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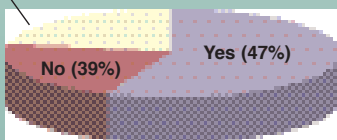
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 Nouria Naji: Nothing is too difficult to the willing

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Do you think the grant given to Yemen by USA is a reward for its role in the African Horn?

I don't know (14%)



This edition's question:

Do you expect the ongoing clashes in Sa'ada to cause more casualties compared to the 2004 clashes?

- Yes
- No
- I Don't know

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

Family-Businesses concerned over Corporate Governance

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf

SANA'A, Feb. 21 — The first family business conference was inaugurated Wednesday under the auspices of Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal.

Gathering more than 250 local and regional businessmen, the conference is the first of its kind in Yemen and a milestone in the development of family businesses in Yemen. Participants will discuss topics concerning corporate governance, organizational structures and family businesses, as well as opportunities and threats family businesses face in this part of the world.

In his opening address, Bajammal stated that Yemen's economy relies heavily upon the role family businesses play in providing employment and driving growth. He called on first-generation entrepreneurs to be wise, make sound business decisions and learn from the experiences of other family businesses that collapsed in past decades.

He also called on the younger generation of managers to work hard, strive for excellence in an increasingly globalized world and work for the betterment of their countries and societies.

Taking place in Sana'a over two days, Feb. 21 and 22, conference participants are expected to come up with several working papers and recommendations that are bound to help family businesses continue playing a significant role in their countries, despite the challenges ahead.

See page 8 for more information on the conference.



Bajammal lecturing the crowd, drawing on lessons from history on how business families rise and fall.

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Refugee death toll tops 100 in drowning incident



After a deadly voyage across the Gulf of Aden, the bodies of smuggled Somalis and Ethiopians wash up on a Yemeni beach.

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Feb. 21 — More than 100 migrants' bodies have been recovered so far and at least five people are still missing in the latest drowning incident that occurred last week, according to an official at the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees office in Yemen. "We're still looking for any survivors or bodies," UNHCR field specialist Ouad Baobid affirmed.

The U.N. refugee agency in Yemen confirmed last Thursday that 107 bodies so far have been found along a remote stretch of Yemeni coastline after one of four boats approaching the coastline capsized far from shore on Monday, Feb. 12.

From witness accounts, the agency reported that the capsized smuggler's boat was carrying 120 Somali and Ethiopian refugees. After it overturned, a second smuggling vessel, also carrying 120, forced all of its passengers into the sea, picked up the smugglers from the capsized vessel and headed

back into the Gulf of Aden, stranding the 240 refugees on the high seas.

Survivors said they were in the water for several hours before being rescued by the Yemeni military. A military official said rescue efforts were very difficult because victims were drifting at least half a kilometer off the coast. "From the two other smuggling boats that approached Yemen that Monday, a total of 235 people made it ashore safely," UNHCR said.

According to UNHCR, the 107 bodies have been buried. "We're trying to identify the dead by photographing them and asking survivors to provide us more information on their identities. We record this information and then bury them on the beach according to Islamic rules," Baobid noted.

Previously, only 30 were believed to have died; however, after obtaining more information from survivors, U.N. officials realized the death toll was far higher — and the circumstances more cruel.

Continued on page 3

Air strikes continue in Sa'ada with hundreds of victims

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Feb. 21 — Yemeni air forces have continued targeting Al-Houthi followers' hideouts on various fronts in Sa'ada. After fierce confrontations with government forces Monday evening, Houthis managed to recover two sites government forces occupied earlier. According to reliable tribal sources, Monday's confrontations left 15 military personnel dead and 20 others injured, while Houthis losses weren't recorded due to lack of communications and a media blackout.

Confrontations also continued in Bani Mua'ath, Al-Safra'a and Al-Salem and there is information about clashes in some Khawlan, areas such as Juma't Bani Bahr, Wald Nawar in Maran and the areas of Al-Ashraf and Al-Malazem.

Moreover, the government still is using mortars to attack Al-Houthi hideouts in Al-Samma' and Al-Thurh, with numerous shells falling near a girls' school in Al-Ja'malah area.

The same sources revealed that a majority of Sa'ada areas have turned into a scene of war and closed military operations. Mortar attacks resulted in destroying dozens of homes in Al-Ashah and Al-Khafji. Further, the area of Al-Ablah witnessed clashes between the army and Al-Houthi rebels, with unknown numbers of victims on both sides.

Attempting to escape the random bombardment, many villages and areas have witnessed mass family evacuations to nearby mountains, with hundreds heading toward Sana'a and other governorates.

Continued on page 3

Haier **هاير**
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 ش التحرير ٢٥٣١٧٩، الشيخ عثمان-مركز عدن الدولي ٣٨٩٢٩٧
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In brief

DHAMAR
Locals lash out at JMP
Feb. 20 — Citizens in Dhamar governorate released a statement Monday criticizing the attitude of Joint Meeting Parties toward the Sa'ada fighting.

DHALE
Locals investigated over Sa'ada events
Feb. 20 — The Political Security in Al-Dhale' governorate summoned three locals from Damt District and investigated them over the most recent clashes between the army and Al-Houthi followers in Sa'ada.

IBB
Armed militias attack citizens
Feb. 20 — The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD, reported that armed militias, backed by military vehicles, attacked Al-Ja'ashen citizens, thus blocking the road leading to the district, which is controlled by Sheikh Mohammed Ahmad Mansour.

MAHWEET
Child killed, policemen injured in shootout
Feb. 20 — A 13-year-old boy was shot dead while two policemen were injured along with a woman in an exchange of fire with a Mahweet local, who blocked the highway leading to Sana'a and prevented cars from driving thus causing a traffic jam.

SANA'A
JMP condemns Sa'ada clashes
Feb. 19 — The Joint Meeting Parties strongly condemned the renewed armed confrontations in the northern Yemeni province of Sa'ada where Shiite rebels str engaged in guerrilla wars.

IFJ helps YJS
Feb. 20 — The International Federation of Journalists approved to help the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate strengthen its performance.

TAIZ
Police demolish citizen's home
Feb. 20 — Security forces demolished a citizen's home while the family members were inside, thus fatally injuring an aged woman.

Cultural cooperation agreement
Feb. 20 — Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture on Tuesday signed a cultural and technical cooperation agreement with Juma'a Al-Majed Center for Culture and Heritage in the United Arab Emirates.

Islah Party prepares for General Conference

SANA'A, Feb. 20 — The Islah Party, which is the biggest opposition force in Yemen, made the final arrangements for its Fourth General Conference.

The preparatory committee members including Sheikh Al-Dube'i and Najeeb Ghanem spoke about the final touches for the conference scheduled to start next week. They confirmed the conference is expected to be attended by 4,000 members of with 15 percent from the women sectors.

The conference is due to discuss the decision of the Chairman of the Islah Party's Higher Authority regarding performance of the party-affiliated institutions over the last time period. Attendees are due to elect the Higher Authority Chairman, his deputy, the Judicial Authority Chairman and the Shoura Council members, who number up to 130 according to the party's

bylaw.

The party plans to conduct neutral and highly competitive elections in conformity with a mechanism allowing equal opportunity to the party members to make bids for such posts. Party officials declared that the votes will be counted via a sophisticated electronic program.

Al-Dube'i and Ghanem affirmed that there is no amendments to the party's bylaw, adding the conference is due to see electing a new younger leadership for the party.

With regard to the security arrangements, the two officials revealed the Islah Party leadership coordinated with the Interior Ministry. They revealed that the party arranges for the Fourth Conference in a better way, taking all the precautions to prevent reoccurrence of the previous conference's

tragedy, which is the assassination of Jarallah Omar.

The conference is due to include electing new women leaders to enhance their role and increase their political representation to be better than that of the previous years. Strengthening female political representation is part of the Islah platform and tops its agenda.

In addition, the conference is expected to discuss various public issues, mainly the result of the most recent presidential and local elections.

The opposition party plans to take decisions and recommendations regarding these elections and then shape its moves and activities for the coming time period. The party is insisting on continuing the peaceful struggle until implementing the comprehensive national reform project.

Ethiopian community to build a church in Sana'a

SANA'A, Feb. 20 — The Ethiopian President's visit to Yemen has resulted in an agreement to grant Ethiopians a large piece of land to build a cemetery, a school and a small church.

In statement to Yemen Times, an employee at the Ethiopian Embassy confirmed the news declaring, "Yemen promised to grant the Ethiopian community a plot of land to be exploited as a cemetery and a school for Orthodox Ethiopians." However, he insinuated that he knew nothing about building a church in Sana'a.

He added, "Ethiopia granted the Yemeni Community in Addis Ababa a plot of land equal to 20 thousand square meters to build a school and

headquarters for the Yemeni community there. So we wish we can receive a similar place in the middle of Sana'a in return."

Ethiopian Community is one of the largest foreign communities in Yemen and most of its members are Muslims. Ethiopian Christians [Orthodox, Protestant, and Catholic] suffer a lot especially when one of them dies. They need to send his coffin to Ethiopia to be buried there. Thus, they are in need for a small piece of land to be used as a cemetery.

Further, Orthodox Ethiopians use the Ethiopian Cultural Center as a church to perform their prayers while other sects perform their rituals at home.

France increases funding to Yemen by fourfold

SANA'A, Feb. 20 — The French government announced Monday that it will increase by fourfold the support it pledged to Yemen at last November's London Donors Conference.

The declaration was made by French Cooperation and Development Minister Brigitte Girardin during a Monday meeting in Paris with Yemen's ambassador to France, Amir Al-Aidarous.

Both diplomats discussed the ties of mutual cooperation between the two countries, the means of developing bilateral relations and aspects of French support for Yemen's development. Girardin emphasized that her government cares about developing and enhancing its ties with Yemen, as well as increasing funds for Yemeni development projects.

In a statement to Yemen's Saba News Agency following the meeting, Al-Aidarous said the French government's decision to increase its support to Yemen fourfold is the fruit of successful discussions between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his French counterpart during the president's visit to Paris last November.

The Yemeni envoy clarified that Yemeni-French cooperation ties are experiencing rapid development and are due to become stronger and deeper in coming days thanks to the interest and enthusiasm of both leaders to make their nations prosper in various political, economic, trade and investment areas.

Al-Aidarous announced that Girardin will make an official visit to Yemen March 6-8 to meet with Yemeni

ministers and officials in concerned organizations. She also plans to discuss with them the means of developing bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

He pointed out that Girardin is due to sign an agreement with Yemeni officials regarding increasing by fourfold the French government's support for Yemeni development during her impending visit. Additionally, she's expected to ink other agreements to fund several new development projects in Yemen.

The Yemeni ambassador further revealed that the French Agency for International Development will open an office in Sana'a with the aim of increasing its support for Yemen and developing areas of cooperation between the two friendly nations.

He indicated that the agency has vast financial resources and several offices in French-speaking countries. In the recent past, it has exercised activities in Yemen via its office in the Horn of Africa.

In a statement to 26September.net, Yemeni Minister of Planning and International Development Abdul Kareem Al-Arhabi noted, "During her two-day visit, the French cooperation and development minister is expected to sign an agreement of partnership between Yemen and France for the period 2007 to 2011."

Al-Arhabi added that Girardin will discuss with the Yemeni government the top areas of priority regarding funding needs within the next five years. He noted that current French funding for Yemen may amount to \$8 million.

Government: Enhancing woman's role

SANA'A, Feb. 20 — The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor a consultative meeting for woman's administrations in ministries, government and NGOs.

The meeting aimed at building capacities of working woman's development administrations and enhancing noble work and social justice.

During the meeting, Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Amat Al-Razaq Hummad stressed the importance of focusing on working woman's development administrations within the program of building and supporting the institutional capacities and enhancing the roles of the working women in all aspects.

Hummad added the dialogue is important and it brings about contact and coordination together with



Leading women are rarely honored for their roles

distinctive product. She also emphasized that women should

receive good work opportunities.

For her part, deputy head of the Women National Committee Huriah Mashhour assured Yemeni woman has achieved numerous successes under the government and international organization's support, particularly International Labor Organization and Dutch government.

The last year's support aimed to achieve the project as for improving and developing working woman's situation. She also stressed the importance of coordination between all parties involved in order to support woman's issues.

Leading women in charitable acts were honored during the celebration including Ateqa Al-Shami and Dr. Zainab Lalji who encouraged Yemeni women and managed to achieve numerous successes under difficult and harsh circumstances.



The Development of Women has become a priority

Mother faces death penalty defending her honor

By: Fatima Al-Ajel

SANA'A Feb. 21 — Lima, a mother of five children was arrested in Abyan governorate three years ago, accused of murder.

The accused, who lives in Al-Mahefed district was arrested in the central jail three years ago because she killed her brother in law after he tried to molest her in her house. The accuser admitted the crime, saying that she acted in self-defense. According to Al-shoura net, the husband of the accuser had divorced her after the crime, although she informed him that the killed had been bothering her and many times he had tried to molest her, but still the husband didn't do or say anything.

The accused was put in the jail with her 40- days old baby old, and she faces the death penalty according to the first instance as decided by Ja'ar court.

The lawyer of Lima, Ishraq Al-Maqatri, an activist and manager of the advocacy and legal protection for

women's rights project initiated by Oxfam-GB, says that her sentence was decided far too hastily. The sentence was declared immediately after she was admitted.

The lawyer of Lima commented that Lima was not the murderer, and that there were other elements involved in this case. She was forced to admit the crime as a result of social stress and pressure. Also, martial law and the lack of any legal culture, especially among women, were the primary reasons that pushed her to confess. Lima's case is not a normal case; she was forced by her husband and family to admit the crime. They convinced her that she would not be accused or killed if she admitted to it, because of their misplaced belief that "a woman is never charged with death sentence as would a man."

Al-Maqatri stated that there is sufficient evidence to prove the innocence of the accused which could secure her freedom. Such supporting factors include the disappearance of the crimi-

nal tools and the fast interring the corpse without a postmortem examination having been performed on it. Additionally, the gun with which she said she killed the victim and the envelope of the bullet were hidden by some one who might in fact be the real murderer. Unfortunately, the court didn't take these things in to consideration.

Yasiman Al-Sabri, a member of the OXFAM organization, commented that new information related to the case has also come to light but that we have to wait until the next cessation before everything might become clear.

Al-Maqatri has called all human rights organizations and those interested in human rights to support Lima, who is a victim in so many ways. This way, evidence can be gathered and her innocence proven. Lima is still in jail with her baby, and has been incarcerated there for three years now. Her husband refuses to let her kids see their mother. Unless she receives an innocent verdict then she will have suffered a gross social misjustice.

Hayel & Apollo to run Yemen's biggest hospital

TAIZ, Feb. 21 — The Hayel Saeed Group of Companies and the Indian Apollo Medical Group signed an agreement in the Indian city of Hyderabad to run the General Medical Complex in Taiz, which was previously administrated by the Hayel Group. The complex is considered the largest medical institution in Yemen. It was constructed by world consultative construction firms.

Shawki Ahmad Hayel, member of

the Hayel group, said the total cost of the hospital, due to be opened in September 2007, exceeds \$25 million, its area is 150 thousand square feet and it will be equipped with 200 beds.

He confirmed that the group is committed to offering distinctive medical services to compete with the biggest Arab hospitals. The medical institution will be supplied with the most modern medical equipment, and experienced and skilled staff and adminis-

trators.

One of the hospital's aims is to be able to conduct highly complicated operations and help patients avoid any of the great costs associated with travelling abroad for treatment.

With regard to the agreement, Hayel said, "The aim is to improve the quality of medical service in the hospital via the help of specialized firms with good experience in managing medical institutions".

Democratic reforms in Arab world evaluated

ADEN, Feb. 21 — Human Rights Information and the Training Center organized a symposium on Tuesday to evaluate democratic reform programs in the Arab world. More than 40 participants interested in human rights and democratic systems from across the Arab World attended the symposium.

Many papers were presented during the symposium and they considered the hurdles and challenges before political reform can be achieved in the Arab world and the Gulf. The Palestinian issue was also discussed.

The symposium also addressed issues relating to social, economic and political conflicts which hampered democratic transformation in the Arab countries. The participants linked these conflicts with political powers such as the US wanting to create the world according to its own wishes and further wanting all judicial, educational, economic, political, etc systems to respond directly to its own interests and monopoly.

They further stressed that other parties such as the European Union, governing families and public forces also have a role to play in such conflicts.

At the conclusion of the symposium, the participants asked the Arab governments to adopt democracy and enable all factions of society to participate and further to commit to constitutions and laws giving greater margins to press freedom.

Egyptian journalist Huida Hafez from Al-Khabar Newspaper pointed out that the papers were valuable; he also added, however, that democracy in the

Arab world is currently no more than slogans.

Hafez further noted that civil society organizations go to great lengths to make progress and to make changes to Arab and international legislation, maintaining that these organizations defend human rights and freedoms.

For her part, Syrian Farah Al-Omari, who works for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the symposium was indeed useful although it lacked discussions between participants. She also noted that democracy mingles with both religion and the state in the Arab world resulting in racism and sectarianism.

She went on to say that civil society organizations should work together to consider all human rights issues and stressed the importance of institutionalism and neutrality in their work.

Human rights activists Ahmed Shams Addin, a Lebanese national, noted that there should be a survey on human rights in Arab countries in order to evaluate their levels and discover the required solutions. He also stressed the importance of building people's understanding in order to help build the nation.

Bahraini Fatma Fayrouz from the Female Future Association highlighted the democratic experience in her country, which was initiated by political reforms and the constitution issued in 2002. Other reforms included setting political prisoners free and adopting rights and freedoms, together with granting women the right to involve themselves more in political work.

Continued from page 1

Refugee death toll tops 100 in drowning incident

Sadat Mohammed, an official at the Somali Community in Sana'a, suggested that the Yemeni Coast Guard is responsible for the recent increased number of deaths of migrants making the perilous journey across the sea, alleging that as a result of increased security measures and patrols along the Yemeni coast, smugglers are taking new and more hazardous sea routes to Yemen.

"Some survivors said they saw a Yemeni military helicopter flying above them and then 13 military ships attempted to surround the smuggling boats, which forced the smugglers to get rid of the passengers by throwing them into the sea," he recounted.

UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond told reporters at a Friday press briefing in Geneva that the Somalis said they had fled during and following the end of recent hostilities between government

forces and the Islamic Courts Union. "Many said they were exposed to gunfire by militias and had their money and belongings stolen at checkpoints manned by the same militia," however, he didn't define these militias.

Some refugees at Kharaz Camp, Lahj governorate, said they were searched at arrival points by some Yemeni security forces, who took their money and property. "Bad elements can be found in any organization. In these cases, we talk with the involved authorities to investigate those elements in an attempt to avoid such incidents in the future," Baobid commented.

In recent months, UNHCR has reported cases of migrants being savagely beaten to death and thrown overboard by club-wielding smugglers simply for requesting drinking water. However, Monday's event was one the deadliest single incidents in an exodus that has

brought more than 27,000 refugees across the Gulf of Aden in the past year, UNHCR says. Some 330 migrants have died on the crossing to Yemen and another 300 are still missing.

According to 2006 UNHCR statistics, there are 95,909 African refugees in Yemen, the vast majority of whom – more than 91,000 – are Somalis.

"Every year, thousands of people cross the Gulf of Aden, the Mediterranean and other waters, fleeing persecution in their own countries or searching for better economic opportunities. UNHCR consistently has tried to promote international and local action to combat vicious smuggling practices and focus more attention on conditions in the countries of origin, which lead people to leave in the first place. Despite these efforts, the number of people leaving their homes hasn't decreased," Redmond concluded.

Air strikes continue in Sa'ada with hundreds of victims

Most Sa'ada schools have stopped teaching due to the armed confrontations and attacks, which have continued throughout the past week and up until the writing of this report, despite the deadline announced by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, which ended last Monday.

According to Aleshteraki.net, army forces began wide-ranging offenses last Monday on all fronts where Al-Houthi rebels exist, using all traditional weapons, together with fighters, including MiG 29, Sukhoy, helicopters, mortars, missiles and tanks.

The battles extended to Al-Naqah in Kittaf district, which is near the Yemeni-Saudi border, and Harf Sufian in Amran governorate. Fierce clashes also are occurring in Sahar's Al-Jamalah, Al-Shabakah, Muthab and Al-Mahter.

Other information indicates that fighters have been hovering over Sa'ada, Dhahian and Al-Hamzat since Monday morning and that official parties haven't issued any statement about their human or military losses until now.

At a meeting with the Yemeni Scholars Association last Monday, President Saleh accused Al-Houthi rebels of implementing a foreign and regional plot at the risk of Yemen's national interests. He maintained that investigations of some arrested Houthis reveal that they are implementing foreign plots to settle accounts with other parties.

Saleh also renewed his rejection of their acts, declaring that Yemenis will fight them. He added that their behavior reveals the extent of outdated racism and terrorism to which they reached and further reveals that they don't believe in democracy or freedom.

He urged the association chairman and members to educate citizens about what's going on in Sa'ada under Al-Houthis in order to prevent sedition and sectarianism from being incited in Yemeni society, which serve nothing except other parties' interests.

He further considered Al-Houthi followers targeting armed forces as criminal acts going against Yemeni law and constitution. He didn't imply any indica-

tion of pacification or a search for a peaceful solution; rather, he simply confined his remarks to describing them as renegades.

President Saleh said his meeting with the scholars was within a continuing string of meetings with constitutional institutions, including Parliament, the Shoura Council and political parties and organizations to inform them about the developments of sedition so that they will take up their national and religious responsibilities. He added that scholars should join hands and unite their efforts to stand against such straying and distorted schools of thought.

Several scholars described as close to the authority made a statement the following day, requesting the state to put down the sedition ignited by terrorist elements in Sa'ada, maintain security and protect society and its interests.

They further stressed that Yemeni society shouldn't dispense with all things that divide people and weaken their unity and warned that reliving sectarianism will incur problems and tragedies for the Islamic nation.

In related news, media sources reported that extremist groups from Aden-Abyan Army, whose number wasn't defined, have headed to Sa'ada governorate to join military units in their war against Al-Houthi rebels. This was timed with the official military's mobilizing address, which calls for fighting Al-Houthis.

Shoura.net quoted local sources in Abyan as saying that Salafi groups were transferred from Abyan to Sa'ada last Monday to fight with government forces.

The same sources also revealed that groups belonging to Hittat Jihadists, headed by Khalid Abdunabi – coincidentally, groups which fought the army within past years – also have joined army forces after being prompted by an inciting address against Shi'ites in Abyan's mosques.

Sources referred to last Friday's sermon in Zingibar's Al-Toumisi Mosque, wherein the preacher called Shi'ite followers "disbelievers," along with those who support Hezbollah and its leader,

Hassan Nasrallah.

Adopting a blasphemous address against Shi'ites, many government institutions, armed forces and security leaderships, together with the local authority in Sa'ada, last Friday called upon all citizens there – whom they described as nationalists – to fight Al-Houthis.

Additionally, the Ministry of Endowments officially announced that it has distributed more than 300 preachers throughout all Yemeni governorates, including Sa'ada, to eliminate the Houthi sedition. Their sermons focus on blaspheming the 12th Shi'ite and warn about their risks. Minister of Endowments Hamoud Obad accused unnamed Shi'ite nations and institutions of supporting Houthis, noting that Yemen is being subjected to a vast conspiracy.

Abyan's Forum for Reconciliation and Tolerance last Tuesday denounced what it called the authority's racial and inciting address against major components of civil society.

Published via Shoura.net, the statement assured that "Abyan's Forum rejects using force to face public demands." It also pointed out that it denounces the authority's address, which describes Houthis as a terrorist group.

The Joint Meeting Parties renewed their denunciation of the new upsurge in confrontations between the army and Houthis in Sa'ada. In a statement distributed Tuesday, they also declared their complete readiness to participate in stopping the war and its sorrowful consequences.

They also called upon the Yemeni government and concerned authorities to use all legal and judicial measures to handle security issues. They further denounced politicizing such security issues, calling for treating the consequences ensuing from political conflicts and respecting citizens' rights.

The parties also renewed their rejection of military action for issues related to political and national differences. They called on all to continue via peaceful struggle and maintained that Sa'ada's case is a national case concerning all Yemenis.

More jobs at the oil sector



H.E. Mahfoud Bahah has considerable experience in building human capital and personnel management.

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, Feb. 20 — At the lunch of the Human Resource Forum, Yemen's Oil Ministry announced its intention last Sunday to yemenize workforce within the local and foreign companies working in Yemeni oil and gas sectors to reach 90 percent during the current year 2007. It further announced it will dig up 55 new oil wells.

This comes within the framework of the ministry's plan to replace foreign workers with Yemeni ones especially in those posts where Yemenis can assume responsibility. It is also modeled after Yemeni political leadership's demands to replace foreigners by Yemenis in all sectors in order to decrease unemployment rates. The political leadership further demands that foreigners' help should not be sought only in case there are no Yemenis to perform the defined task.

Built on earlier replacement experiences especially in Education Ministry which proved to be successful enough, other Yemeni sectors were tempted to make similar replacement of foreigners in order to create more opportunities for

a large number of graduates and youth who are looking for jobs.

The lunch was attended by Vice President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi who expressed his happiness over attending the forum and maintained Yemen does depend on oil revenues to run development wheel in the country and further fight unemployment and alleviate poverty.

Haddi also assured the political leadership provides all necessary facilitations and guarantees, together with required care and security atmosphere in order to bring investments into this important sector.

He further stressed the importance of qualifying Yemeni workforces to fit into labor market and asked the Oil Ministry to commit itself to transparency in its dealings with local and foreign companies engaged in oil and gas sectors.

He maintained that there should be coordination between Oil Ministry, Social Affairs Ministry and companies in order to avoid any ensuing problems.

For his part, Minister of Oil Khalid Mahfouz Bahah delivered speech in which he announced his ministry will

excavate 55 oil wells during this year and further assured they will increase the percent of Yemeni workforce within foreign companies to 90 percent.

Bahah further declared his ministry would announce the fourth round of bidding for maritime sectors after it had finished contracting measures with companies who won the bidding during the third round of competition.

"We started a five-year ambitious strategy during 2006 and it has started to bring about positive results and we expect to achieve further successes over the coming period," noted Bahah.

The forum is to discuss a paper by Oil Ministry on the Optimal Method for Yemenization of Work Force in World Oil Companies working in Yemen and another paper by UNDP and relates to World Recruiting Program. Further Canadian Nexen Company presented two papers dealing with Field Trainer and the second one on Training Program and Developing Yemeni Talents. Total and Yemeni Company for Natural Oil and Safer Companies also presented papers relating to skills developing and building future talents.

Information Technology Specialist
Small Enterprise Development Fund (SEDF)

Education:

University Degree in IT (Information Technology – Software Engineering).

Background and Experience:

- At least 3 years of experience in IT (software development and information systems management);
- Basic knowledge of Network administration;
- Database administration (Oracle, MS Access, Foxpro) and implementation and administration of Microsoft Office software;
- Good experience in "Oracle" and "Oracle Developer 2000" (form builder 6i, report builder 6i);
- Good command of English ;
- Knowledge of banking operations and basic accounting knowledge will be an asset.

Special / Personal Abilities

- Capability and willingness to take responsibility and highly developed sense of rectitude;
- Be a good trainer, facilitator, mentor, and coach;
- Very good communication skills;
- Ability to deal with multiple tasks and to work under pressure;
- Hard working, also in the afternoons/evening.

Main tasks:

- Implementing of new MIS;
- Archiving data and databases in regular terms;
- Solving user related problems (help desk tech. support)
- Developing interfaces with other systems;
- Generating system reports e.g. MIS reports;
- Delivering IT related training to SEDF employees;
- Relationship management with external programmers;
- And other responsibilities which may occur.

Job Location:

Mostly based in Sana'a and office-bound. Some traveling to visit branches or attend conventions/seminars.

Candidates should send their applications with C.V. attached (mentioning the expected salary) within ten days to the H.O., e-mail hrdept@sedfyemen.com or fax. No. 01-500474. The recruitment process will take place as soon as possible.

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Peaceful minds at the 'House of Peace'

By: Glyn Goffin

Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Marwani plants a kiss on Ahmed Hussein Al-Kulaibi's forehead and following a fatherly embrace, Al-Kulaibi proudly walks down the road toward his village in his clean suit adorned with a Dar Al-Salaam pin.

Only a month ago, the 19-year-old Al-Kulaibi became the youngest volunteer in the Dar Al-Salaam family. He walked into the anti-gun and anti-revenge office in Sana'a wanting to see an end to the tribal conflict that's claiming the lives of his family members.

The conflict involving his Al-Haddah tribe near Dhamar is older than Al-Kulaibi. The 24 years of revenge fighting took his father's life 12 years ago and during the recent year of escalating violence, his uncle was killed.

"Now he will see that the organization can end these conflicts," says Sheikh Al-Marwani, chairman of Dar Al-Salaam, an organization attempting to spread the "culture of tolerance and combat revenge."

Meaning house of peace, Dar Al-Salaam formed in 1997 to bring a message of tolerance and Al-Marwani personally brings that message to warring tribes who want his assistance to end conflicts.

Dar Al-Salaam signs are at check posts along most Yemeni roads and its logo adorns water bottles; however, despite its symbol's visibility, the peaceful organization battles to get its message into traditional tribal life.

On this day, Al-Marwani is one of six men traveling and dressed in a suit. He's taking a trip to the gun market in Dhamar and has meetings planned between conflicting tribes.



A brand new British rifle is one shop's prize piece.

Al-Kulaibi is dropped off and walks off to visit his sick mother. He's returning to his village for the first time since joining Dar Al-Salaam and it's his first time showing off the pin with the bold red line through a handgun.

Al-Kulaibi receives the first embrace of the day from Al-Marwani, but there are plenty more to come for the sheikh as he's about to enter tribal areas where he

once was at home, but now finds those with a different, less peaceful, mentality.

A sheikh in sheep's clothing

Entering the Dhamar gun market, Al-Marwani walks with purpose. He walks by the fish sellers, light shops and past the hammam, leading his group of well-dressed men into the heart of the gun market.

Standing in the center of the small square, Al-Marwani is surrounded by shops filled with guns. Some are new guns and some are old, with prices hovering around \$250 for a standard Kalashnikov. A couple of shops are able to one-up the Russian bloc arms by bringing out a brand new British rifle while another shows off its American Colt rifle. Handguns hang at the back of the shops.

All of these weapons don't seem to intimidate Al-Marwani as he takes this opportunity to embrace the gathering crowd.

Out of his pocket come Dar Al-Salaam pins, which become the must-have item in the center of a square filled with Yemen's must-have guns. The pins will come and go in the market, but the guns will remain.

"People believe they must have arms," Al-Marwani says, leaving the market, "For men, arms are like gold to the ladies."

When the sheikh was only 10, he learned a lesson that put him on the peaceful path. He was playing with a grenade, similar to those available this day in the Dhamar market, and the experience brought on his peaceful thinking. He joined the army, became an officer and got a firsthand look at how small disputes grow large. In an attempt to end such disputes while they were still small, Al-Marwani became a lawyer.

Now, as a sheikh, he walks a fine line between law and leader. In the market, Al-Marwani and the other Dar Al-Salaam representatives are the only men in suits. However, that changes as he leaves. The lawyer becomes a sheikh as he prepares for meetings with local warring sheikhs by changing into a crisp white thobe and putting on his jambiyya.

A governor and a sheikh

Al-Marwani is trying to find a final solution to a conflict between Dhamar's Garadon and Anis tribes. Upon entering Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah Al-Anisi Hamoud's home is the time for Dar Al-Salaam to bring peace.

Al-Marwani sits comfortably at the end of the mafraj and greets all who enter the room. Those he knows are embraced and there is time for everyone, but there's one guest he's waiting for today – the deputy governor. He needs to have the government involved. Dar Al-Salaam wants to move conflict resolution from the barrel of a gun into legal channels.

"People have to be more patient and people have to be more wise," Al-Marwani says, now beginning to chew qat with the 25 other men in the mafraj.

There are two local police officers, each with rifles, and they are two of the only men meeting with the anti-gun group who have arms.

In the meeting with the deputy governor, Al-Marwani gets the word he's hoping for – the government will support whatever verdict he can obtain from the tribes because it also wants to see an end to the conflict.



A father and son set up shop in Dhamar to sell their \$250 Kalashnikovs and YR50 bullets.

A look at tomorrow

These conflicts keep Dar Al-Salaam busy today, but it is seeking ways to teach tolerance to a new generation.

Having young Al-Kulaibi walk into the office shows Al-Marwani that there's a change coming. He's one young man the group would like to send abroad for training, as it looks for youth who can represent Yemen and the organization.

"He's honest and trustworthy. We're teaching him to believe in other people and understand other religions," Al-Marwani explains, "We are training him as a son in our family."

Another member of the team lost his brother and sister seven years ago in a tribal conflict. These are the types of people the group is trying to reach with exhibitions, classes and theater workshops, as these youth represent the new generation of peace activists.

Not long ago, Al-Marwani met a young man heading in the opposite direction. He was on his way to Iraq and he thought that journey would take him to paradise, so Al-Marwani used Islam as a tool.

"I told him, 'You'll miss the way if you go that way,' and I showed him that this was the right way to bring about change," he explains, adding that he uses the Qur'an to show that "conflicts don't fit in Islam."

It was just one gun that didn't get used to kill the innocent, yet it helps Al-

Marwani in his goal to make Yemen more secure.

Timeline to peace

"In Yemen, it's important to stop people from having guns," he says, "We have to start the process."

There are guns in many hands right now, but it's the hands of the two sheikhs near Dhamar that have Al-Marwani's attention this day.

Sheikh Hamoud, who is from the Anis tribe, invited Dar Al-Salaam to try to resolve the dispute with Garadon tribe. Only weeks ago, Hamoud's life was attacked, so at the end of the day, he gives Al-Marwani only two choices: Dar Al-Salaam must get the Sana'a government involved so the offending party will be arrested or else Hamoud will "take action."

"It's shameful if he can't defend himself," Al-Marwani notes, but he's happy Hamoud is giving him an opportunity to resolve the conflict peacefully.

Dar Al-Salaam will attempt to meet with government leaders, as well as write letters to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Ministry of Interior, but it will need more time.

According to Al-Marwani, sheikhs provide a challenge to peaceful negotiation because they only care about dignity, not the law; however, he will do whatever he can to end such conflicts.



Many Yemenis take great pride in their weaponry, regardless of their social status and education.

Announcement

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Yemen Port Authority (Port Of Aden) intends to announce for the above tender.

The tender document is available to bidding companies at a cost of US\$ 150.00

Quotations are to be submitted **On Wednesday 4th April 2007**

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- Technical support for budget elaboration and monitoring
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Personal skills

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Sana'a, Yemen

Women need to be men to occupy leadership roles

By: Suad al-Qdassy

Women in Yemen still occupy second place compared to men and despite that indicators point out big improvement in women's educational levels as well as health circumstances, but these changes have not been translated into genuine participation in various walks of public life.

The UN Program on Human Development mentions that women in Yemen occupy a proportion of less than 1 percent of parliament seats and form just 15 percent of the workforce in the economic area. These figures are considered quite low compared with other countries in the world.

Yemen has endorsed international conventions related to human rights and children's rights, but it is obvious that efforts for changing the situation of women and children were not realized to the extent required for equality in the existing structures.

Factors impeding women's participation in the democratic process can be summarized into three major factors: social categorization, economic factors, and legislative and institutional factors.

The social and cultural attitudes and values are communicated through social categorization and this process is established via family and other establishments. For example, educational systems and the media play an active role similar to that of the family in the formation of social values and traditions. By discussing the

social factors hindering the evolving of women and their participation, it is important to discuss the composition structure of the family.

The family status occupies a central role and forms an effective channel for communicating social, ethical, cultural and religious values. As those relations grow within the family, these relations are considered domineering and pyramidal in general- the scientists working on understanding the family structure usually point to it masculine. This patriarchal structure is there with the pyramidal authority governed by men. No doubt, the fatherly system contradicts democracy and the woman's full and equal participation as it does not allow them to take decisions in harmony with their needs and desires. And within the boundary of this structure is raised the girl who later becomes a woman to learn her roles and responsibilities as marginalized, having no qualifications and not being able to make decisions.

The family is distinguished by the fatherly system does not give opportunity to democratic thinking and works for strengthening the secondary situation of females. Since her early years the girl learns within the frame of the family that her role is confined to certain recognized limits whereas the boy discovers that his role is expanding within the frame of society. In addition it is expected from the girl to behave according to a defined style in a manner preserving honor of the family, as well as obeying her male relatives and respecting the social traditions. Despite that there are an increasing number of girls enrolled in educational

institutions and are not necessarily encouraged to continue their education until they reach the function suitable to their capabilities, skills and knowledge.

Reaching the resources and controlling them leaves effective impact on the women's participation in the democratic process and in case the woman obtained an opportunity to access to resources and control them that will enable her to use the resources effectively to enhance their participation in politics and economy. In reality we find fathers, husbands and males in the family are basically the decision-makers. They chose on behalf of the women the type of job and they decide whether to accept or refuse it. They are responsible financially and in managing the human and financial resources and to run them. This actually works on reducing the women's options in the process of choosing the job that is suitable to their desire and tendencies. They also play the role to deprive women of controlling their financial resources they acquire through work or inheritance. This is to be considered one of the factors impeding the active participation of women in the political field as the women are forced to spend a longer time on the activities related to their reproductive roles and the time devoted to that is much more than their attendance of meetings and discussion of policies or to supervise on economic, cultural, social and political acts.

Here it is inevitable for a change in the general structure and the developmental frame as well as the

general policies with the aim of dealing with the individuals as citizens possessing equal rights and responsibilities. The concept of citizenship requires direct and legal relationship between the individual and the state. This relationship should be the one working according to commitments and has rights capable of enhancement according to what the legal processes define through approaching the vital issues such as the status of the family in the social fabric and the extent that enables the existing formations they want to attain in the modern political system and an analysis that deeper regarding the huge challenges, as well as dangers or the resistance that are confronting attempts of women's equality and their incorporation in the public life. The analysis also aims at casting light on the way of understanding the ways and means with which different groups are recognized. This enables activists of development and citizens working with them to make those right and participation a fait accompli matter.

And hence it is for a state considered among the emerging democracies like Yemen. This program based on people, individuals and their citizens is considered an essential matter in the effecting of positive change with regard to affiliation to a group or society where the rights exist and where responsibilities are imposed at equal footing regardless of their gender. Tribal, sectarian, religious and zonal affiliation, as well other recognized divisions.

Source www.shamsannews.net

COMMON SENSE

The witch hunt is on or Arabia Infelix

“Who would have thought that in the age of the Internet, global communications, democracy and all that jargon that makes up the world of the age of globalization, a government can still turn a whole province into one giant prison?” Farid had a problem trying to figure out how to reach his brother, who just got to Sa'ada last week.

“What is eating you Farid, you are neither from Sa'ada or a Zeidi?” asked Hashim.

“Why must Sa'ada go through so many trials and tribulations, because its people insist on praying with their hands on the sides rather than on the chest? I pray with my hands on my chest, but from now on I will pray with my hands on the sides, just to let the Government know that for all intents and purposes, the good Moslems of Yemen of all sectoral inclinations, really don't care how the people of Sa'ada pray, as long as they are praying to the same God.

One would think that God, in all his Mercy, would never condone sending bombers and helicopter gunships against the very citizens of the same country, who pray to the very same God and send their prayers and blessings for the peace of the Prophet Mohammed (PAUH). I went to the bank to try to send funds to my brother in Sa'ada, who is treating his wife in the Al-Salam Hospital donated by the Government of Saudi Arabia, because the medical equipment and facilities his wife's treatment needs are only available in that hospital. I was immediately put to the grind mill: ‘Who is this money for?’, ‘What business do you have with the Houthis?’, ‘From which embassy did you get this money?’ etc. It is like the Government has been afflicted with a new form of fear syndrome called the Houthiphobia.

No one knows exactly how it started. Even the Government could not come up with the proper diagnosis of the illness. But there it is you see it in every public telephone office, post office or even bank in Sana'a, where now you have to submit to all sorts of q's and a's, that would make Riz Khan of Al-Jazeera (formerly of CNN) seem like child play: ‘Who are you calling?’, ‘Why?’, ‘What is your ID number?’, ‘We have never seen such questions in all the past senseless or even half-way understandably sensible wars that the poor Yemeni people have been forced to endure?’ Farid was expressing the feelings of many of the people, who have now been forced to encounter more obstacles to their free movement or even free communications.

I can't even make a cell phone call to Sa'ada to find out how my brother's wife is doing, who also happens to be my wife's cousin. The sad part is that no matter how hard you try to explain to the authorities the predicament my brother is in, without any money or even the ability to hitch a ride back to Sa'ada, you only get deaf ears and a suspicious face.

Commercial traffic is stopped, public busses are only occasionally allowed to go through, but with their passengers subject to the worst humiliation along the road. What is this country coming to? Farid was really getting worried about his brother, while at the same time striking a sympathetic chord for the people of Sa'ada.

“This will probably be over with soon, as the image of Yemen would seriously be damaged throughout the world, if this barbarity in Sa'ada continues. Amnesty International and other international peace and human rights activists groups are already sounding out their appeals to the President to order a full stop to this senseless killing and put on full throttle to these strenuous security absurdities even for the most minor of normal transactions.” Hashim was sounding hopeful.

“It seems like the people of the country will never get to see the light of day again. Just think for a week now, my brother is in Sa'ada without any funds to provide for his needs there, since he had only expected to stay for a couple of days before the military brass cut off all traffic to and from Sa'ada. What is worse is we can't even find out how he is and where he is staying.” Farid underscored what the situation in Sa'ada has meant for him and his family, all of which originates from Ta'ez.

He continued: “What is worse is that there is no telling when it will end? The people of Sa'ada are unable to tell us, because they say they never wanted any hassles with the Government. The Government is trying to convince us that there is a rebellion there, but it is hard to determine how a rebellion can really be effective, from three hundred miles away, from the plush government offices of Sana'a?”

Hashim added his new perspective: “Look this is damaging to the image of the Government inside the country as well, as there are now a lot of disappointed people like you throughout the country, who haven't the slightest idea who the Houthis are, or where the latter place their hands when they stand in prayer.”

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Banks for poor can improve lives drastically

By: Faruq Loqman

News sources reported that Bahrain took procedures to establish the first bank for the poor in the Arab world. It added that the Bahraini Minister of Social Development Fatima Al-Belaishi signed a memorandum of understanding with Mohamed Younis, founder of Jaramin Bank for the Poor in Bangladesh, with the aim of providing experts to establish a financial institution similar to the

famous bank, but under the name of ‘Family Bank.’

It is known that the Professor of Economics Younis won the Noble Peace Prize last year in recognition of his peaceful thinking and noble intent, according to 7 million customers of the bank.

The word Jaramin means ‘a village’ because the bank's activities are meant for residents of rural areas. In my first essay about the bank in the 1980s, I described it the ‘Penniless Bank.’ This is not faulty because poverty is no sin as

much as it is a difficult test requiring people to pursue all the possible efforts to persevere through it and restore the smile to the lips of widows and orphans. More than once, I called for establishing similar banks in the country to be like that of Jaramin. I provided readers, who telephoned me, with the necessary information regarding this kind of financial institution. I don't want to repeat this here, as people can get the information from the Internet about one of the most important and useful financial projects in the developing

world.

I hoped that Yemen be the first country to establish several similar banks since it is in need of such banks. If Younis has benefited 7 million families up until now, we can imagine the interest due to be earned by half or one-fourth the number in Yemen.

Bahrain took a good initiative when it contacted Younis urging him to help it and provide it with some of Jaramin Bank's experts to establish the Family Bank. In Yemen, we are in need of more than an important bank to serve the widows, at first, and the penniless people, who don't spend their loans on qat, cigarette and drugs. Rather they spend the money on productive instruments as Jaramin Bank does, i.e. spending the money on equipment for sewing, cooking and washing machines. In addition, Jaramin Bank provides seeds for agricultural lands. There are hundreds of projects, which can be funded by a similar bank, extending from Aden to Shabwa, Ibb, Baihan, Mahweet and other parts of Yemen.

During my most recent visit to Yemen, I was happy to meet a trade firm representative, who asked me to inform him about Jaramin Bank, and how to contact the bank to obtain some basic information. We would contact Jaramin Bank and become the first founders of a bank of this kind irrespective of its name.

The process began with providing loans, which has never exceeded one thousand Takas, the local currency with a value not less than an Indian or Pakistani Rupee. Step by step, the number of customers has exceeded 7 million, most of whom are women whose husbands abandoned them, along with their children. They don't have a breadwinner and live in huts without water and

electricity. These women found something humanitarian in Younis, which has never happened in the history of Bangladesh, and people of other countries who told Younis that millions of widows and spinsters have benefited from the project.

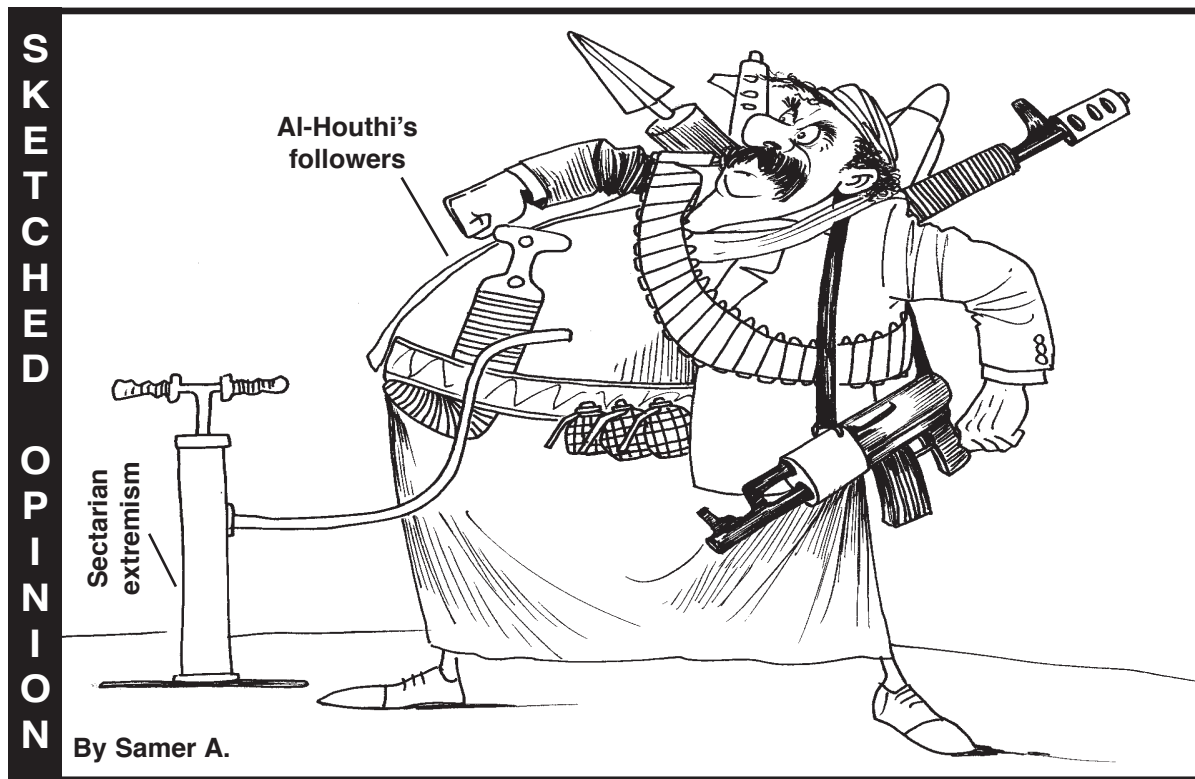
It is encouraging to see a woman take a loan and invest an equivalent of \$100. Thanks to her patience and determination, she sustained her children and bought them clean clothes. Women who took loans proved to be better than men in repaying the bank. When the penniless men saw this, they took loans and paid the bank back immediately and this made the paid debts exceed 96 percent of the overall debts.

For potential investors who fear loss, we are pleased to tell them that the total

revenues of Jaramin Bank amount to 5 billion Takas, its interest to billion Takas and its workers number up to 10 thousand. Similar banks have imitated Jaramin Bank in many countries worldwide.

In the coming weeks, Younis is due to send a team of Jaramin Bank's experts to specify the details of the bank and the loan mechanism. If the rich and relatively small Bahrain that annually welcomes four million tourists, most of whom are from Saudi Arabia, felt the need for establishing the ‘Family Bank’ or the Penniless Bank, what about the poorest and more populous Yemen, which is in an urgent need for such a bank?

Source: al-ayyam newspaper.



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Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

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Turkey between Europe and the Islamic World

Reciprocal influences, convoluted relations

The rapprochement of Turkey with the EU could have positive repercussions on European relations with the Arab-Islamic world, says Lebanese expert on Turkish Studies Muhammad Nouredine.

For four hundred years the Arab world was an integral part of the Ottoman Empire, and Arabs were the last ethnic group to demand independence from the Ottoman center. But after the First World War ended with the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, a dark chapter of tense relations began between Turkey and the Arab world.

The separation policy pursued by Atatürk under the motto "peace at home, peace in the world" also served to widen this chasm, even though relations were never characterized by hatred or animosity.

stand against the Communist eastern bloc. This included recognizing Israel and joining NATO, as well as other pro-Western alliances, such as the Baghdad Pact, in particular.

Turkey's Middle East foreign policy developed along the lines of its contractual commitments with Western states and Israel. This gave rise to mistrust and tensions, and at times even led to armed conflicts between Arabs and Turks. At the end of 1998 war almost broke out between Syria and Israel.

New political orientation
In 2002 dramatic change came when

new ruling party became apparent with its pursuit of greater rapprochement with Iran, its strengthening of economic relations with the Arab Gulf states, its contacts with Islamic forces in Palestine, as well as with the restructuring of its relations with Syria, which surpassed even the most optimistic expectations.

Yet this change in Turkey's foreign policy did not negatively affect its relationships with the West and the EU, in particular. Today, for the first time in modern history Turkey maintains good relations with every state in the region and in the world.

This can be attributed not only to the will of the "Justice and Development Party" leaders. The current international situation after the party's decisive win at the polls, which enabled it to govern alone, and its accurate interpretation of the ensuing changes played a significant role in reorienting Turkey's foreign policy.

Arab mistrust of secularism

No one will dispute that Islamic Turkey's secularism was also a divisive factor, which provided even more fuel to the mistrust of the Islamic and Arab world.

King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia's visit to Turkey in August 2006 was thus the first one by a Saudi king for over 50 years – an unusual state of affairs for two Islamic states that lie in such close geographical proximity.

The secular form of government in Turkey continues unchanged, and the Islamists of the "Party for Justice and Development" affirm day after day that they intend to adhere to it. Yet the result of the new image of Turkey in the era of Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his fellow party members is that Muslims view the interests of Turkey in obtaining membership in the EU more positively than ever.

Some even say that it is also in the interests of the Arab states.

Complex relations

The influence of Turkish-European relations on the EU and its presence in the Middle East cannot be viewed solely from a single standpoint, for this relationship is extremely complex.

It will also be determined by the extent to which the Turkish-European relationship will develop, and whether Turkey will be accepted into the EU as a member state, or if it will remain an ordinary relationship.

But relations could suffer a setback overall if Turkey is permanently excluded from the EU. In any case, it is undeniable that Turkey's rapprochement with the EU will have a positive effect on European relations with the Arab and Islamic world.

Alone the willingness of Christian Europe to admit Muslim Turkey would be a signal that Europe does not want to encounter the Islamic world on a religious basis. It could open a new chapter of good relations

between Muslims and Christians worldwide and create a real chance for dialogue and interaction between cultures and religions.

Breaking a historical taboo

Turkey is offering Europe and the world an opportunity to establish stability and peace. If Turkey fulfills the conditions for EU membership, then Europe, on its part, should be aware of the strategic significance that accepting an Islamic country into its ranks would have with regard to its relations with the Islamic world at large.

Turkey is breaking a historical taboo with its request for admission into a Christian community. Europe should respond with the guarantee of full membership if Turkey fulfills all the conditions that go with it.

This is the only way Europe can prove that it has freed itself from its history. Moreover, this step would help promote greater social stability between European societies and its Muslim immigrants.

Positive effects of membership

Turkey as a full member state of the EU and more European support of Turkey in the area of democracy as well as in civil and human rights would have a very positive effect on the future of the Islamic world.

They would observe a vital process, which could also offer solutions for many of the problems in the Islamic world, whether it be in dealing with religious, confessional, or ethnic minorities, fighting corruption, or minimizing class differences.

The existence of a "finished" Turkish model that shares similar circumstances with other Islamic and Arab countries represents a chance for them to profit from this experience without having to entirely imitate it. Seen this way, the EU has the most to gain, especially with regard to the linkage of "terror" and Islam and the call for democratization in the Middle East.

But the possible role model function of a Turkish model under a European umbrella also depends on the extent to which Turkey is able to preserve its Islamic identity and its unique cultural characteristics.

Turkey as a Muslim member of the EU would also be an additional key to strengthening economic relations between Europe and the Arab and Islamic world.

Arab-Israeli conflict as a factor

Nevertheless, one of the most decisive factors of whether Turkish-European relations will have a positive or negative effect on the Arab-Islamic world is the question of how the Arab-Israeli conflict further develops.

Good relations between Turkey and Europe will remain a utopia as long as the Arab-Israeli conflict, with European support for Israel's settlement policy, continues, and the West – with Europe as an integral part – becomes an accomplice as a result



Freezing of Syrian-Turkish relations? Syrian president Assad began the first-ever visit to Turkey by a Syrian head of state in January 2004.



Turkish-Arab estrangement began after WW II and the Baghdad Pact - from left to right: Mohammed Ali, Pakistan; Adnan Menderes, Turkey; Nuri Es-Said, Iraq; MacMillan, Britain; Hussein Ala, Iran.



The Turkish government has made a full membership in the EU a main foreign policy goal - foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah Gül in Brussels.



The new image of Turkey: Recep Tayyip Erdogan, leader of the Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party, AKP

Turkey kept as much of a distance from the Arabs as they did from the rest of the world - Atatürk never once traveled abroad.

Turkish-Arab estrangement began systematically – apart from the Iskenderun problem with Syria at the end of the 1930s – after the end of the Second World War when Turkey joined the Western camp and took a

the Islamic "Justice and Development Party" assumed the head of government. This party developed and pursued a new policy toward the Islamic world and distanced itself more from Israel, which gave it more opportunities than ever before to assert its presence and influence in Arab countries.

The Islamic orientation of Turkey's



Good relations between Turkey and Europe will remain a utopia as long as the Arab-Israeli conflict continues

of its inability to protect the Palestinian people.

Non-uniform EU foreign policy
In view of the current situation within the EU one cannot talk about the possible effects of Turkey's entry into the Union without taking into account the EU's foreign and defense policy. At present the EU does not pursue a homogeneous foreign policy. Instead, the policies of the individual member states conflict.

The divergent views with regard to Turkey and the American occupation of Iraq is clear proof. Up to now Arabs and Muslims have seen the EU act as a number of states in terms of foreign policy, not as a bloc, and this logically reduces the chances of a European rapprochement with Turkey.

Among the prerequisites for a positive interaction between Europe and Turkey as a member state on the one hand, and the Arab-Islamic world on the other, is an accepted uniform foreign and defense policy that is not directed against the interests of Arabs and Muslims. Otherwise Turkey's membership would be even more harmful than non-membership.

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Convoluted relations

Relations between Turkey and the Arab world, and Turkey and the EU are complex and cannot be predicted for the future as long as the situation between Turkey and the EU remains so convoluted.

Another major factor cannot be ignored, namely the policy of the United States with regard to international relations, the Middle East, Turkey, and Europe.

The turbulence in Turkish-European relations since 1963 also reflect the fact that this relationship is not only bilaterally determined.

Relations between Turkey, Europe, the Arab and Islamic world are convoluted and at times fragile, making it impossible to predict with much accuracy what the final picture might look like.

Muhammad Nouredine is editor-in-chief of the Lebanese journal *Schu'un al-Auswat* (Middle East Affairs) and scientific advisor to the "Center for Strategic Studies, Research and Documentation" in Beirut. Source: *Qantara.de* 2007.

Moscow and the Middle East

Iran's influence in the Middle East is being strengthened not only because of the opportunities created by the frustration of US power in Iraq, but because of the diplomatic protection it has been receiving from China, and most importantly, from Russia. With President Putin now on a Middle East tour to flex Russia's diplomatic muscles in the region, now is a good moment to assess his country's influence in the region.

Russia, by wielding the threat of its Security Council veto, spent much of the past two years whittling away the proposed list of sanctions that might be slapped on Iran for its refusal to honor its commitments to the International Atomic Energy Agency over its nuclear program. As a result, the sanctions that have been imposed by the UN Security Council are so tepid that they are unlikely to be effective.

Russia sees its relations with Iran as a means to leverage its influence in wider Middle East diplomacy, where

the US has successfully sought to exclude the Kremlin from influence since the end of the Cold War. Russia's other selfish aim has been to exempt from sanctions the Bushehr nuclear-reactor project it is building for Iran, and to ward off a UN-sponsored financial squeeze on Iran that might put at risk the profits Russia hopes to earn from providing nuclear fuel for the reactor, which is due to be commissioned late this year.

Russian President Vladimir Putin argues that Iran, unlike North Korea, has not expelled IAEA nuclear inspectors, quit the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or tested a weapon – so it should be dealt with gently.

But without making Iran weigh real costs against its nuclear plans,

Iran will have little reason to consider the suspension of uranium enrichment and plutonium dabbling (both are usable for nuclear fuel-making but abusable for bomb-making) that the Europeans and the United States have made a condition for serious negotiations to take place.

Russia trades heavily with Iran, which is another reason it is wary of sanctions on that country. But America has been leaning on foreign banks to curb their dealings with Iran. Last month, it added five companies (four in China, and another in the US but representing a Chinese outfit) to its list of those fingered for assisting Iran's weapons program and thus banned from doing business with American companies. There is a growing fear in Moscow that the US administration is now looking at Russian companies with similar ties to Iran and its nuclear ambitions.

Russian policy, based on immediate monetary gain and a hope of diplomatic influence, is dangerously short-sighted. (Ukraine, for its part, opted not to participate in building the Bushehr reactor.) If suspicions are correct that Iran has been secretly

learning how to build and trigger a nuclear device, and also to shape a missile cone to carry such a warhead (as well as publicly developing nuclear-capable, far-flying missiles), then once it has fully mastered uranium enrichment it will soon be poised to break out at short notice, from the NPT's limits. By enfeebling diplomacy, Russia is taking the world into more dangerous territory.

This is doubly short-sighted as a nuclear armed Iran on Russia's border is not in Russia's national interest, particularly with Russia's own 20 million Muslim citizens becoming increasingly radicalized. Indeed, Russia's Muslim population is the only part of the Russian population that is growing, which means that Muslims will become a bigger and bigger factor in Russian domestic politics in the

decades ahead. That Iran is often seen as a principle backer of the Chechen separatists is also testimony to the truly short-sighted nature of Russian policy.

But in its quest to enhance its great power prestige today, Russia seems willing to sacrifice its long term security interests in the region for immediate diplomatic gratification. And it is doing so not only in respect to Iran. The big question about Turkmenistan today is whether the vacuum left by Niyazov/Turkmanbashi's death will allow Islamic extremism to spill over from neighbouring Iran and Afghanistan. But the only thing that Russia appears to be concerned about is that, whatever successor regime emerges, it is willing to do the Kremlin's bidding.

Russia has long had the upper hand in Turkmenistan. Most of Turkmenistan's gas is exported through the Russian pipeline system. Gazprom, the Russian state giant, buys gas at relatively low prices, and then

distributes it in Russia or sells it at a profit elsewhere in Europe.

Israel, like Turkey and the US, must be hoping that Turkmenistan's new rulers will seek to diversify gas distribution by adopting a project to build a gas pipeline beneath the Caspian Sea. But diversification is also needed in that country's politics, because the only opposition that has any strength in the country is worryingly Islamic fundamentalist.

Russia has had centuries of influence in the Middle East and Central Asia, much of which used to be incorporated in the Russian and Soviet empires. It could serve as a powerful force for good in the region, if it stops seeking short term advantage and begins to act in its own long term interests, which will best be served by a prosperous, non-nuclear armed Iran, and a far more open Turkmenistan.

Yuliya Tymoshenko, Ukraine's former Prime Minister, is currently Leader of the Opposition there. Source: *Project Syndicate*, 2007.



By: Yuliya Tymoshenko

The First regional Family-Business conference

Regional and local business experiences converse in Sana'a

Under the auspices of Prime Minister AbdulQader BaJammal, the first congress for family businesses was launched yesterday with the participation of over 200 local and regional businessmen, sharing their unique experiences in business and trade while exhibiting how family businesses can still survive and thrive in today's modern-age economy.

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf

The discourse on the affairs of family businesses in Yemen and in the region tackles a number of fundamental affairs that concern family business in the region in general and in Yemen in particular, and this conference comes just in time to discuss the particular problems and obstacles that face family businesses in the region, as well as the opportunities and growth prospects that are open for discovery and profitability.

Yemen Times has met with several participants who were present during the opening session of the conference, and asked them on several issues relating to the issue of family businesses in Yemen and in the region, including the realities of family businesses in Yemen and in the region and their impact and influence in the local markets and regional economy, and also how to tackle the problems faced within the family corporations leading into an introduction

growth.

YemenTimes has met with several participants including local and international businessmen, officials, academics, and experts in the area of business management, and asked them a few questions around their impressions, their thoughts and messages on the subject.

Mr. Ahmed Bazaraa, the Administrative director of the Yemeni Businessmen Club, stated that the collapse of family businesses is the direct result of internal disputes within family members, and it very important to plan succession within the family as well as the roles of different family members in order to avoid conflict within family businesses.

Inline with that notion, Prof. Nanda Gopal of the family Business Academy has indicated that the corporate governance system of any family business needs to be properly designed and implemented in order to decrease confrontations within a family business. Prof. Gopal also pointed at the sustainability problem of family businesses, he stated: "Family



Ahmed Bazaraa: We want to make this conference an annual event to exchange experiences

in the family business, especially as the second generation would be better able to detect the market trends and also in terms of bringing in new technology that might help the business become more competitive and more efficient and in turn more profitable. Al-Haidary elaborates that younger managers in a family business are not permitted to use their creativity in harvesting opportunities that have a great potential in boosting business



Prof. Nanda Gopal

growth and profitability. Taking a broader view on the regional level, Dr. Nasser Saedi, Executive Director of the corporate governance institute in Dubai has stated that the main difference between Yemeni family businesses and their counterpart in the region exist because of the difference in sophistication between the regulatory environment and the legislative framework in Yemen, he added that it is his recommendation to undertake some substantial reforms in the laws of Corporation and Enterprise which would eventually help family businesses develop through the separation of the roles of the Chief Executive



Dr. Nasser Saedi,

of the concept of corporate governance and the best governance practices in family businesses in the region.

The other sessions of the conference deal with the organization structure of family businesses and the unique roles played by certain members within the corporation, as well as the role of ethics and the trends of organizational behavior as examined in several parts of the region with several case studies presented. While considerable emphasis would be given to the factors critical for continuity and success for family businesses, especially as the theme of the conference was bonding, continuity and



AbdulRahman Al-Haidary

businesses account for at least 90% of the GDP in any country in the region however by the second generation only 30 percent of those remain, and less 11 percent for the 3rd generation, and hence, I look at this conference as an opportunity to come up with strategies or at least working papers in order to increase that percentage or surviving family businesses."

Mr. AbdulRahman Al-Haidari, General Manager of Al-Haidari Corporation, has indicated that there is a problem of empowerment within local family businesses, he says that in many cases the second generation of managers is deprived of the authority needed in order to make changes

One-on-one with Khalid Rajeh Sheikh, Minister of Trade and Industry

Would Joining the World Trade Organizations affect Family businesses in Yemen?

Most companies in the region and beyond are family businesses, and joining the WTO would not affect family businesses negatively. However, the concern is that a stock market might play a role in the dissolution of family businesses, as they enable partners to sell their shares in the stock market especially if the share value increases as such, and I think this conference is a great opportunity to discuss this issue and come up with strategies in order to help family businesses in Yemen deal with a stock market.

How capable are Yemeni companies in competing with multinationals in the domestic market?

It is true that Yemeni companies are less efficient, especially as their business has been focused on the



Khalid Rajeh Sheikh

domestic market which is still partly-open because of customs boundaries and regulations that limit trade. However, liberalizing the domestic market would put the companies in Yemen to the test in terms of competing with regional and multinational companies which may be more efficient. As a consequence, some companies would strive and grow; others would struggle to survive while some may become insolvent.

Officer and the Board of Directors, and potential reform the role of the Chief Financial Officer in family businesses in the region.

Building on that, Mr. Fathi AbdulWase'e, Deputy manager of Tadamun International Bank, has indicated that the problem of regulation is a problem of enforcement, stating that in the Yemeni business environment businessmen do not share the same sense of security because many investment laws are not practices, and many regulations that tackle criminal behavior in the business environment are simply not enforced. However, he adds, there is light at the end of the tunnel, Mr.

AbdulWase'e said that he is optimistic about the future, adding that there are nowadays more opportunities to trade overseas and internationally.

The Family Business Conference is a first of its kind, an assembly of businessmen who have a genuine desire to learn more about best practice and know the challenges laying ahead of their corporations, with over 250 local and international first-generation entrepreneurs and businessmen, this conference resembles an opportunity to accrete and grow in spite of the challenges that lie ahead family businesses in this part of the world.

Business in brief

Government to forbid qat plantations in Valleys

The cabinet has issued a decree forbidding qat plantations in valleys especially ones that suffer from severe water shortages that affect other agricultural products necessary for food security. The cabinet has named the Jahran Valley in Dhamar governorate and the Al-Boumar Valley in Amran governorate to be among the most at risk in terms of water shortages.

Ministry of Industry promote small-scale business

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is considering the establishment of an Association for Small-Scale enterprises in order to promote small businesses as an active player in the economy in terms of producing goods and services as well as providing employment.

Yemen and Turkey sign agreement on fisheries

Yemen and Turkey has signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the fisheries sector in order to enhance cooperation and exchange experiences in the fisheries sector, especially in the areas of fish farming and evaluation of fisheries stock as well as dealing with marine pollution.

JICA to fund technical training programs

Japanese delegation from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency is visiting Yemen in order to assess and fund the various technical and vocational training programs and schemes. Japan has committed itself to assist Yemen with technical training programs in order to develop the national industry and economy with skilled manpower.

Al-Samawi: Yemen has a sophisticated banking system

Governor of the Central Bank AbdulRahman Al-Samawi has indicated that the banking system in Yemen has developed tremendously over the past few years, and it has ranked the second most efficient system in the Arab region after Bahrain's banking system in 2006. He stated that while presenting a lecture in Taiz University on the banking system in Yemen.

National Bank of Yemen achieves record profits

The National Bank of Yemen has achieved a profit of YR 1.7 billion for the year 2006, with a growth of 30.2 percent compared to 2005, while its net worth has increased to YR 5.5 billion in 2006 compared to just over YR 4 billion in 2005. The National Bank has won the award of Best Banker in Yemen by The Banker magazine for 2006.

Yemenia launches pilot E-ticket program

Yemenia Yemen Airways will launch the E-ticketing system next week throughout its offices nation-wide, starting with a pilot experiment only issuing E-tickets on the domestic Sana'a-Aden route, with plans to implement the system on all routes before the end of the year.

Dying for Free Trade

By: Malcolm Cook

Last year was a bad one for free trade. The Doha Round was supposed to make agriculture the centerpiece of negotiations to assuage the deep frustrations of developing countries. But, instead of breathing life into free trade in food, rural protectionism in rich countries seems to have killed the Doha Round – and, with it, potentially the whole multilateral trading regime.

Agriculture has always presented the greatest challenge to free-trade doctrine and its promise of empowering the poor, for it is one of the most distorted areas of global trade. In 2004, OECD countries spent more than four times their official development aid budgets on support for domestic farmers. In 2000, the World Bank estimated that OECD agricultural protectionism cost the developing world \$20 billion in welfare losses annually. Most galling, agriculture is a small and declining part of these "rich club" economies, and the richer and larger they are, the less significant agriculture is and the more resources are wasted on rural welfare.

The practical challenge comes from agriculture's two advantages that insulate the rural sector from global market forces and turn even the most

urbane, liberal politicians into its defenders. First, farming is geographically concentrated and farmers vote on agricultural policy above everything else, greatly enhancing the power of their votes – something that few, if any, urban consumers do.

Second, protectionists have developed populist but logically questionable arguments that agricultural staples cannot be treated as tradable commodities subject to competition. Domestic farmers are portrayed as irreplaceable defenders of the social fabric and traditional values. On top of this, farming is presented as analogous to the military. Just as no government should outsource national security to untrustworthy foreigners, nor should any government permit the national food supply to rely on the supposed vagaries of foreign production.

We accept paying a high and inefficient cost for national defense against what are often unknown enemies. Agricultural protectionists, through the language of food security and food self-sufficiency, claim that the same holds true for food.

Japan has long been the paragon of rich-country agricultural protectionism. Its electoral system heavily favors rural voters. Farmers are well organized politically, and the

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) has been a fierce defender of agricultural protectionism. Food security arguments resonate well in Japan, owing to memories of shortages during World War II and its aftermath.

Ironically, Japan now offers a seed of hope for agricultural liberalization. The country's declining number of voters are lining up in favor of cheaper, imported food. Japan's demographic crisis is particularly acute in rural areas, where the average age of farmers is surpassing the retirement age. One enterprising village recently sold itself entirely to a waste disposal firm after it could no longer find any young people willing to return to bucolic bliss.

Despite decades of immense government support, Japan's rural sector cannot even aspire to feed its declining population. Food self-sufficiency in staple cereals now stands at 28% on a calorie supply basis, with no signs of growth. Farming, fishing, and forestry now account for less than 2% of the total economy and less than 4% of the workforce.

The rapid aging and decline of Japan's rural population is fundamentally shifting Japan's approach to food. The MAFF is wistfully abandoning the cherished goal of food autarky. Its latest strategic plan calls for a self-sufficiency ratio of

45% by 2015 and focuses instead on "securing the stability of food imports" through diversification and free-trade agreements. For decades, the MAFF's power meant that Japan's trading partners would not even contemplate free-trade discussions. Now the Japanese government, supporting the reformers at the MAFF, is using free-trade deals and negotiations with competitive exporters like Thailand and Australia to pursue agricultural consolidation.

Even more galling for the MAFF's traditionalists, their food security argument is being turned on its head. Leveraging Japan's inability to feed itself, trade negotiators now argue that Japan needs to open up to imports or face being shut out of global food markets by fast-growing giants like China. Deepening these fears, China's free-trade deals in Southeast Asia give agriculture priority. While the logic of this argument is shaky, it taps into deep Japanese concerns about China's rise.

The rich countries face a similar demographic challenge, while the rest of the world waits to see how their responses will reshape the global economy. Japan, due to its advanced demographic decline, is the bellwether, yet other traditional rural protectionists like France and South Korea are not far behind. France now has half the number of farmers it had 20 years ago.

That is good news for farmers and consumers around the world. Rich and aging countries may finally become promoters, rather than opponents, of free trade in food.

Malcolm Cook is a program director at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, Sydney, Australia. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007.

إعلان قضائي

تقدم إلى محكمة صيرة الابتدائية المدعي شاذاب محمد شفي عبدالكريم، بدعوى ضد المدعى عليه ورثة محسن فضل الحسين ناخوذا، رقم ١٤٦ لعام ١٤٢٥ هجرية. وقد حددت المحكمة جلسة يوم الأربعاء في شهر صفر لعام ١٤٢٨ هجرية الموافق ٢٠٠٧/٣/١٤ م ميعداً للنظر في الدعوى كون المدعى عليهم مجهولي العنوان.

القاضي / سلطنة محمد سيل

قاضي محكمة صيرة الابتدائية

Nouria Naji: Nothing is difficult for those who are willing

By: Nisreen Shadad

“My inspiration to bind myself to the poor and build the Yemeni Education and Relief Organization was Fatin Abu Bana, a little girl who couldn't go to school because her family was unable to provide her and her brothers with the needed school materials. She used to sell booklets for YR 15 each. Along with her little brother Ali, they struggle to help support their family,” states Nouria Naji, director of the Yemeni Education and Relief Organization, also known as YERO.

Her inspiration, Abu Bana, recalls, “I used to work when I was 6 years old. When I look at other girls living gleefully with their families, I pity my situation. The only question in my mind is why we're different. I have a father just as they have; however, he can't give to us as theirs can. As we get older, we leave this job because it's for children.

“Being a needy child doesn't affect my self-esteem. However, when knocking on car windows to sell my booklets, some drivers chide me, saying, ‘Don't make the window filthy!’ It hurts me a lot and I wonder at their behavior. Does money give man the right to behave in such a way?” she asks.

The bus from the Fight Child Begging Center often caught her and children like her. “I became well-known at that center because I was caught repeatedly. We would stay several days until someone from my family came to claim us. The last time was different, since the one who vouched for me and my little brother was [Nouria] Naji,” Abu Bana explains.



Nouria Naji displays the trainees' sincere efforts by proudly wearing a piece of their unique handiwork.

Naji affirms the possibility of making a difference in people's lives when they have peace in their minds. According to her, “We can create great people, if only a few give them the chance to be so.”

By affirming a love that depends on believing in others' rights, Naji established the center to teach children and provide them with the materials they need for school. The chance to go to school caused Abu Bana to have a complete range of emotions and conflicts, but she readily agreed because she had long hoped to carry a school bag and wear a school uniform one day. “I was satisfied with dreaming about carrying a school bag – I even dreamed about which type of bag I would carry!”

YERO provides children who are skipping school, begging or those who are actually poor with study materials such as books, notebooks, pens, school bags, etc. They come to the organization's office three times a week to receive help with their studies and do their homework. There's interest at all levels – from first to 12th grade and all subjects are taught.

The group also provides them basic food and clothing needs, especially in winter.

To enrich children's talents, YERO cares about teaching children drawing and taking pictures. “We now have 11 creative artists and an exhibit will be held Feb. 22,” Naji notes.

“In the summer, we take them to places like Dar Al-Hajar, the National Museum and the Military Museum,” she adds.

The organization also contains a sewing and needlework institute to train women in those things that are in-demand in their community. Such an institute empowers women, who suffer needlessly because of poverty, and makes them independent.

Naji explains, “We train the women in sewing and embroidery. We train

them in what's in-demand to empower them and make them independent. We also give them money as a form of encouragement. Marketing their products gives them the chance to be more independent. Today, there's a bazaar at our organization premises to present the women's works, with all profits going to them.”

Trainee Shafeeqa Al-Qadasi recounts, “I married when I was 17. I didn't receive any education. I lived with my husband happily for 12 years, but because I was barren, he decided to marry a second wife because he longed to have children. His marriage was a reawakening of sorts for me. It's certainly something I've known all along, but for some reason, was afraid to live by.

“I spent year after unfulfilled year, waiting for things to change, until I realized I'd have to take control of my life and be independent. What makes my life worse and unstable is my husband's situation. He's poor and since he now has six children by his second wife, he finds it difficult to support us both. I know he's still fond of me and I'm fond of him too; however, life is so difficult.

“Now I can sew dresses for children and consequently, I sell them and receive the profit. I also enrolled my husband's children at the center to study and receive the necessary school materials,” Al-Qadasi concludes.

The center also gives trainees YR 400 per week. “I use this money to buy medicine because I suffer from rheumatism and must have a vaccination every two weeks,” high school graduate Ameena Abdul Omar explains.

“My family forced me to stay home and not complete my studies due to the money required for university,” she adds.

There were 18 trainees, but now there are 23. Although YERO sees high demand, Naji limits the number in order to be able to educate the trainees well. The organization also supports numerous needy women to build their own simple business.

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“Being a needy child doesn't affect my self-esteem,” Fatin Abu Bana says.

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DECLARATION OF SINOHYDRO CORPORATION

HEREIN, WE SINOHYDRO CORPORATION DECLARE THAT THE NEWS (SANA'A BOY BULLDOZED INTO DEEP PIT) WHICH WAS PUBLISHED ON "YEMEN OBSERVER" AT THE DATE OF JAN.30TH 2007. SINCE THE REPORT CONTRAVENED AGAINST THE TRUTH AND HARMED REPUTATION OF OUR COMPANY, NOW, WE, SINOHYDRO CORPORATION, ANNOUNCE THE ABOVE MENTIONED NEWS IS WRONG AND FALSE.

SinoHydro Corporation of China would like to announce to the Yemeni Public that the news item published in the Yemen Observer Newspaper dated January 30th 2007 about a Sana'a boy bulldozed into deep pit is inaccurate and misleading. Therefore, SinoHydro would like to publish the real story that took place and the facts of the incident, adding that the Corporation has documented the procedure of dealing with the incident in following best-practice and world-class safety systems adopted by the company.

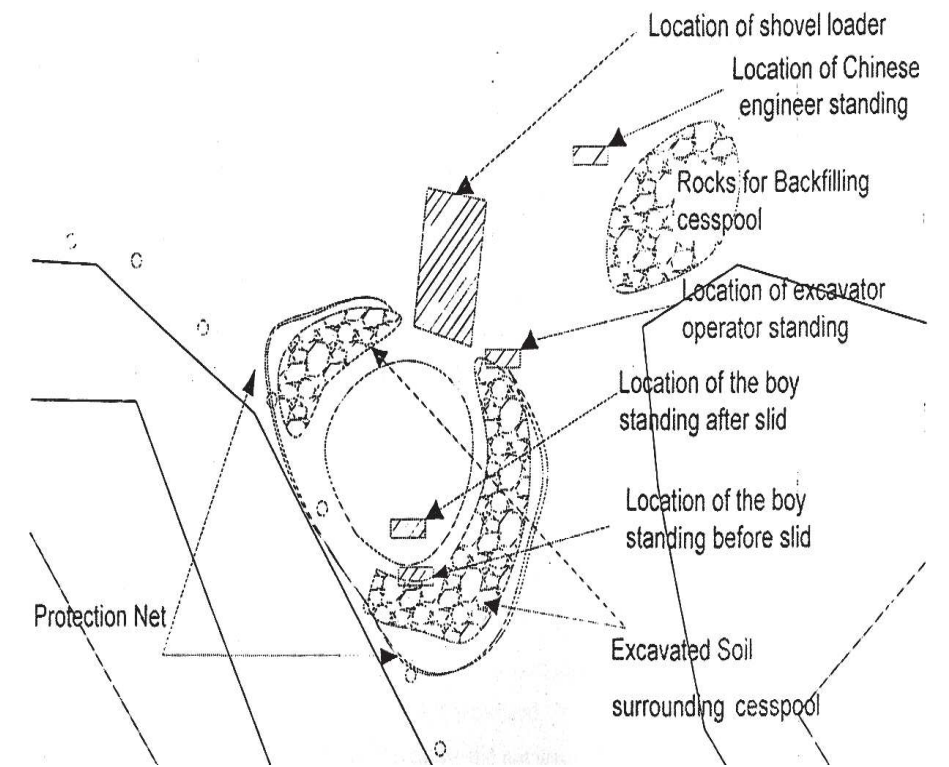
The fact:
The accident happened at 5:20pm on 23/1/2007; we were backfilling one demolished cesspool, then our excavator operator (Yemeni employee named Abdul) who was standing near the cesspool found one boy came into our work site and climbed up one soil hillock which was at opposite of our loader as shown in the drawing and Mr. Abdul shouted at boy asking him to go out,

but the boy did not take any attention and strided over the safety protection net to walk down to the edge of cesspool and lowered his head to watch the bottom. At same time some dusty air came out of cesspool, The boy backed several steps, but he couldn't stood well and lost balance because soil behind him was soft and have a sharp slope, and then he slid into cesspool. When Mr. Abdul, the excavator operator found the boy felt into cesspool, immediately shouted at the operator of shovel loader (Yemeni, named Belala Mohammed) to stop the machine. And the Chinese engineer who was ten meter far of loader was told what happened, and he reported this matter to the project site manager and emergency group. The emergency group started to prepare works to save the boy immediately. After several minutes, the dusty air dispersed, our people found the boy standing at the corner in the cesspool as shown in the drawing. He cried several times then calmed down. Our site engineer threw a safety helmet down to him. The boy walk several paces to pick it up and put it on his head. So it was deemed the situation of the boy wasn't as so bad as we imaged. At same time our deputy manger with emergency group rushed at the location. After discussed several saving method, thinking of the boy is too young to hold the rope out, we decided that send a labour down to cesspool by excavator which was the nearest machine can be used as crane to sling the labour and the boy out., after discussed, we promised with one Yemen labour named Mohammed Adem Mualim and encouraged him with some bonus to hold the boy out.

When the excavator, ropes, the worker were ready, we started to save the boy at 5:35 pm. We used excavator sent Mr. Mohammed Adem Mualim to bottom by rope, to make safety, we worked very carefully. After simply examined the situation of the boy, Mr. Mohammed Adem Mualim hold him out of cesspool. When the boy got out of cesspool, the boy was sent to the hospital with his kinfolks at 5:40 pm. After the doctor examined carefully, the boy was found just some skin scraped at his hind head

and elbow; to make sure no problem about his bone, the boy also was sent to Germen hospital to take X ray photo. A policeman (ranked captain) came to hospital discussed with all related people and cleared all what happened. After checking the photo and his body, the doctors of both hospital considered the boy is healthy and no need stay in his hospital for hospitalization. The boy was sent to home at 10:30pm the same night. Since the problem happened, we had done our best to save the boy. We had taken the action as quick as we can to save the boy.

1. We didn't own or rent any type bulldozers used for the project. The day working at site is 3m3 shovel loader and 0.5 m3 excavator.
2. The shovel was operated by Yemeni person named Belala Mohammed at that time, and Mr. Belala Mohammed did not listen music at that time, the radio on the loader didn't work for long time and disconnected before 4 months. Please think that the loader is a big machine with strong noise at working time, how can he listen music?
3. Chinese engineer is not allowed to operator big machine. We employed experienced operator for the machine. Our engineer is responsible only for checking progress of works, in charge of labours, quality control and so on. The Chinese engineer was directing the loader at that time.
4. Before the accident happened, the boy and the loader were at deferent side of cesspool as shown in the drawing. How can our loader pushed boy into cesspool and jumped over 5m wide cesspool?
5. When the accident happened, our Chinese engineer is more than 10m far to the boy as shown in the drawing. The excavator operator, Mr Abdul had seen the entire course of the boy falling into cesspool. And also he shouted at boy to ask him leave site immediately, but the boy did not take any attention for this warning.
6. When the accident happened, there were no any kinfolk or his neighbor near the area, just the boy and our six staff was there, and 2 people passed over there (these 2 people didn't stop to watch what happened) , other



- people came to the area after the accident happened.
7. The safety protection net was set up before the cesspool was demolished and was checked by consultant engineer before the accident happened.
 8. Whole progress was tense and well-ordered, we did not waste any time, all saving course is about 30 minutes.
 9. We continued to backfilled the cesspool up after the boy was saved out. It is the necessary work we must do, it is a general safety knowledge, and also this kind work is requested by consultant and client. Every cesspool was demolished must be filled up immediately to avoid some one fall down.
 10. The police captain went to hospital and checked the boy situation and investigated the entire course carefully and took detail affidavit from all the testifier. At first, as we had protected our construction area and arranged safety measures, the captain judged

that both parties take 50% responsibility according to what all the facts he had known. After half or one hour, the kinfolk of the boy changed their mind and asked us to pay all cost, The police captain explained to them many times even argued with them and let them keep calm to think, thinking of the project had insured for contingent injury of third party, we agreed to bear all the cost of medical fees to solve the problem. During the course of mediation, the captain also saw the boy after treatment in his house at 10:30 in that night.

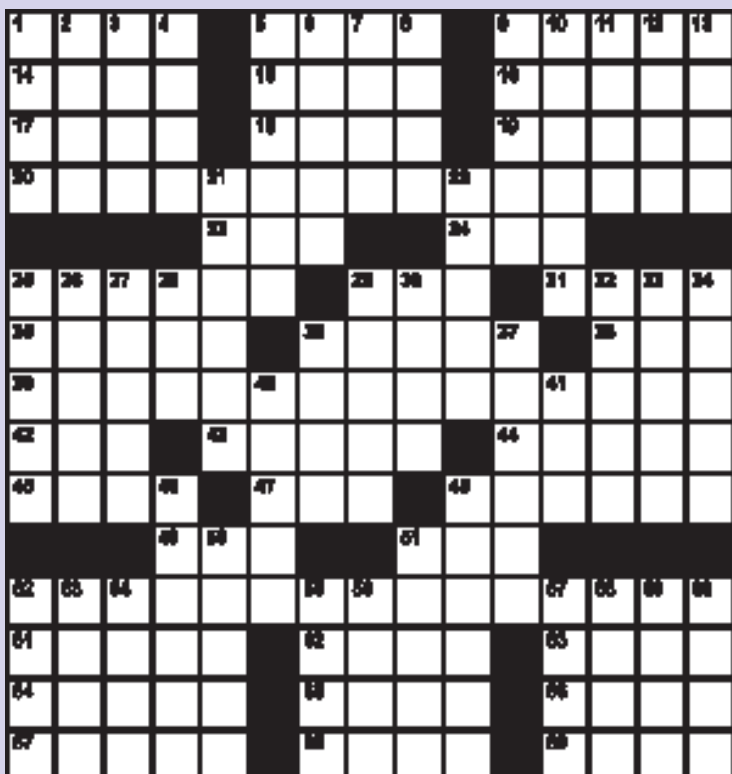
11. Yemen and Chinese have long term friendship since both the countries established diplomatic relations. We came here for help construction more better life of Yemeni. Do you think we come here to murder some Yemeni? And Yemen encourages foreign company to invest and do business in Yemen. what the reporter said in the news is really against the policy.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

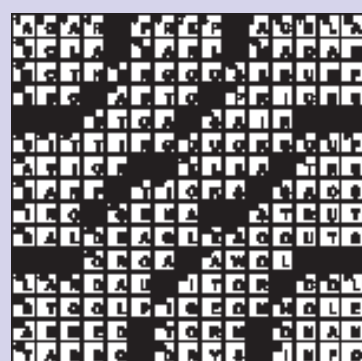
- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| ACROSS | 47 Electric guitar pioneer Paul | 9 Russian pancake |
| 1 Coal waste | 48 Puzzle in pieces | 10 Irritate |
| 5 Sloped type, abbreviated | 49 "Malcolm in the Middle" character | 11 Popular contraction |
| 9 Cockneys, e.g. | 51 Deface | 12 The old you |
| 14 Exhibiting a limp | 52 DIAMOND (60th) | 13 Puts in place |
| 15 ___ of the above | 61 Are not shortened? | 21 Exaggerate |
| 16 It turns in its work | 62 OK Corral fighter | 22 Silly |
| 17 The Bard of ___ | 63 Diva's specialty | 25 Flunky |
| 18 Word with "family" or "lemon" | 64 Tilter's need | 26 Wordsmith's concern |
| 19 Puget Sound, for one | 65 Strange-sounding canal? | 27 Prom conveyances |
| 20 IRON (6th) | 66 Pain in the neck, maybe | 28 Harper or Spike |
| 23 Compete | 67 Come on stage | 29 Vice guys |
| 24 It's love in tennis | 68 Bully's weapon | 30 Bitterness |
| 25 Throat | 69 Move sideways | 32 A moon of Saturn |
| 29 Jazz org. | | 33 Where to find sweaters? |
| 31 Tranquility | DOWN | 34 Plumber's joint |
| 35 Willow | 1 Bed support | 36 Lion's pride |
| 36 Stephen King's home | 2 Etna ejection | 37 Part of HRE |
| 38 Chess champion, Mikhail | 3 Crazy way to run | 40 Brit's greeting |
| 39 COTTON (2nd) | 4 It can be dominant or recessive | 41 Pack item, informally |
| 42 One of three for Freud | 5 Know somehow | 46 From that place |
| 43 Avoidupois unit | 6 Rich cake | 48 Quartz type |
| 44 Victor Borge's instrument | 7 Over again | 50 Subsequent |
| 45 Kind of home or room | 8 Offensive expression | 51 Lerner and Loewe's name for the wind |

"ANNIVERSARIES" By Sefton Boyars

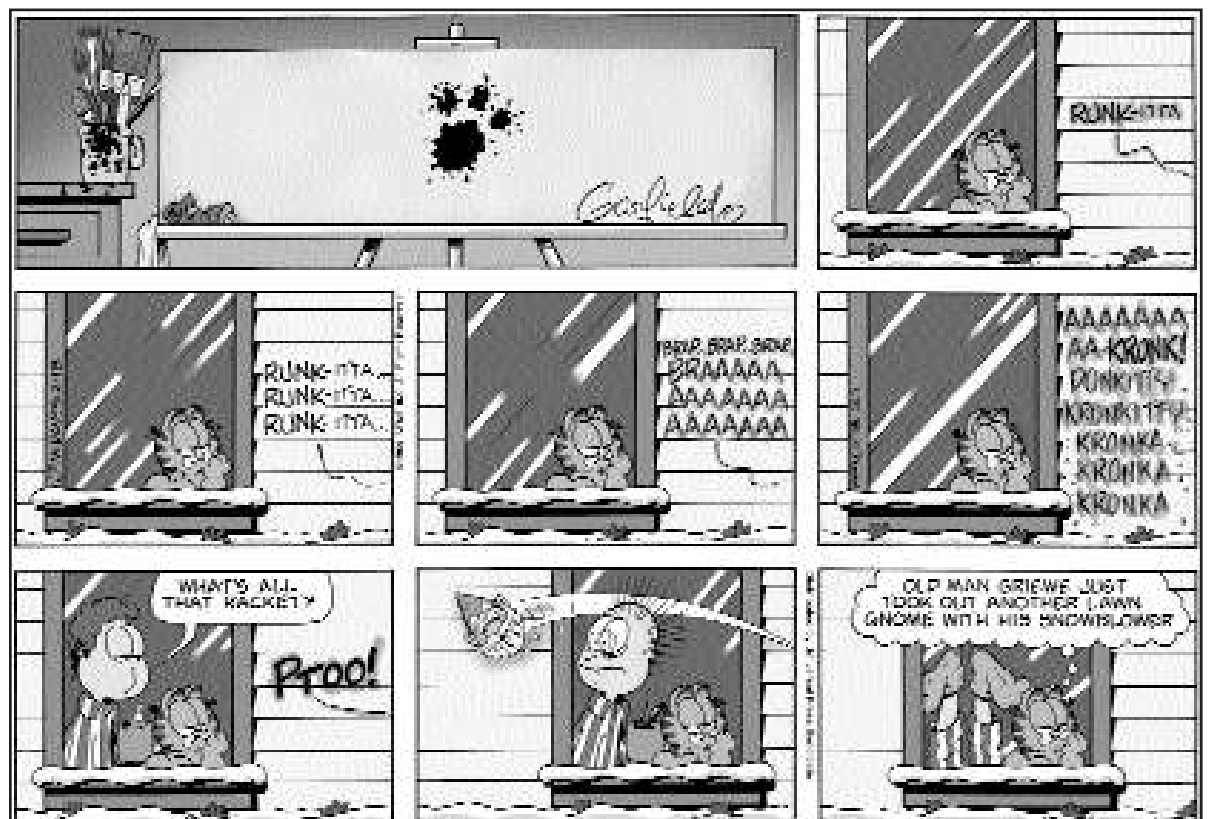


- 52 Place for a red tag?
- 53 Shah's old place
- 54 Camp abode
- 55 Coral formation
- 56 Unadorned
- 57 Sit in the sun, e.g.
- 58 Needing water
- 59 Cod cousin
- 60 Go jump in it

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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Camel milk – it does a body good

By: Taiz Bureau

Some travel a long time in search of camel milk as both food and medicine. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization has begun an international campaign promoting camel milk, as it expects a brilliant future for the product due to its high nutritional value. The organization affirms that people worldwide now prefer camel milk to other types of dairy.

In search of camel milk

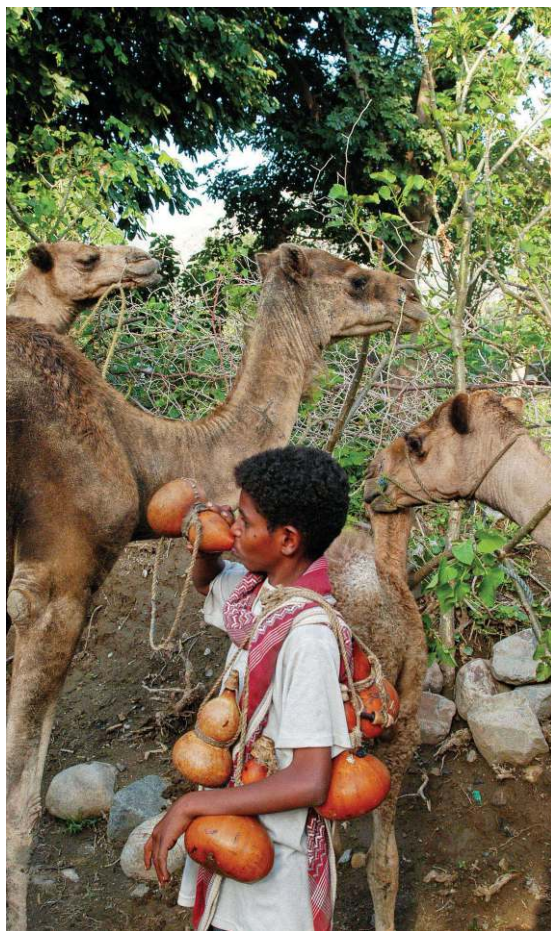
In a country such as Tunisia, some travel dozens of kilometers for camel milk, while camel shepherds in Ethiopia and Somalia travel 12 hours by train to sell camel milk in Djibouti. In different areas of Yemen, such as Al-Mahrah, Hadramout, Hodeidah, Marib and Al-Jawf, people raise camels and sell their milk. Shepherds move from one area to another by foot, often for long distances, to graze their camels.

Haj Sa'eed Abdu, 65, from Shamir, an area famous for camel raising, usually travels from his village in Shamir to Taiz to sell camel milk, sustaining his family from the profits. He says a few Taiz city residents buy the milk, but the majority don't because they are unaware of its natural health values.

Shepherd killed for allowing camels to drink

Abdu explains, "I have 20 camels and I usually move with them from one area to another in search of grass and water. When I stay in a particular area for nearly a month, the camels graze on tree leaves. However, we sometimes face harassment by landlords in areas where we graze. They force us from their land, but we don't know why they do so."

He adds, "Three years ago, a camel shepherd was killed in an area between Al-Damma and Maoyah because his



Camel's milk is proven of its high nutritional values.

addition to believing that it helps treat diabetes, hepatitis, kidney and stomach ailments, as well as boosting the body's immunity.

Ahmad sells between five and 10 liters of camel milk per day at YR 200 a liter. Because he has no other source or income, he mostly depends on camel raising and selling their milk. Like other milkmen, Ahmad leaves his village in the early morning and goes to the city to sell fresh milk to customers. The shepherd enjoys a sound physique thanks to drinking his own product.

In Arabic culture and literature, the camel is called the "Desert Ship" because it moves from place to place in both summer and winter and can tolerate long periods of hunger and thirst. This is why it's respected among Arabs for its patience and endurance.

Camel drank from a well there. Locals in the area said the well belonged to a villager and that the shepherd let his camel drink from it without permission from the owner. The situation led to killing the shepherd."

Camel milk boosts immunity

Thirty-year-old shepherd Hashim Ahmad believes that the small number of those who buy camel milk understand the product's good nutritional value in

Three-fold vitamin G

The World Health Organization affirms that camel milk is more salty than that of cows, but it also has more nutritional value than cow's milk. Camel milk is produced in a way that helps calves acclimate to the harsh conditions of the environment. It's rich in vitamin G, which is three times better than the same type of vitamin available in cow's milk, as well as being rich in oil, acids, iron and other vitamins.

Camel milk is used to treat several diseases in many regions. In the Gulf states, the product mostly is used to assist reproduction, whereas in Russia, Kazakhstan and India, doctors often prescribe it as the best thing for those who've just recovered from a disease. In Africa, camel milk is used to treat HIV sufferers.

Medical uses

Camel milk has multiple medical uses, as doctors prescribe it for those suffering asthma, tuberculosis, anemia and hemorrhoids. According to world studies, many hepatitis sufferers have improved after drinking camel milk. Special clinics also have been established to prescribe camel milk for many patients. However, it's been made clear that camel milk

causes gastric disorders in those drinking it for the first time.

Some researchers clarify that camel milk helps in losing weight and facilitates digestion, adding that, due to its high nutritional value, the product is recommended for pregnant women, children and the elderly.

Other benefits

It's been made clear to researchers that camel milk's qualitative density is similar to that of cows and sheep. Asked about the specific benefits of camel milk, nutrition specialist Dr. Moneer Al-Basha'an explains that it's rich in protein and provides a substance that resists germs and poison. However, he notes that it's difficult to make cheese from camel milk.

Production hindrances

According to WHO, camel milk isn't meeting the growing demand and its production isn't proceeding in compliance with internationally-recognized standards, which is one problem. Another problem is associated with the producers themselves, who are shepherds and nomadic peoples. Most camel shepherds reserve the milk for their guests and the poor and don't sell it in the markets.

Additionally, milking a camel is a difficult process requiring special skills, as some camels don't allow people to milk them. Their calves must be beside camels when they're milked; otherwise, they'll give no milk. Unlike cows, which hold milk in their udders, camels retain a great portion of the milk throughout their body.

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