

TIMES



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Price 40 Yemeni Riyals







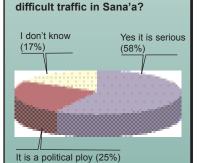
Gender equality in



Has the U.S.-Arab marriage gone



Readers' Voice Last edition's question: What do you think is the number one reason for the



This edition's question:

Do you think utilizing the skills and experiences of former MPs is important for Yemen's development?

- Yes
- No I don't know

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Amidst heavy security protestors threaten to end regime

By: Yemen Times Staff

DHALE, September 12 — Demonstrators blocked the highway in Al-Dhale' on the Sana'a-Aden Highway, thereby deterring traffic of government vehicles, and causing traffic jams. The demonstration comes in protest against the detention of tens of citizens in security jails over riots that took place in Aden two weeks ago. Negotiations between government and protestors in Al-Dhale' governorate are going on to unblock the road that has been impeding traffic since Monday's morning.

VIPs and military leaders from Al-Dhale' governorate left Sana'a on Tuesday in an attempt to convince demonstrators to unblock the Sana'a-Aden highway.

Negotiators demanded the opposition Joint Meeting Parties' leaders in Al-Dhale' to intervene. In return the Interior Ministry has to apologize for alleging that protestors opened fire at police in last Monday's rioting after policemen shot dead three protestors and injured eight

JMP in Al-Dhale' released a statement, describing the shooting of demonstrators as "a criminal and terrorist act" reflecting the regime's abuse of citizens. The opposition parties demanded that the injured must be treated at the state's expense. They requested locals to be patient and



Walid Abbadi, 25 years old died because of being shot in the neck by security trying to control the protest

not to allow mischief-makers to create violence. They encouraged peaceful opposition, as the best mean to demands and attain legal rights.

Baath and Nasserite parties and civil community organizations in Aden condemned the oppressive practices of authorities against citizens in Aden city and other governorates. These parties and organizations insisted on the government to immediately release any detained protestors and treat those injured during demonstrations in Al-Dhale', Aden, Mukalla, Taiz and Shabwa, and compensate those who suffered damages.

Price hikes cause more anger

The new dose of price hikes timed with the advent of the holy month of Ramadan with wheat's price jumping to YR 6,000 per 50 kg in Aden and other governorates, has increased public anger even further.

Retired soldiers, unemployed youth opposition have joined ranks in the demonstrations protesting against the difficult living conditions and discrimination they face.

The committee of coordinating between retirees, unemployed youth, and the liberation movement strugglers and martyrs societies organized a massive sitin in yet anther governorate south Yemen; Lahj. Attended by hundreds of citizens, the protestors denounced all state policies. It also condemned heavy security spread in the streets and limitation of mobility during the night.

In Lahj, masses of angry protestors in the district ascended nearby mountains and besieged Aden road.

The Ishteraki.net reported that military and security forces climbed up other mountains while the traffic from and to Aden was held up as the roads are blocked. Locals organized a peaceful sitin on Monday demanding authorities to free citizens detained for participating in peaceful protests. Lahj sit-in grew into an angry protest following news that authorities were besieging the Yemeni Socialist Party's head-office and preventing citizens from staging a peaceful sit-in in Freedom Square in Khor Maksar.

Women protest as well

In the same context, Mukalla city witnessed on Monday afternoon a huge

Two dead and seven injured in the riot in Al-Dhale' on Monday. Protests escalate in other governorates because of the security attack on demonstrators. and Chief of Al-Dhale' Security female sit-in. Women protesters demanded the government to release all those happened. detained over participating in September 1 demonstrations in Aden, Hadramout, Al-Dhale', Lahj and Taiz. At the event,

trary arrests.' Personnel from Republican Guards and Central Security foiled a solidarity festival, which JMP organized in Taiz as part of a series of protests against the government's policies. The troops arrested many protestors. Following dispersal of the protestors, JMP released a statement calling on its supporters to be patient and tolerant. It advised Taiz citizens to continue their peaceful protest until law and order and equal citizenship are achieved. These parties threatened to escalate their protests in different governorates and districts and condemned authorities' crackdown on citizens in Mukalla, Aden and Al-Dhale'.

relatives of the injured and detainees, and

female activists from JMP Women Sector

gave speeches affirming: "The protest

rejects all the forms of violence, and arbi-

Reactions MP Salah Al-Shanfara declared that congestion is prevailing the governorate and this congestion is impossible to manage, particularly after security personnel killed three citizens and injured another eight on Monday while attempting to disperse them. Al-Shanfara held the government Department accountable for what had

He told Al-Jazeera.net that people are spreading in streets and highlands while the Sana'a-Aden highway is still blocked. He said the government machinates illegal events and then holds citizens, who take to streets in peaceful protests to claim their constitutional rights, accountable for these events. The MP continued that armored vehicles assaulted people after the protest was over.

"Security personnel's crackdown on peaceful and civilized protests will only exacerbate the situation. Ultimately, fall of the current regime will be at the hands of protestors, who claim their constitutional rights. The regime is advised to pack its bags, and prepare to flee the country," the MP commented.

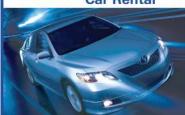
In a letter addressed to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Amnesty International urged him to release BG Nasser Al-Nuba, Chairman of Military Retirees' Societies Council and other detainees without any conditions because he exercises rights to peaceful protest. AI also called on Interior Minister and Attorney-General to ensure rights of the former army members of People Democratic Republic of Yemen, who have been deprived of decent living since

Sa'ada war continues into Ramadan

By: Mohammad bin Sallam

SA'ADA, September 12 — Sa'ada rebel leader Abdul-Malik Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi has released five military prisoners of war, tribal and media sources said. This is the second time Al-Houthi sets prisoners free. Some 91 prisoners had been freed earlier.





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Al-Houthi handed over the five prisoners last Friday to a Sa'ada chieftain. The prisoners had been captured during the first days of recent war re-eruption and have been released on the occasion of the holy month of Ramdan and on humane basis.

The State did not claim their release via the Mediation Committee or other mediators nor did it stipulate conditions in Al-Doha Pact for freeing military and tribal prisoners held by the Houthists. It did not mention there were prisoners with Al-Houthi either.

Concerning the status in the field, tribal sources said the military continued to bombard Jum'a bin Fadhil villages with artillery throughout last Monday. No injuries among civilians had been reported by Tuesday night. The sources claimed the military bombard Al-Houthi positions in order to disturb their peace of mind and consequently compel them to leave. However, the Houthists would not react but remain in their hideouts and forts.

On the other hand, aleshteraki.net said tribal gunmen are besieging an area on Sana'a-Sa'ada road somewhere in Harf Sifian as of Tuesday morning.

The source added the tribesmen who fought together with the Army against the Houthists in the last Sa'ada war, set up





checkpoints at Al-Amaishah in Harf Sifian area because the military leaders failed to fulfill their promise to grant them military ranks and pay them

Numerous tribesmen fought alongside the Army against the Houthists under the promise of getting military ranks, joining the Army and pensioning the injured of them but the State has not kept its word, the source said.

Meanwhile, the Spanish organization of Doctors Without Borders (DWB) declared last Sunday its intention to provide human aids to the displaced people within Sa'ada province.

"The organization has signed an agreement with the Yemeni government, represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Sana'a concerning its operations as well as a subagreement with the Ministry of Health," a DWB official told the media.

"The organization's activities are focused on three areas: providing human assistance for the refugees and displaced due to Sa'ada war; providing medicine, treatment and water for them or for people affected by disasters such as torrential rain; and providing the same assistance for critically urgent cases (casualties from tribal conflicts and traffic accidents)," the official explained.

Concerning the progress of negotia-

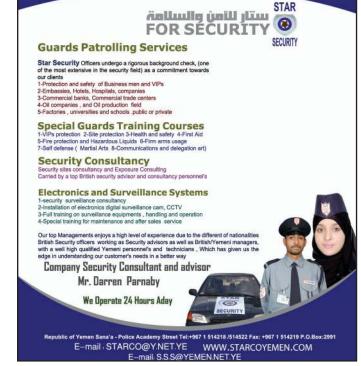
tions between the State and Al-Houthi, well-informed sources stated that the committees responsible for the end-war mediation, have suspended their efforts until after Ramadan. The Qatari team, a main negotiation party, had left Sana'a earlier this month and promised to resume mediation after Ramadan. Meanwhile, the State still tries to dis-

connect telephone communications in the province and deny the people the right to communicate through mobiles and the Internet despite the cautious calmness around the province.

The security authorities are striking a siege on some areas where the Houthists have a presence. This makes the locals unable to have access to the necessaries such as food, medicine, etc. With Ramadan coming and winter looming, many observers believe the human situation would exacerbate.











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In brief

ADEN

Kindergarten care training

Sept 12 — UNICEF in Aden organized a five-day training for 37 female trainees on kindergarten and nursery care. The training included information on the psychology of children, educational tools that would facilitate children's learning and their development. The trainees will be working in the state based and public day cares in the governorate.

Plan to improve power supply

Sept 12 — One billion and 8 hundred million Yemeni Riyals is the estimated cost of a new project to improve power supply in Ibb governorate. According to the governor, 60 percent of the project is completed and citizens in the governorate will soon be provided with stable power supply.

AMRAN

International Red Cross visit Amran

Sept 11 — A delegation from the International Red Cross currently visiting Yemen has been on an official visit to Amran governorate. Amran is one of the governorates where the organization has projects in cooperation with the local government offices in human rights awareness especially during conflicts.

Child protection network

Sept 12 — The protection of children and youth initiative in its board meeting is working out the process for creating a network to protect children. This network is to include nongovernmental organizations, government offices, academia, and individual activities working for the sake of protecting children and youth.

Youth and health project concluded

Sept 11 — The youth social development initiative, Naseej and the Yemeni medical association celebrated the conclusion of their four months project concerning youth and health. The project which was under the theme "For more effective youth participation in society", included seventy participants from Sana'a and Taiz. For four months the trainees were educated on health care, environmental protection, planning and project management community and mobilization.

MAHARA

Two tons of rotten food destroyed Sept 11 — Environmental health authority in Al-Mahara governorate confiscated around two tons of expired and rotten food products during its routine inspection last week. The foodstuff includes dates, biscuits and canned pineapple which were being sold at whole sale shops and some small shops.

Hodaidah

Taiz artists caravan conclude

Sept 11 — A caravan of several poets and artists from Taiz has reached its concluding stop in Hodaidah after touring 13 governorate in the republic. The artists delivered in each of the 13 governorates various performances in poetry, sketches, singing and other forms of arts.

Female rural teachers trained on modern techniques

Sept 11 - After almost one month of training, 115 female teachers from three districts in Hodaidah governorate received their certificate on modern educational techniques. The training, funded by UNICEF, aimed at qualifying the rural areas female teachers in teaching skills, running classrooms, and planning school programs.

LAHJ

Citizens warned from eating locusts

Sept 12 — Ministry of agriculture office in Lahj warned its citizens in the governorate as well as adjacent areas from eating locusts. The locusts fled Shabwa, Hadramout and Abyan have been sprayed with chemicals and pesticides and would cause food poisoning if consumed. The field teams are still struggling to control the spread of locusts in the southern governorates.

Former MPs struggle to regain status

By: Nisreen Shadad **For Yemen Times**

SANA'A, Sept. 12 — More than one hundred former members of parliament created their own union in order to regain their status in the country. According to the main committee behind organizing this union is to ensure food on the dinner table.

"When we were parliamentarians, we were respected, and could easily meet important figures in the country. However, now that we are no longer work as MPs we are ignored."

"My salary before establishing this union was 20.000 Yemeni Riyals (about one hundred US dollars). It can neither feed my family not to pay the rent of the house. But now it is 50.000 YR," said Abdul Basit Al-Mashwali, member of the committee.

This is particularly the case of MPs who had been in position between 1990 and 1997. According to Al-Mashwali MPs elected post 1997 have better financial compensations.

The project has originally started two years ago, but because of logistics and financial constraints the formal launching of the union. Further, they are working to establish branches of the union in Taiz, Ibb, Hadramout, and Aden. Now the union includes 120 members, and

The union also involves people from different parties to come together for the same cause, according to the founding

This union involved the elite figures of the country. Parliamentarians are of the most powerful as well as popular figures in the country. Muhammad Umran, member of the committee, comments on the waste of such skills and

"Being a parliamentarian for six years gives me experience in the country's policies and legislations. Many of those parliamentarians can help develop the country. However, we restricted this union to the former MPs because involving the current ones may create sectarian conflicts".

The former MPs hope to use their acquired skills to promote development in Yemen especially with regards to

the number is still increasing.

The founding members insisted on having a union so as to be able to have branches around the country. Because in essence, MPs are representatives of the Yemenis from all governorates and hence share the same issues and con-

committee.

Wasted expertise

One hundred and twenty former MPs created a union so as to become more effective in society and improve their financial conditions.

human rights, democracy, and free-

More aims the union has established for as protecting the Yemeni union, fighting the sectarian conflicts as well as corruption, and defending human rights.

Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, the Chairman of the Shoura council called on former parliamentarians to become role models in the community. Abdul Ghani said the experience the parliamentarians have, can add a lot to the

The union consists of three assemblies, the general assembly, the secretariat-general and a consultative council. The selected head for the union is former MP Saif Al-Ammari.

National day to recognize blind people

By: Almigdad Dahesh Mojali

SANA'A, Sept. 10 - September 9, was announced as the national day for blind people in Yemen. This was announced in the annual celebration for blind females organized by Al-Aman Association for caring of blind females. The association is working on integrating blind females in public schools because lack of education is the main problem blind females face in

So far, the association organizes special education for 350 blind girls learning state curricula in Brail language for levels from first to fifth grade. The students also study about practical skills such as typing, movement techniques for blind, and other vocational training that would help in their daily lives.

The school has been successful in enrolling 85 blind girls in public schools, and 20 in Sana'a University.

"Our main issue is how to integrate the blind girls in society, especially through education. So far 8 girls have graduated from Sana'a University and have been employed in government offices," said Fatima Al-Aqel director of the association.

After October, the association plans to inaugurate two branches in Taiz and Hodeidah, in order to support blind girls in those governorates.

Al-Aqel indicated that the association is looking forward to establishing a culture center that will enable blind girls to learn how to use electrical devices. Al-Aqel added that they need to establish a family guidance center. "The Association needs also to arrange some modern programs concerning dual handicaps," she said.



Al-Aman association blind students performing for the audience, let us see through your eyes they sang.

Lack of financial support is the main obstacle facing the Association as well as the lack of specialists. Another problem is to dealing with the families of the blind is another obstacle facing the association.

The association receives 300,000 YR from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and 70,000 YR from the Sana'a Secretariat, per month. However, this sum is inadequate since they spend about one million YR per month. Al-Aqel mentioned that there are permanent and occasional private supporters, but that support doesn't exceed 5% of the expenditures. Al-Aman Association is committed to providing blind individuals with transportation, curriculums, and hostels (for those who come from other governorates), in addition to the help that they will need to become independent.

During the celebration, president Saleh promised a Brail printing unit to support the education process for blind girls. The celebration was under the theme: "Let us see by your clear eyes and walk in your guidance". The attendees were moved by the performance of the association students and encouraged to support their cause.

The government has also committed to constructing a training and qualifying center for the blind through the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

"The legislation and laws that integrate the disabled into society, and the generous accounts provided by the government are the best evidence of the state's support," said Abdulaziz Abdulghani chairperson of the Consultative Council.

Teachers protest causes fewer students

By: Fatima Al-Ajel

SANA'A, Sept. 12 — The Yali Teachers and Employees Union held a meeting with the U.S. Embassy Culture Division on Wednesday to solve the problem of teachers' contracts at the Yemeni American Language Institute (YALI).

However, the head representative of the union, Wajdi Shief, stated that the results of the meeting were inconclusive. "we are still employees of the institute and we will continue calling for teachers rights according to Yemeni Labor Law."

More than 64 teachers that took part in a sit-in were prevented from reentering the building because of their protest. They have subsequently stated that they will not go back unless there is an apology from the administration. "We are looking for a formal apology from the YALI administration, in addition to our rights under the law", Shief mentioned.

Moreover, the union called on all the concerned authorities, to stand by the teachers and staff of YALI in their struggle. They also called on the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Human Rights to interfere and enable YALI to continue its successful work in developing the skills and abilities of a wide range of Yemenis.

Nearing the end of their contracts, 71 English language teachers carried a sit-in in the institutes premises in order to put pressure on the management to increase their overall compensation.

As a result of the teachers' sit-in, the number of enrolled students at the Yemeni American Language Institute has decreased by at least one third. However, twenty or more of the teachers have already resumed teaching as the institute's management promised to give them more benefits if they are willing to complete the scheduled courses on time.

"Twenty five courses are already in progress, yet we will have to refund the other students whose education was interrupted by the strike. My fear is that with the deceasing number of students, we may not be able to rehire all of the teachers who used to work for the institute," explained Greg Olson, director of the institute.

According to Olson, the teachers went on strike without giving the management due notice or a chance to work out the problem. However, the teachers representative committee has a different point of view. "The new management has damaged the reputation of this well established institute. The problem is that we were working for almost a year without legal contracts. Now we want our rights," said Wajdi Shaef.

Change of management or a change of heart?

In 2006, the management of the institute was transferred from the American embassy to an American non-profit organisation, AMIDEAST, in order to cut down on funding and time spent by the Department of State on such projects.

AMIDEAST recognized that the employment contracts for the eightytwo teachers had to be changed. It devised what they called "Independent contracts" which meant that teachers would be compensated on hourly basis. Their wages per hour increased but they lost other benefits that they used to receive, such as health insurance and a paid vacation.

"In October 2006, when the management changed, the teachers were called in individually and were given the new terms. It was like take it or leave it, and to be honest, we felt our livelihood would be threatened if we refused to sign, so we did," explained Hakim Al-Masmari, one of the teachers on strike and a member of the teachers' committee.

According to the teachers, the US embassy, prior to the change of comforted them that the situation would be the same. However, when they realized that all the teachers were in the same situation, they decided to hire a lawyer to look things over.

Khalid Al-Anisi, representing the teachers, confirmed that the contracts they signed are illegal because there is no such thing as an 'independent contract' in the Yemeni Labor Code. "You either hire someone and give them their benefits or you don't. There is no in between."

However, AMIDEAST could not negotiate with the teachers on this issue because they did not have a formal body to represent them. It was only in April 2007 that a union for teachers was formally established.

"We hired a lawyer in order to fix the problem. He advised us that it is better to have contracts according to the Yemeni Labor Code. We are working on it and the new contracts will be ready in November," said

Despite this promise, many of the teachers have not yet resumed working and are still suspicious about the promises they were given.

Olson himself was quite frank about the promise to rehire all of the staff because of the operational high costs and decreasing number of students. "We will refund the money of those students who couldn't come to school during that week and we will give them the certificates as a temporary solution for the teachers' sit-in", Olson

Education of 3000 students disturbed because of schools' closure

TAIZ, Sept. 9 — Over three thousand students studying in five schools in Taiz started their academic year at home. Their schools were closed down causing their parents, over 200 individuals to hold sit-in in front of the governorate building in Taiz earlier this month. They protested against the decision made by the chairman of the local council in Al-Caherah district regarding closing these schools. These schools are O'mar Al-Mukhtar, year. Nusaibah, Al-Noor, Amar Bin Yasir, and Al-Ez Bin Abdull-Sallam.

The closure behind five schools in Taiz was explained by the overall closure of schools that had not been originally established as schools for formal education affiliated with the Ministry of Education.

The protest was resolved when the members of the parents' council reached to an agreement with the local council in the governorate as well as the district's local council. They agreed on investigating the problem along with its causes, forwarding a report on the results as well as the suggested solutions to be implemented so as not to deprive 3000 male and female students from receiving education this

However, some of the parents said that the main purpose behind closing these schools is that they are named (Scientific Institutes) and controlled by Islah party since then. They are closed to reduce the partisan exploitation practiced by some members of the

Ali Al-Wassabi, one of the parents, said, "There is no any justification for closing these schools. These schools are administrated by competent staffs and they are much better than any other schools."

In his press release, Mahdi Abdull-Sallam, the Director of the Educational Office in Taiz, denied what has been said by some parents. "The study is going on in these schools until they find other alternatives," he said.

Mahdi also added that the ministry has a plan to construct three educational complexes 35 classes each. They will open the Saudi complex which faced work obstacles for a long time.

He affirmed that most of the sit-ins taking place in Taiz are staged for partisan and political purposes.

Massive earthquake hits Indonesia

JAKARTA, Sept. 12 (AFP) - A massive 7.9-magnitude earthquake struck off the west coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island on Wednesday, toppling buildings and briefly triggering a tsunami alert across the Indian Ocean region.

There was no immediate word on the extent of casualties and damage, but there were reports of buildings toppled or cracked open from the force of the quake around 300 kilometres (185 miles) from the epicentre.

In the capital Jakarta 600 kilometres further south, high-rise towers wobbled, water sloshed from swimming pools and panicked office workers ran into the streets. Elsewhere, power was knocked out and phone lines went dead.

The huge quake -- anything over magnitude 7.0 is considered to have the possibility for massive damage and loss of life -- was felt in neighbouring Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, where office buildings swayed and shook.

The US Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said an alert was in effect for the entire Indian Ocean area including Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Maldives -- all affected by the devastating December 2004 Asian

But the Indonesia meteorology agency later said the danger had passed.

The undersea quake erupted around 1100 GMT some 100 kilometres southwest of the city of Bengkulu at a depth of roughly 15 kilometres, the United States Geological Survey said.

"I saw some parts of houses crumbled to the ground but not huge damage. People ran out of their homes," said Ayu Claudia, a resident of Bengkulu in a brief conversation before the phone lines went down.

A reporter in the city from ElShinta radio said that patients at a maternity hospital were being shifted outside, and that the streets were clogged with people trying to flee to higher ground.

"People are currently in front of their houses ... The main streets are busy with



Office workers wait at an open area outside their building in Jakarta's business district after tremors were felt from an earthquake on Indonesia's nearby Sumatra island. A massive 7.9-magnitude earthquake has struck off the west coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island, toppling buildings and briefly triggering a tsunami alert across the Indian Ocean region.

vehicles, cars and motorcycles, heading to higher areas," she said before her phone was also cut.

Budi Darmawan, a policeman in the Indonesian town of Mukomuko on the west coast of Sumatra, said buildings three storeys and higher had collapsed and that tsunami warning sirens had failed to activate.

"Buildings of three floors or more are either fissured or collapsed," he told ElShinta radio.

He said police raced through the streets on motorcycles, warning residents to move quickly to higher ground.

"The lights are out. We cannot see anything," Slamet Purwanto, a resident in Bengkulu district, told the Detikcom online news agency.

Malaysia, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and India all issued separate tsunami warnings telling residents to move away from the Indian Ocean coastline.

Indonesia has endured repeated major quakes in recent years, including the 2004 quake that unleashed a tsunami across the Indian Ocean. It killed over 220,000 people in a dozen countries including some 168,000 in the Indonesian province of Aceh alone.

In May 2006, a quake rattled the country's main island of Java, killing more than 5,700 people and destroying some 300.000 homes. Two months later, another quake on Java killed more

In March yet another large quake hit Sumatra, killing more than 70 people, flattening buildings and displacing more than 1,700 people.

Indonesia, an archipelago of some 17,000 islands, sits on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, where continental plates meet -- and where earthquakes are a regular and often deadly occur-

Putin names Zubkov Premier, dissolves government

MOSCOW, Sept. 12 (Bloomberg) --Russian President Vladimir Putin unexpectedly replaced his prime minister. naming a little-known financial regulator to the post and setting off speculation over what the move means for next year's presidential succession.

Putin nominated Viktor Zubkov, the head of the Russian agency that monitors money-laundering, to replace Mikhail Fradkov, who resigned along with his government. Zubkov, 65, worked for Putin in the St. Petersburg mayor's office in the 1990s.

While Putin, 54, has vowed to step down when his current term ends next March, the Zubkov appointment may be read as a signal that he intends to continue to wield power behind the scenes while paving the way for a comeback.

"Zubkov is almost completely unknown and not a young man," Ron Smith, chief strategist of Moscow's Alfa Bank, said in an interview. "This appointment lends credence to the theory that the next president could be a one-term placeholder before the return of Mr. Putin."

Another possibility is that Putin intends to use Zubkov to keep the prime minister's seat filled as he decides on anointing someone else to succeed him. Earlier today, the Vedomosti newspaper reported that Putin would pick First Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov as prime minister and endorse him as a successor when his second term ends in

Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin in March called Zubkov "undoubtedly legendary" for creating a system for fighting money-laundering "from the ground up." Duma Speaker Boris Gryzlov, head of the pro-Putin United Russia party that dominates parliament, said today that as Russia's chief financial monitor since 2001, Zubkov "is practically in charge of the state's finances.'

Zubkov's nomination was "totally unexpected," said Khrystanovskaya, a researcher at Moscow-based corruption watchdog Indem. "This means that Putin feels totally sure of himself "

"It's important only that Putin knows him, not the rest of the country," said Georgy Satarov, Khrystanovskava's colleague at Indem. Zubkov may remain as prime minister in the next administration "as a guarantor of stability when the nuclear suitcase is passed from one hand to another," Satarov said.

Stanislav Belkovsky, a former Kremlin adviser who heads the Moscow-based Institute for National Strategy, said Zubkov is the only member of the "St. Petersburg team" that runs the country whom Putin considers a teacher not a pupil.

Putin's Trust

"It doesn't matter that Zubkov isn't well known," Belkovsky said by phone. "Putin can psychologically trust him, and it shows that the president's pupils have disappointed him.'

When the two men worked together in St. Petersburg, Putin would address Zubkov using the formal "you" in Russian, while Zubkov would use the informal "you" with Putin, Belkovsky

Putin himself was catapulted to power in August 1999, when former President Boris Yeltsin made him his fifth prime minister in 17 months. Putin. who had been head of the Federal Security Service, became acting president when Yeltsin resigned on Dec. 31, vaulting him to the presidency three months later.

Putin last dismissed the govern in February 2004, three weeks before the previous presidential elections. He replaced Mikhail Kasyanov with Fradkov, who was Russia's envoy to the European Union.

In accepting Fradkov's resignation today, Putin said "we need to prepare the country for the time after the parliamentary election and after the presidential election."

Masha Lipman of the Carnegie Moscow Center said politics, not the performance of the government, led to Putin's decision to dissolve parliament.

"It's obvious this has to do with the configuration of power before the presidential elections and the self- perpetuation of the ruling elite, not the performance of the Cabinet," Lipman said.

Security forces kill around 40 militants in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 12 (Xinhua) -Pakistani security forces killed 30 to 40 militants, and injured 10 to 12 others in the country's northwest tribal region bordering Afghanistan on Wednesday, an army spokesman said.

Pakistani military spokesman Major General Waheed Arshad told private Geo and DAWN NEWS TV channels that gunship helicopters were used to target positions of militants in mountains in the border area between North and South Waziristan.

The operation starting from the morning continued to the afternoon, he said, adding that the militants had been using mountains to fire and ambush convoys of

Talking to Geo earlier, Arshad said no ground forces and only gunship helicopters were used to hit suspected positions of the militants

He said ground forces would soon be sent to the area to assess casualties of the

There had been no losses of the security forces, the spokesman said.

Violence has increased in Pakistan's tribal regions since July when the military stormed Islamabad-based hard-line Red Mosque and armed tribals in North Waziristan scrapped a peace deal with the government.

Bombing attacks on security forces

have been intensified against security personnel in Pakistan's northwest frontier over the two months, and over 300 people have been killed in various violence.

Earlier on Wednesday, Arshad confirmed that around 18 police personnel were reported missing following a Tuesday night militants' attack on a security checkpost in Bannu, a town neighboring North Waziristan.

Kidnappings of security men have increased in Pakistan's troubled tribal region since last month.

Around 260 soldiers kidnapped by local militants on Aug. 30 in South Waziristan reportedly were still in militants' custody.

Syria complains to U.N. about Israeli airstrike

DAMASCUS, Sept 12 (CNN) — Syria accused Israel of a "flagrant violation" of its obligations when it carried out an airstrike inside the country last week, according to a copy of a letter released Tuesday.

Syria called the incursion a "breach of airspace of the Syrian Arab Republic" and said "it is not the first time Israel has violated" Syrian airspace, the letter to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Kimoon read.

It also accused the international community of ignoring Israeli actions.

Earlier, a U.N. spokeswoman said Syria had not requested a meeting of the Security Council.

Meanwhile, France -- the current president of the Security Council -- said it had received no letter from Syria.

Last week, Syria reported that its aircraft fired on Israeli "enemy aircraft" that flew into northern Syria early Thursday.

The airstrike may have targeted weapons that were destined for Hezbollah militants, according to sources in the region and in the United

The Israel Defense Forces had no comment on the report, and have refused to comment further on the new revela-

But the sources told CNN the military operation, which happened Wednesday into Thursday, may have also involved Israeli ground forces who directed the airstrike, which "left a big hole in the desert" in Syria.

The strike may have targeted Hezbollah weapons coming into Syria or transiting through the country from Iran -- a pattern that, over the past three or four years, has occurred without any retaliation or other action taken against it -the sources said.

The Israeli government is very happy with the success of the operation, the sources said.

Sources in the U.S. government and military confirmed to CNN's Barbara Starr that the airstrike did happen, and that they are happy to have Israel carry the message to both Syria and Iran that they can get in and out and strike when

Right now, diplomats in the region are trying to ensure the incident does not escalate

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, is serving as a conduit between Israeli and Syrian foreign ministers, urging both sides to allow cooler heads to prevail, Solana's

Israeli soldiers deployed in the Golan Heights look toward Syria on September 7.

office said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem and other Syrian officials have been putting out their version of events. The Syrian government said Israeli bombs were dropped on its territory and fuel tanks from Israeli jets were dropped on the Turkish side of the

Al-Moualem was in the Turkish capital, Ankara, on Monday protesting this action and trying to get Turkey to support its desire to take Israel to the Security Council for the airstrike.

Israel fought a war with Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon last year after Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers, who are still being held.

Iran: EU should live in the present, not past over nuclear issue

Tehran - Sept 12 (DPA) Iran on Tuesday called on the European Union to 'live in the present and not in the past,' urging the EU to draw its attention to the latest plan by the international nuclear watchdog to resolve the ongoing dispute over Iran's nuclear programmes.

'We are surprised that the new initiative between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has not been fully acknowledged,' Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani told reporters in a press briefing in

He said the Iran-IAEA plan was 'indeed a good basis' on which to settle the nuclear dispute.

Iran and the IAEA agreed last month on a plan of action which is supposed to remove all technical ambiguities surrounding Iran's nuclear projects and serve as the basis for a political settlement between Larijani and European Union foreign policy chief Javier

In a statement to the 35-nation board of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the EU however 'strongly urged Iran not to pursue its enrichment activities, as this is yet another violation' of UN Security Council resolutions and IAEA board requests. The EU would support 'further appropriate measures' in case of continued defiance on Iran's part.

Larijani responded by saying that 'the EU should live in the present and not in the past,' adding that the plan was made in full coordination with Solana as representative of the EU. 'It is up to all relevant sides to lead

positive or a negative route. As far as Iran is concerned, we are ready to show goodwill, Larijani said. He noted that as a first practical sign

the course of the nuclear issue down a

of goodwill, Iran has allowed IAEA inspectors to check the nuclear sites of Arak and Natanz.

Larijani has several times stressed that Iran would not give in to the main Western and UN demand of suspending uranium enrichment.

Foot and mouth confirmed in Britain

(Herald Sun) Sept 13 - Britain's chief vet confirmed a new case of foot ber of separate parcels of land. A threeand mouth disease near London, close kilometre protection zone will encircle west of London, and the M25 London to the site of last month's outbreak.

"Initial laboratory tests on the samples taken this morning from the cattle on the holding in Surrey where disease was suspected have indicated the presence of foot and mouth disease," the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said.

"On the basis of these initial laboratory results and clinical symptoms, UK chief veterinary officer Debby Reynolds has confirmed foot and mouth disease."

Officials have subsequently introduced a ban on the movement of cattle, sheep pigs and other ruminants in England.

"At this stage we have not identified the strain or origin of this outbreak," Reynolds said.

"The situation remains uncertain, and I urge all animal keepers to be vigilant for signs of disease, practise stringent biosecurity measures, including the movement ban and licensing condi-

"All animals currently in transit should continue to their destination where they should remain in place."

The European Commission has been informed. A European expert close to the case has said that the European Union would reimpose a total ban on meat and livestock from Britain if the case was confirmed.

Arrangements are being made by the Scottish and Welsh administrations to match England's livestock movement

No movements of susceptible animals are allowed except under licence.

The affected farm comprises a num-closed in the protection zone. each of them, in a wider 10-kilometre surveillance zone. Footpaths will be

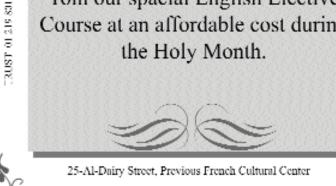
The farm is near the town of Egham,





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Gender equality in Mahweet

By: Stephany Kersten **For Yemen Times**

he division of tasks in the traditional families in Yemen is based on the notion that the man is earning the money and the woman is taking care of the family. However, women represent the main source of labor in rural areas, nearly 65 percent of which, are unpaid workers at their family farms or on land leased by their families.

It means that all the jobs which are considered strenuous and fetch a higher wage go to men. Women tend only to be hired when tedious but not so strenuous looking work has to be done. In fact, farm owners prefer to hire women for these jobs not only because it is hard to find men willing

Presenting a real life problem by one of the participants

to take up work which is traditionally considered women's but also because they will have to pay a much higher wage to men for the same job.

Despite this, women's contribution outside home in many places in Yemen is not seen as a participation in the public life. And hence, men do not share the responsibilities women shoulder assuming they are female's role in society. Men are often absent from the family and if things go wrong in the household, the women are blamed for it. These concepts and gender stereotyping are not instructed by Islam. Taha Hamood Al Azani, a teacher at the Supreme Institute for Teacher Training and an Imam in Sana'a explained that men also have to share domestic duties such as taking care of the children.

"It is not a task for women only, but

children for instance if that needs to be done, nothing prevents them from doing it," he said. Women play a primary role in pro-

duction in rural communities in

Yemen, especially, in sustaining subsistence agriculture. They take care of major part of agricultural work including sowing, transplanting, weeding, irrigating, harvesting, thrashing, huskand storing. Alongside, they often contribute to family income in many other productive ways such as making handicrafts from khus, sewing and weaving. Still, when one talks to communities or decision makers, women do not figure

Gender equality awareness

in their agendas.

As a part of the Rural Women's Empowerment Project implemented by CARE International Yemen, a three-day training was carried out last week for 11 men and 6 women from five villages from Al Mahweet governorate on gender from an Islamic perspective. The project, which will last until April 2008, is funded by the French Embassy in Sana'a. Trainers included Taher Hamama, University lecturer and religious scholar and Ibtesam al Sanani, chairperson of the Yemen Women's Union branch in Al Mahweet, supported by Faiza Hisham, the rural women empowerment project manager. Taha Al Azani facilitated the

The message of the training is that: Islam supports equality between men and women, including the need for women's empowerment, while this argument was supported by many examples from the verses of the Quran.

The gender disparity is visible in many aspects of life. Disparity starts from the birth through the reactions of men when a baby girl is the first-born. Many men are sad when a first-born is a girl: "my father gave my mother a chicken when I, the first child, was born, and again when my sister was born, but when my brother was born as the third child, he gave her a goat," said one of the female participants in

Men (and women) should not distinguish between boys and girls, but treat them equally. Both boys and girls have to be educated, not only the boys in the family: "look at me", a male participant said, "I have gone to university, did my masters, but my sister is illiterate, and we are from the same mother and father".

The women empowerment project works with 15 women's associations to build their capacity in association management, income generating activities and literacy. This capacity building effort can only be effective if the context in which it takes place is right and allows the women to obtain new skills, hence the need for this training on explaining gender within an Islamic society; to enhance an enabling environment for gender equity.

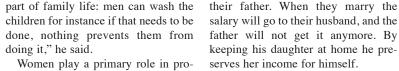
Real life problems

Women in rural areas such as Mahweet suffer from some traditional practices that impact their well-being negatively. Early marriage is one of the taunting problems women suffer from in Yemen.

A recent report issued by the Central Statistics Organization stated that early marriages are spread among the age class of 15 to 18 since the rate reached 48 % of which 13 % have been married more than once.

The Base Survey on Reproductive Health in 2000 indicated that 24.6 % of women are married between the ages 10 – 14 years and 65 % between 15 –19 years. The problem doesn't lie in early marriages but in early pregnancy and delivery.

The participants in the training commented that Mahweet Girls are getting married at an early age. Contrary to this, some girls in Mahweet complained that they are prevented from marrying because of being a source of income generation. These women often earn an income that they give to



Other problems were addressed such as deprivation of inheritance, and limited mobility.

"Many men do not allow their female family members to go outside of the village, they use the excuse that there is no mahram [male relative to accompany a woman while travelling] available to go with them," commented one of the participants.

In case of illness this can have serious complications if a woman is not allowed to visit a (male) doctor. Women die because of this limited mobility. A solution, although partial, mentioned was to encourage families to have their daughters trained as health personnel to be employed by village health centres. Rural health centres often lack staff and women have to go further way from their village to attend their (reproductive) health issues.

Spread the message

With renewed knowledge on how relations between men and women (gender) are determined in the Quran and related writings, the participants now will spread the concepts to other people in their environment. A part of the training was dedicated to conveying the newly acquired knowledge to others. How to convince them that women and men are equal while explaining it by using evidence from the holy texts, good ways of communicating (like encouraging body language, making eye contact and the use of hands).

CARE will replicate the training for the remaining 10 villages included in the Rural Women's Empowerment Project in Al Mahweet in the coming months.



Women learning as members of a women's association





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Women's daily time consuming task: fetching water

TIMES

Field

ANNOUNCEMENT

Yemen Scholarship Program Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen Sponsoring Nexen Scholars to Study in Canada

As a reflection of friendship and commitment to assist in Yemen's human resource development, Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen (CNPY) is pleased to announce a further 10 scholarships for post secondary studies in the University of Calgary and SAIT, Canada. The Nexen Scholars Yemen Scholarship Program was originally initiated to celebrate CNPY's tenth anniversary in Yemen. To date, a total of 90 scholarships have been awarded to deserving Yemeni secondary school graduates. This highly successful initiative was extended in August 2007 to include an additional ten scholarships to be awarded by the Scholarship Steering Committee to the qualified Secondary School students to Study in the city of Calgary, Canada.

- 1. The ten (10) Nexen Scholarship recipients will commence their respective study programs in September 2008 or September 2009.
- 2. Post-secondary study programs currently available for the Nexen Scholarship competition:

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)

4 Year Bachelor of Applied Technology (B.A.T.) Degree Programs For more information on the program offered visit www.sait.ca

B.A.T. – Information Systems

University of Calgary

4 Year Degree Programs

For more information on the programs offered visit www.ucalgary.ca

B.Sc – Electrical Engineering

B.Sc – Civil Engineering

B.Sc – Chemical Engineering

B.Sc – Mechanical Engineering

B.Sc – Manufacturing Engineering

B.Sc – General Mathematics

B.Sc – Geophysics

- 3. To qualify for a Nexen Scholarship, all applicants must satisfy the following requirements:
 - Must be a Yemeni citizen residing in Yemen for the past two years
 - Age 17-22 years
 - Possess English-language abilities or be willing to commit to up to 400 hours of Yemen-based English-language training
 - Minimum of 80% overall average on secondary school certificate
 - Committee to return to Yemen after completion of his/her studies in Canada
 - Submission of all the required documents that are requested in this announcement

Selection Process:

Candidate selection will be based on high academic achievement, possession of English language abilities, and a personal interview. Both the University of Calgary and SAIT will not grant formal admission to their respective institutions until the scholarship recipient achieves a minimum TOEFL score of 220 (computer based exam), 560 (paper based exam) and 83 (IBT). Applicants who are in a position to sit for the TOEFL/ITP TOEFL exam are encouraged to do so prior to submitting their applications. In order to broaden the accessibility of the Nexen Scholarship program, high-achieving Yemeni secondary students from rural areas, who have not been able to access necessary English language training, are given the opportunity to complete intensive English language training at AMIDEAST in Sana'a or Aden or Al Mukalla (fully paid for by Nexen) if selected as a Nexen Scholarship recipient.

For more details on the selection process, a detailed guide can be dowloaded from the websites of Nexen and AMIDEAST (see section 4 of this announcement for more information).

Required Documentation:

- An application form completed in English
- Copy of secondary school grades or transcript
- Copy of personal ID card or passport
- Six certified passport- sized photos
- 4. The Nexen Scholarship application forms can be obtained from the following application distribution/collection centers:

AMIDEAST, Inc.

Algiers St., House No. (66) Sana'a Tel: 01-400279/80/81

Contact Person: Mr. Abdulaziz Dada

Mohamed Ali Othman School
Near Road Constr. Authority

Near Road Constr. Authority

Tel: 04-223671/2 Contact Person: Ms. Samar Ahmed Moh'd

AMIDEAST, Inc.

Khormaksar Aden Tel: 02-235069/70/71

Contact Person: Mr. Shakeeb AbdulHamid

AMIDEAST/Hadramout University

University Campus, Al-Fowah Area Mukalla

Tel: 05-371560 Contact Person: Mr. Frank Swartz

Hodeidah University

Hodeidah Tel: 03-250600

Contact Person: Mr. AbdulKarim Al-Ward

Or you may download the application from either of the following:

http://www.nexeninc.com/Sustainability/Community/Yemen_Scholarships.asp

http://www.amideast.org/whats_new/announcements/nexen.htm

- Completed application forms and requested documentation must be returned in a sealed envelope to any of the above noted application distribution/collection centers. Failure to comply with any of the information requirements will result in disqualification.
- 6. The closing date for accepting applications is **November 7, 2007.** Under no circumstances will applications be accepted after this date.
- 7. The Scholarship Steering Committee acting on behalf of Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen is committed to giving all Yemeni scholarship applicants equal, fair and competitive opportunities.



Yemeni Nationals Only

Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr Ltd. announces the following vacancy:

Government & Public Relations Coordinator

For further information or to apply for this position please visit our website:

http://www.nexeninc.com/Careers/Yemen/

Application Criteria:

- All applications must be submitted through our online application system.
- Online Applications must be submitted NO later than September 26, 2007
- Amember of our recruitment team will call you if you are selected for a test and interview.
- Selection will be based on the most qualified applicants.
- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed personal, contact and qualification information.
- Faxed or Handed-In CV's will **NOT be considered**



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postgraduate experience in surgery, Traumatology and Emergency Medicine

Language: Proficient in English (Oral and Written)

Nationality: Yemeni

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Must have a proven record of at least 20 intubations, 20 chest drain insertions, 10 MI revascularization attempts and knowledge of pericardial aspirations
- Must possess a current valid international ATLS (Acute Trauma Live Support) certification and ACLS (Acute Cardiac Live Support) certification.
- Computer literacy in Microsoft Word, Excel, Internet use and Power Point
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مجموعة شركات الرويشان عنها: الشيخ/محمد بن يحيى الرويشان رئيس مجلس الإدارة

A bad guy named corruption!

here is a growing consensus among opposition parties, independent politicians, civil society activists, civil servants and even senior members of the ruling party that corruption is enemy number one to the Yemeni people. In some instances, president Saleh himself bandwagons and talks of a "bad guy named corruption." The devastating impact of corruption on the country's chances to overcome instability and underdevelopment and the prospects of a total collapse is self-evident. It needs no further proof.

Talking the talk, however, is one thing, and walking the walk is another. As an international official once summed it up: everyone in Yemen considers corruption a big problem. The only thing remaining is to act on corruption. And that particular step has not been taken. Furthermore, the talk about corruption continues to the extent that makes one wonder whether Yemen's wealth is robbed by government officials or by some invisible aliens descending to earth from

To some scholars working on Yemen, corruption is deeply rooted in the culture, structure, and dynamics of the current political regime. According to Robert Burrowes, an American specialist in Yemeni politics, the Yemeni political system has developed in

the past two decades into something he terms as "kleptocracy", which he defines as the rule of, by, and for thieves. While calling for a "reconstitution" of the Yemeni regime to augment its ability to carry out reforms, and wage the war against corruption, Burrowes seems to be very skeptical about the regime's ability to restructure itself, expand the base of beneficiaries, and to carry out the needed reforms. Burrowes, however, seems to bet on the carrot and stick of the donor



Al-Faqih

tional community appears to have spared no effort in convincing President Saleh of the necessity and urgency of reforms. By the end of 2005, Saleh visited Japan, France, and the USA. As usual, Saleh was demanding generous economic aid, however in the course of the visit, Saleh got a clear message from hosts. In response, and as

soon as the presidential jet landed at Sana'a airport, Saleh convened an open ended meeting of the cabinet to identify problems and suggest agenda for

Disappointingly, reforms in the past two years have been more symbolic than real. The exception to the rule has been the enactment of a law establishing a supreme commission to fight corruption. While the law itself can be considered a step forward despite its shortcomings, the regime seems to have killed the initiative selected to membership in the committee are shadowy figures, presidential loyalists, security affiliates, ruling party dogmatists, and mere opportunists.

Those who frequently speak strongly against corruption and have resigned from public office in protest are left out of the picture. While the committee has been busy working out benefits and privileges for members, the fight against corruption has not yet started. Many people within and without government have strong doubts about the sincerity of government when it comes to threats made against corruption. The real fight against corruption, from skeptics stand point, may never start. When asked about the Yemeni government's real intents in dealing with corruption, a European official in Sana'a commented sarcastically by saying: "let's hope that the mafia would reform the mafia.'

The author is an activist, analyst, and professor of politics at Sana'a University. He welcomes comments by email to: draflfaqih@yahoo.com

During the past few years, the internain its infancy. With few exceptions, those Don't blame or rebuke the leader's wisdom

es and Palestinian physician was expected a long time ago, definitely when it was Foundation was handling the case. Chaired by Saif Al-Islam, the son of the Libyan President, the foundation demonstrated a conservative behavior on the previous rulings issued by the Libyan judiciary thereon. It indicated that the medical team faced torture and the children's infection with HIV is the result of negligence in Bani Gazi

Nothing is strange with the deal as Libya announced in 2003 that it quit its nuclear program for the sake of improving its ties with the west. This country is known to have paid financial compensations, totaling \$3 billion, to Lockerbie Airplane Crash victims, with the average of \$10 million per victim. By doing this, Libya purchased its security and stability according to its Foreign Minister. It intended to have a deal with the U.S. but the latter refused

What Libya did is justified, particularly as it wanted to get rid of the (embargo) imposed on it by the international community. So, the Arab country has no alternative but to pass the deal after it became under embargo and found

itself alone in the battleground. The Arab brothers have nothing to do for a brotherly state facing tribulation, but they usually leave it struggling alone with its misfortune. Had there had been a unified Arab stance with Libya when it faced a tribulation and a wave of western extortion, the Arab countries would have been more able to put pressure on the international community in order to lift the embargo on Libya.

On the other hand, we have seen how the western countries came together and demonstrated a unified stance for the sake of ensuring safety of the five Bulgarian nurses. Their hard efforts culminated with securing release of the

By: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

a new one, as Libva has faced several sanctions over years while the Arabs remained silent without any reaction to the sufferings of their brothers in Libya. Today, Libya has the right to go ahead for its own interests, as well as to expand its investment ties and update its economic

What Libya did is part of a real policy, which it adopted for the sake of maintaining its interests. To ensure security and safety of its state, the Libyan President Muamar Al-Qadhafi has taken serious decisions to reach a complete normalization with the west, as well as open the European markets for his country's products, and get the necessary technical expertise for restoring oil wells and scholarships for the Libvan students.

In the past, there had been a famous proverb saying, "Nothing can scrub your skin like your fingernails do." This implies that Libya alone has been and nobody is expected to rebuke or blame the Libyan government for what

When will the Arab leaders and rulers realize the value of conciliating with their peoples, away from the external factors that never come unless they found internal factors to pave the way for their intervention? There are numerous examples in Lebanon, Sudan, Pakistan and Palestine that may help Yemenis understand this issue in a better way, particularly after we established the National Unity, a dream, which had been imagined as impossible to achieve. We have to learn how to maintain and protect such a glorious achievement (the National Unity) because centralization in governance may lead to fragmentation of Yemen and its people. What Yemen needs is carry out a comprehensive reform program and benefit from the leader's wis-

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor in Political Science. He is the head of the Arab Group for Investment and Development

to drop it from the list of responsible for tackling its own issues, Libya did terror-sponsoring coun-The phenomenon is not recently in the deal

of acquitting the tries. five Bulgarian nursthat Qadhafi Charitable

Bonus week

Finally, government admits Yemenis are human

By: Nasser Yahya

ll the tasks, which the government was mandated to do a few days ago, have nothing to do with the suffering of citizens and their poor living standards, except for the decision to cash a monthly salary for government employees for Ramadan. The government's failure to put a stop to the skyrocketing prices of foodstuffs is responsible for the poor living standards of citizens.

There was no need for such procedures to be described as urgent. However, the political and media elites, followed by the ruling General People's Congress, wanted to have people bear in mind that this party is concerned about their problems, as Sheikh Sultan Al-Barakani, who is a GPC leader. alleged: "the government has bent over backwards to try to help and get to the bottom of people's problems."

Over the past few months that followed the most recent presidential elections, prices of basic foodstuffs continued to skyrocket and began to hit the people's wallets hard. But the cabinet never took serious steps toward increasing salaries of government employees and improving their living standards, as other governments do. Instead, the GPC machine remained concerned about what has been happening in its own way. These elites accuse

tradesman of being responsible for the crisis and at other times attribute price hikes to an international increase in commodity prices, or due to rising prices of hard currency.

All such false justifications prove that the ruling elite alleges that they are better than the opposition, as well as more experienced and skilled than it. Our government is not needed to give us sob stories, but it should create equilibrium between employees' salaries and skyrocketing prices since it could not stabilize them. The shrewdness and prudence, which the government claims to have, is of no help in running the country's affairs in a better way and improve the living standards of its people.

Anyway, we don't blame anyone for the crisis, particularly after the government and its officials reached a consensus to give an extra salary to public sector employees and implement the second phase of the wage strategy. Such a phase, due to be implemented this October, will signal increases in monthly salaries for military, security and civil servants.

If such an authority becomes disillusioned over the economic situation of it citizens, it would have implemented the second phase of the strategy at the beginning of the year. However, it appears to us that Yemen has a lethargic government and not a government of the French style that immediately reacts

to citizens' complaints and investigates their living needs.

We have mentioned earlier that the urgent tasks, which the government was asked to accomplish, have nothing to do with price hikes, except for some areas already mentioned. The other irrelevant tasks include improving performance of government agencies and offices, which may take up to fifty years, and reforming the banking system. The third irrelevant task is developing and updating the judiciary system. If such a task is related to improving the living standards of citizens, this means that the Yemeni citizens are needed to perform the funeral prayer.

Such allegedly urgent tasks remind us of the famous joke saying: "Once a king requested a teacher to teach his donkey how to read and write. Then Juha applied for the job and set a condition of ten years to accomplish the task and at the same time he demanded much money and allowances throughout the ten-year period. The king set a condition to kill Juha if he faild to accomplish the task successfully. Asked about his adventure, Juha replied that ten years is a very long period and during which time, the king, the donkey or may die."

Having a glance at the difficulty associated with the urgent tasks, which the government was asked to do, we expect the Yemeni people to die or flee across the borders of their homeland.

Another expectation is that the government officials may die and the Yemeni people will no longer need any reforms in their country.

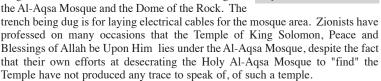
Source: Al-Sahwa Weekly

COMMON SENSE

The ZOA teaches Olmert how to be a Zionist!

his was "released to the press" on September 7, 2007: "The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA) has written to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert urging him to immediately take action to stop the wanton destruction of priceless Jewish antiquities on Jerusalem's Temple Mount by the Waqf, the Muslim religious authorities who control the Temple Mount area."

For those who may not know, the Waqf is a sort of religious foundation that, in this case, is in charge of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. The



Having said that, it goes without saying, there is absolutely no harm to Islam if the Temple of Solomon could indeed be found near, under or around the Al-Aqsa Mosque. After all Solomon, David and all the Prophets of Ancient Israel are indeed Prophets of Islam and are probably revered by Moslems more than they are by the ZOA.

The important thing to ask is where was the Zionist Organization of America when the Zionist gangs were desecrating and indiscriminately destroying literally hundreds of Christian churches as well as Moslem mosques that were ON THE SURFACE in Palestine and have been in existence for hundreds of years, some of them since the early dawn of Islam some thirteen centuries back. We never heard of the ZOA "urging" David Ben Gurion to interfere and prevent the Stern, Hagana, Irgun and other Zionist terrorist organizations, from carrying out their wanton and systematic destruction of anything and everything that represented the indigenous population of Palestine, and with the generous funding of the ZOA, the United Jewish Appeal and the Anti Defamation League of B'nai Brith. Why does not the ZOA ask the millions of Christians and Moslems that were forcefully evicted from the Holy Land of Christians, Moslems and Jews, in one of the worst and most merciless ethnic cleansing campaigns of modern times, what happened to their churches and mosques?

Why didn't the ZOA scream and shout when the Zionist hoodlums burned the Al-Aqsa Mosque and slaughtered scores of worshippers in the Ibrahimi Mosque (in the Holy fasting Month of Ramadan) just over the last decade and when Zionist "extremists" of the like of Netanyahu were digging tunnels that were indeed desecrating the subsurface of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, supposedly in search of the long lost Temple of Solomon? It is worth noting that all reasonable archeologists have said that this last act would indeed threaten the steadfastness of the foundations of the mosque and associated facilities.

Why didn't the ZOA write to the Israeli Prime Minister in the early and mid 1990s when the Israelis were actively mentoring the Serbian mobs that wantonly destroyed hundreds of mosques in Bosnia-Herzegovina, some of them aged hundreds of years, not to mention carrying out the most horrific and shameless ethnic cleansing campaigns of our age? It is about time that the ZOA and other pro Zionist organizations to use their leverage to teach their Israeli pets some more important lessons in high morals then to distort the facts and mislead the views of world opinion.

One final comment: How can the ZOA proclaim itself as qualified to determine what is "significantly" holy to Moslems or other believers as they "Press Release" in their (see http://www.zoa.org/2007/09/zoa_olmert_gove.htm). On a similar note, the Qur'an specifically mentions the Al-Aqsa Mosque on more than one occasion and for Moslems to have it mentioned even once is sufficient enough to render it as indisputably holy, bearing in mind that Moslems used to pray facing the Al-Aqsa Mosque prior to Mecca. On a similar context, why does not the ZOA regard Mecca as a Holy site to all monotheists, since it was Ibrahim (and Ishmael, Isaac's brother), who built the First Holy Mosque in Mecca, and consider it "significantly" holy, as Moslems regard all genuine Jewish holy places as 'significantly holy. Otherwise the Moslems would not have built the Al-Aqsa Mosque, where it stands today, in the first place, and without any destruction inflicted to the "Wailing Wall", reportedly the only remains of the Holy Temple.

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



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Has the U.S.-Arab marriage gone sour?

By: Rachelle Kliger, The Media Line Ltd

he diverse relationships between Washington and the various Arab capitals depend on many factors and could easily change, with the rapid developments in the Middle

Some would describe the relationship between the United States and the Arab world as a marriage of convenience gone

In the past both sides were happy to put up with the other's antics. But then came September 11, the war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq. It looked as if things would never be the same again.

The events of 9/11 and its aftermath have no doubt altered the bond between the Western superpower and countries in the Middle East. But can they rise above their differences and the growing popular opposition each population harbors towards the other?

In the current circumstances, can the U.S. forge genuine alliances in the Middle East?

The Gulf Energy Hub

The Sunni Gulf countries still maintain good relations with the U.S. Bahrain hosts significant U.S. naval forces and the region has considerable energy resources to offer.

But developments over the past six years cannot be overlooked.

"The fact that 17 of the 19 hijackers on 9/11 were from the Gulf countries put a strain on these relations," says Christian Koch, director of international studies at the Dubai-based Gulf Research Center.

The U.S. became more aware of financial and ideological support for terrorism within the Gulf countries following the attacks.

There was also a reassessment of these relations within the Gulf region, which became increasingly frustrated with the U.S.'s actions in Iraq and its tightening of immigration policies.

"An event like 9/11 wasn't going to cause a complete rift in the relationship because there are still a lot of mutual interests at play," Koch says. "The Gulf states very much depend on U.S. military protection. It's a very volatile region security-wise."

Paradoxically, relations between Bahrain and the U.S. are better now than they were before 9/11, says Jalal Fairooz, a Bahraini lawmaker and a member of the parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defense and National Security Committee.

The war on Iraq has affected the way the general public view the U.S., but it did not affect the official view, he says.

Due to the volatility of the region, the Bahraini government feels that the American presence offers an assurance of stability to the regime, Fairooz says.

Fairooz is satisfied with the degree of economic relations between Bahrain and the U.S., but feels there is room for improvement on the political level.

"We think the U.S. can do more to encourage more democracy and human rights in Bahrain for the best of Washington's national interests," he

The Gulf's status as a dominant energy player means its stability is a top priority for the U.S.

But the war in Iraq prompted states in the region to question the real motive of Washington's policies.

capitals that Saddam Hussein was a alliance.

dictator, but they also felt his regime was largely contained and posed no immediate threat to his neighbors, Koch

"There's a lot of skepticism about whether the U.S. can be trusted to do the right thing in Iraq and bring about stability," he says. "At the same time there are concerns the U.S. will prematurely leave and then the region will be left to deal with the issue on its doorstep."

Gulf states feel the real threat is looming not from Iraq but from Iran. However, having the U.S. bogged down in Iraq makes it even more difficult to resolve the Iranian issue, since its military is stretched thin and its options are limited.

"Iran has moved into this vacuum that the U.S. has created," Koch says.

The U.S. has rediscovered the value of the Gulf states over the past year or so, especially since the Iranian issue has become more acute. The most active player is Saudi Arabia, which has emerged as a major power broker in helping settle regional disputes.

These states are also developing strategic economic and defense relations with other states and are not maintaining an exclusive reliance on the U.S. as they cannot be sure that such a dependence will guarantee the security they seek.

However, it is clear that the U.S. will continue to play a dominant role in the region's security.

The Power Brokers - Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt

Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia are often referred to as the moderate players in the Arab world.

The U.S. is keen to maintain good relations with them because of their key mediation roles in regional conflicts. If U.S. President George W. Bush wants to leave a legacy of peace in the Middle East, he will have to rely heavily on these local brokers to pave the way.

Saudi Arabia felt the heat after 9/11 as most of the perpetrators of the attacks were from the Saudi kingdom.

"However, that was eased when Saudi Arabia itself was targeted several times by Al-Qa'ida," says Dr. Muhammad Al-Ma'sri, a political scientist at the Center for Strategic Studies in Jordan.

All three have aligned themselves with the U.S. in the fight against terrorism, not only because they feel it to be an advantageous strategy, but also due to their becoming targets of Jihadi terrorism themselves.

They have strengthened their ties with the U.S. since 9/11, but continue to draw criticism regarding sluggishness on domestic reform.

Al-Oa'ida attacks in Jordan, Egypt and the Saudi kingdom made it easier for the regimes to appeal to their people after 9/11 and persuade them that joining the American strategy was right.

"In many ways I think the relationship is better," says Robert W. Jordan, a former U.S. ambassador to Saudi

Jordan began his term just one month after 9/11, and found his Saudi peers in a state of shock. Six years later, he feels they have made considerable steps in Washington's direction.

"I think there is more of an attitude of a common goal to defeat Al-Qa'ida, to defeat extremism and to defeat terrorism, which we frankly didn't have in 2001," he says.

There are still tensions between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia regarding the Palestinians and Iraq, but the former ambassador maintains there are still There is general agreement in Gulf enough common interests to preserve an

When the war in Iraq began, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan did not overtly oppose the invasion, but they are now unable to support the new order in Iraq because it is so unstable.

"They have a dilemma," Al-Ma'sri explains. "On the one hand they are trying to legitimize their position in the eyes of the Americans, but they can't defend this position as well as they could in 2003 and 2004, when the situation in Iraq was more promising than it is

On the other hand, the failure of the U.S. to set up a democratic model in Iraq has also proven useful for these countries.

When confronted by the Americans to incorporate more reforms or democratization, they can use the failure in Iraq as ammunition to defend their position, claiming it did not work in Iraq and, therefore, there is no reason to think it would work in their own countries.

"They are exploiting the American failure in Iraq to push their own agendas," Al-Ma'sri says.

The reliance of the U.S. on Saudi Arabia is noticeable in the \$20-billion arms deal the U.S. has proposed to ink with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, and its continuing aid to Egypt.

The U.S. is keen on seeing Saudi participation in the American Middle East conference in Washington scheduled for this November. It has been suggested that the package was meant as an incentive to ensure Saudi attendance, which is critical for the Bush administration.

Syria - Axis of Evil or Desired Partner?

Relations between the U.S. and Syria deteriorated rapidly after the war in Iraq. The U.S. accused Damascus of supporting terrorism and helping groups infiltrate through its borders into Iraq to fight U.S. forces. Damascus has also been implicated in the assassination of former Lebanese prime minister Rafiq Al-Hariri in February 2005.

But even in the current tense climate, the two parties recognize it is not in their best interests to be on bad terms.

"The U.S. still has a very tense relationship with Syria on the administration level but on other levels things are going in a different direction," says Nadim Shehadi, a researcher at London's Chatham House. "It's practically only George Bush who wants to boycott Syria. There are lots of moves in the U.S. from politicians and media people to engage with Syria."

Shehadi says relations with Syria are not inherently important to the U.S. However, their significance lies in the fact that Syria has a part to play in every conflict in the region.

"It has influence in Iraq, in Lebanon, in Palestine and in Iran," Shehadi says, 'So it puts itself in a pivotal role."

"I think these relations are going through a grey period where lots of things are undecided," says Dr. Samir Al-Taqi, director of the Damascus-based Orient Center for Studies who is considered to be close to the Syrian government.

"The main issue here is that the U.S. administration is crippled. It can no longer pursue its old approach to the problems in the region," Al-Taqi says. "But we understand the necessity of having common interests."

"Syria is extremely interested in a rapprochement with the U.S. but in the context of a conciliatory approach to the problems in the region," he says.

It is worth noting that Syria does not hold vast resources of energy. Economically, the U.S. does not have

the same energy interests in Syria as it has in the Gulf, so it is less reliant on Syria. However, this could prove to be a double-edged sword, because any future

U.S. sanctions on Damascus will not bite

The Iranian Factor

The standoff with Iran is becoming a determining factor in the U.S.'s relations with countries in the Middle East.

Western countries, and especially the U.S., are just as concerned that Iran's controversial nuclear program is being used to covertly manufacture nuclear weapons, a claim that Tehran denies.

Tension is mounting in the Persian Gulf, where U.S. forces are accumulating, giving rise to speculation of a possible military showdown to paralyze Iran's nuclear capabilities.

Sunni Muslim countries, and especially Iran's neighbors in the Gulf, are as concerned as the West about the ascension of a nuclear-capable Shi'ite superpower in the region.

"The Saudis are definitely afraid of a military strike on Iran," former ambassador Jordan says. "They believe they will be the first in the line of fire if there were retaliation. And they would be right."

This is an issue that places many of these countries on the side of the U.S. However, an alliance with Washington against Iran is not a given.

Koch says the prevailing feeling among Gulf officialdom is that the U.S. has a one-dimensional mindset, that it has abandoned diplomatic strategies and has resolved to use muscle to pursue its interests in the region. They feel that if the U.S. pursues a strategy similar to its actions in Iraq, it will prove to be more damaging than beneficial.

"The main stand of the government and the people of Bahrain is that any military action against Iran can result in a dangerous situation in the region," Bahraini MP Fairooz says. "All the governments here in the region, including Bahrain, are trying to push for a peaceful dialogue and a resolution that will avoid military action."

With regard to the relations between the Jordanian-Saudi-Egyptian axis and the U.S., Al-Ma'sri maintains the future of these ties depends heavily on how things play out with Iran and with the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Al-Ma'sri sees a direct relationship between these two processes.

"If the Americans pressure the Israelis a close alliance between Washington and

for more compromise, these three countries will do more to support American policies in Iran or even in Iraq," he says. "There is a correlation and it is expressed repeatedly by these countries. If the Americans don't do more to get rewards from the Israelis concerning the Palestinian issue, they will tell the Americans they won't go full board with them."

Dr. Samer Shehata, an assistant professor of Arab politics at the Center for Contemporary Studies at Georgetown University, notes a discrepancy in the attitudes of officialdom and that of the man in the Arab street with regards to Iran.

While local regimes are not interested in a nuclear powerful Iran, Arab public opinion views the U.S. as holding a double standard with regard to the nuclear issue, because it is common knowledge that Israel has a nuclear program, but the U.S. is focusing its pressure on Iran.

With American troops lining Iran's borders in Afghanistan and in Iraq, Iran is viewed as being under the threat of a Western bully.

"Many people in the Arab world have sympathy towards Iran precisely because it has an antagonistic relationship with the United States," Shehata says.

Straddling a Fine Line - Terrorism and Reform

The U.S. is currently walking a fine line between its willingness to promote democracy and broker peace in the Middle East, on the one hand, and to continue its relentless fight against

This has brought about some curious policies in the Middle East as it tries to straddle this line and maintain both

Washington needs the help of Arab countries to fight terrorists seeking a safe haven on their soil, while at the same time criticizes these countries' sluggish pace of domestic reform, their poor performance on human rights and lack of democratic procedures.

This paradox is evident in the U.S.'s relations with Sudan, where more than 200,000 people have been killed in the Darfur region over the past four years. The Sudanese government is being accused of backing violent armed organizations to carry out what the U.S. has itself described as genocide.

But news reports indicate there is still

'We see a far closer working relationship between the two than what we perhaps would assume from the megaphone diplomacy that's coming out of the Darfur crisis," says Maryam Bibi Jooma, a researcher on Sudan at the Institute for Security Studies in Pretoria.

The Sudanese security services are providing the U.S. with information to help with the war on terror, and in a way is allowing protection of the Darfur crisis, she says.

"We have a strange situation where Sudan is both a sponsor of terrorism, according to the U.S., and also a key ally against terrorism."

"The U.S.'s entire foreign policy in the Horn of Africa is being motivated by its domestic concern over the war on terror and very little to do with the internal contradiction of democratic transformation."

But are these contradictory policies successful in bettering relations with the Arab world?

Many think not.

"I think when it comes to actual policies there is a grand discrepancy between America's claim to want better relations with the Arab world and the actual policies that it implements," Georgetown University's Shehata says.

Washington, he maintains, is not doing enough to safeguard these ties.

"I think the administration is misguided on a number of issues and this has disastrous consequences for U.S.-Arab relations."

Former ambassador Jordan says the U.S. has not emphasized its relationships with the Arab world over the past five or six years in a way that it could have.

"There's a sense that Washington has simply not had relations with the Arab world on its agenda," he says.

However, he believes there will be more efforts on the part of Bush and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to make a mark and set an agenda before Bush's current term of office is up.

Whether the relations of the U.S. with the Arab world can remain strong depends on many factors. The repercussions of the confrontation with Iran, the U.S.'s achievements on the Israeli-Palestinian front, developments in the energy market and the outcome of the Al-Hariri trial are some of the events that will shape these relations.

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The cost of the gender gap

By: Heleen Mees

orking women throughout the world have long complained of the unfairness implied by lower pay than what men receive. But the wage disparity between men and women is more than unjust. It is also economically

Economists at the International Monetary Fund have calculated that the "gender gap" costs the world billions of dollars in economic growth each year. A cross section of 40 poor and rich countries shows that there is a strong relationship between women's economic and social status and overall economic growth. Women's lack of education, health care, and economic and social opportunities - both absolutely and

relative to men - inhibits economic growth. By contrast, economic growth ameliorates women's subordinated

In The State Of The World's Children 2007, UNICEF reports that gender equality renders a double dividend: healthy, educated women rear healthy, educated children. According to UNICEF, women feel greater responsibility than men for the household, and they spend more money on food, medicine, and educating children. But what UNICEF suggests as the solution for developing nations – that women be made responsible for the household and childrearing – is in fact the

cause of the problem. Indeed, the "double dividend" is a curse rather than a blessing, because it confines women to the home. Policy measures that cultivate traditional role

patterns should be abolished. Instead, one must promote the economic empowerment of women to help generate economic growth.

Evidence for this can be found in Western Europe. According to the Dutch historians Tine de Moor and Jan Luyten van Zanden, the early break with patriarchy in Europe in the late Middle-Ages (1200-1500) accounts for the rise of capitalism and growing prosperity in the Western World. Girls were no longer married off, but selected their own spouses. As a result, it became worthwhile for parents to invest in girls' education and wellbeing.

As a result, Europe's economy advanced much more than China's over the next five centuries. However, the tables have turned. As The Economist pointed out last year, women have become the engine of global growth, especially in China and other Asian countries. The Asian economies seem to make much better use of the resources that women have to offer than Europeans

In Asia, more women work, they work more hours, and they advance on the corporate ladder much faster than European women. In the Philippines, 89% of companies have women in senior management positions. China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Taiwan, and Singapore follow closely in terms of women in top jobs. Even in India, where more than half of girls and women are illiterate, more women hold senior management positions than in countries like Germany and the Netherlands.

In Europe, women long ago bridged the education gap with their male peers. Still, they occupy a mere 8.5% of corporate boardroom seats. Except for

Scandinavia, the number of women on Europe's top company boards is stagnating

In part, this is a classic insider-outsider tale. Male dominance in the marketplace works like a cartel, barring talented women from top jobs. On average, women's take-home pay is half that of

But European women are to blame as well. In European countries like Germany and the Netherlands, collegeeducated women often choose to be stayat-home mothers or work part-time. Only one of 10 female professionals with children works full-time in the Netherlands, compared to nine of 10 male professionals with children. So it should not come as a surprise that

employers don't take women seriously. Women's contribution to the Dutch economy is around 27%. A raw estimate shows that if women would work a bit more outside the home and thus increase their contribution to the Dutch economy to, say, 35%, this would generate an additional 11% in GDP growth, some ¤60 billion per year. Women would still be working only half as much as men outside the home. With the extra money women would generate, the government could take care of the aging population and still have billions to spend on education and childcare.

What is true in the Netherlands and Europe is true all over the world: reducing the inequalities that exist between men and women is not only a matter of justice; it also makes economic

Heleen Mees is an economist and lawyer living in New York. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007.





المؤسسة الوطنية لكافحة السرطان **National Cancer Control Foundation**

تأسست المؤسسة الوطنية لمكافحة السرطان في 3/10/2003 م كأول مؤسسة خيرية طوعية تهتم بمكافحة السرطان في اليمن

- يشرف على المؤسسة مجلس أمناء يضم نخبة من رجال المال والأعمال الخيرين على رأسهم الحاج عبد الواسع هائل سعيد رئس مجلس الأمناء .
- ورغم حداثة نشأتها إلا أنها نالت ثقة شعبية واسعة واستطاعت بناء علاقات واسعة محلِّية وإقليمية ودولية حيث أصبحت عضواً في الاتحاد الخليجي لمكافحة السرطان عام ٢٠٠٦ م وعضواً في الاتحاد العالمي لمكافحة السرطان ٢٠٠٧م .
- للمؤسسة مجلس علمي يضم نخبة من الأطباء المتميزين في مختلف تخصصات
- يدير المؤسسة كادر وظيفي مهني متميز تم اختياره بعناية وفق معايير مهنية وعلمية

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تسعى المؤسسة الوطنية لكافحة السرطان لبناء المركز الوطني للأورام بالعاصمة صنعاء وهو الأول من نوعه الذي تقوم به مؤسسة

تقوم المؤسسة بتنفيذ عدد من القوافل الطبية في عدد من محافظات الجمهورية لتقديم الخدمات الصحية والدوائية لمرضى السرطان مجانأ بالإضافة للكشف المبكر والتوعية بأهم أعراض هذا المرض الخبيث.



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كما افتتحت وحدة الكشف المبكر عن

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تنفذ المؤسسة حملات وطنية سنوية حيث تعد الحملة الوطنية الخامسة هذا العام فاتحة عمل كبير تعتزم المؤسسة تنفيذه من خلال البدء في بناء المركز الوطني للأورام في العاصمة صنعاء .



Yemen Times presents its felicitations to its clients and readers on the occasion of the **Holy Month of Ramadhan**

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nexen







SAFER







Ramadan 2007

offer my best wishes to Muslims all over the world on the occasion of the month of Ramadan, and sincerely hope that this holy month will bring plenty, well being and particularly peace to all believers. So many Muslims, in Palestine, Chechnya, Kashmir, East Turkestan, Indonesia and

other countries are entering this month to the accompaniment of violence, conflict and war. The sole desire of these innocent people caught in the ravages of poverty, hunger and disease is to be able to live by their religion, in an atmosphere of peace and stability, and to live their lives unmolested.

In order for all these problems to come to an end, therefore, all Muslims need to come together as one, make a serious effort to make the values of the Qur'an prevail, and cooperate to offer all assistance possible to their needy Muslim brethren. The month of Ramadan is particularly important as a time when cooperation and helping others come to the fore. The important thing here is for nobody to think "what good can any help from me do?" but to work with a sincere heart. What must not be forgotten is that it is Allah, the Lord of all the Worlds, who will permit these efforts to succeed and accept the prayers of the faithful.

The month of Ramadan is one of abundance, described in the Qur'an, itself sent down as a guide to all of mankind, as "better than a thousand months" (Surat al-Qadr: 3) and which contains the Night of Power. Throughout this month all the Muslims of the world carry out their fasting obligation as one and thank their Lord for the blessings He has given them. In Surat al-Baqara, Allah proclaims the following about the month of Ramadan:

You are the best nation ever to be produced before mankind. You enjoin the right, forbid the wrong and believe in Allah. (Surah Al 'Imran: 110)

The month of Ramadan is the one in which the Qur'an was sent down as guidance for mankind, with Clear Signs containing guidance and discrimination. Any of you who are resident for the month should fast it. But any of you who are ill or on a journey should fast a number of other days. Allah desires ease for you; He does not desire difficulty for you. You should complete the number of days and proclaim Allah's greatness for the guidance He has given you so that hopefully you will be thankful. (Surat al-Baqara: 185)



Fulfilling one's obligation of fasting in a manner pleasing to Allah is a sign of strong faith, purity, sincerity and fear of Allah. Fasting is an act of worship between Allah and His servant, since only Allah knows a person's intentions, sincerity, purity, and the care he takes over the lawful

and unlawful as he fulfills this obligation. Nobody can know whether someone else fasts to impress those around him or else out of sincere intent. A person who fasts is recompensed for this act of worship only in the sight of Allah. Our Prophet gave believers great glad tidings in a hadith: "How happy are those who spend this month fasting, worshipping and in doing good deeds!"

Allah reveals the obligatory nature of fasting in Surat al-Baqara:

You who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard (against evil). (Surat al-**Bagara: 183**)

As is revealed in that verse, one of the reasons why fasting is obligatory is for people to avoid evil and restrain their desires. The only way to do that is to believe in Allah with a sincere heart, abide by His commands and recommendations and avoid the temptations of one's desires. Such a person's morality will grow ever more pleasing with time, his faith will mature and his fear of Allah grow stronger.

However, the important thing is that the pure faith, sincere prayer, care taken over the remembrance of Allah and attention to restraining one's desires acquired during the month of Ramadan should not weaken once it is over. A person with strong faith spreads the superior morality of Ramadan over every moment of his life. Allah has made fasting on certain days an obligation, and has commanded people to avoid wrongdoing. Yet one must avoid wrongdoing throughout one's life, listen to the voice of one's conscience, make efforts to win Allah's good pleasure with godly intent and turn only to Him. That is the morality that Allah will find pleasing. Doing the opposite, in other words only worshipping, praying and remembering Allah during the month of Ramadan, and then turning away from the truths revealed in the Qur'an once that month is over is behaviour condemned by Allah. That is because on the Day of Judgement a person will be asked to account for all his deeds, great and small, and will be appropriately rewarded for them. Those who avoided evil and listened to the voice of their conscience will be saved. and those who denied Him will suffer the endless torments of hell.

QUICK GRASP OF FAITH

• People, in general, pray only during

times of hardship. What does the Qur'an say about this?

People who are far from the Qur'an's morals pray to Allah only when they become sick, or face hardship or some other "disaster." At these times, they understand how helpless they are. However, those who seek refuge in Allah at such times and pray to Him continuously to free them from their troubles and grant them blessings change the minute the situation is resolved.

They forget to pray to Allah and thank Him for His blessings. As soon as they are freed from their difficulties, they immediately reveal their insincerity toward Allah.

Their hypocritical and insincere manner is described in the following

When the waves hang over them like canopies, they call upon Allah, making their religion sincerely His. But then when He delivers them safely to the land, some of them are ambivalent. None but a treacherous, thankless man denies Our Signs. (Surah Luqman, 32)

Whoever is not merciful towards people, will not be treated mercifully by Allah.

(Ahmad ibn Hanbal)

Has Allah sent a warner / Messenger to all nations?

The verse "There is no community to which a warner has not come" (Surah Fatir, 24), clearly states that Allah has done so. These Messengers explained Allah's religion to their people, as well as the rituals of worship that they should perform, gave them the glad tidings of Paradise, and warned them about the punishment of Hell. In addition, the Messengers have always been role models for their people, due to their meticulous fulfillment of Allah's religion, their good morals, and the intense awe of Allah that they feel. Another reason why Allah warns humanity through His Messengers is as follows:

Messengers bringing good news and giving warning, so that people will have no argument against Allah after the coming of the Messengers. Allah is Almighty, All-Wise. (Surat an-Nisa',

This is a manifestation of Allah's superior justice. On the Day of Judgment, no one will be able to say that he or she was not warned of Allah's punishment or had not been told of his or her responsibilities to Allah. In other words, everybody will be justly paid in full. (For further reference, please see, Quick Grasp of Faith 1-3, by Harun Yahya)

MIRACLES OF THE QUR'AN LAND LOSS AT THE EXTREMI-

Do they not see how We come to the land eroding it at its extremities?... (Qur'an, 13:41)

... Do they not see how We come to the land eroding it from its extremities?... (Qur'an, 21:44)

The Earth is bombarded by proton, electron and alpha particles from the Sun. These solar winds are powerful enough to separate the atmosphere from the Earth. However, it will take about five times longer than the total life of the Sun at the Earth's present rate of matter loss (at most 3 kg per second.) for the atmosphere to be used up. That is because, thanks to the powerful magnetic field formed by the magnetosphere in the atmosphere, the Earth is to some extent protected from this powerful erosion. The loss of ions—oxygen, helium and hydrogen—dispersed over the Earth's ionosphere layer into the depths of space is of much smaller dimensions than the vast layer of air surrounding the Earth. Even so, the amount leaking into space is nevertheless of a significant size.

Thanks to NASA spacecraft, researchers have obtained concrete evidence that energy explosions on the Sun cause oxygen and other gases to disperse into space from the outer layer of the Earth's atmosphere. Scientists first observed that the Earth experiences a loss of matter from its outer layers on September 24-25, 1998.

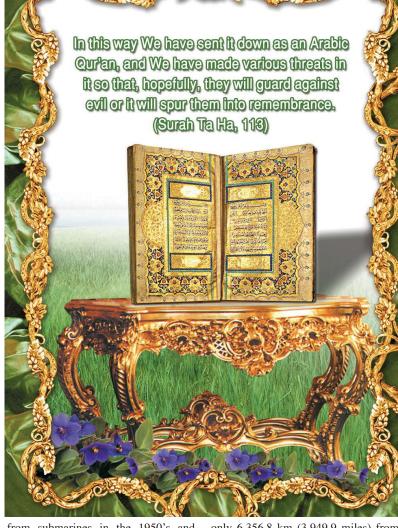
However, the above verses may also be referring to the loss of land on Earth in another regard.

At the present time, the polar ice caps are melting and the water level in the oceans is rising. The increasing quantity of water is covering ever more land. As coastal areas come under water, the land surface or total amount of land is decreasing. The expression "eroding it from its extremities" in the above verses may well be pointing to coastal areas being covered by water.

A New York Times report on this subject reads:

THE MUSLIMS OF THE **WORLD GREET** THE MONTH OF RAMADAN

Over the last century, the average surface temperature of the globe has risen by about 1 degree Fahrenheit, and the rate of warming has accelerated in the last quarter-century. That is a significant amount... Previous studies of satellite and submarine observations have seemed to establish a warming trend in the northern polar region and raise the possibility of a melting icecap. Scientists at the Goddard Space Science Institute, a NASA research center in Manhattan, compared data



from submarines in the 1950's and 1960's with 1990's observations, demonstrating that the ice cover over the entire Arctic basin has thinned by 45 percent. Satellite images have revealed that the extent of ice coverage has significantly shrunk in recent years.

The findings made towards the end of the 20th century help us to understand the wisdom of Surat ar-Ra'd 41, and Surat al-Anbiya' 44.

This loss at the extremities, as revealed by Allah, may be understood in light of another scientific fact revealed in the Qur'an. The fact that the Earth, which revolves around its own axis, has a geoid shape, is a fact that has gained acceptance in recent centuries.

Research has revealed that the equatorial diameter of the Earth expands under the effect of the force stemming from this rotation, and that it is compressed at its extremities, in other words the poles. Furthermore, since the Earth is in constant rotation this change continues to occur. Indeed, the term "nanqusu" in Surat ar-Ra'd 41, translated as "eroding," shows that this process of erosion is an ongoing one.

It is the force of gravity that has given such celestial bodies as the Earth their spherical form. However, that shape is not exactly spherical; it flattens out somewhat at the poles and thickens at the equator. According to NASA figures, the radius of the Earth is 6,378.1 km (3,963.2 miles) at the equator but only 6,356.8 km (3,949.9 miles) from pole to pole. This is a difference of some 0.3%.

This model of the shape of the Earth was suggested by Sir Isaac Newton in 1687. This fact, revealed in the Qur'an 1,400 years ago, is another of its scientific miracles.

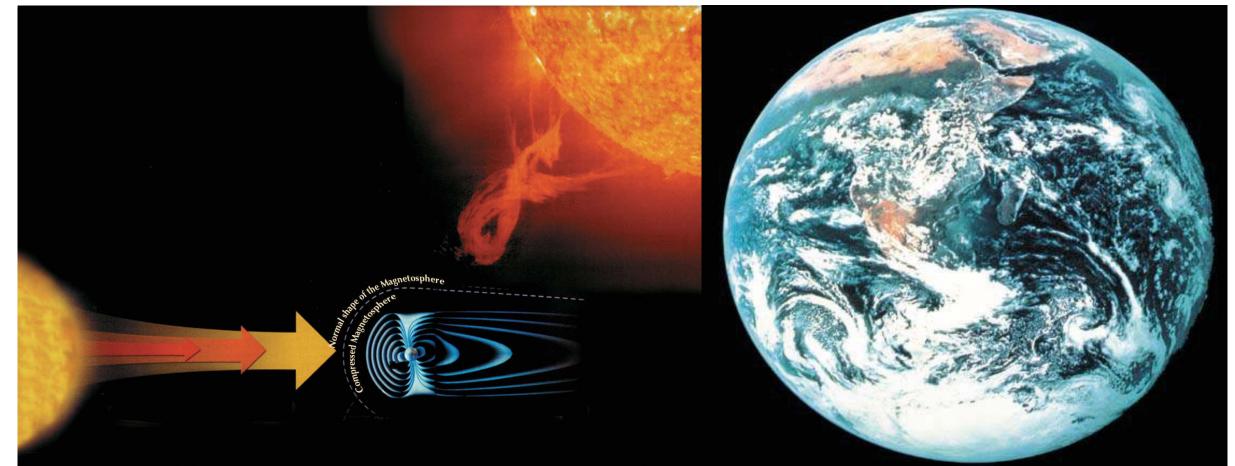
THE EARTH'S DIRECTION OF ROTATION

You will see the mountains and reckon them to be solid; but they go past like clouds-the handiwork of Allah Who gives to everything its solidity. He is aware of what you do. (Qur'an, 27:88)

The above verse emphasises that the Earth not only rotates but that it also has a direction of rotation. The direction of movement of the main cloud masses at 3,500-4,000 metres high is always from West to East. That is why it is generally the state of the weather in the West which is looked at in meteorological forecasts.

The main reason why cloud masses are pulled from West to East is the direction in which the Earth rotates. As we now know, our Earth spins from West to East. This fact, only recently established by science, was revealed in the Qur'an hundreds of years ago. (For further reference, please see, Miracles of the Qur'an, by Harun Yahya)

To purchase the works of Harun Yahya, please visit www.bookglobal.net



Dr. Dyer:

"There is a dire need to improve the links between what our schools deliver and what the economy needs"

Dr. Caroline Dyer is a developmental science professor at the University of Leeds in the UK. She has undertaken developmental research in many parts of the world including China, India and Yemen, where she worked with several developmental agencies and has researched child labour in the country. Yemen Times interviewed Dr. Dyer regarding some of the specific issues relating to child labour in Yemen.

Interviewed by Raidan Al-Saqqaf alsaqqaf@gmail.com

In your research about child labour in Yemen, you argued that any intervention strategy that lacks an understanding of context is bound to fail. Can you elaborate on that?

Over several decades of educational interventions around the world, it's becoming more and more obvious that the 'one size fits all' approach to intervention doesn't really fit anyone.

One of the main problems is that what seems logical to a policy maker, or designer, programme international aid agency, doesn't necessarily match the logic and understandings of the people who will actually be implementing the

"Schooling might need to be orientated to recognise this; for example, part of the curriculum might be devoted to preparing children with relevant skills."

innovation. This is a major barrier where change is designed and implemented in a 'top down' way - and furthermore lots of education change operates like this. Policy makers all too often see teachers as part of the problem, rather than agents of change who need to be consulted. They seem to forget that actually it's the teachers and not the policy makers who will be the ones who have to try and make the suggested policy changes work. This means that there can be a big gap between what policy expects and what teachers feel they can do about the problems policy is trying to address. This is one aspect of the question of

A second is that a country like Yemen is varied; there are local differences between the different geographical areas, and patterns of child labour also vary in the different areas.

If an intervention isn't informed about these two aspects of context, it's liable to make assumptions about what is wrong, what should be done about it, and what people on the ground are able to do. If a programme design isn't sufficiently in touch with these kinds of local realities, the likelihood of good intentions making any real difference is reduced. So educational innovation needs to have a good understanding of factors that are likely to shape its results, not make too many assumptions. In my article, my argument is that we need to take into account the levels of professional capacity of Yemeni teachers, and recognise that working children's educational needs are diverse, too. A programme that has all the right intentions about using schools to prevent child labour, but makes assumptions about teacher capacity and children's work, is more likely to fail than one that really tries to match programme intentions with individual and systemic capacity. And if there are problems there, instead of hoping it'll work out, one way forward is for a programme to include capacity

To do the research needed to understand contexts takes time and it's expensive, but policy communities and aid agencies often want change to happen quickly, within budgets and timeframes that often lack sufficient flexibility. We have to aim for workable compromises.

improvement in order to better the fit

between what needs to be done, and

what is possible in local contexts.

"Yemen's a relatively young country that to me looks as if lots of entrepreneurial talent among its youthful population would be something the education system might usefully foster, for example."

From your understanding about Yemen's context, what role can education play in tackling poverty in the country?

How education really helps to tackle poverty isn't nearly as well understood as it appears. It's not a simple relationship. All too often, people associate formal education with employment in the formal sector. But of



Country like Yemen is varied; there are local differences between the different geographical areas, and patterns of child labour also vary in the different

course the formal sector isn't capable of absorbing all school graduates. Probably, work in the informal economy is more likely for many people, and schooling might need to be orientated to recognise this. For example, part of the curriculum might be devoted to preparing children with relevant skills. The danger might be a reductionist view that has low aspirations for children of very poor families, so getting the balance right is important.

Underlying this argument is a concern that education can't impact very much on poverty if it's treated in isolation. Integrated development planning is really important - so the relationship between what school graduates do and the aspirations for growth of the wider economy informs the skills, knowledge understandings children gain as part of their education. Yemen's a relatively young country that to me looks as if lots of entrepreneurial talent among its youthful population would be something the education system might usefully foster, for example.

"... concern that education can't impact very much on poverty if it's treated in isolation"

But isn't there income for the family justifying children's work in Yemen given its widespread poverty and meager returns to education?

One can adopt two positions on this. One is the pragmatic position that is reflected in this question, which argues that poverty is here to stay so children's work must be tolerated because it's unrealistic to expect families to survive otherwise. Work is then analysed into different categories and attention is focused on getting children out of the 'worst' kinds. It's very difficult to think otherwise in Yemen where poverty is so prevalent; but actually it lets the government off the hook by excusing its failure to implement stated policy which says all children must be in school. The other position is the idealist one that starts from a position of child rights – and Yemen has signed up to the Convention on the Rights of the Child so this position has to be considered. According to this view, formal education is a basic child right and if work is getting in the way of achieving that right then it is work that has to stop. Underlying this position is the idea that policy failure in respect of child's rights can't be tolerated or excused. Thus the focus is getting all children into school context of poverty this seems illogical and quite unrealistic; but in the end workplace and employer expectations change because children aren't available and everyone is focused on

"It [families dependence on working children to supplement income] lets the government off the hook by excusing its failure to implement stated policy which says all children must be in school."



Dr Caroline Dyer works in the Centre for Development Studies at the University at Leeds, where she teaches development practice. She has 15 years of experience in education for development, and specialises in the educational inclusion of minority groups.

getting stated policy implemented.

I admit that I have always adopted a pragmatist stance but I have recently learned about the work of an NGO called the MV Foundation in southern India. This NGO has adopted the idealist stance and through the use of educational bridge courses it has got working children into mainstream schools and helped create a local world view that children are of an age to study, not work. Even the poorest of families appear to prefer education for their children if this can be made possible. This has really made me wonder whether being pragmatic isn't just colluding with exploitation.

"If a few years of education do not provide any value added for children, then there's a problem with what that education is offering."

How valid is the argument that working children – in Yemen - learn experiences that makes them more useful in the workplace compared to their peers who spend a few years at

This goes back to what I was saying earlier about the need to improve the links between what schools deliver and what the economy needs, as well as changing expectations that children are present in the workplace. Having children work appears to be driven by families' economic necessity; but if you talk to poor families and working children, they are often prepared to make huge compromises to get an education and they do see schooling as very important. If a few years of education do not provide any value added for children, then there's a problem with what that education is offering. The quality and relevance of that education has to be investigated as a matter of urgency. It is not correct to claim that working children are not interested in education; it is better to be honest in investigating why they don't enrol in schools, and why they don't necessarily stay there even if they do. Children who work can be stigmatised

"policy failure in respect of child's rights can't be tolerated or excused."

in schools for all sorts of reasons because they may come late, be poorly prepared, are often absent, may be tired, are perhaps not sufficiently respectful to the teacher or disruptive if they're bored... and thus it is the working child who is blamed, rather than a school that is not able to accommodate learners who are 'different'.

But if we take a rights stance, the argument becomes irrelevant because the children should not be in the workplace anyway.

What role should civil society and the government do in order to tackle the issue of working children in Yemen? Civil society has an enormous role to play in working with the government to improve awareness of both legal frameworks, and people's rights. One of the problems in tackling child labour in Yemen is that it's so widespread that it's hard to see beyond this common acceptance that this is the way it has to be. I have heard teachers in Yemen speaking in the most defamatory way about working children with no apparent idea that such discrimination is entirely unacceptable.

The idea that working children are an inevitable part of Yemen's socio-

"One of the problems in tackling child labour in Yemen is that it's so widespread that it's hard to see beyond this common acceptance that this is the way it has to be."

economic context for the foreseeable future has become too accepted. The task for us all now is to try and interrupt this and to make education work far better as one of a range of strategies to address what is, after all, an infringement of children's rights.

Business in Brief

Denmark supports Yemen by 6.2 million Euros

eputy prime minister for economic affairs Al-Arhabi has stated that Denmark has approved a plan to fund Yemen's development by 6.2 million euros during the years 2007-2008. The assistance will include democratic development, decentralization, media development, human rights and participation of women.

Seche: U.S. is keen on supporting Yemen's Development

The recently appointed U.S. ambassador to Yemen Steven Seche has told media sources that assisting Yemen's development is one of his prime priorities during his term in serving as an ambassador for

PM meets IFC delegation

rime Minister Mujawar has met with a delegation from the IFC led by Frank Sader, chief strategist of the privet enterprise partnership program in the region, and discussed possible reform programs for the Yemen taxation system to become more efficient and formalized.

Fisheries ministry to undertake market analysis research

ndersecretary of the fisheries ministry Mr. Ghasi Ahmed stated that the ministry will undertake thorough market analysis research to gather data and understand the demand and supply of various types of fisheries in the local market, in order to plan the ministry's activities according to market demands.

Wheat importers to print retail prices on wheat sacks

fter discussions with the ministry of trade, Wheat and flour importers have agreed to print the maximum retail price on Wheat sacks in order to ensure that wholesalers and retails do not manipulate consumers and consumers know how much they should pay for the sacks.

WHO increases aid to Yemen to US\$ 24 million

inister of Health and population Dr. Abdulkarim Rasea stated that the World Health Organization decided to increase its support to Yemen to US\$ 24 million within the coming two

Somali Mayor invites Yemeni investments

ayor of the Somali capital Magdisho has invited Yemeni businessmen to Somalia in the Trade and Agricultural sector, indicating that the Somali government looks forward to more economic cooperation with

Hits Unitel (Y!) inaugurates its Central Hub in Sana'a

newest Telecommunications provider Hits Unitel has recently inaugurated its Central Hub in Sana'a, with a capacity to serve 500,000 mobile lines as an initial stage. The company will launch its services before the end of the year and plans to offer an aggressive pricing strategy to gain considerable market share.

Ramadhan sales: An opportunity for business and consumers

By: YemenTimes Staff

th the coming of the month of Ramadhan, it has become a phenomenon to find people spending more to buy many of the special foods and commodities which people feast on after a long day of fasting. Inline with that, many marketers and businessmen see Ramadhan as an opportunity to maximize their sales and increase their profitability, while considering Ramadhan to be an excellent season for sales and discounts.

A good example is the Ramadhan Sale expo, which is held annually and almost all local food companies participate in, this year's Ramadhan Sale expo promised to offer 10 percent discounts on all food commodities which are in offer in the market, attracting many customers to head to the expo to buy their Ramadhan Items.

Organizers of the expo stated that 60 percent of the items offered are made in Yemen, while 25 percent are imported from neighboring gulf states, and the reminder 15 percent are imported from elsewhere, adding that it is important to present a complete portfolio of Ramadhan needs for the customers.

Interestingly, several salesmen within the expo stated that not only end customers come to buy from the expo, but also retailers come and buy in bulk at the discounted price in order to resell the items at their respective outlets.

Market exports stated that the huge demand of consumers and popularity of the expo is because of the 10 percent

discount, stating that Yemeni consumers are extremely price sensitive especially in foodstuff which is bought and consumed in large quantities considering the large size of Yemeni families. Adding that Ramadhan is not an opportunity for business and sales, but it is an opportunity for consumers to take advantage of the discounts result-

ing from buying in bulk. Director of the Union of Yemeni Chambers of commerce Mohammed Abdu Saeed pleaded to businessmen to be ethical and socially responsible, and not manipulate prices taking advantage of the increase in demand; he added that any business found to manipulate prices will be dismissed from its respective chamber of commerce. He also added that sales festivals are planned to be held in all major cities in

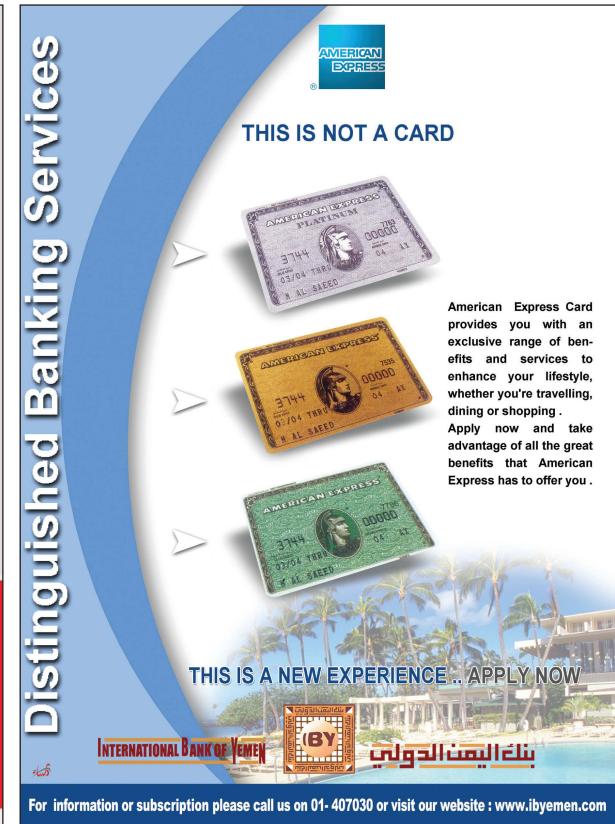
Although the accompanying surge in demand and fluctuation in prices have become an annual habit every Ramadhan, this year it took a political dimension as well, Opposition parties have denounced the government's inability to control inflation or fix prices of commodities such as wheat and flour, this discourse forced the government to interfere within the local market and subsidize the government-affiliated Yemen Economic Corporation in order to buy, import and sell wheat directly to consumers at subsidized rates. The latest subsidy was of US\$ 40 million last week, where the cabinet instructed the finance ministry to pay the amount to the Yemen Economic Corporation to import more wheat for the local market.



The Increase in demand during Ramadhan is an excellent opportunity for retailers to maximise sales.









Dear Maged, Equality of rights, not of nature!

By: Noha Mohd Molhi Nahnoha2000@hotmail.com

never imagine myself taking a pen in order to write for a newspaper. But I have been aroused to by the words of Mr. Maged Thabet Al-kholidy in his article entitled "Gender-equality, is it a game dear women?".

In this article, I am not attacking Mr. Maged in person. However, I will critically comment on his ideas about the equality between women and men. It is only a matter of expressing opinions, dear Maged, and you should accept it open-heartedly.

Actually, I like some of the sensitive

ideas in his article. He, however, shows respect its system. Furthermore, the himself as a biased and emotional per-

He finds enough freedom to attack women through his- sorry to say-"blind eye". He wonders why a passing woman avoids accompanying a man who may offer her a ride. That may happen with some. Socially this will not be accepted as a personal behavior. If this happens, how can we be sure that men will not think badly of the woman? As a result, there will be a lot of moral problems.

Regarding the responsibility of marriage, it is a religious rule that it is man who must propose and offer dowry to the women. We follow Islam, and

responsibility of the first night of marriage is "manhood-test task". If the man can not be responsible for that, he shouldn't get married at all.

In fact, man and women have different duties as a husband and wife. The home's needs, and requirements are the responsibility of the husband. Similarly, the wife has a responsibility of home affairs, such as children, pregnancy, etc. This is enough equality, in my opinion.

I do not know how Mr. Maged forgets the fact that the nature of women differs from the nature of men. If they are equal, as Maged wants, men will not like women as wives. In other

words, women are sensitive, full of emotions, etc. these features make men like women, while they will reject them if they are harsh and tough like

These are the ideas that I reject in Maged's article. I, moreover, want to remind him and any other that genderequality is demanded in terms of rights, i.e. the right of equal education, the right of work, the right of choosing husbands and so on, while the equality of nature is something genetic as created by God.

Finally, I hope that I logically, and convincingly argued the ideas, aiming not to offend Mr. Maged or any others,

Ramadan Kareem to all

Ramadan Kareem to all dear readers. Most of us welcome this holy month with a strong faith that it comes with goodness and an inherent welfare for all.

There are many good features of this month. Working, however, to some people, is a source for disturbance, while to others, work has many positive aspects. Especially on the first days, work threatens the rest of some people particularly those who spend the whole night however, never does happen in the chewing Qat or watching TV. On other months. The afternoon prayer the other hand, it proves to be significant for a perfect fasting, and for many, it has social and health bene-

Let us take a day as a model for the whole month. On one of the first few days, some of us may feel lazy and not go to work, thinking that it is a holy month and that there is no or more before. Through this they need. The alarm clock suddenly rings. It is very disturbing and live, and how all cooperate to have respects none. It must be kicked out, a stable life during the holy month. or better switched off, some of us This happens not only during may say: sleeping is sweeter than Ramadan, but they never notice that usual.

Modern clocks have a facility that gives a "snooze" for some time more (usually ten minutes). For ten minutes maximum, the clock rings ple, and it is time to support them again. "Oh damn", they may say, thinking again to kick it out. The feel that they are in a better situation only thing that reminds them is the calmness inside and outside of there much. homes. "It is Ramadan", they final-

Having realized the time, one may start hesitating to go to work on the claim to save the fast. The work obligations shake their situasome excuses they think of to conmany things at work force them to wake up.

Unwillingly, they wake up, cursing work, and sometimes abusing time that obliges them to hurry up. Having prepared themselves to venture out of their homes, they feel done in other months. They wish as that they are going to the hell.

The daily routines at work start. through the mind's eye. They feel lazy and bored to do anything. By force they start doing their Majed Thabet Al-kholidy is a writer duties. But the more they work, the from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. more active they feel. Time passes at English Dep, Taiz Uni. He is an fast, as if they weren't thinking ex-editor of English Journal of the about anything at all.

The noon prayer takes sometime. Work tension is released by a spiritual mode in the prayer. Soon they work again with a will to do their best since finishing their tasks takes less hours during Ramadan in comparison with the other months.

Nothing stops them but the clock that reminds them of work's end. There might be some work left, however they do not leave it since they are still feeling like champions. Sometimes they even stay at work even if there is no noon prayer, this, refreshes their minds. They start thinking of visiting friends, shopping, reading Quara'an etc, even doing all these at once.

Having a walk is interesting and wonderful. It gives them a chance to go many places that they might have been thinking to go for a year realize how people, poor and rich since they keep themselves busy with the daily routines.

In this month they come closer to realize the situation of poorer peowith charity. It is only now, they and, subsequently, thank Allah too

They reach home slowly, and calmly. They meet family members with a soft sound and a tone of respect. They laugh, joke, and sometimes play. Either reading Qua'ran or watching TV is the best tion. Hunger, thirst, sun heat are thing to do in the time before breakfast. It seems interesting to them vince themselves not to go. But no, and they enjoy so. Breakfast time soon comes. They are not in a hurry to have the breakfast. They are not so hungry or even thirsty as they were thinking in the morning. On the contrary, they feel happy for doing many things that are rarely if the whole year is Ramadan

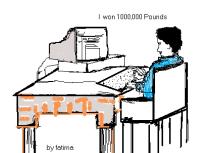
University.

Risks of the Internet Lottery

By: Fatima Al-Subban

e all know that the Internet is the driving force of this century; it is vital for communication between north, south, east, and west. Furthermore, the internet is leaving its mark in the field of business, shopping, science, news, and technology.

There are millions of web sites on the network that connect us in a simple and easy way to the modern world. They update everyday and provide us with the means of communication,



some for personal reasons such as MSM or for large multinational corporations like Microsoft. However, the internet is also making strides in the

fields of public lotteries. For example, could you imagine if you were sent an email saying that you have just won a fortune in the millions??? This happens everyday. First they send you a congratulations email with a corresponding lottery certificate. After that, an anonymous source sends an additional email to fill out certain forms to guarantee your winnings. However, the dream is short-lived as an additional message is sent telling the person to pay 450 British Pounds in the next 24 hours or else the prize is forfeit. This is a huge risk indeed, but also a huge scam against people all over the world.

Additionally, sometimes we get emails with texts saying that we have inherited millions from unfamiliar names, such as Hassan Michlouy. They demand that you help them recover lost funds with promises of a fortune, but this is also a clever scam to get people to thing. Furthermore, many of these emails contain viruses, so watch out!!

The internet can help us immensely in our everyday lives, however there are risks and dangers associated with it as well. We must check our emails carefully and not delve into false temptations.

Freedom: to what extent?!

By: lamis Abdulkarim Shuga'a. lamis_shuga@yahoo.com

ocially speaking, freedom can be related to freedom of people or of societies in which it can be represented populations, expressions, rules, laws, etc. As it is known, personal freedom differs from one person to another according to habits, believes and opinions that everyone has acquired, and furthermore to customs and cultures of the society to which he belongs. Additionally, freedom is not doing whatever you want regardless of others' feelings. Instead, it is to restrict rules and laws as hard as you possibly can; otherwise you will almost certainly face terrible problems.

In short, freedom is doing what you like without being stopped by anyone. Freedom of societies, on the other hand, differs from one country to another regarding the culture, education and religion of each country. Whatever has been said about freedom, a question must be taken into account: Is freedom which is applied all over the world really for our sake?! In other words, can we consider all forms of freedom completely good and just?! The answer, of course, is 'no' and I'll explain why it is 'no'.

Let's take 'smoking' as a simple

It can be noticed that there are available areas for smoking, whereas there are specific places in which usually it is prohibited like hospitals, universities, offices, buses. However, smokers don't care about that, smoking wherever and whenever they need. Maybe they ignore the proverb that says "your freedom starts whenever others' freedom finishes". Furthermore, it is amazing to know that in Holland people can carry 'soft drugs'. Moreover, some are allowed to sell 'soft drugs' in some shops, but those shops must have a license to do so. Another form of freedom is in California in the USA where every citizen has the right to carry a gun if they wish to, just like in Yemen.

In many countries, on the other hand, military service is not a compulsory duty for all young men. nevertheless, there were strange and Despite this, it is compulsory for all young men in other countries. For instance, in Poland and Germany, military service lasts from one year to eighteen months, whereas in Switzerland it is only for few weeks. In Israel, moreover, military service is compulsory: three years for men and two years for women.

In some countries, and because of scientific development, parents have the right to choose the sex of their unborn child if they wish. And in many western countries, boys and

girls have the right to live 'out of their parents control' after they reach a particular age. In some cases, it has happened that boys and girls are successful in suing their parents asking separation from them because they are faced with abuse.

The most difficult right and, at the same time, merciless one, in my opinion, is the right of terminally ill people who wish to die by their own hand. This case particularly is allowed in Holland. In addition, doctors who are responsible have to be more careful while accepting the cases; otherwise, they may be sent to

What I want to say is that forms of freedom, today, somehow are changed in comparison to the past. In fact, they are not completely different but they have developed according to an up-to-date culture. In the past, amazing rules and freedom. Some examples are as follows:

In eighteenth-century England, people had to pay a 'window tax' for each window in their house. Even though, this law was eventually changed because many poor people chose to live in houses without windows just so that they didn't have to pay! A reason beyond such a law, maybe, was to get more taxes from the rich whose houses consisted of several windows.

Another is example was during

the time of Peter the Great in Russia, noblemen weren't allowed to grow beards. If they wanted to keep their beards, they had to pay a special tax to the government.

Furthermore, there was a 'tiring' law which was applied in nineteenthcentury Britain. The law stated that if you traveled in any motor vehicle, someone had to walk in front of you waving a red flag, or a red lamp at night.. This meant, in practice, that you couldn't travel at more than eight kilometers per hour!

Rules of the past, sometimes, were related to eating. In the Midwest of the USA in the 1880s you were not allowed to eat ice-cream soda on Sunday. Restaurant owners, however, solved this problem by serving icecream without soda, which became known as a 'Sunday' or a 'sundae'.

The most 'harsh' and 'bizarre' law, in my point of view, was that in the nineteenth-century, female teachers in the USA couldn't get married, or even go out with men. Additionally, if they got engaged, they had to resign from their job immediately. Male teachers, on the other hand, could get married and have children without any problem!

Finally, regarding what was (not) allowed in the past as well as what is (not) allowed in the present, we can imagine, for a couple of minutes: To what extent will freedom be extended?!

When silence talks

By: Mohammed Saleh Ali Almogri A student at Sana'a University Faculty of education Department of English mohammedalmoqri@yahoo.com

> When silence talks The sea becomes calm No movement to harm Winds start to pause When silence talks Flowers stop growing Artists forget drawing Children quit playing Eyes gave up crying Travelers cancel walk When it starts talk I try not to give care But, voices I can hear Then I have to do share As if I have nightmare Surely she is so fair

Like a candle bare When she to me whisper Am I on vacation? On a boat on an ocean Or in some celebration What a great occasion It is never exaggeration Just when she walks Silence gladly talks *She waves saying hay* You have to be a way Even if one single day *Never forget the way* That reaches you the bay Use my white ray To cross it you may When silence talks I said decision I took My hear later broke Go I am not a balk My soul just shocks When silence talks



Only One

By: Abdul_nasser Al_Abdali abdul_nasser12@yahoo.com

> All of us live sometimes and then die This is a truth we must believe and no't deny That only Allah remains alive and will never die With no any doubt for asking why As it is mentioned in the Holy Quran Before we deliver and see the sky And keep forever as abvious proof and reply Can everyone read and see by eye As clear as the sun without confusion or lie O,look at the birds when they fly Up and up in the sky By two wings can never make by All of us whatever we try Think of earth; more wet than dry And of air on which our lives do rely Think if you asked when will you die Today, tomorrow or on the day of cry You still keep silent and then get shy For only Allah who knows the reply As all we have is given by To live sometimes and then die This is a truth we must believe and not deny That only (Allah) remains alive and will never die.



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ويندوز – ورد – اكسل – انترنيت) حاصل على دورة في النظام • للبيع: سيارة سكودا -•صادق – دبلوم محاسبة (المعهد المحاسبي المتكامل(يمن سوفت) أوكتافيا – موديل ٢٠٠٢ الوطني) - دبلوم سكرتارية - خبرة في مجال محاسبة عملاء - ٢٠٠٣ - في حالة ممتازه كمبيوتر نظام محاسبي - يمنِ - خبرة في نظام الاونكس برو. - تم صيانتها في الوكالة سوفت - محاسبة فنادق سابقاً للتواصل: " ٧٧٧٠٦٢٢٦٢ - من الصدام إلى الصدام -برغب في العمل في مجال ٧٧١٨١٨٢٤٠

تعز + تطبیقات یمن سوفت للتواصل: ۷۱۲٥٦۱۰۱۷

تعز – خبرة في إدارة فنادق • خبرة ١٠ سنوات خارج – نظيفة جدا–فتحة سقف ٣ نجوم - يرغب في العمل في وداخل اليمن في الأعمال مجال التخصص أو في أي مجال الإدارية، سكرتارية، علاقات ٦بستون جيرعادي. آخر. للتواصل :-٧٤/٢٦١٣١١ عامة، نراسلات تجارية، تسويق، السعر: ٧٥٠٠٩ عبر الإنترنيت، مهارات عالية للتواصل: ٧١٢٠٠٠٤٤٨ - تعز-خبرة في مجال المخازن يتعلق بال Excel وال word قادر على توفير ضمانة.
 وملحقاتها، يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقا. يبحث عن عمل في • مسعد على عبدالله – بكالوريوس أى شركة تجارية أو في مجال • للإيجار: شقق في حده

- يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة سيارات. كل شقة ٥٠ دولار. ونطقاً - خبرة في المراسلات للتواصل: ٧١١١٠٨٢٣ • هانى الشرفى – خبرة ١٠ التجارية – عمل لسنوات فى • للبع: فيلا فى المدينه السكنيه

للتواصل: ٩٦٩٠ ٧٧٧

يبحث عن عمل حاصل على دورات في الكمبيوتر (

تخصصه أو في أي مجال آخر • عبد الكريم الحيدري، ميكانيك كاملة وتأمين طرف ثالث – قادر على توفى ضمانة.
 سيارات ولديه عدة شهادات لمدة ٩ أشهر. خبره - مستواه جيد في اللغة للإستفسار: ١١١١٤٤٧٧٠ •على – بك سياحة وإدارة فنادق الإنجليزية (محادثة).

•عادل- ليسانس آداب جغرافيا جداً بمجال محركات البحث وما هندسة تكنولوجيا المعلومات النفط.

(جامعة عدن) - حاصل على للتواصل: شهادة CCNA – يجيد اللغة أو١٢٣٩٤٣

وهندسة الكمبيوتر. - يرغب في برمجة الحاسوب.

سيارات

مع ضمامة للقطع لمدة سنه

•للبيع: سيارة مرسيدس مودیل ۹۰ – اللون رمادی

عقارات

-۱ ٥ غرف ، ٣ حمامات ومطبخ. ٧٣٣٧٨٣٧٧ الإيجار: ٥٥٠ دولار. -٢ شقتين، كل شقة ٤ غرف ،

الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً - خبرة • عبد الإله - بكالوريوس حاسوب حمامين ، مطبخ ومواقف لأربع

سنوات في الكمبيوتر والإنترنيت تنصيب وبرمجة شبكات وصيانة - حده - مساحة الأرضية حوالي - خبره في مجال البرمجة الحاسوب - عمل لسنوات في ٨ لبن حر. ديوان، ٣ غرف نوم ، حمامين، صالة طعام ومطبخ ، حوش وموقف للسيارات.

سعر اللبيع: خمسة وثلاثون مليون ريال يمنى ((قابل للتفاوض)) -

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الىنوك

فاکس:۲۲۰۸۲۶ ت: ۲۲۰۸۲۳–۱–۷۲۹ فرع عدن :ت/ ۲۳۷۸۲۹ - ۲. فاکس/۲۳۷۸۲۶ البنك التجاري ت: ۲۷۷۲۲۴ فاكس: ۲۷۷۲۹۱ مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٢٦٤٧٧٥,٢٦٤٧٠٢ فاکس: ۲٦٤٧٠٣,٥٠٣٣٥٠

> نك اليمن الدولي ت: ۲/٥٨٥/٧٦ -١٠ البنك العربي نك التسليف الزراعي ت: ۲۷٤۳۱٤ -۱۰ لبنك المركزى:

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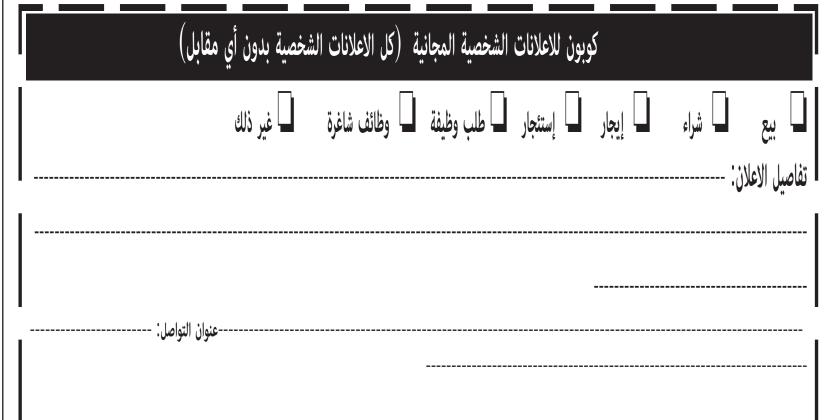
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قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت ٢٦٨٦٦١/٢/٣)

للإعلان في هذه الصفحة يرجى الإتصال على الرقم التالي 268661 /01 وإرسال الإعلانات المجانية على فاكس01/268276

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

Aden folklore:

A world of harmony, openness, love and beauty

By: Fatima Al-Ajel fatimafnfr@yahoo.com

olklore has played a crucial role in increasing and establishing a dialogue that is based on diversity and the development of our culture. Moreover, Aden is the city which has amazed the world with harmony, openness and beauty through its folklore regardless of tribal bigotry and a sword culture that is bent on ostracism and marginalization.

Aden folklore has created an environment for love through its ancient sougs, cafes, songs, dances, fairy tales and myths. Furthermore, the simplicity of Adeni people has forced the classes to be one uniform society in an effort to spread the rule of law.

"Aden folklore" was the title of a two day workshop at the Folkloric House, which had the cooperation of the Antiquities and Cultural Heritages Foundation.

"The workshop aimed to open a communicative channel between Yemeni culture and its spiritual heritage with a message that folklore commands openness and beauty. regardless of the hatred that has resulted from one-way thinking", Arwa

Adeni women.

and many other states.



An Open e photography exposition and a corner of popular Adeni dress were an activity during the workshop that gave chance for the attendees to see the Adeni folklore

Othman, the founder of the Folkloric House, said.

The participants showed folkloric papers about the history and heritage of Aden, which demonstrated its exceptionality through its sites and its people. For two days, many papers focused on folklore during the last century and how it has played a role in changing life-styles.

According to many historical researchers, Aden can be described as a city of suffering and at the same time a city of harmonic life. Geographically, Aden is placed between a sea and a mountain, giving it a mix of rough terrain, along with the calmness and fruitfulness of the sea. Furthermore, Aden's name even carries with it the meaning of reality and dreams. "We can describe Aden as the desire for survival", Hashem Ali, Deputy of the Ministry of Culture, explained in his paper entitled "Scribbles in the Shamsan Mountains"

The special design of the buildings of Aden reflects the coexistence between different cultures and countries . "The The folklore dress shows the simplicity of buildings have a Hindi design that were specially fitted to

bring ventilation in case of hot weather," Ali added.

Moreover, Ali elaborated on the history of Aden before and after the British occupation. "During the occupation, there was a plan to make Aden a small city for fishers, but in fact many studies reported that Aden was a very big city." Adeni people were influenced by the culture of the British occupation and used English words in daily life as well as their native Arabic", Ali added.

Furthermore, the popular cafés instilled communication which created a free dialogue, away from the ideologies of intolerance. "The cafés were like conferences for the educated, the politicians, artists and the populars. They acted as a daily gathering in which they read newly published books and then discussed them, delving into new opinions for the public," said AbdulGather Al-Shabani, a researcher in Adeni culture, in his paper The Memory of Ancient Popular Cafés in

Because of the simplicity of the popular cafés design, the people considered them a special place for gathering, especially during Ramadan. At night during Ramadan, the cafés were open, receiving customers who finished their prayers. "There was a chance for the



"Kabze Al-Tawa" is the popular food in Aden



At night during Ramadan, the cafés are open, receiving customers, Kreater's café is a popular café in which people gather to play and







Additionally, Adeni popular foods are a special window into folklore; they reflect the lifestyle of Adenis in the past, as well as showing new changes in the culture.

customers to solve their problems in

resources with which to explore. Ahmad Al-saeed, a researcher on the

subject mentioned: "I have been work-

the seventies. There are some pub-

lished articles in newspapers or maga-

zines about Yemeni traditional children

games but they didn't give the readers

enough background into these games,

thus some Yemeni researchers depend-

delve deeply into our heritage, espe-

cially with respect to these games,

since they represented an ancient activ-

Adani girl shows off the Henna on

the same topic."

the cafés", Al-Shabani explained. One of the most interesting papers

> For example, 'Al-Awif' is a popular meal for Adeni people. Such a meal starts between lunch and dinner. Swisan Al-Ariqi presented her paper about Adeni popular kitchen which provides recipes (such as Al-Awif) to delicious foods. Thus, she tried to show off special cooking skills that Adeni women possess.

> While walking in Adeni zones, the visitor might see a crowded shop with customers who come from all over the place to buy "AlKamear" for breakfast or " Al-Bajiea" for lunch. This restaurant is 'Al-Awif' by Uncle Fadel who is very famous for his popular Adeni dishes in Hassen. Uncle Fadel still keeps cooking Ramdan foods during the year and makes the customers live the Ramadan experience all year round.



