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Smuggling antiques is still a problem, say experts

Smuggling Yemeni antiques is a big problem due to lack of government efforts, specialists say.

**By: Hamed Thabet
 For Yemen Times**

Hundreds of antiques have been smuggled to other countries. A lot of them were smuggled through Sana'a International Airport, officials say.

Sana'a University lecturer Dr. Mohamed Al-Aroosi, former president of Yemeni General Organization of Antiques and Museum (GOAM), said the Yemeni law does not have any strict punishment for those who smuggle antiques and sell them to other countries.

This unfortunately results negatively by encouraging them to do more smuggling without having any fear from the government or any other side, he added.

Al-Aroosi said: "This entire crime against our heritage takes place because the law is not strict as it should be. Hundreds of ancient places are getting destroyed and looted by those smugglers who are digging irrationally to find the priceless antiques."

"If we try to ask the government or concerned authorities, they fight us and try to silence us. Nevertheless, in many governorates of Yemen one can see the old mosques being pulled down or repaired. One can also see a new mosque being built over its place, using non-breakable concrete under the name of a benefactor. But the truth is they do this in order to take out the old woods with its inscription and then sell it. The problem remains:



Most Yemeni historical sites are not protected and locals can enter and play around like those children in Queen of Sheba's Throne in Mareb.

concerned authorities do not response positively," he added.

Ahmed Shoja'a, General Manger of the museums in the Antiquities General Assembly, said there is no real security for saving the fields from the smugglers.

"The sad tragedy is that when there is no strict law or punishment against this crime, some people go and dig and try to find anything they can sell. Additionally, there are some foreigners who are really well prepared to go to those fields and

search for antiquities. Many of them were arrested along with their tools. But they didn't receive punishment as they deserve," he added.

According to him, in Yemen there are many organized gangs that are professional in smuggling and the government knows about it, but smugglers are left free to steal "our antiques."

Police efforts

Police have foiled a number of smuggling operations, mostly at

one of the largest smuggling operations at Sana'a Airport which included (500) antique pieces. In 2004, the security authorities of Sana'a International Airport seized 1000 antique pieces. In January 2005 the Iraqi guy Iyad Shaker had 872 miscellaneous antique pieces, including 97 original pieces of antique statues and 256 antique bronze. In addition to gold and coins, 187 pieces of the popular heritage and 332 pieces of counterfeit one.

In April 2005, the General Authority for Antiquities and Museums received 19 antique pieces and 4 caught along borders' outlets. In the same year, security forces seized several kilograms of gold and a number of artifacts made of stones in addition to bronze pieces dating back to all historical eras of ancient Yemen.

These antiques were found in a house based in Sana'a city rented by a Jordanian man named Samir Hammad Jadalla. Jadallah was charged with smuggling antiquities and distorting effects of Yemen, through the restructuring of gold ornaments in the ancient Yemeni style of the Jewish religion, such as the Temple Mount, logo and handwriting Hebrew.

Lack of documentation

In some museums there is no concrete scientific description of the antique pieces; for example, it is written: (sculpture made by stone). No more information is provided; no size, weight or even the description.

Without providing a full description of any ancient artifact makes it is easy to change the real piece with another one, officials said.

However, the case is different in some museums. Abdul Aziz Al-Jendari the Manger of the National museum in Sana'a, said "Each antique piece in the museum has a special identity including the serial number, age, size and other details. Until now we have documented 30,000 pieces.

Surely, there are many other pieces that still need to be certificated and work is going on."

He added "Only in one condition we can get back our stolen pieces which are in other museums and countries: if they were certified and documented in our museums. For example, an adoration panel for the gods (Thaat Hamim) which thieves had stolen in 1994 was found in one of the museums in the United States. two years ago we got it back because it was approved and certified. now we have it in the museum."

Locals' assistance needed

Al-Jindari said local citizens should coordinate with government concerned authorities and help reduce the problem of smuggling.

He added: "Smuggling related to economic and livelihood scenario, is due to lack of coordination between the concerned authorities and local people to help make them care for the fields and the historical places from being destroyed."

Shoja'a noted that it is important to encourage and reward people who hand over antiques to museums. "Those people who come to us with antiques they find through organized searching must be rewarded for handing them over to the authorities. The prize can be evaluated according to the value of each antique. However, no one cares about those people; As a result of neglecting them, we end up in losing their further cooperation," he added.

Additionally, Al-Jindari affirmed that the Ministry of Information must

focus on the antiques and things related to this field for its importance and must help people be aware of their history and their past. "Lectures have to be given in Universities and in schools to raise awareness as much as we can. Also curriculums in the schools should focus more in Yemen's history," he added.

Al-Aroosi stated that smugglers are cautious when anti-smuggling campaigns are launched.

"Whenever there is a campaign, the

In April 2005, the General Authority for Antiquities and Museums received 19 antique pieces and 4 caught along borders' outlets. In the same year, security forces seized several kilograms of gold and a number of artifacts made of stones in addition to bronze pieces dating back to all historical eras of ancient Yemen.

foreigners do take care of everything and we are not taking part. In spite of the fact that we have many experts in Yemen who graduated from foreign universities and have knowledge, they do not do anything except watching others researching in our history. At least letting our team go with them in order to learn will help them to gain more knowledge and experience," he said.



Citizens are encourage and rewarded if they hand over antiques to museums.



In 2004, the security authorities of Sana'a International Airport seized 1000 antique pieces.

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Sana'a International Airport. Thousands of stolen archeological pieces stolen from museums or sites were seized were brought back to Yemen. The exact number of smuggled valuables is not clear, according to officials.

In October 2003, the police foiled

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Aden's Seat Belt campaign for drivers

By: Abdull-Wahed,

Aden, October,2 — Among the republic governorates only Aden is conducting a campaign regarding seat belts and restricting cell phones while driving. Aden governorate is continuing its traffic campaign coercing drivers to wear seat belts. It is also waiting for the Ministry of Interior to issue a law regulating that.

This step is very important to save lives because thousands of people are exposed to accidents on a daily basis. These accidents claim lives of tens of thousands. It makes the designers as well as the makers of automobiles to find suitable solutions to prevent and reduce the consequences of those incidents. The seat belt is one of the most important reached technologies of traffic safety to solve this problem. It has a vital role in reducing the number of mortalities as well as injuries.

Furthermore, the director of Aden traffic administration said "80 percent

of the car incidents take place because drivers do not wear seat belt."

"The traffic campaign abides vehicles drivers to wear seat belt and prevents them from talking through mobiles phones while driving. The campaign has been successful due to the response of the drivers with a ratio of 95 percent. The traffic statistics indicate that the aggregation of accidents in Aden governorate over the last five months reached 325 in which 297 persons were killed in 2006. The money losses were amounted to YR 51.980.000. However, in 2007, there have been so far 356 accidents in which 340 persons have died and the money losses reached to YR 86.247.000," Adel Saif pointed out.

However, Aden governorate is abiding by the rules and regulations of the interior directives. "We have distributed posters and illustrating pictures including directives to make people aware of this step in the inlets of Aden. We find some response as drivers wear

seat belt, the director of Aden traffic said.

"The campaign started in May. We are waiting for the Ministry of Interior to enact a law compelling drivers to wear seat belt. What we are doing now is an application of the ministry directives. All officials of the governorate are positively responding to the campaign," he maintained.

Adel Mohammed, a driver, said, "We feel more secured when we bring this step into effect though we are not accustomed to it. The insistence of the traffic police as well as the increase of hours of detainment of violating cars makes me more at ease.

"Drivers in the northern governorates do not care a bit about these orders, giving money to traffic men to overlook their violations," Ahmed A.Salim shared.

Furthermore, the huge number of automobiles makes the orders of wearing seat belt inapplicable. These cars spread in the popular areas in Aden

governorate particularly in Dar Sa'd, Al-Shaikh O'thman, Al-Memdara and Al-Manssourah districts. The traffic administration appreciates that due to the strained living circumstances of most of the population.

The idea of seat belt

The idea of seat belt is based on preventing the drivers from knocking against the car's dashboard or getting thrown through the front of the windshield when the car stops suddenly due to an accident. This is because the passenger's body acquires the speed of the car.

Emergence of seat belt

The seat belt was displayed for the first time in American automobiles in 1947. However, in 1956, Ford Company provided the automobiles that would be sold inside America with seat belts. Two years later, the back seat belt became a standard too. In 1967 the front seat belt was compulsory.



The traffic authority placed a large banner in its premises in Sana'a to encourage Yemenis to take safe driving seriously.

Yemenis lose trust in the parliament

Many Yemeni citizens believe that the parliament's role still weak and it can't perform its duties effectively. Some members of the parliaments confessed that the incompetence and the ignorance of the constitution and bylaw among the MPs can be the main obstacles of parliamentary monitoring over the executive power. This report highlights why the citizens lost their trust on the parliament , as well as the obstacles that face the parliamentary performance in Yemen.

By: Abdull-Kawi Shelan
Yemen Times

The Yemeni parliament role remained restricted under the continuous influence of the government, said a study extracting a group of internal and external factors indicating the influence of the executive power over the legislative one.

According to the study, the later enjoys monitoring guaranteed by the constitution. It can exercise its monitoring over the actions of the executive power. The internal factors are represented by the parliamentarians' interests overcoming their monitoring roles. "We mostly observe that members of the parliament go to two different directions. The first one is that they feel the importance of parliament mon-

itoring over the executive power. The second thing is their willingness to interchange with the government or at least not to end relationship with it whatever the consequences are." Said the study.

The study, which conducted by Sadiq Ahmed Al-Nafeesh, held the parliament accountable for this deterioration, commenting: "It was supposed to provide an atmosphere of opening for the parliament monitoring in the community, especially when the Yemeni experience emerged after the unification." However, the parliament role remained restricted under the continuous influence of the government.

The study, which was entitled, "Interrogation as a means of the parliament monitoring over the government works in the constitution of the republic of Yemen", also reviewed the

process of the parliamentary action, saying: when the relationship between the parliament and the government goes tense due to the government oversteps working outside the law, some members of the parliament demand to interrogate the government or even one of its members. This demand faces objection made by some of the MPs under the excuse of the illegality of such interrogation!" said the study.

The researcher, who obtained the M.A degree for this study, confirmed that the lack of competence of most of the parliamentarians negatively affects the development of the parliamentary action. "Many of them are considered Silence parliamentarians".

Around 68 percent of MPs, who participated to answer study questionnaire, shared the same point of the study, indicating the incompetence of the MPs is one of the reasons behind the weakness of parliamentary monitoring. This incompetence as well as ignorance of the constitution and bylaw led to false practices in monitoring the government. The study attributes that to the lack of legislative and parliamentary culture.

"some members use means of monitoring that lead to no discussion or voting. As an example of this monitoring weakness, the parliament attempted to pass the list of the nominees of the

higher authority of fighting corruption, but some of the parliamentarians did not accept this measure. Consequently, the leaders of the parliament were compelled to give the list back to the authority," said the study.

It also showed that partisan affiliation of some MPs is one of the main obstacles of parliamentary monitoring over the executive power. Sixty five percent of them parliament informants shared the same point.

It also reached to say that the parliament is in need of reshuffling and new competent members so that they can perform their duties effectively. To do so, the election law as well as the term of the parliament seats must be revised.

Yemeni Parliament is a tool to enhance the ruling regime, say citizens

The writer, Hesham Mohammed, said that the Yemeni parliament has become a legislative means for the governmental corruption, saying: the parliament's terms of reference are not clear and also has no specific policy. They pretend that there is democracy in Yemen and the parliament. The role of the parliament is to approve laws in favor of the government. "Most of the parliamentarians are absent. Only the parliamentary bloc of the ruling party attends to vote. I wonder about the parliament actions

toward the price hikes. What did the parliament offer to the poor families?,"

Hesham added, Abdull-Hakeem Sharaf, an intellectual, says that most of the parliamentarians were elected in a well-known way. The parliament failure was expected in advance, adding: "The majority of the parliament members are tribal sheiks. Their behavior, clothes and culture reflect this mentality. Cars are given to them along with bodyguards. Oxen are to be slaughtered in front of the parliament. Unfortunately, the country and the parliament are handled this way. There is no wonder about the failure and weak performance of the parliament. The government administers the parliament the way it wants."

Sharaf also confirmed that most of the laws are against the citizens such as the lease law. The parliament is unable execute the law of fighting Qat trees and carrying firearms. These laws are in favor of the citizens. The tribal structure of the parliament is the key reason behind its weakness.

Mosa Al-Taiyar, an educationalist, held the parliament accountable for the deteriorated circumstances of the citizens, considering it an elected establishment representing the nation in legislation and monitoring. Al-Taiyar said, "The parliament is an instrument in hand of the authority to achieve its

goals."

He went on to say that the parliament's role is very weak. There are local and international reports indicating the availability of infringements and looting the public resources such as gas as well as freedom violations. The parliament is deteriorated because most of the Mps did not reach it competently using state's bodies and techniques of intimidation. Such people can not adopt the citizens' issues and concerns.

Caringi Establishment for Peace described in its report that the Yemeni parliament as dependent and ineffective institution. It is a tool to enhance the ruling regime. The report also indicated that the Yemeni parliament has a theoretical power. It has nothing to do practically.

The parliament is weak, the parliament speaker admits

Sheik Abdullah Hussein Al-Ahmar, the speaker of the parliament had admitted that the role of the Yemeni parliament is very weak. It cannot hold the government accountable for corruption nor can it monitor it. Al-Ahmar attributed that to inequality of the MPs. The majority of them are affiliated to the ruling party. He also told Al-Jazeera channel, May, 16, 2005, that he did not want to be in dispute with the executive power as he feels highly responsible. So, he avoids conflicting with it

Newspapers in Education

Newspapers in Education programmes have been adding life to lessons in classrooms around the world for decades.

By: World Association of Newspaper
NIE program

NIE or "Newspapers in Education" is THE study of the newspaper as a core news medium that students should understand as part of their media literacy. Also, it underlines the function of the newspaper itself as an additional "textbook," an invaluable classroom resource for a host of other topics. In the media literacy context, students learn how to access, analyze, and evaluate newspaper content, as well as how to affect and even create that content themselves. The newspaper also serves as one of the tools for understanding other media. Reflecting on and discussing both newspaper content and the information process leads to a better understanding of and a stronger involvement in society. So, while improving media literacy, NIE also serves as a means to improve citizenship, as recent research has shown in several countries. In addition, the newspaper can be used to provide lessons in basic reading, mathematics, politics, science, social studies, geography and critical thinking. NIE can be carried out at all levels of education and the lessons can be designed to tie in with the national school curriculum.

Students love using the newspaper because they feel proud to be reading an "adult" medium. With NIE, they

also have the freedom to choose reading materials that interest them. The newspaper challenges them to develop reading, speaking and critical thinking skills. Teachers find the newspaper to be an up-to-date text with the latest information on social issues, scientific discoveries and new technology. It deals in reality, bridging the gap between the classroom and the real world. Newspapers contain practical vocabulary. News stories serve as models for clear, concise, simple writing. Newspapers are also the only text that children will continue to read throughout their lives. Research shows that NIE programmes positively influence student motivation, attitudes, academic skills and classroom communications. The newspaper is current and relevant. It keeps students informed and helps to mould them into responsible and socially aware citizens.

News stories, editorials, photographs, advertisements, comics, headlines all can be used — in short, the entire newspaper.

Usually, teachers will place bulk orders for newspapers at a frequency that suits their lesson plans. For instance, they may order a copy of the newspaper for each student weekly. The newspapers are delivered to the school and the teacher distributes them to students and uses it in class as a teaching tool. Teachers should allow time for the distribution of newspapers, free reading time and clean-up time. A double period (70 to 80 minutes) is

ideal for an NIE lesson. Students should write their names on the newspaper and re-use the same copy over several lessons. NIE lesson ideas are limited only by the teacher's imagination. Students can be asked to find parts of speech in headlines or the comics. An all-time favourite activity is the Scavenger Hunt, where students race to find a list of items within a newspaper. An important principle for teachers to remember is to Keep It Simple. Finding lesson ideas in the newspaper is a skill that can be developed over time.

NIE can be carried out at all levels of education, from kindergarten to adult literacy programmes.

A Brief History of a Global Effort
The concept of using newspapers in schools has been around for centuries, but The New York Times set up the first formal NIE programme in the 1930s. Since then, newspapers all over the world have started similar programmes. Today, there are more than 700 NIE programmes internationally.

Newspapers in Education (NIE) — the use of the adult newspaper as a teaching aid in the classroom — has origins dating at least to the 18th century and continues to grow today in both geographical reach and variety of approach.

The first documented evidence that a newspaper endorsed the idea dates from 1795 when a North American newspaper, the Portland (Maine) Eastern Herald published an item explaining the merits of using the newspaper to improve reading, teach geography, science and business practice (The full quotation at the end of

this text.).

The Eastern Herald was either citing an example from the new United States of America or, as was often the case and very possible given the special typographic treatment, reprinting an item from an English newspaper. Either case, however, gives NIE a very old pedigree.

Modern NIE practice by newspapers dates to at least the 1930s when at least two major United States titles, the New York Times and the Milwaukee Journal, started projects offering the newspaper as a "living textbook." Newspaper associations in Finland and Sweden became continental Europe's early practitioners in the 1960s.

It hasn't always been easy to launch NIE. While the 1970s saw Norway (1970), the Netherlands (1975), and German (1979) start national programmes, newspapers were banned from classrooms in France until well into that same decade.

WAN set up a permanent Committee in April 1991 to help meet a growing need for a global exchange of information and views on questions concerning the use of newspapers in education (NIE) and the general effort to encourage young people to become lifelong readers.

WAN's first count in 1991 found about 27 NIE programmes worldwide, mostly in Europe, where projects were reported in 10 countries. The WAN Committee helped create new NIE programmes in both new and old democracies, including Austria in 1995 and several African countries in 1998.

The new century also brought new emphasis in NIE to match the new



stress of newspapers on new technologies, with NIE programmes leading the way in teaching the young to understand, master and create news via mobile telephone, computers and other delivery platforms.

The early 21st century also brought new research that clearly documented NIE's strength in helping children do better in school and creating lifelong newspaper readers.

In 2003, Norske Skog paper company of Norway agreed to support WAN's NIE Development Project, start programmes in several new democracies of both Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa, South America, the Middle East, Europe and Asia bringing the worldwide total to more than 60 programmes by 2005. That partnership is scheduled to continue until 2013.

"Much has been said and written on the utility of newspaper; but one principal advantage which might be derived from these publications has

been neglected; we mean that of reading them in schools, and by the children in families.

Try it for one session - Do you wish your child to improve reading solely, give him a newspaper - it furnishes a variety, some parts of which must infallibly touch his fancy.

Do you wish to instruct him in geography, nothing will so indelibly fix the relative situation of different places, as the stories and events published in the papers.

In time, do you wish to have him acquainted with the manners of country or city, the mode of doing business, public or private; or do you wish him to have a smattering of every kind of science useful and amusing, give him a newspaper - newspapers are plenty and cheap - the cheapest book that can be bought, and the more you buy the better for your children, because every part furnishes some new and valuable information!"

“Cemetery is the place where I spend Eid”

By: Almgidat Dahesh Mojalli
Dahesh95@yahoo.com

People were busy celebrating the Eid, but she was sitting alone at the gate of a local cemetery that is located in one of the poorest neighborhood of Sana'a city. Hundreds of people passed by her, but very few noticed her as she



Fatima sits on some pieces of card wood boxes and a small plastic case full of tobacco powder was next to her.

didn't speak a word. A worn-off, torn and black scarf wrapped her head and a dirty small hat was on the scarf. Also, she was wearing a large grey coat with a white garment and very dirty torn trousers.

Fatima Saleh Mohammed, 82, from Hajja governorate, has no friends to spend the Eid days with. Cemetery is my home, she says.

She was sitting on some pieces of

card wood boxes and a small plastic case full of tobacco powder was next to her. She leaned her back to the wall of the cemetery. She looked very miserable. Her face was dirty and it seemed that she hadn't washed it for weeks. Her left eye was covered with cataract with little on the right one. She kept silent as if she was waiting for something to happen. Very few people gave her some coins.

Fatima's feet were cut in a car accident in the 1997s and parts of her fingers are lost.

In a very sorrowful, low and contemplating voice, Fatima recounted her story and how she spent Eid in the cemetery. She was licking some of the dirty tobacco powder with her half-black hands while she was talking to me. The saliva mixed with the tobacco powder was spread on her chin and lips.

"For decades I have been spending Eid days and other days of the year at the gate of this cemetery. I don't have any relatives. I lost my three sons in the revolution of 1962. They died before they could get marriage and so left no children to take care of me. I have some far relatives in Hammdan district (which is about twenty five kilometers to the north of Sana'a) but they no longer visit me."

"On the day of Eid, I wake up in the morning with these worn-off clothes. I eat whatever I find. Then, I spend all the day at the gate of this cemetery awaiting for what people will give me. The day of Eid is like any day for me

because nothing changes. No one visits me. I don't wait for or expect anyone to visit me. My clothes and edibles are the same of any other day. So, I never feel that there is Eid at all."

Fatima stopped speaking for a while and continued in a hesitant voice, "Yes, I see people wearing new, visiting friends and relatives and eating sweets but I never think of doing that because I have no any gleam of hope to leave in that way."

Fatima used to sleep in the street for many years. She had a torn blanket to cover her body when she sleeps. But during winter, Fatima had nothing but card wood boxes to protect her body from the cold weather. She spent about six months sleeping among the trees of a small garden in one of Sana'a streets. When police chased her, some people went to the Ministry of Endowment and Guidance and bought a tiny piece of land in the cemetery at YR 300,000 (about US \$ 1500). The ministry allowed them to build a shanty for the old woman on a condition that when she dies the land piece goes back to the ministry.

The shanty of Fatima is to the right of the gate of the cemetery. It consists of a very small yard about two meters long and one meter wide, a small kitchen, a bed room and a toilet that is still under construction.

Fatima said there is a woman who takes care of her. She considered her as a sister but when I went to ask that woman she refuted that and said she just devoted her time to take care of



"For decades I have been spending Eid days and other days of the year at the gate of this cemetery", Fatima said.

this old woman just for the sake of God.

Ameena, the woman who looks after Fatima, is from Bani Hushaish district which is 10 kilometers from Sana'a. Ameena said that she started caring for Fatima almost eleven years ago. Before that, she used to visit Fatima from time to time. "When I found that she became unable to look after

herself, I decided to devote my time for looking after her just for the sake of God. She claims I'm her sister but I'm not. Perhaps she says that to satisfy her desire of having relatives. My relatives followed up the ministry of Endowment and Guidance and built this shanty for her. I tried my best to take her to my home but in vain. She just wants to live in the cemetery."

Eid is not a commodity to sell

By: Abdull-Wadood Al-Ghaili
For Yemen Times

With the counting started for the Lesser Bairam, the markets of the capital city of Sana'a experience a continuing motion and huge congestion all day long by the citizens who go out to shop for the Eid.

Moreover, streets are fully crowded by shopper and peddlers, and sellers. They open their stores until dawn, receiving customers descending all parts and all classes.

Religious festivals, as described by some people, are two faces for one current of happiness. Rich and poor people are seeking according to their abilities to make their family members happy.

Yemen Times conducted an opinion poll on the citizens' preparations and readiness for the Eid and how much their purchasing ability can afford to buy requirements of the Lesser Bairam, especially with respect to the ongoing price hikes. The following is what the paper extracted from the citizens.

Eid's needs and price hikes

Price hikes affect the motion of demand and supply of the commodities, making consumers search for other alternatives.

Ahmed M Al-Amari, one of Jamal Street's shoppers, said, "I came to buy some clothes for my four kids. I was surprised to see the unreasonable price hikes, where one child suit price ranges between YR 3500 to 5000. My salary does not exceed YR20,000. Therefore, I decided to buy only one shirt and a pair of trousers, maximum YR 2000 for each one."

"I did not think of buying anything for me. I am satisfied to make my children feel happy," he added.

However, Najeeb Akam, a worker in the dairy factories, commented, "I came early to buy the Eid clothes for my children. I found that the prices are very high though the fabrics are not good. I decided to go to one of the peddlers to find something suitable and compatible with my purchasing ability."

Worth-noting, most of the buyers go to the popular market and sidewalks and second hand clothes shops in different areas of the capital city of Sana'a. These places attract customers particularly the poor and those of low income.

People belonging to this category account that for the lower prices. The prices are less than those in shops and stores.

Second hand clothes are the solution

Umm Nasser said that she went to the second hand clothes store because the new clothes are very expensive. "I have some doubt about the quality of the new clothes. Used clothes are not bad and we can buy them. I will be frustrated if I enter stores selling new clothes. When I enter the store, I ask how much this is. I found that they are very expensive. Stores' owners are very crazy. We have simple and low incomes."

Khalid Al-Faqeeh, a daily wage worker, affirmed, "Most of the displayed clothes are old. However, there are some clothes and shoes that are in a good condition. I don't say they are new but good. They may be used for a short period of time."

"Second hand stores facilitated many things to me. I can get a lot of things for the Eid as they are sold at reasonable prices compatible with my salary. I have some other liabilities such as payments of rent and bills of electricity and water and Eid's sweets."

Trading stores in recession

Salah M. Mahmoud, who has a clothes store in Shu'ooob area, said, "The sales motion in this season is living in a great recession that has been experienced before. The sales ratio declined by 50 percent this year in comparison with the last years, though this Eid coincides with the winter season. This means that the winter season will not experience price hikes in sales."

"Despite the fact that clothes stores experience massive congestion, the sales motion is still suffering from a great recession, adding: We are better than others any way. Kids' clothes stores are visited mostly by the customers. It is because most of the families care about buying their kids new clothes, Yaseen Al-Utmi shared.

He went on to say, "most of the people get satisfied when buying one set or piece of clothing for every child. They were used to buying more than that. By doing so, the sales motion got decreased or declined by 30 percent compared to the previous year."

However, Mohammed S. Saleem, Haiyel Street, observed that it is ostensible that there is a huge promotion in



Poor Yemenis prefer to buy their clothes from street vendors.

the selling and purchasing motion, but it is completely the opposite.

Most of the stores and trading centers' owners attributed the recession and the decrease of purchasing power of people to the deteriorated economic situation as well as price hikes. It is also due to the availability of the peddlers and clothes placed on the sidewalks in addition to the second hand clothes, even if of bad quality, sold at lower prices.

Second face of the Eid current

However, some centers and trading markets experience a huge rush over as well as significant selling and purchasing power. The owners of those trading centers said that their goods meet good

promotion and growing selling and purchasing movement especially in the last ten days of the holy month of Ramadan and the advent of the Lesser Bairam--the Eid.

Those nice centers and trading markets are usually located in the high class areas where rich people, diplomats, businessmen, who can buy goods with excellent quality at the highest prices. This is what goes against the peddlers and their taste.

Finally, the Eid is for everybody whether you belong to the rich class or those families with low income or otherwise. The festival rites practiced by the rich are the same things done by the poor. Eid remains for everybody. It is not a commodity to sell.

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Sectarianism of sword or sword of sectarianism

By: Najeeb Al-Mansouri

No doubt that in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, there is an absolute sectarian regime and since its inception, the sword got associated with the sect in a way making it difficult for one to differentiate between the sword and the sect. His Highness 'the sword' searched for a sect to be his scabbard while His Majesty 'the sect' looked for a sword to promote him even in a swamp of Muslims' blood. Mohammed Bin Saoud was the Imam's Sword and Mohammed Bin Abdulwahab was his sect and both behaved under the cover of the noble Sunna of Prophet Mohammed (Peace be Upon Him), claiming that the Othmani Caliphate follows from Prophet Mohammed's Sunna.

Both worked on abolishing the Sunna and backing its enemies including the European invaders who waged severe wars on Muslims while the Sunna and its followers never got engaged in a war against the invaders. Rather, they were created altogether to support Britain and the United States of America in their wars against Muslims. The invaders have found their lost victim in this political sect to divide the unity of Muslims. The foreign invaders discovered that

this sect is playing a key role in the fragmentation of Muslims due to its foolish fanaticism and extremism.

Followers of the Wahabi sect don't feel ashamed to eliminate their political and ideological opponents and antagonists. And, regretfully, these opponents are the people of monotheism while those belonging to the Wahabi sect kill people and label any individuals who violate their instructions as blasphemous, fabricators, polytheists and criminals. Those refusing to obey the Wahabi clerics are given two options, either to abide by the sect principles or to be killed in order for the Wahabis to establish their state, which they gave the name 'State of Monotheism'. Those who refuse to follow rituals of the Wahabi sect had been labeled as violators and blasphemous until this made the great Saudi historian say: "We badmouthed certain people," however, badmouthing applies only for polytheists, and they call the massacres they commit on Muslims conquests as if they are conquests led by the Prophet Mohamed (Peace Be Upon Him) and his loyal followers, who sacrificed everything they had for the sake of spreading Islam via conquests.

The influence of Wahabis expanded, thereby enabling them to plunder lands belonging to Oman, Yemen, Qatar and Jordan under the

pretext that owners of these lands are either blasphemous, polytheists, Hashmis or Sofis. These people are the main enemies of Wahabis.

The Imam Mohammed Bin Abdulwahab began to blaspheme the Othmani Caliphate, thus causing fall of the last fort that had been used to protect Muslims from invaders. Anyone going through the Wahabi books is bound to find abundant polytheism-related Fatwas although the Sunni scholars and clerics responded to the Imam Mohammed Bin Abdulwahab in a relatively similar mood. This made Abdulwahab's brother Sulaiman, one of Najd clerics, respond to his brother in a book entitled 'The Divine Thunderbolts in Response to Wahabis'. Sulaiman advised his brother Mohammed not to blaspheme any people who uttered the Shahaditin 'Witnesses that Allah is the only God and Mohammed is His Messenger'. I have a copy of this book and it is ever available for those who like to learn more about the Wahabi sect. Mohammed's father Abdulwahab dreamt during his sleep that a fire broke out in his house illuminating the east part of the world. The fire was interpreted by clerics as sedition. The father, who was one of the reliable scholars in the region, used to say that he expects evil when he runs into or sees his son

Mohammed.

Alas, the rulers of Saudi Arabia claim to belong to the Imam Ahmad Bin Hanbal in order to cover the crimes they had committed, as well as to mislead people. Now, we needn't be engaged in ideological or jurisprudence debates.

Do the Saudi elites including Prince Sultan belong to the Hanbali or the Sunni sect while this prince and other Saudi officials warmly welcomed the Zionist Ehud Elmort several times, the last of which was in Jordan? Is it true that the Sheikh of Saudis Abdulaziz Bin Baz Hanbali or Sunni, however, he issued Fatwa permitting conciliation with Jews and Zionists in Palestine? The Islamic prominent sheikh Yusef Al-Qardawi reacted to Bin Baz's fatwa, providing evidence from the Holy Book of Quran that prohibited all the types of forms of conciliation with Jews who are occupying the Arab land.

We urge the religious scholars and clerics of Najd and Hijaz to say the right thing and support the right, as well as to issue their Fatwas in a neutral and objective manner. It is enough for us to be misled by the Saudi elites and rulers, who never feel ashamed for their behaviors that seem to serve and be in favor of Jews and Zionists more than Muslims.

Source: Al-Wasat Political Weekly

COMMON SENSE

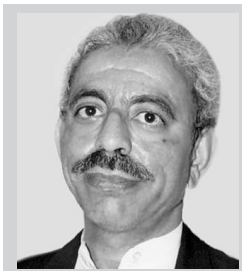
Troublemaker at home and abroad

With the Administration of George W. Bush at the helms in the United States, one can be sure that neither America nor the world ever became the same again. So much was changed in terms of how the United States conducted itself, not just overseas but in the home front as well. It is not clear what this means in the long run for the United States itself, but for the rest of the world, the general perception is that the United States simply cannot be trusted to play a meaningful and constructive role in the shaping of a free and peaceful world, especially as it has been driven to carry out the policies that serve the interests of Israel irrespective of human and material cost to the American taxpayers.

Notwithstanding all the rhetoric on democracy, freedom and human rights, the truth of the matter is that the US policies under the current Bush Administration were far from reflecting a sincere attitude towards the promotion of these three fundamental features of sound governance. For one thing the attitudes of the United States in Iraq have clearly demonstrated that the United States has the least respect for the rights of the Iraqi people, although the Iraqis, even under Saddam Hussein did not engage in any acts of hostility towards the United States or the American people. On the contrary, the Iraqis have suffered dearly because they have succumbed to a dictator who would probably never find it easy to take control of Iraq had it not been for the American support provided to Saddam as he rose to power in Iraq. Moreover, even under Saddam, the suffering of the Iraqis (as well as the Iranians) during the Iraqi – Iranian War was indeed the result of an American supported and desired effort to destroy the Iranian regime that arose with Ayatollah Khomeini's revolt against the more favored (by Washington) Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi regime. Needless to say the effort eventually failed, but left deep wounds in Iraq and prompted the Iraqi dictator to continue menacing the very states that supported him when he was striving to remove the unwelcome Khomeini regime in order to make up for colossal losses in the failed effort against Iran. Thus, the United States found itself directly enmeshed in the Middle East, when it was perceived that the oil fields of the Gulf States were supposedly under imminent threat. Moreover the inability of the Arab States to reshape themselves into an effective security and economic bloc that will safeguard the common and collective interests of all the Arab states allowed the affairs of the region to be pretty much to be dominated by the dictates of the Zionist State of Israel that was the obvious demonic threat to all the states of the region. The needed stability that would help bring about the development of the nations that had just come out of hundreds of years of foreign mandates and occupation, some of which have left the Arab countries with much despair and destruction, was far from coming. The Israelis, by themselves or with the help of their supporters in the International Zionist Establishment encouraged the United States to play a more aggressive role in the wake of the replacement of the Soviet threat by the over-exaggerated Moslem "terrorist" threat that was exploded by the Zionist lobby with the entire Moslem World apparently forced to take the blame for the ungodly demonic actions of a few misguided Moslems, who have been directed to serving the goals and aspirations of the Zionist enemies without so much as contribute one degree of support to the security and peace of the region or their fellow Moslems.

On the contrary, these demonic misfits have vastly been responsible for encouraging the Bush Administration, with strong prodding by the Zionist organizations, like the American – Israel Public Affairs Committee and elements of the American Right, who have been misled to believe that they are the modern bearers of the Cross and that they are supposedly carrying out the will of God, to eliminate the people of the Middle East. The latter is to be either carried out by the people of the region themselves as is the case in the Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan, Kurdistan, Turkey or by the direct involvement of the United States through wars waged by trigger happy mercenaries. With this scenario, it is not hard to say that Arab and Moslem blood is cheap and that as long as the Arabs have no sense of the pathetic reality they are all being forced to live through, the carnage will spread to every nook and cranny of the region and then there will never be any way, easy or hard to come out of the horrible mess that will be generalized for the region at large, while Israel continues to complete the full annihilation of the Palestinians either by death or exile. The signs of a peace in the region are far from being visible, even if Condoleezza Rice calls for ten conferences.

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

May it be the end of new conservatives?

By: Faruq Luqman

When Paul Wolfowitz, the former US Deputy Secretary of Defense quit service, people around the world expressed their satisfaction for more than one reason. The first of which is that Wolfowitz was the engineer of the aggressive war and the illegal occupation and destruction of Iraq under the U.S. President George W. Bush. Another reason is that the man was indecent while dealing with his co-workers and allies of his state. He was a staunch bystander of Israel, and under the guidance of his secretary Rams Field and the US Vice President Deck Cheney, he played an important role in intervening in the internal affairs of other countries and their regimes by force if the U.S. and the Israeli interests necessitated that.

The US President Bush brought a group of people together, whom critics called 'new conservatives' under the supervision and guidance of Cheney, one of the most prominent and ugliest new conservatives in the current century. Rams Field, Wolfowitz and others were occupying some of the most important and sensitive posts in Bush's administration. This led the U.S. to commit flagrant mistakes affecting its international relations with other states, as well as the internal policy, which made the former US President Jimmy Carter declares that Bush is 'The worst president in history' in light of his country's external policy. Bush didn't find a large number of supporters to defend him vehemently and sincerely. In addition, Carter labelled the outgoing British Prime Minister, who has just step down his post as not much different from the US leader for his involvement in Iraq's catastrophe, as they made the Arab country lacks the simplest standards of the state. The state is worse than any other poor countries in the Caribbean and Africa where people have no respect for their corrupt governments.

After animosity escalated toward Wolfowitz and his boss Rams Field, as well as the failure of the American plan, which both officials set, Bush found himself compelled to fire Wolfowitz after he riskily faced bullets and grenades during his visit to Baghdad and while his accommodation in a hotel having heightened security. There are several photos for the horror-stricken official at the time of the blast. The attackers wanted to give Wolfowitz a live lesson as a punishment for what he committed in the Mesopotamia.

Such was not sufficient warning, as the US unwise President Bush appointed the official, who machinated Iraq's tragedy and was behind the killing of nearly 7 hundred thousand people and wounding more than million, plus the waste of the Arab country's oil wealth according to Iraqi and American sources, as President of the World Bank. The WB is the international financial institution that spent nearly \$25 billion over the past year in the forms of loans for the needy and poor states. Why did Bush appoint Wolfowitz President of the World Bank? The answer is because he was primarily one of the new conservatives and a close friend. The unwise president did so in order to scorn and taunt people of the world who have been usually denouncing Wolfowitz's acts and his tragic role in Iraq.

However, the man could not retain his WB post because he violated the WB bylaws and committed a big mistake in favor of his mistress Shaha Ridha, an American citizen from an Iranian origin when her entitlements exceeded the WB agreed-upon limit. Wolfowitz gave his mistress an annual increase estimated at \$60,000 at one instalment before she moved to work for the Washington-based Department of State. As all the employees know, such an increase is the end of service entitlements and it also helps raise pension until the beneficiary dies. By this, the man ensured his mistress a comfortable job and excellent income for lifetime in a unique corruption case

at the level of high-ranking officials. This can be compared to what the blind British Secretary John Pliant did when he took job of the Department of Labor. He committed a technical mistake by demanding his aides to accelerate procedures of the residence permission for a foreign female citizen to work in Britain according to the demands of his mistress that was in an urgent need of this foreigner. As the news was let out, people strongly criticized him while the media accused him of exceeding the limit of his powers because he has an advantage by helping his mistress. Ethics of the job requires that he should not intervene in doing a favor for his mistress. Actually, he was forced to step down in order not to perplex the Prime Minister Toney Blair, who used to prefer him to other well-eyed people.

The man was highly respected among his colleagues and well-educated although he lost his sight in the early months of his age. He outperformed his co-workers in various majors. He was screened on television giving an oratory speech at the National Assembly from papers, which he dictated on his female secretary who in turn transformed it into the Brazilian style concerned with the blind. He used a good language, which is rarely mastered by graduates from the reputable universities or prominent announcers of BBC. For me, I don't believe that he is less creative than his colleagues and opponents in other sections of the Assembly. He was superior to them.

Irrespective of what is said about Wolfowitz, the amazing fact is related with the deterioration of Bush's administration and the elimination of new conservatives who are responsible for catastrophes and devastation in the United States. They represent the American Rightists and the ugly face of capitalism that left behind the trade of slaves in the south, specifically in the State of Texas, the birthplace of Bush. This trade is denying some fifty million people the right to free medication and social

security to ensure their survival since the social security lobby in the country is composed of the ugliest social classes who trigger hostility toward democracy. It is known that the lobby people assembled together in the face of the former democratic President Bill Clinton, as he tried to fight monopoly on medication in order to help the poor classes, who make up fifty million of the country's population, have an access to this right. They attempted to overthrow Clinton through the scandal of Monica Lewinsky as the president was deceived by the hired lady, however, the scandal of consecutive presidents in the White House is not a new fact. The fact wasn't kept secret since the very beginning. I needn't study the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which is chaired by Hover, in order to read more about corruption stories. Books in libraries are a clear-cut evidence of the behavior of presidents who used to hire prostitutes via mafias.

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EU Migration Policy: Europe Opens its Gates – Slowly

Demographic change and globalisation are forcing legal migration onto the EU agenda. Daniela Schröder reports from Brussels

About shortages in the 27 EU states are well on their way as Europe is about to face an unprecedented change in its population structure. By the year 2030, Europe will have a shortage of 20 million inhabitants of working age, according to EU Commission estimates. By 2050 there could be a 65 million shortfall

To ensure economic growth and prosperity in global competition, the EU Commission is pressing for eases on immigration for highly qualified workers from outside the EU. The main focus is on the African states. To recruit staff from Africa, the EU Commissioner of Justice Franco Frattini is planning a European version of the US work permit or ‘green card’.

His ‘blue card’ concept plans to grant qualified foreign workers, particularly young people, a two-year fast-track work permit. This permit would be extended, and could be converted into permanent EU residency after five years. The regulations would apply across the whole of the EU, providing for wages above the national minimal income.

Frattini has not set out any statistics



Controlled migration: The EU Commission is pressing for eases on immigration for highly qualified workers from outside the EU.

for desired immigration levels. The EU states would continue to decide independently how many workers they choose to allow in from abroad.

The national governments’ sensitivities

But the proposal is nevertheless controversial. When it comes to residency and labour laws, the national governments are extremely sensitive. At the EU sum-

mit last December, chaired by the then EU Council President Angela Merkel, the 27 heads of state and government agreed in principle to create new rules for targeted immigration of qualified and highly qualified workers.

The typical EU dilemma, however, is the question of how far the EU Commission is competent for the matter, as opening the labour markets is up to national governments.

Frattini had already raised the idea of the ‘blue card’ two years ago, only to face out-and-out rejection from the member states. At last January’s meeting of the EU justice ministers in Dresden, he announced that he would be launching a second initiative this autumn.

“Highly qualified workers are needed in Europe, and public acceptance for these groups of immigrants is at its highest,” says Steffen Angenendt, an expert on migration for the *German Institute for International and Security Affairs*, (SWP). However, it is not clear which qualifications are regarded as high, medium or low. “There is no binding definition in the EU.”

The European Parliament also wants to know precisely what the commission means by highly qualified workers. Definitions and needs in the EU countries are just as diverse as the national rules on the recognition of training certificates, a new parliamentary paper on legal immigration points out.

African nursing staff for an aging Europe?

MEPs are also calling for an EU work permit for the tourism industry, agriculture and construction – these industries would collapse without foreign workers in many member states. The commission intends to propose suitable regulations in the coming year. The EU also

has to think about joint rules for the booming care sector, the parliament is urging.

The aging Europe will soon be unable to cover its growing demand for care staff from its own member states, according to migration researchers. This is another area in which the EU is looking to Africa. EU Commissioner Frattini, however, stresses that countries should not recruit specialist workers who play a key role in their home countries. There could be joint talks with the sending states on which areas the EU should not tap into.

Temporary immigration – discussed by the commission as ‘circular migration’ – could reduce the loss of well-trained and talented people, the infamous ‘brain drain’, in the affected nations.

Germany’s interior minister Wolfgang Schäuble (CDU) and his former French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy first prompted the debate on circular migration in October 2006. The idea was that non-EU nationals should be allowed to work in one EU country for a maximum of three to five years. They would not be allowed to bring family members and would have to return to their home countries after this period.

Filling gaps on the EU labour market

The EU Commission, in contrast, defines circular migration as repeated

immigration of workers to fill gaps on the EU labour market in the short term. However, this version also entails temporary stays and an obligation to return home.

In return for temporary legal jobs, the non-European states are expected to help the EU to prevent illegal immigration and guarantee that they will take back all migrants who do not leave the EU of their own accord.

The circular model is a benefit for both sides, argues Frattini. Europe could cover its labour market demands in a flexible way, while the countries of origin would profit from the knowledge the temporary migrants gained in the EU and the money they earned.

Critics, however, regard the concept as a new version of the 1950s guest worker programmes, and point out that the workers recruited under these schemes did not return home after their contracts expired.

SWP’s Angenendt suspects that concepts for repeat immigrants are more successful than those with one-off migration options. Short-term recruitment of seasonal staff is the best example, he explains.

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Daniela Schröder is a freelance EU correspondent in Brussels.
Translated from the German by Katy Derbyshire*

A Saudi hero is born as London gives Hollywood the key to The Kingdom

By: Ben Hoyle

America’s – or at least Hollywood’s – take on the Middle East has undergone a subtle shift of perception after the rough cut of a forthcoming blockbuster was shown to a multi-ethnic audience in Wandsworth, South London.

Trailers for *The Kingdom*, released here on Friday, leave no doubt that this is a quintessential post-9/11 revenge fantasy replete with explosions, a big Hollywood star, breathtaking stunts and more explosions, in which the US kicks ass without outside help.

But the final version is significantly different, with a bigger and more pivotal role than first envisaged for an Arab character played by an Arab actor.

Hollywood is notorious for airbrushing history to appeal to its home audience. But, as with everything else in Tinseltown, money is driving change. International cinemagoers now create as much box-office as domestic ones,

and are not always willing to accept the worldview seen from Beverly Hills.

The London audience, about one fifth Muslim and Hindu, was brought in earlier this year to see how it would react to a mainstream movie with vast potential for causing cultural and political offence.

The Kingdom begins with Islamic terrorists murdering more than 100 American contractors and their families in Saudi Arabia. Against the wishes of the US’s most important Middle Eastern ally, machinegun-toting FBI agents led by Jamie Foxx are sent into Riyadh to take revenge.

David Kosse, President of Universal Pictures International, said that two main conclusions came out of the screening. First, the Wandsworth audience cheered on the American heroes against the Asian villains. Second, they wanted to see more of the good Saudi policeman who helps them.

“The audience loved him,” Mr Kosse said. “After the screening we rounded out his character and put in more

scenes with him in to heighten his personal story.” The character is now central to the plot, providing a career-making role for Ashraf Barhom, a Christian Arab Israeli whose audition was filmed by his little sister atop his apartment building in Galilee.

Sympathetically portrayed, rounded Middle Eastern characters played by Middle Eastern actors are as rare in Hollywood as egoless directors and altruistic agents.

“I can’t think of one in a mainstream Hollywood film,” said Mr Kosse. “I think it’s a significant cultural moment to have a character like that in a film like this.”

This summer’s record-breaking wave of blockbusters made an estimated \$4 billion from the US domestic box office (including Canada) but \$4.3 billion from the international. Films such as *Spider-Man 3* (which took 62 per cent of its total box office outside the US), *The Simpsons Movie* (65 per cent) and the latest *Harry Potter* (69 per cent) have proven the value of the over-

seas market. “We are much more cognisant of the international market than we were a few years ago and we are trying to be more culturally sensitive,” Mr Kosse said. “The big American movies being made are also ones that can play around the world.”

Universal’s international division moved from Los Angeles to London last year and the importance of the international market can be detected in its projects for 2008, from *Wanted* and *Hellboy 2*, with a Russian and a Mexican director respectively, to *Mamma Mia*, which has a British director, to the new *Mummy* film, set in China.

The Kingdom is an action film “with good guys and bad guys and chases”, Mr Kosse said. However, as far as the genre allowed, Peter Berg, the director, and his producer, Michael Mann, tried to be as accurate as possible in their depiction of Saudi society, from the precise details of dress to the rituals of family life.

Critics have compared *The Kingdom*

to the Rambo films as often as high-brow geopolitical thrillers such as Michael Winterbottom’s *A Mighty Heart* and Steven Soderbergh’s *Syriana*. Screen International praised the action sequences, script and Barhom’s performance but added: “The Kingdom will confirm the worst American prejudices about the Middle East.”

“The fact it didn’t quite work isn’t really the point,” said Michael Gubbins, the magazine’s editor. “As far as the content of Hollywood films is

concerned they are all recognisably sensitive to the overseas market these days where strident Americanism doesn’t play well. That’s why American heroes who used to save the US of A would probably be happy to save Paris now.

“In *Superman Returns*, instead of fighting for ‘Truth, Justice and the American Way’ he was defending ‘Truth, Justice and All That Stuff.’”

Ben Hoyle is the arts reporter at The Times

Between logical frameworks and reality

By: Kenneth van Toll

Somewhere between logical frameworks, capacity building and the sincere believe that all societies have the right to a free and independent press, a new found reality dawned upon me in the past week. It was the week in which I was reminded that the work we do at Free Voice (www.freevoice.nl) does matter and moreover: that the support to the organizations we work with world wide is never easy to quantify, qualify or measured by a set of indicators that perfectly match the start and the end date of a contract.

Because sometimes, somehow between output, outcome, objectives and assumptions, one starts wondering every now and then what the tangible impact of our work is. Yes we have supported the Irrawaddy in becoming a first rate monthly, yes we enabled the India-based news agency Mizzima in successfully becoming an online multimedia operation, yes we were there when the Democratic Voice of Burma Television (DVBtv) first went on air, yes we have supplied the members of the Burma News International (BNI) network with (technical) support and yes we even supported a small but very meaningful training for young filmmakers inside Burma.

But as much as I believe that the mere fact that Burma is one of the most closed societies in the world, is a justification in itself for giving continued financial support, even I at times wonder if that much desired free and independent press in Burma will ever see the light of day.

Even though that day I have to unfortunately conclude after last weeks sad events, may still be a long way off, all of the sudden, an impact of unprecedented proportions presented itself as the exiled Burmese media

find themselves at the center stage of a media storm.

For it were them who provided the world with a horrifying but very accurate picture of what was happening inside their country. Burmese media in exile are the lifeline between the brave people inside and the outside world. They were providing the world with radio, tv and online stories as they happened, while at the same time they were feeding the same stories back into the country as an alternative to the state run media who presented their own modified version of what had happened.

It was one of those rare occasions where the world was watching a news story through the eyes of mostly local reporters, whether trained for the job or not. It was, as far as I can remember, the first time that only a handful of foreign reporters and sources were giving their account and interpretation of what had happened. Sure, the advanced communication techniques have played an important role in the way the Burma story has been covered over the past week. But let’s not forget that it is really to the credit of the exiled Burmese media groups who, over the years have built up and maintained a vast network of eager, skilled and independent journalists all of whom are paying a high price in getting the story out. They went and will go at great lengths to tell the world what is happening so that one day hopefully, we will see that free and independent Burmese media emerge inside instead of primarily outside country. Their courage, their dreams and hopes are far too great to be captured into a log frame. And sometimes that is all the justification one needs to support media under pressure.

Kenneth van Toll is the business development manager of freevoice

Running from Musharraf

By: Pramit Pal Chaudhuri

How times change the man. Pakistan’s embattled president, Pervez Musharraf, once declared, “I am not at all a politician. I don’t think I’m cut out for politics.” Eight years after seizing power and exiling his main civilian opponents, the general is moving heaven and earth to hold on to political office.

Though he took power in a bloodless coup, there was little doubt about his popularity at the time. The public had tired of a civilian regime marked by corruption and economic chaos. Musharraf’s personal frankness and integrity appealed to the street and earned him *de facto* legitimacy.

The general, who offered the father of modern Turkey, Kemal Atatürk, as his model, also seemed to represent a vision for his country that combined economic growth with support for secularizing impulses. But, given his unwillingness to seek support for his regime and his policies from the ballot box, Musharraf succeeded in undermining both. Over the years, he rigged referendums, browbeat the judiciary, and asked Islamic parties for support to shore up his government. A president’s modernizing vision degenerated into a dictator’s power-driven myopia.

Musharraf admitted on television

this year, “Yes, my popularity has been reduced.” Yet he clearly failed to comprehend that this was not just about approval ratings. The political core of his regime had become hollow.

In March, he sacked the chief justice of the Supreme Court, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, probably because Chaudhry objected to Musharraf’s seeking a constitutionally questionable third term as president. It proved to be the tipping point, triggering waves of protests by lawyers and other groups in Pakistan’s main cities. Unable to vote the general out of office, the public took to the streets. Polls show Musharraf’s support has fallen to a third of the population, and that two-thirds oppose his seeking another presidential term.

Simultaneously, there has been considerable erosion of support from Musharraf’s strongest external backer, the United States. After he seized power, America welcomed Musharraf’s willingness to fight al-Qaeda and the Taliban on his territory in exchange for large infusions of military aid.

The general fought less out of conviction than pragmatism, but the end result was the same. Or so the US believed. Given the long-standing relationship between Pakistan’s Islamic militants and the military, it became clear there were limits to how far Musharraf was prepared to go in the “war on terrorism.”

Musharraf is now desperate to beg, steal, or borrow any political legitimacy he can get – including from the two civilian political leaders he exiled. His most ambitious strategy has been to try to form a partnership with Benazir Bhutto, the head of one of the two largest democratic parties. Bhutto initially saw this as an opportunity to end her exile and ease herself into the prime ministership with a politically wounded partner. Her primary demand was that Musharraf surrender his uniform.

The other civilian leader, Nawaz Sharif, responded by defying his exile, returning to Pakistan, and promptly being re-expelled. But Sharif succeeded in undermining the Bhutto-Musharraf plan, positioning himself as Pakistan’s genuine champion of democracy. In one move, he reversed the Pakistani political dynamic: being farthest from the dictator became more valuable than being closest to him. Unsurprisingly, Bhutto is now having second thoughts about an alliance with Musharraf, who has been reduced to chasing after her in an effort to salvage the deal.

Musharraf, according to his lawyer’s depositions before the Supreme Court, plans to give up his uniform after the indirect presidential elections he scheduled for October 6. In preparation, he has replaced senior generals in the Pakistani army with officers considered more beholden to him, evidently hop-

ing that this will ensure the military’s loyalty even after he removes himself from the chain of command.

However, his options are shrinking rapidly. The US, concerned with ensuring stability in case of a transition to a new government, is keeping silent about its preference for Musharraf to remain head of both the government and the army. The Bush administration is slowly recognizing that for a Pakistani leader to be an effective counterterrorism ally, he or she must have a modicum of legitimacy. The two civilian leaders may soon begin vying with each other to see who can claim to be more anti-Musharraf. Even Osama bin Laden, sensing an opportunity to stir up trouble and win popular support, has issued a video calling for a *jihad* against Musharraf.

Nor can Musharraf count on the military, despite his recent appointments. The generals have always placed the institution of the military above all else, including rulers from their own ranks. If they come to believe that Musharraf is sinking, they can be counted on to cut him loose, especially if he becomes a civilian.

*Pramit Pal Chaudhuri is a fellow at the Asia Society, New York.
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IMF: High oil revenues have reduced the urgency to advance Economic Reforms

Compiled by: YemenTimes Staff

A recent report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) focusing on Yemen has indicated that the economic performance of Yemen in 2006 we generally favorable, stating that non-oil growth have been strong and did off-set the decline in oil production. However, the report also stated that inflation during 2006 have doubled to over 20 percent, as reflected in the rising food prices and the domestic spending driven by high government spending from record oil revenues, the increase in spending resulted from a large wage increase and rapid money growth among other reasons.

The report also warned that the fact that Oil resources could run out in ten years, and the fact that oil revenues currently account for over three quarters of the government revenues, make Yemen's fiscal and external sustainability a worrisome issue, unless the government takes corrective actions and makes a large fiscal adjustment, or major new oil finds, the government finances would deteriorate rapidly in coming years, risking domestic and external instability.

The report, entitled The Article 4 consultations staff report, has listed a number of policy discussions and recommendations for the government in Yemen in order to reduce inflation and improve fiscal sustainability, these recommendations were formulated after IMF staff meetings with the Government of Yemen Officials as well as local economists and development experts. These recommendations also build on the implementation of the Government of Yemen for the previous recommendations of the IMF (see adjunct Box), as well as the recent economic developments in the country.

These policy recommendations are:

- Bringing inflation down to levels below 10 percent, to prevent expectations of high inflation from becoming entrenched;
- Achieving fiscal sustainability in the context of declining oil reserves;

- Promoting nonhydrocarbon growth to create employment opportunities and help achieve a lasting reduction in poverty.

Reducing Inflation:

- The authorities recognized the need to reduce inflation and agreed to undertake a modest tightening of fiscal and monetary policies.
- The authorities are urged to allow some nominal appreciation of the rial and to liberalize, and possibly raise, interest rates in order to help bring down inflation more firmly, especially as the wage increase will only be delayed.
- The authorities agreed to slow the rate of depreciation of the rial, but were reluctant to allow a nominal appreciation, for fear of losing reserves and hurting competitiveness.
- The authorities were also hesitant to liberalize interest rates and pursue a more active interest rate policy.

Ensuring Fiscal Sustainability

- While the authorities are placing high hopes on finding new oil and gas reserves, they agreed that fiscal policy needs to be based on conservative estimates of existing reserves
- The authorities acknowledged that current policies are not sustainable over the medium term and may lead to domestic and external instability.
- The authorities realized the need for a large fiscal adjustment effort.
- The authorities broadly accepted the staff's adjustment scenario, but noted that
- implementation was likely to be slower due to political economy considerations.
- Reforms aimed at increasing non-oil revenues by broadening the tax base and improving compliance are progressing, albeit slowly.
- The authorities have started an ambitious and comprehensive two-year public financial management reform program.

Promoting Sustained Nonhydrocarbon

Growth

- As oil production declines, new sources of growth will need to be found, especially to absorb the rapidly growing labor force.
- The authorities recognized that sustained growth also requires a much higher level of financial intermediation than currently exists in Yemen.
- The authorities expressed strong interest in a multi-sector statistics mission to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the macroeconomic statistics and develop a strategy for improving the quality and timeliness of data.
- Yemen has a very open trade regime and is seeking to enhance trade integration.

IMF Staff Appraisal

- The Yemeni authorities face considerable challenges to promote strong economic growth to create new employment opportunities and reduce poverty, while ensuring fiscal and external sustainability in the context of declining oil reserves.
- The envisaged tightening of fiscal and monetary policies will help reduce inflation.
- Monetary policy should focus more closely on achieving low inflation.
- To help bring down inflation more swiftly, the CBY could allow some nominal appreciation of the rial in the short run.
- The minimum interest rate for rial deposits should be removed to allow the Central Bank of Yemen to conduct a more active interest rate policy and to enhance financial intermediation.
- Yemen's fiscal policies will need to adjust to the prospective decline in oil production and revenues.
- Yemen will need strong economic growth to achieve a significant reduction in unemployment and poverty.
- Data provision is still adequate for surveillance, but improvements are needed to better facilitate the formulation and monitoring of economic policies.

Assessment of the IMF Executive Board

The Executive Board welcomed Yemen's generally favorable recent economic performance, including the decline in the poverty rate, as well as the progress being made on a number of structural reforms. Nevertheless, Directors concurred that the authorities face considerable macroeconomic and structural policy challenges to promote strong economic growth, create ample employment opportunities, and reduce poverty, while ensuring fiscal and external sustainability. In this regard, Directors welcomed the authorities' strategy of basing policies on existing hydrocarbon reserves, while recognizing that the country's economic outlook could be significantly altered by the discovery of new oil and gas resources.

Directors, noting that inflationary pressures have not fully abated, were encouraged by the authorities' commitment to reducing inflation. They agreed that monetary policy should focus closely on price stability and welcomed the CBY recent efforts to keep the exchange rate of the rial vis-à-vis the U.S. dollar broadly stable, which should help limit imported inflation. Given the limitations of monetary policy in Yemen, Directors generally considered it to be appropriate for the CBY to continue to rely substantially on the exchange rate as a nominal anchor, in order to achieve lower inflation. While the exchange rate currently appears to be broadly in line with fundamentals, over time and in view of the expected decline in oil production, it will be important for the exchange rate to reflect evolving economic conditions.

Directors observed that the shallow financial intermediation, along with a relatively high level of dollarization, is limiting the effectiveness of monetary policy. They viewed that the removal of the minimum interest rate for rial deposits would allow the CBY to conduct a more active interest rate policy and enhance financial intermediation.

Directors noted that fiscal restraint, including public sector wage restraint, should provide an important complement

to monetary policy in reducing inflationary pressures. They also

underscored that frontloading fiscal adjustment will be needed, given the prospective decline in oil production and revenues.

Directors agreed that the gradual phasing out of domestic fuel subsidies will be central to fiscal adjustment, while recognizing that this will require political support. They noted that raising fuel prices should go hand-in-hand with strengthening the social safety net, in order to cushion the impact on the poor, including through persevering with ongoing efforts aimed at improving the Social Welfare Fund. Directors also were of the view that, if the authorities wished to cushion the impact of high wheat prices on the poor, it would be preferable to do so through the SWF. Strong efforts will also be needed to increase the government's non-oil revenues, reorient spending towards priority areas, and improve the quality and effectiveness of capital spending. Directors supported the progress being made towards strengthening the budgetary framework and improving fiscal transparency. Directors underscored the importance of productivity-enhancing reforms to strengthen Yemen's competitiveness in non-oil exports. Further efforts are needed to improve the investment climate and the quality of labor, enhance governance and reduce red tape, including in tax and customs administration. Directors stressed that deepening financial markets will be essential for ensuring strong non-oil performance, and also recommended further strengthening of banking supervision. In this regard, they encouraged the authorities to request an Financial Sector Assessment Program update, which would help to assess potential risks in the financial system and to develop an agenda for financial sector reforms. Directors welcomed the revised Anti-Money Laundering law, and looked forward to its approval by parliament.

Directors looked forward to further efforts to improve the quality and timeliness of macroeconomic statistics, to better facilitate the formulation and monitoring of economic policies.

Implementation of Past IMF Recommendations

Fiscal policy: A General Sales Tax (GST) was introduced in 2007, after seven years of preparation, but with concessions regarding the valuation of imports to gain support from the business community. Full implementation is now envisaged only in early 2009. Customs tariffs were substantially reduced in 2006. Generous tax exemptions remain. The tax administration is moving towards a functional-based organizational structure and use of self assessment, but progress has been slow. A large tax payer unit was established. The authorities have not begun phasing out fuel subsidies, except for a one-time increase in domestic fuel prices in July 2005.

Monetary and exchange rate policy:

Full liberalization of interest rates is yet to be implemented. Monetary policy remains geared more toward targeting the exchange rate than toward controlling inflation. Banking sector supervision needs to be strengthened and staff has repeatedly encouraged the authorities to request an update of the 2001 FSAP.

Structural reforms:

Staff has called for reforms that boost private sector growth through improving the business climate and governance. New procurement legislation and implementation regulations have been prepared.

Macroeconomic data:

Progress has been made in improving statistics, notably in monetary, balance of payments, and fiscal data, but further efforts are needed to improve the quality, timeliness and dissemination of Yemen's statistics. Areas particularly in need of improvement include national accounts and price statistics.



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فاكس: ٢٦٧٦١٩
ص.ب: ٥٤٦٥
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Fax: 267619
P.O Box: 5465

مكتب أحمد محسن المريسي
للخدمات العقارية
حده - الحي السياسي - الأصححي - بيت بوس
سيار: ٢٨٥٥ - ٧٣٣٨٠

عيد مبارك وكل عام وأنتم بخير

* للبيع: ١٥ لبنه حر، تجاري، على شارع الأربعين المؤدي من ٢٢ مايو إلى حده. المثلث القريب جداً من حدود مدينته حده، الواجهة التجارية حوالي ١٨ متر. سعر اللبنة، سعر المنطقة، * للبيع: ١٤ لبنه، حده، حر ومسوره، سكن تجاري، إتجاه غربي. سعر اللبنة ٤,٠٠٠,٠٠٠ مليون ريال يعني، قابل للتفاوض *للبيع: فيلا في المدينة السكنية، حده. مساحة الأرضية ٨ لبن حر، موقع ممتاز في الشوارع الأولى. سعر اللبنة: ٣٥ مليون ريال يعني. * للبيع: دورين مسلح في المدينة السكنية، حده، ٥٠ مليون

سيارات

- للبيع: سيارة هونداي - اكسنت - موديل ٢٠٠٤ - جمر ك خصوصي - الحاله ممتازه - السعر: مليون ومائتين ألف ريال
- للتواصل: ٧١١٥٩٣٤٥٩
- للبيع: سيارة تويوتا كورلا - موديل ١٩٨٩ - الحاله جيدة جداً - اللون أبيض.
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٨٨٣٥٥٥
- للبيع: سيارة دودج درو انجو - موديل ٢٠٠٤ - اللون ذهبي - الحاله جيدة جداً. وعلى الراغبين المعاينة في مقر السفارة والتفاوض مباشرة حتى موعد أقصاه ٣٠ سبتمبر.
- للإستفسار: ٧٣٣٤٠٤٠٦١

عقارات

- للبيع: محل سيديهاث في شارع ١٦ المتفرع من شارع هائل وبسعر مناسب جداً.

التقنيات الحديثه.

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٠٨٨٧٩٣

- عدنان علي - بكالوريوس لغة انجليزية - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - خبرة عاليه في مجال الكمبيوتر - خبرة في مجال السكرتارية - خبرة في مجال المبيعات.

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٩٩٠٠٢٦

- بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - خبرة في مجال السياحة والتسويق - عمل كمدرس في جامعة تعز لمدة ثلاث سنوات - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية إجادة تامة.
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٠٩٦٥٢
- صادق - دبلوم محاسبة (المعهد الوطني) - دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر نظام محاسبي - يمن سوفت - محاسبة فنادق سابقاً - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أو في أي مجال آخر - قادر على توفي ضمانه.
- للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٨١٧٨٤
- خالد - بكالوريوس طب وجراحة

باحثون عن وظيفة

- زكريا النوعه - بكالوريوس (تجارة الكترونية) وهي من الأقسام الحديثه في اليمن - هذا القسم يساعد الشركات علانجاز عملياتها بسرعة ودقه وتكلفه أقل وأيضا يساعد الشركات على الإستفاده من

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ت: ٣٠٩١٩٠ الحديدة ت: ٢٩١٦٤٣

مشتشفيات

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مستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٨٢١/٧
مستشفى حدة الأهلي ت: ٠١-٤١٢٨١
مستشفى الألماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠/٦٠٢٠٠٨
فاكس: ٤١٨١١٦
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق

فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٢٩٧٧/١/٢
فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠٠
فندق موفيميك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
فندق تاج سبأ ت: ٠١-٢٧٢٣٧٣
فندق ريلكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١
فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٦٢٣٥٠/٦٠٢١٣٥/٨

معاهد

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فاكس: ٤٤٨٠٣٧
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المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٢٦٦٢٢٢
فاكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥
معهد كاروكوس ت: ٥٢٢٤٣/٥
فاكس: ٥٢٢٤٣٦
معهد أليكس ت: ٢٤٠٨٣٣/٥١٠٦١٢
فاكس: ٢٦٥٥٣٧

شركات للتأمين

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فاكس: ٢٧٢٩٤٤
مأرب للتأمين صنعاء ت: ٢٠٦١٢٩/٨/١٣
الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين ت: ٢٨٤٩٣٣
صنعاء ت: ٢٤٤٢٨٠
عن ت: ٢٥٨٨١١
تغز ت: ٢٧٢٨٠٦/٢٧٢٩٦٢/٤٣
صنعاء ت: ٢٤٧٦١٧
عن ت: ٢٥٠٢٤٥

مدارس

مدرسة رينبو ت: ٤١٤٠٠٢/٤٢٤-٤٢٣
مدارس صنعاء الدولية ت: ٣٧٠١٩١/٢
فاكس: ٣٧٠١٩٣
مدرسة الزكية الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٢٥٨/٩
مدرسة الماجد اليمنية ت: ٢٠٦١٥٩

سفرات

النسيم للسفرات ت: ٢٧٠٧٥٠
العالمية للسفرات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١٥٨٩/٦٠

مطاعم

مطعم ومخبازة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
تلفون: ٥٠٥٢٩٠ - ٢٦٦٣٧٥

IMPORTANT Numbers

للإشتراك في هذه المساحة الإتصال على
تجوية ٢١١ ٣٦٨٦٦١

طوارئ الكهرباء ١٧٧، طوارئ الشرطة ١٩٩، الإطفاء ١٩١، طوارئ المياه ١٧١، الإستعلامات ١١٨، حوادث (المرو) ١٩٤، الشئون الخارجية ٢٠٢٥٤٤/٧، الشئون الداخلية ٢٥٢٧٠/١/٧، الهجرة ٢٥٠٧١١/٣، وزارة المواصلا (تلفون) ٧٥٢٢٣٠٢، الإذاعة ٢٨٢٠٦١، التلفزيون ٣٣٠٠١/٢، مؤسسة الباصات للنقل داخل المدن ٢٦٢١١١/٣، وزارة المواصلا ٢٥٢١١/١/٢/٣، السباحه ٢٥٤٠٢٢، الصليب الأحمر ٢٠٢١٣١/٣، تليمن ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

البنوك

بنك اليمن والخليج فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤ ت: ١-٢٦.٨٢٣-٩٦٧
فرع عن ت: ٢٢٧٨٩٩/٢-٢٢٧٨٩٤ فاكس: ٢٢٧٨٩٤
البنك التجاري ت: ٢٧٧٢٤٤ فاكس: ٢٧٧٢٤١
مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٢٦٤٧٥٠/٢٦٤٧٠٢ فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٢٠/٢٦٤٧٠٢
بنك اليمن الدولي ت: ٠١-٤٠٧٠٤٠
البنك العربي ت: ٢٧٦٥٥٥/٢
بنك التسليف الزراعي ت: ٠١-٥٢٣٨١٣
البنك المركزي: ٠١-٢٧٤٣١٤

تأجير سيارات

زايو (Budget) ت: ٢٠٩٦١٨٠٥٠٦٣٧٢ فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨
يوروب كار ت: ٢٧٠٧٥١ فاكس: ٢٧٠٨٠٤
هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعاء ت: ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩
فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٥٥٩٥٥
عن ت: ٢٠٢٤٥٦٢٥

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر

أنيك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة أيزو ١.

صنعاء ت: ٠١-٤٢٨٣٠٥
فاكس: ٠١-٤٠٧٤١٩
عن ت: ٢٠٠٢٣٧١٩٩
تغز ت: ٤٠٢٥٠٢٤٣
المكلا ت: ٠٥٠٢٠٧٤٩٢

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المكلا ت: ٣٠٢٤١
شبه ت: ٢٠٢٣٦٦
سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٦٩

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قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء
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Qat chewing stops Yemeni athletes from excelling

For the first time in the history of Yemeni football, the young team went to the final match, vying for the Asia Cup. The team then could play on the World Cup. It was led by the national trainer, Ameen Al-Sunaini. He trained the team perfectly, making a legend of it to the extent that it was named " Hope Team ". The Hope Team could have reached to the finals. Al-Sunaini trained the team but they failed. Saddam Al-Ashmouri interviews Coach Ameen Al-Sunani for Yemen Times.

Ameen Al-Sunaini was born in 1964. He is married and has got children. He started his life as a football player in Al-Zain Sport Club, where was the goalkeeper of the national team in 1992. He started training in 1993 in Al-Zain club and then transferred to AL-Wahda club, where he won the title two times as well as the president's cup. Furthermore, Al-Sunaini worked as an assistant trainer for the first team and then for the Youth Team.

Al-Sunaini didn't appear on television for a considerable time. But he says he doesn't like to appear without any reason.

"There is no a certain reason. But I prefer to appear [on television] on occasions. I don't like to appear without any reasons. We as trainers focus mainly on the teams and clubs athletes more than newspapers or satellite channels."

At the present time, he is the trainer of Al-Ahli club. He resigned due to certain circumstances, such as his own business and family reasons..

The Young Team is no longer there. It's trainer says the team deteriorated due to the promotions of some players to the Olympic team. "The Yemeni Football Union assigned me to prepare the Youth team. We participated in two matches with North Korea and Thailand. The team was in need of a long time before they mastered skills and knowledge. But when the team did not win the match with Thailand, newspapers criticized the athletes.

"As a result of that, they were frustrated. I personally resigned after the match. I then attempted to recall the team and prepare it for the Youth eliminations staged in Malaysia. However, the athletes got affected by what happened during their participation under the name of the first team. It was very hard to bring them back in a short time. After that some of them were promoted to the first team. Yet some remained in the team participating in their clubs. It is commonly known that the young team participates one time under this name. Successive teams are then prepared."

The team strategy

"There were strategies presented to us by the Ministry of Sports to take care of the young athletes and prepare them for the long term so as to master skills. They then get promoted to the first team, but events taking place after the first team participation on gulf cup staged in Kuwait as well as the weak results made the union administration exceed this strategy. They under-took adventures to engage athletes in the first team.. We were convinced that the media outlets not only in locally but also regionally and internationally were targeting trainers when the teams failed. The trainers are to be blamed. Our media outlets overstate such things. However, I gained experiences throughout the past years, making me patient."

Yemeni football needs versus chewing Qat

"We need more and more. It is very hard to achieve or accomplish good results within short period of time. It is also very difficult to achieve what we want in comparison with the experiences of the gulf countries. We need a lot of time to do well at the level of the clubs or union or teams. We also lack planning especially in the facilities and age categories. Subsequently, it becomes difficult to achieve good results but if we pay attention to this aspect."

"The Yemeni athlete suffers from the lack of self-confidence. He does not care about himself. We are talking about the young and the age category. But sometimes the athlete reaches a specific stage where he starts thinking about irrelevant things. He neglects himself, chewing Qat and smoking. Such things affect the athlete more than anything else. In Yemen, the Qat tree is the biggest problem. And you as media outlets should conduct an awareness campaign to educate them about the danger of this plant. The leaders of the clubs should also participate in educating athletes about this to reduce the brunt of this phenomenon."

"I myself, through my experience spent with athletes, found that most of them are addicted to Qat. I know some athletes who chew Qat before and after exercises. This is a fact that



Yemen football national team.

should not be ignored. We find that one time the team performs well. However, it does not do the same in the next time. They rather lose the match."

"If I say that I do not chew Qat, this means I lie. But when I was a football player, I did not chew Qat at all. Now I am chewing Qat on the occasions that compel me to do so. I do not encourage people to chew Qat.

"I personally advise them to take care of themselves. Because I have observed that the Yemeni athletes are similar to those talented ones. They played with the strongest team. People admired them. So, they are able and competent. They should look after themselves. They may face some difficulties in their families or inside their club. But the ministry has a significant role in this respect. They Yemeni athletes stop playing when they are 27 or 26 of age. At this age, they are supposed to give so much for Yemeni football. Qat, malnutrition and staying up at night are the main factors that affect them. Akram As-Sulwi and Jamal Al-Awlaqi were nominated as ones of the best athletes in Asia championship. Now where are they?"

Choosing team players

"The team chooses the athlete according to his performance. The athlete reaches to the point of selection whether in formal or informal matches. He is judged by his performance during the match even if

there were some indirect mechanisms of choice, as we read in newspapers."

Yemen is the host of the 20th Gulf championship, but Al-Sunaini says focus shouldn't be made on this championship.

"We should not mainly focus on the 20th Gulf championship and ignore the 19th Gulf championship. It will be staged for one time in Yemen. They

will organize it. Undoubtedly, the 20th championship needs more attention but the 19th is more important. We should take this point into consideration. We need only to set it up early, preparing the team so as to be a successful championship at all levels."

"I don't rule out that our team would win the title. Every thing is

possible. We have three years from now. If the team is perfectly prepared and financially supported along with media and public encouragement, this makes winning the title easy. The UAE team won the title due to public and government support that drove them to their victory. So, it is not impossible for our team to win the title."



Coach Ameen Al-Sunani to reporter Saddam Al-Ashmouri: The Yemeni athlete suffers from the lack of self-confidence. He neglects himself, chewing Qat and smoking. Such things affect the athlete more than anything else.



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