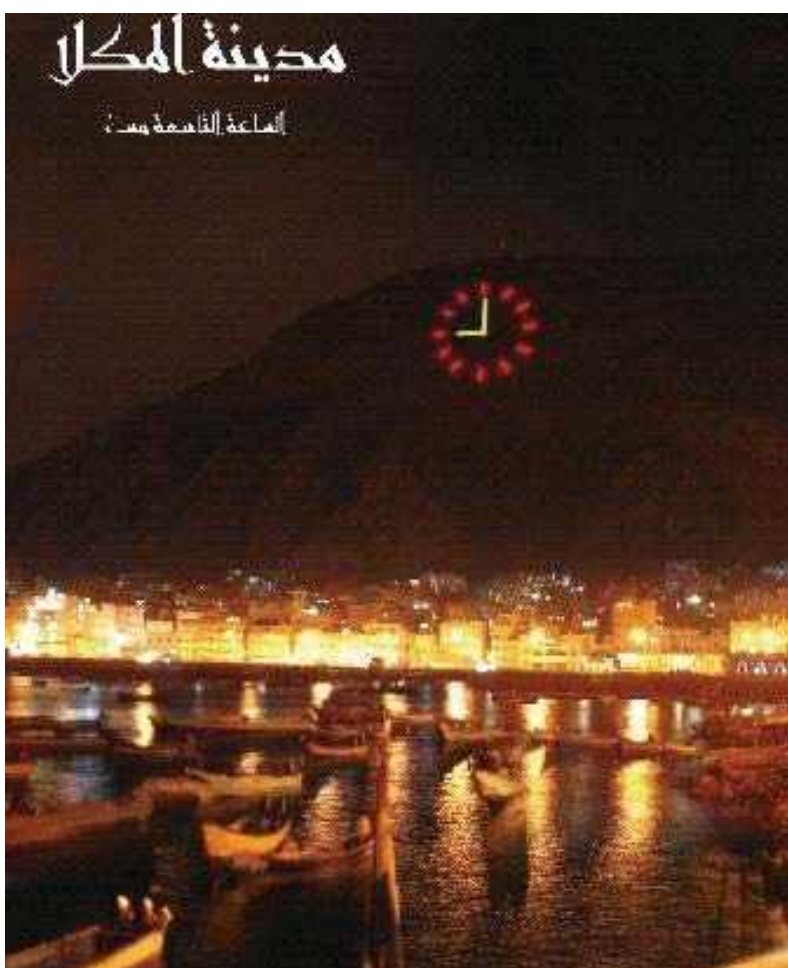
Regarding the importance of his project to the city, "Mukalla is a beautiful city and the clock will make it more beautiful. When people from every corner of the planet hear that the world's largest clock was installed in a Yemeni city called Mukalla, they'll come to Yemen, which will jump-start tourism,"

he said, adding that it will be located atop the city's highest point so as to be visible to all of its people, visitors, those coming from the sea and fishermen working in the evening.

After much hard work and many sleepless nights thinking about how to make the clock, Bajalla wrote a 200-page research document on it. Not waiting for the clock's birth, the overachieving engineer chose to name the clock "Little Giant," noting that he has hidden reasons for choosing that name.

His in-depth study contains four chapters, each with circumstantial information regarding the project from the idea's origin to modern technological developments.

Continued on page 7



Bajalla imagines the clock to be located quite visible atop the mountain overlooking the sea so that fishermen may see it from wherever they are.

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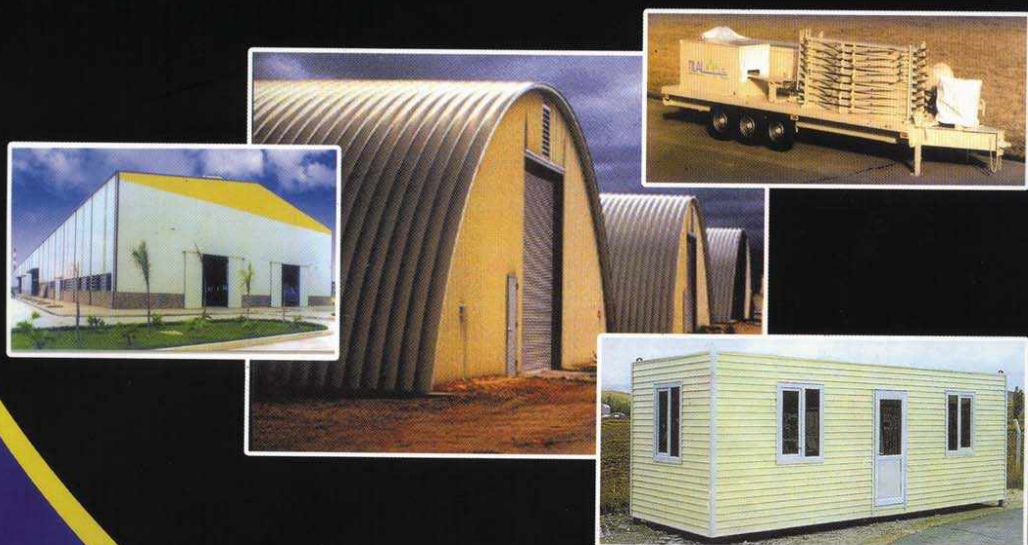
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