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Monday, 12 November 2007 • Issue No. 1102 • Price 40 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf www.yementimes.com

## Inside:



**5**  
Do you know the street identification system in Sana'a?



**8**  
Dhafar: The missing link in Yemen's history



**10**  
Cancer in Yemen: Increasing numbers of sufferers vs. scarce facilities

# More than two million Yemeni children out of school

By: Almigdad Dahesh Mojalli

SANA'A, Nov. 11 — A recent report by ACCESS-MENA affirmed that more than two million school-aged children in Yemen aren't in the education system.

It pointed out that more than 231,655 Yemeni children between the ages of 10 and 14 are working, according to the 1994 census, which indicated 51.7 percent of male children working and 48.3 percent of females. The report mentioned that those numbers have doubled, increasing at a rate of 3 percent, but noted that the figures don't include all children working in Yemen.

The report indicated that agriculture and fishing are the main child labor fields. It also found that the private sector contains the overwhelming majority of working children, with 98.3 percent.

It further pointed out that 82.9 percent of working children work for their families, while only 17.1 percent work outside.

The ACCESS-MENA report noted that the most prominent result of child labor is school dropouts, where only 45 percent of children between the ages of 6 and 15 are in school.

The report, which was issued in June 2007, revealed that the increasing cycle of poverty and unemployment, economic and social problems and the 1990 Gulf War are the main reasons for child labor and school dropouts in Yemen.

Finally, it complained about the shortage of studies on child labor in Yemen; however, the Central Census Authority intends to launch a field census in January to determine the number of working children.

Community, Habitat and Finance, International ACCESS-MENA program strives to prevent child labor across the Middle East and North Africa region by improving access to and the quality of basic education. Working children in many MENA countries suf-



More than 232,000 Yemeni children between the ages of 10 and 14 are working, according to the 1994 census. Experts say this number has been doubled during the last 13 years.

fer inadequate access to flexible and appropriate education opportunities, thus putting them at risk for exploitive labor that may impede their continuation in formal education systems.

The organization works in an average of 30 countries each year, promoting democratic principles to effectively build, strengthen and promote change within local institutions and communities and shape policy decisions that recognize and support the world's most vulnerable populations.

The program targets providing remedial and vocational education to 7,500 Lebanese and Yemeni working and at-

risk children. It also seeks to disseminate lessons learned and best practices in these two interventions, as well as other similar programs globally among all countries in the MENA region.

Further, it aims to raise stakeholders' awareness and build the capacities of local NGOs in six to 14 MENA countries regarding the link between quality education and reducing the worst forms of child labor.

"Our \$8 million project, financed by the U.S. Labor Department, is for four years; we started in August 2004 and will finish in August 2008. Its main goal is to reduce child labor," said Elizabeth

Zonneveld, regional director of CHF (Child labor through Education and Sustainable Services in the Middle East and North Africa) project, who concluded her visit to Yemen last Thursday. Elizabeth Zonneveld, regional director of the project, explained concluded her visit to Yemen last Thursday.

Nicole Abu-Haydar, a manager in ACCESS-MENA organization said that this is the fourth visit to Yemen to view the project in the region. "We attempted to find those children who aren't in school and get them back into their schools. Working with NGOs, authorities and governmental authorities, we

told them about the project, seeking to exchange expertise and information. We then held a two-day workshop, involving approximately 25 attendees representing various organizations and authorities, wherein we explained the nature of the project's mission and the link between education and child labor."

She adds, "The ACCESS-MENA program offers the child an alternative to working. We don't give the children or their families money; rather, we seek to make a fertile environment for children to study and leave their work by spreading public awareness via schools and workshops."

## U.A.E. handed over another Yemeni to U.S.

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Nov. 11 - Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Baker Al-Karbi said that he had no information regarding the extradition of a Yemeni citizen from the Emirates to the United States in 2003.

Al-Karbi stated in a phone call with the Yemen Times that he can't comment about news that he never heard. However, he did not deny the extradition, saying that many countries handed over Yemenis to the U.S. after Sept. 11. "Such extradition is against international law," he added.

American lawyer Guy Eddon revealed that the United Arab Emirates handed a Yemeni citizen, Sanad Al-Kazimi, to U.S. authorities in 2003 to send him to Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Eddon, who defends Yemenis in Guantanamo with other U.S. lawyers, said that Al-Kazimi was first detained in the U.A.E. in 2003, where he was imprisoned for nine months without trial, tortured, and then handed over to the U.S. "The secret imprisonment and surrender of Yemen's son by Yemen's neighbor, the U.A.E., to the United States is deeply troubling. The U.A.E. was fully aware of Sanad's Yemeni nationality, but rather than extraditing him to Yemen, the U.A.E. facilitated a secret transfer to U.S. custody," said Eddon.

He also confirmed that U.S. authorities sent Al-Kazimi first to a prison called "darkness prison" outside Kabul in Afghanistan, where CIA agents interrogated and tortured him. Eventually, he was transferred to Guantanamo, where he is still imprisoned without having been charged with a crime.

According to an analysis, one of the ways the American intelligence community obtains more information from captives is by transferring them to a third country in what is known as "a special transfer".



Most Yemeni detainees in U.S. were arrested abroad due to the \$5,000 award offered by U.S. authorities to anyone reporting about those have linked with Qaeda.

"Al-Kazimi was deprived of his freedom far from the main theater of the 'war on terror' and far away chronologically from the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan," commented Eddon, adding that Yemen must call for an investigation of the "unlawful treatment of its citizens and demand an end to their unlawful imprisonment at Guantanamo."

Eddon confirmed that Al-Kazimi, whose wife and four children are in Aden, fears communicating with his family by mail, as personal information to and from his family is routinely used by interrogators to manipulate his emotions.

Al-Kazimi wasn't the first Yemeni handed over by the U.A.E. to American custody.

Abdulrahman Al-Nashiri was captured in 2002 in the U.A.E. after being condemned to death in abstinence by Yemen in 2004 on allegations of his participation in planning attacks on the USS Cole, as well as planning the attack on the U.S. embassy in Nairobi in 1998. He was then handed over to the CIA.

The U.S. rejected the official Yemeni demand to hand over Al-Nashiri to Yemeni authorities to apply his sentence.

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# Protests continue, clerics advise government to reform situations

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

LAHJ, Nov. 11 — Thousands of people took to the streets in Lahj city, demanding concerned authorities to immediately arrest those suspected of murdering a policeman, Majed Mohsen Ali Al-Rawaisi, who was shot dead in Dhamar last June.

Release of the accused murderers provoked rage and resentment among citizens in the victims' home district, who considered it an act of negligence and indifference on the part of security authorities against the murder of their local, who was doing his security job. The government's behavior compelled district locals to demonstrate, claiming leadership of Dhamar Security Department and the local authority to immediately capture the perpetrators and transfer them to the judiciary.

The enraged protesters blocked the Sana'a-Aden Highway, burned tires and moved rocks to the road, thereby causing traffic jams for many hours. They also raised banners on the road, demanding that concerned authorities recapture the accused and hold accountable those who freed them.

Many demonstrators opened fire at cars trying to pass through side roads and forced them to park aside. The situation compelled many cars loaded with qat

leaves to detour onto rough roads, where two public transportation vehicles turned over.

Military and security troops deployed on the scene quietly dealt with the protesters, fearing confrontations with them. Receiving promises from security authorities to fulfill their demands, the protesters then unblocked the highway.

In Hajja, more than ten thousand citizens around the governorate gathered in a rally, chanting slogans against the government and ruling party and asking them to fulfill promises made by President Saleh in his electoral platform prior to his reelection last year.

"People strongly reject the government's fabricated reasons to justify price hikes and insist on it to fulfill the promises it made," demonstration spokesmen said, listing various issues and concerns in the governorate, especially rampant corruption in government offices and the tragedies that take place at the Yemeni-Saudi border.

According to the spokesmen, locals in Hajja try to cross the border into Saudi Arabia to escape poor living standards in their homeland, but face severe abuse and attacks at the border. Hajja protesters vented their anger at the government over poor education and high school dropout rates, coupled with deteriorating health-

care in their governorate. They complained that the Hajja-based Saudi hospital is overloaded with patients, exceeding its capacity due to the unavailability of health units or government hospitals in their districts.

"Such situations will never change without popular support," an Islah Party activist said, indicating that popular interaction with the rally is part of effective action. He clarified that change is not impossible, reminding the assembly of the ruling General People Congress's promises regarding the 'New Yemen'. The opposition activist urged the government to put a stop to security violations and misconduct spread throughout judicial agencies.

In Taiz, the Idle Youth Organization was declared on Wednesday. The organization's preparatory committee said it will organize a huge sit-in at the governorate premises on Nov. 14, along with the Unions Coordination Council and civil community organizations.

"After many years of education, you are now idle in the streets without jobs. Instead of being breadwinners for your families, policy makers in the government insist that you remain dependent on your families and community," the committee said in a statement addressed to unemployed youth. It added, "Taiz, once the city of science, culture and talent, has turned into a venue

for unemployment. Natives of the city are now migrating to other places in search of better incomes to sustain their families."

The committee demanded that the government suggest a clear recruitment policy and endorse transparency and fair distribution of jobs. It also insisted that the government eradicate bribes and favoritism regarding job distribution, and end unemployment by the end of 2008, according to the promises made by the GPC presidential candidate during his campaign rallies for last year's elections.

The Yemen Center for Human Rights (YCHR) expressed its concern about the development of demonstrations staged by military and civil retirees in southern and eastern governorates, which are leading the nation to an unprecedented catastrophe, it claims.

According to the YCHR, current military institutions are the primary reason behind a monopoly of power, and is therefore leading the country towards devastating collapse. It confirmed that the Document of Pledge and Accord contained workable solutions to this problem, advocating a fair geographical distribution of military colleges and institutes throughout the nation.

The YCHR mentioned that the country is in urgent need of a comprehensive reform process to rescue the nation from fragmentation. It said that retirees are entitled to hold protests and sit-ins, voice their concerns and enjoy the rights of equal citizenship.

The center condemned the policy of imprisonments, threats and intimidation the regime exercises to subdue protests and crack down on demonstrators. It demanded that the government release the detainees, compensate those whose property was damaged and form an investigation committee with human rights groups known for their independence and neutrality.

Vikoil suspended its activities for the past three days; however, it expected to resume operations in the coming days. Shabwa witnessed violent protests on March 5 when hundreds of Yemeni workers, outraged by the alleged desecration of the Qur'an by a French engineer, destroyed facilities and homes of foreign experts at a large gas-exporting project.

On a side note, Women Journalists

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## Calm returns to Shabwa following clash between government and Bilharith tribe

SHABWA, Nov. 9 — Mediation led by a tribal chieftain in Shabwa on Saturday ended fighting between Yemeni authorities and Bilharith tribesmen regarding a clash between the two sides last Thursday.

The clash, which occurred in Shabwa governorate, located approximately 136 miles southeast of Sana'a, left 19 dead.

Six civilians and 13 soldiers were killed as local Bilharith tribesmen were attempting to pressure Ukrainian oil firm Vikoil to hire its members. Local media reported that Vikoil security personnel attempted to scatter the tribesmen, who were protesting against the oil firm, which

had rejected their requests for employment.

According to Governor Mohammed Ali Al-Rowaishan, the clash erupted after Bilharith tribesmen attacked the oil installation. However, a tribal source says it began when a security member attacked a paralyzed man with his hands, causing him to fall from his wheelchair, which led armed tribesmen to fire upon the security personnel.

The tribesmen also attacked three military vehicles and held six soldiers hostage for several hours before finally releasing them due to the mediation.

Details of the meditation weren't revealed, but media sources mention that the Yemeni government paid the Bilharith tribe YR 1.5 million to accept negotiations and calm the situation according to tribal norms.

Vikoil suspended its activities for the past three days; however, it expected to resume operations in the coming days.

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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



### National Consultant

Oxfam GB is planning a mid-term evaluation of the project titled "Integrated Actions Against Poverty and early Marriage". The project is co-funded by the Danish Agency for International Development (DANIDA) and implemented in Hadramout and Hodaida governorates as well as at the national level. The main purpose of the mid-term evaluation is to provide objective judgement about the performance of the project in order to make informed decisions regarding any required changes that facilitate accomplishment of stated objectives and anticipated impact.

Oxfam is looking for two independent national consultants:

- Advocacy Expert
- Livelihood Expert.

#### Skills & competencies:

Both consultants should work as a team to be led by the Advocacy Expert; and both should have the following competencies:

- Advance degree in relevant field
- Proven knowledge and experience of the subject matter (advocacy and campaigning "for the Advocacy Expert" and livelihood "for Livelihood Expert)
- Good understanding of national development policies especially in relation to gender equality.
- Good analytical thinking.
- Proven knowledge and experience in applying participatory research methods and tools in project evaluation.
- Fluency in English and Arabic.

Moreover, the Advocacy Expert should have proven successful experience in leading teams for evaluation and/or similar exercise. Detailed terms of reference is available upon request. The duration of this assignment is 20 working days starting 20th November 07.

#### To apply

Please send a copy of your CV clearly stating in your covering letter the job you are applying for, to the following:

The Country Program Manager, Oxfam GB Yemen  
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The Deadline for receiving applications is 14th November 2007

## RAS ISSA OIL TERMINAL PROJECT Ministry of Oil & Minerals Republic of Yemen

### Extension of Deadline for Submission of BIDS

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The Project Directorate, in response to requests for extension made by the interested bidders, is pleased to announce an extension of three weeks in the date of submission of bids. Accordingly the last date of submission of bids shall now be November 25th, 2007 at or before 1100 hrs. Bids will be opened at 1200 hours on the same day, in the presence of bidders' representatives who may wish to be present.

Intending Bidders may purchase the Bidding Documents from the Office of the Employer, located at 5th floor, Yemen Oil & Gas Corporation Building, Haddah St., Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. (Telephone: 00967 1 440283 / 446854, Fax: 00967 1 440723, E-mail: ras\_issa\_proj@yahoo.com) on submission of a written application to the above office and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US \$ 500/- transferred to the following bank address:

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# Do you know the street identification system in Sana'a?

For visitors and even residents, identifying Sana'a streets is a major problem. **Hamed Thabet** interviews an expert, who explains how Sana'a zones are divided.

According to Badiullah Sanai, technical advisor for the planning district at the Ministry of Public Works and Highways, Sana'a is divided into nine districts, each further divided into a maximum of nine zones, numbered one to nine. Each zone has a maximum of nine neighborhoods, numbered one to nine, and no neighborhood should have more than 99 main streets. Except for those streets between

adjoining districts and zones, each of these main streets has a five-digit number. The first, second and third digits of any street number correspond respectively to the district, zone and neighborhood in which that particular street is located. The fourth and the fifth digits represent the street number itself in a particular neighborhood. "Zero isn't used at the beginning to number any district, zone or neighborhood; rather, it's only to be used in case of future emergency," Sanai notes.

**Under such system, all street numbering is for postal purposes.** Further details on district, zone, neighborhood and street numbering in Yemen's capital city are presented as follows. Additionally, a system of numbering primary roads between adjoining neighborhoods, zones and districts is given at the end of this article.

**District numbering system**  
Sana'a is divided into nine districts, numbered one to nine, which easily identify a particular area.

Number one is allotted to the area mainly occupied by the walled Old City, where the development of Sana'a originated. Subsequent areas are numbered clockwise, beginning from the city's eastern district and ending at the northeast district, as outlined below:

District 1 is bounded by the Old City wall on the east, Zubairi Street to the south, Abdalmughni Street to the west and Bab Al-Shuoub Road to the north.

District 2 is bounded by the Da'iri or Ring Road and the Al-Asha Boulevard extension on the north, Marib road and the Old City wall to the west and Taiz Road to the southwest. The east and southeast sides are open for development.

District 3 is bounded by Taiz Road on the east, Zubairi Street to the north and Hadda Road to the west, whereas the south side remains open for development.

District 4 is bounded by Hadda Road on the east and Zubairi Street to the north, while the southwest sides are open for development.

District 5 is bounded by Zubairi Street on the south, Abdalmughni Street to the east and Wadi Dhahr Road to the north. The west side remains open for development.

District 6 is bounded by Wadi Dhahr Road on the north and Airport Road and Sa'ada Road to the east, while the north and west sides are

open for development.

District 7 is bounded by Sa'ada Road on the west and Airport Road to the east. The north side remains open for development.

District 8 is bounded by Airport Road on the west, Bab Al-Shoub Road to the south and Marib Road to the east, while the north side remains open for development.

Finally, District 9 is bounded by the Da'iri or Ring Road and Al-Asha Boulevard to the south and east, while the north sides are open for development.

In some cities such as Aden, Mukalla and Sana'a, more area has come under planning for development.

**Zone numbering system**  
Each of these nine districts is divided into zones mostly bounded by primary roads.

Each also is divided in such a way that every district's zones encircle the city's central Tahrir Square. In numbering any district, the first zone begins from that located first on the ring when traveling clockwise around the city center. Likewise, the second number corresponds to the zone next to it on the same ring, also when moving clockwise.

Care has been taken not to divide any district into more than nine zones so that the number allotted to any zone is not more than that of the district to which it belongs.

For example, district 6 currently is divided into six zones. The first ring has three zones numbered 61, 62 and 63. Traveling clockwise, 61 is located first on the ring, 62 is located beside 61 on the same ring when moving clockwise from zone 61 and likewise, 63 is located beside 62.

The next ring of zones around the first ring in district 6 also has three zones: 64, 65 and 66. Again, traveling clockwise around the city, 64 is first on the second ring, while 65 and 66 are



beside it on the same ring.

It's clear that the first digit is the district while the second is the zone. In this way, zone numbering has a maximum number of 99.

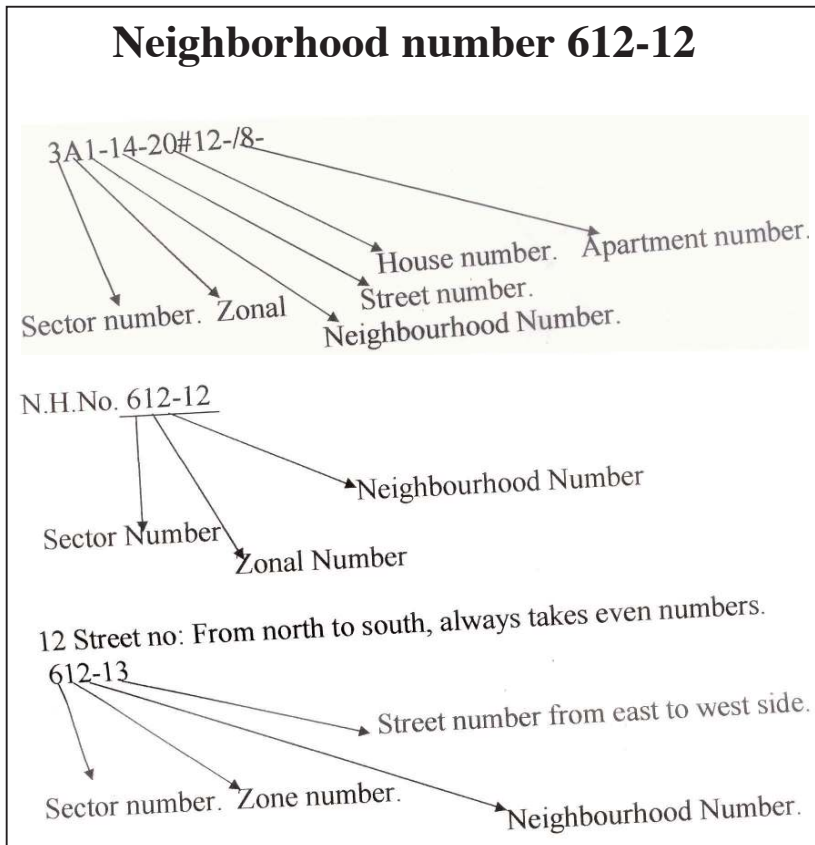
**Zonal roads**

To distinguish zonal roads from others, all of these roads have four-digit numbers only. For example, the road between zones 5 and 6 is numbered 5-00-6. The smaller number is given first, followed by the larger one.

**Neighborhood roads**

Like other arterial roads, all of these roads have five digits. The only difference is that the central or third digit is zero. Normally, other roads' central digit corresponds to the neighborhood number. As mentioned above, no neighborhood is zero, as all neighborhoods are numbered between one and nine.

For example, the road between neighborhoods 2 and 3 is district 6, zone 1 and zero for the neighborhood road, while 2 is neighborhood number 2 and 3 is neighborhood number 3.



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## Words of Wisdom



One of the main problems in building a modern state in Yemen is that three blocks of our society perceive themselves above accountability. The sooner we see this and address it, the easier it will be to build a meaningful government based on law and order, and modern values.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
(1951 - 1999)  
Founder of Yemen Times



## OUR OPINION

## "God bless the sheikh, he voted for us"

Of all the poverty, famine and injustice one sees in the country, this is one of the most shocking. This is the story of a district called Thubab stretching between Taiz and Hodieda governorates. It is an isolated area by mountains and not connected by easy roads. Thubab has a sheikh, called sheikh Al-Rabbash, who ruthlessly controls over three thousand villagers, deciding what to do, what not to do, and even how and who for to vote.

The village has no signs of development, no power, no water, no convenient housing, no basic education or healthcare. It escaped time in the sense that it is a typical Yemeni village, the way it was two hundred years ago. If you visit the village, you will find it constituting of a large number of small houses built using gray-bricks, stones, and mental plates, you will see goats and children roam around, and you might also notice the tire tracks of a US\$ 47,000 land cruiser which the Sheikh just got last year, he says it is a gift from the president along with another 7 million Riyals (US\$ ~35,000), in exchange for the votes of all the villagers, and a few more services.

People of the village barely know anything about the outside world, they drink whatever water from rainfall, whatever is collected by the natural cisterns around the village. The women might sometimes have to walk for two hours carrying a bucket of water in the earliest hours of the day, only for her husband to wash up himself before going to work in the Sheikh's land. Her two hour journey is equal to less than two minutes of washing up for him. And she better have the breakfast ready in time too, cooked using wood and sticks she gathered the previous day.

This is how it goes, the sheikh enslaves the villagers, the men enslave the women.

This is how it goes, president Saleh uses the country's wealth in breeding and maintaining the power of the enslavers. The US\$ 82,000 could've gone a long way in improving the lives of thousand of villagers, that much money is enough to build a school, dig a well and establish a water project, and perhaps establish a basic health care facility.

Yemen applauds itself for being a country of democracy and human rights, shame on he who doesn't practice what he preaches. Recently sheikh Al-Rabbash was appointed as the undersecretary of Al-Hodieda governorate, in order to extend his influence and expand his slavery model to other areas.

The Editorial Board

## In elegy of the loaf

Like the moon decreases when it goes through different phases until the end of every Hegira Calendar month, the same thing happens to the loaf in our country with a basic difference in favor of the moon, which, after a complete disappearance, returns to increase until it becomes a full moon by the middle of the month. But the loaf, despite reserving its circular shape, it keeps on shrinking and refuses to return to its normal size. These days, the loaf is on the way to change into a small bite.

Regretfully, what happens to the loaf takes place in the absence of effective monitoring by the concerned government agencies or the opposition. Also, people, who suffers the direct effect of loaf shrinkage, show no positive reaction to what happens to the loaf, which is about to disappear.

The prices of wheat and flour skyrocketed terribly ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, thereby reaching an unaffordable rate, and at the same time giving bakery owners the chance to raise the price of loaf. This also gave them a green light to reduce the loaf's weight, but during the holy month, prices of wheat and flour decreased gradually by at least 50 percent of the rising rates. However, the loaf continued to shrink as if wheat and flour are imported from beyond the sphere and its price should not be monitored because we are living in a capitalist country.

We all admit that the capitalists don't raise the prices of basic foodstuffs, and in the United States, which is pondered upon as the

mother of capitalism, the bread never enters the market's speculation. In addition, the American people are the government and the monitoring agencies as well, and nobody dares to increase the price of loaf or mishandle its specifications. In this super country, there are various kinds of bread starting with the popular loaf until the loaf of cinema stars.

The absence of effective monitoring and control encourages greedy tradesmen to increase prices of foodstuffs and bakers to reduce the loaf's size. It also encourages tradesmen to commit several violations, which multiplied in bakeries of the capital city and other main cities of the country. It has not happened that we once heard a government agency raiding a bakery and investigating its owner for violating loaf specifications. And, if bakery owners in other Arab countries had learned about the scope of freedom allowed for their counterparts in Yemen, they would have shut down their bakeries and come to the country along with their bowls in order to enjoy such an unprecedented level of freedom. As

there is neither specific weight nor a list of specifications for loaf production and no one is responsible for what people eat, the democratic conflict, which is the only prevalent phenomenon in this marvelous country, doesn't go beyond competition for power.

The majority of Yemeni citizens eagerly inspire that any of the government officials conducts a weekly or biweekly visit to the vegetable markets, bakeries or groceries to ask about prices of basic necessities. Concluding his visit, people will expect this official to explain to them why the prices of oil, soap and milk continue to skyrocket, and why the price of milk jumped up from YR 2,200 to 3,500 per 2.5 kg within a few weeks. Do the wars, which are taking place in Iraq and Afghanistan, have direct effects on our livings? And is such a small size of loaf part of the war? Is it the openness policy, which is said to make people eat Pizza instead of loaves?

Absence of the principle of reward and punishment in this country is the primary reason behind backwardness and deterioration of living standards, plus transgression of the tenets that make a stronger bond between natives and their homeland. Absence of this principle will only help the poor economic situations to exacerbate.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is Yemen's prominent poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies  
Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

## See how facts are interpreted

During his address in Taiz a few days ago, President of the Republic hammered the last nail in the casket of press freedom, thereby warning of a pessimistic destiny for journalists. From H.E. Mr. President, we obtained a strange interpretation of the physical attacks against pressmen, as he confirmed that nobody assaults them and that it is those pressmen who machinate assaults against themselves. This conveys to us that any journalist, subjected to kidnapping, beating or threats, is responsible for what happens to him. This victim is also accused of selecting his abductors and assailants, as well as of paying



By: Ali Al-Sarari

them in exchange for beating him.

Who in this large world can believe in this interpretation and accept such charges against Yemeni journalists, who faced the ugliest forms of humiliation and insult? Did it happen that a president of any of the world countries listed such charges against native journalists?

We don't claim that the relation between pressmen and Mr. President should be always positive and friendly. And, the Yemeni journalists never aspire to enjoy sponsorship and sympathy of the president, but his constitutional duty necessitates that the top official protects journalists from any forms of mischief and physical beatings over exercising their noble job, which all the world countries, except for Yemen, respect and appreciate. In Yemen, the homeland of wisdom, press freedom and journalists are always subjected to brutal humiliation and face unreasonable charges.

Regretfully, we did see that in his statement, a top security official accused the brave journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani of fabricating an incorrect report on his being subjected to kidnapping and beating. This statement was understandable, based on the possibility that the security apparatuses are really unable to do their job well concerning that report, which implies involvement of influential officials, whom the government can not punish, in abducting Al-Khaiwani and beating him severely. This is why the top security official released such a shameful statement. But, does Mr. President suffer the same incapacitation to give an unbelievable interpretation of the case by saying that journalists fabricate assaults against themselves?

If journalists conspire against their dignities and bodies, what the subsequent benefit will be. No persuasive answer can be given to

## SILVER LINING

## Fostering public frustration

Following months of protest and unrest stirred up by the military and civil pensioners in the southern governorates, President Ali Abdullah Saleh jumped to Aden after spending the first two days of the Eid al-Fiter vacation in Taiz. He has been in the city for over three weeks now, trying to soften the boiling situation and frustration of the public. It is good the man comes to Aden and makes a tour around the southern governorates to get a closer approach to the sufferings of the people. It is not only the problem of the pensioners that needs a real and quick address, but also that of the people across the country. I understand the plight of the pensioners in the South is greater. However, all the people in the North feel the same frustration and suffering. They all miss the rule of the law and justice.

Unfortunately, the government does not deal with the problems of the people with the same scale. Once the people are strong and well armed, the government is attentive to them. When the pensioners started on a small number voicing their problem through the newspapers, they were neglected and even painted as secessionists. However, when their plight matched with that of the public providing a ground for massive and constant protests, the government acknowledged there was a problem and started to act unsteadily. Of course, the government response to the pensioners' problems is still meager. I want to strike an example that the government wakes up just to situations where it feels the other party is strong enough and when a problem gets greater. Again, when police officers killed an outstanding Sheikh from Mikhlaif in Taiz and his people moved vigorously to even control the city and take revenge from the central security to which the predators belong, the government responded abruptly, presenting the killers to an emergency court. Nevertheless, when a criminal investigation officer and his armed tribesmen coming from Thamar governorate killed Salah al-Rawee whose name shows lack of any tribal backup in jail, the government response is frustrating. As Salah is let down by all including MPs, Sheikhs and even the opposition political parties in Ibb governorate, predators are still at large. As the man has no armed men to pound the city and demand immediate arrest and trial of his predators, the president and his government do not care to take an action.

I guess there is no difference between the two killed persons and others to be killed in such a way; they are all Yemenis and their lives should equally matter to the people in charge. However, the double standard policy the government assumes in dealing with its citizens is causing frustration to majority of the people. This sort of response to problems here and there encourages the influential tribal figures to take the law into their hands. They feel that the more they show disrespect to the rule of law and vigor to act violently, the more positive the government response would be. Such a situation makes it difficult to argue for the rule of law and convince the public of its worth. It rather fosters public frustration. This is unfortunate as it increases the predominance of lawlessness and chaos.

Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

this question unless journalist are mentally ill or suffer psychological disorders. Even if we suppose that all or some of them suffer psychological disorders, which make one enjoy his being suffering and paining, no one can believe that this is the cause of fabricating assaults against oneself.

As said, "If the judge is your perpetrator, whom will you sue?" The odd interpretation of the repeated assaults against Yemeni journalists is not the only surprising thing in Mr. President's address, as a series of such unbelievable interpretations were also mentioned. The president attributed the increases of wheat prices to the behavior of citizens who store much of the product in their domestic barrels. According to this explanation, no international factors behind wheat price rises, and the reasons are domestic and directly related to citizens who store wheat in their household barrels.

In a televised interview with Aljazeera Satellite Channel, Mr. President gave a similarly strange interpretation for the case of military retirees in the southern governorates, who staged peaceful

protests claiming their legal rights. Mr. President said that the retirees submitted written requests to be referred to pensions and their demands were met. His reason was that these retirees feared being exposed to liquidation campaigns after the 1994 Civil War, attributing their fears to the tragic events of January 13, 1986 and other bloody events that were occasionally devastating the southern governorates prior to the national unity. He added that those who requested to be referred to pensions out of fear rescinded their requests when they found that the situations turned normal and then claimed to be reinstated.

If presidents and leaders worldwide resort to such interpretations for the issues of their peoples, how their conditions will look like. Judicious people understand that wise leaders, who judiciously interpret facts, can resolve any problems of their peoples.

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



YEMEN TIMES

www.yementimes.com

First Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Yemeni companies/corporations: YR 8,000  
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# Yemen Press Review



**Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party**  
Thursday, November 8

**Top Stories**

- World Bank accuses Yemeni government of mishandling payroll system
- Public Prosecution releases terror suspect without court's knowledge
- Sana'a hosts symposium on globalization's effects on social insurance
- Penal Court finds 32 people guilty in Marib's bombings, acquits others for inadequate evidence
- Joint Meeting Parities urge President Saleh to quit addresses about revenges
- Government unable to control price hikes, says Minister of Industry and Trade

The weekly newspaper reported in its lead story that Minister of Industry and Trade Yahya Al-Mutawakil said on Wednesday to the parliament the government is not capable to fix prices, pointing out that it follows the mechanism of free market.

According to the newspaper, the minister stated the national economy is in a pathetic state and faces big challenges particularly under decline in oil production. In reply to a question on the reasons behind soaring food prices Al-Mutawakil said bolstering wheat again will lead to much unrest. Members of parliament criticized the government justifications for being incapable of controlling the price hikes, affirming that the government could fix prices if it eradicated corruption. They requested the government to provide food security and to have tight censorship on tradesmen

who play with prices and monopolize basic foodstuffs and other commodities.



**Al-Wasat Comprehensive Independent Weekly**  
Wednesday, November 7

**Top Stories**

- Qaeda denies alleged connections with Marib bombing
- Oppressed retirees escalate protests as government refuses to meet demands
- Saudi Arabia is still the source of threat for militants
- Sheikhs declare withdrawal from National Solidarity Council
- Sheikh Zindani plans to reshuffle Students Union in his University
- Injured Koreans hospitalized in an Aden hospital

Three crew members of a North Korean ship who were wounded in fighting with pirates off the coast of Somalia and treated earlier by U.S. medics were admitted to a hospital in Aden, the weekly quoted security officials as saying. Yemeni Coast Guard officials in southern Yemen port city of Aden said the Coast Guard took the three North Korean sailors from their ship Monday evening to Al-Naqib hospital for treatment. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

U.S. sailors and medics boarded the North Korean-flagged vessel a week ago and treated the three Koreans and three pirates, who had gunshot wounds, after the sailors overpowered the pirates. U.S. military said a helicopter had flown from the destroyer USS James E. Williams to investigate

a phoned-in tip of a hijacked ship and demanded by radio that the pirates give up their weapons as the crew of the Dai Hong Dan regained control of the vessel and detained all pirates.



**Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)**  
Tuesday, November 6

**Top Stories**

- UN demands Arab governments to join an international convention on fighting corruption
- Police Station Chief jails a minor kid for six days without any legal justification
- A two-headed sheep leads normal life since it was born one week ago
- Islah Social Charitable Society holds Sixth Orphan Festival
- Al-Khaiwani defense team says state security court is unconstitutional
- Unidentified people bomb oil pipe in Marib
- Authorities foil terrorist plots targeting government and foreign interests in Sana'a

Media sources mentioned that counterterrorism forces succeeded to foil terrorist plots that have been targeting many government and foreign interests in the country, the weekly newspaper reported in a front page article. According to the weekly, the Saudi Daily Paper Okadh quoted Yemeni security sources as saying, "Over the past few days, the security forces raided nearby houses to the west of the capital Sana'a in a successful security operation, thereby leading to the capture of a terrorist cell, suspected of affiliation with Al-

Qaeda Organization in Yemen. This cell is composed of eight people aged between 18 and 23 years."

The sources added that the operation was conducted secretly after the security authorities obtained authentic information about the terrorist plots following an intelligence observation. They pointed out that the police found weapons and explosives ready for use, plus heavy machineguns, hand grenades and Computer CDs. The resources disclosed that results of the preliminary investigations showed that the terrorist cell has been formed recently from younger individuals, most of whom came from rural areas in search of better job opportunities in the city.



**26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army**  
Thursday, November 8

**Top Stories**

- Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council to approve 15 agreements on coming Tuesday
  - Former Prime Minister Bajammal chairs cycle of dialogues with political parties
  - Government to give retirees second phase's pay increases with November salaries
  - Government to present its financial statement to Parliament Next Week
  - Saleh chairs up meetings of team concerned with following up his platform
- President Ali Abdullah Saleh headed on Wednesday a meeting of the government team concerned with following up his electoral platform over setting up housing units and distribution of agricultural lands for youths of

limited incomes, the weekly reported. The meeting focused on the executive measures taken to carry out these topics such as looking for funds to impale these projects, in addition to technical aspects and benefiting from similar experiences in this regard.

The meeting approved implementation of 18,000 housing units for youths of limited incomes for three years at a total cost of YR 75 billion. The first phase of the project would be started in this year by YR 25 billion in Aden, Hodeidah, Lahj, Hadramout, Taiz, Abyan and Al-Dale' governorates. The meeting approved allocation of YR 5 billion from funds of insurances in two ministries of defense and interior.

A committee was formed to conduct studies for the locations that would be good for setting up these units and carry out agricultural projects, as well as naming beneficiaries. President Saleh affirmed the importance of pacing process of carrying out these projects. He asked the government to encourage private sector to set up such projects and offer all facilities to investors in this area.



**Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress (Ruling Party)**  
Monday, November 5

**Top Stories**

- Prime Minister gives orders preventing Watani Bank debtors from traveling abroad
- Functions of Regional International Forum for protecting genetic sources kick off
- Minister of Defense: Reinstated

military servants receive their salaries in full

- Chairman of Central Organization for Control and Audit: there are violations in use of external loans
- Intellectual Symposium on Constitutional Amendments and Yemen's Future
- Political Advisor to President: Yemen refused to hand over terror suspect to U.S. Administration

The weekly reported in its lead story that Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, Political Advisor to President of the Republic declared that Yemen rejected a U.S. Administration's request to hand over the terror suspect Jamal Al-Badwi, who is sentenced to jail for his involvement in bombing the U.S. Destroyer Cole in 2000. Answering a question about authenticity of the U.S. government's request for Al-Badwi's extradition, Al-Eryani said, "The U.S. Authorities did request Yemen to hand over Al-Badwi, but we clearly told them that extradition of the suspect contravenes the Yemeni Constitution and they already know about this. Al-Badwi is now serving the rest of his imprisonment term after he has spent almost seven years in jail."

The distinctive Yemeni politician pointed out that Yemen's relations with the U.S. are still strong despite the most recent rumors concerning Al-Badwi's case, which seemed to have their impacts on the bilateral relations between both countries.

On a side note, Political Advisor to President of the Republic commended the Yemeni-Qatari relations, saying that "Qatar had a great and indispensable role in fostering Yemen's development. And, as you know, during the London Donor Conference, Qatar proved to be the largest contributor to making the conference a success. It also proved to be primarily concerned about Yemen's development."

## Benazir Bhutto's gamble

By: Pramit Pal Chaudhuri

As the initial shock of the terrorist attacks against Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto fade, it is becoming clear that they were a political boon for her, triggering a wave of public sympathy that extends well beyond her local Sindh stronghold. Yet despite this, Bhutto is finding it hard to convert this changed public mood into increased political support. Bhutto, the head of the Pakistan People's Party, needs all the support she can find after returning from exile. Her decision to form an alliance of convenience with Pakistan's unpopular military ruler, Pervez Musharraf, continues to undermine her claim to be a restorer of democracy and champion of the street. The deal has lent greater public legitimacy to Musharraf, who will share some of the power he has monopolized. Yet there is little love and even less common policy between the two.

In theory, the suicide attacks against Bhutto should have brought them closer together. After all, Islamic militants have repeatedly tried to assassinate Musharraf. Instead, Bhutto accused members of Musharraf's own party, the Pakistan Muslim League (Q), and his government of playing a role in the attack. "It remains a point that neither federal minister Ijazul Haq nor PML-Q President Chaudhry Shujaat were ever attacked by suicide bombers," she said. Shujaat, only half-jokingly, returned the favor by calling her a terrorist. Musharraf denounced her statements.

Bhutto and Musharraf implicitly agree that Pakistan's other democratic leader, Nawaz Sharif, should be kept in exile in Saudi Arabia until after the general election in January. But skewing the election in this manner hurts Bhutto more than Musharraf,

reinforcing the sentiment that she is a stooge of the military, and that Sharif is the real democratic leader. This reinforces her need to maintain distance from Musharraf.

Almost everyone agrees that theirs is less a political alliance than a shotgun wedding. Much of the shotgun's ammunition comes from the United States, which perceives keeping the military in power as being necessary for the short-term battle against the new Taliban groups. However, America also believes that rolling back popular support for Islamic fundamentalism in the long term requires a legitimate democratic government. Islamic parties have tended to benefit electorally when the democratic parties are politically hobbled.

The US hopes to get the best of both worlds. But it runs the risk of getting the worst of each: a civilian leader without legitimacy coupled with a military leader too weak to fight the Islamic militants who virtually rule the tribal areas near Afghanistan. Likewise, Bhutto's ability to play the Musharraf card and still maintain public support is fragile. A poll by the International Republican Institute in August showed that 47% of Pakistani voters supported a Bhutto-Musharraf alliance, with 37% opposed. Notably, nearly a third of Bhutto's own party opposed such a deal.

Musharraf's recent farcical reelection as president probably cost Bhutto support. The terrorist attacks and her response - attacking Musharraf's party, visiting the wounded in hospital, and offering to pay for their medical care - have probably earned some of it back. The question now is: can she keep it?

One concern for Bhutto is the role of the judiciary, which has no love for Musharraf. Their acquiescence in Musharraf's reelection, however, appears to confirm rumors that the judges have come to terms with the generals. The wild card is the

increasingly savage war between the Pakistani state and the Islamic militants who have established a de facto independent state - a so-called 'Al Qaedaistan' - straddling the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

The army is losing dozens of men every week and facing growing disciplinary problems from its Pashtun ethnic soldiers, who hail from the border region. The militant response has been suicide bomb attacks in the urban centers of the Pakistani heartland.

But the attacks have not led the public to rally against Islamic militancy. A poll by Terror Free Tomorrow in September showed that Osama bin Laden, the Taliban, and local Islamic militants received approval ratings either equal to or higher than Musharraf. There is no approval for the escalating suicide bomb attacks. But so far, Pakistanis have tended to view the violence as an unnecessary and avoidable result of Pakistan's involvement in the US-led "war on terror."

This has already taken its toll on Musharraf. If it undermines Bhutto's popularity, she may come to rue her deal with the general as a Faustian bargain.

The greater danger is that any Pakistani government needs greater legitimacy to wage the intensifying war against 'Al Qaedaistan.' By acceding to Musharraf's desire to keep Sharif on the political margins, the US has left itself with few options if the Bhutto-Musharraf alliance fails to produce a government acceptable to Pakistanis. At the same time, Bhutto always remembers that her father's attempts to play politics with the army eventually led to his death at the generals' hands.

Pramit Pal Chaudhuri is an International Council member of the Asia Society.  
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# Dhafar: The missing link in Yemen's history

To both locals and foreigners, Beit Al-Ashwal village is an attraction to behold. Its old homes, whose stones were brought via camel from another of Yemen's former ancient cities, are a landmark. **Hamed Thabet** visited the village to talk with experts and locals there.

The only pre-Islamic civilization and the last stronghold to surrender to Islamic rule, Dhafar was Yemen's main ancient city during the Himyarite period from 850 B.C. to 525 A.D.

Fifty or 60 years ago, locals used camels to bring stones from Dhafar and built homes in another area known as Beit Al-Ashwal. Experts say much information about Yemen's ancient history was lost when those stones were transferred.

"Valuable historical information is lost when stones and antiquities are transferred from one place to another and such information is impossible to retrieve again. Even here in Dhafar, there's a missing link in Yemen's history," an architectural expert from the General Authority for Antiquities and Museums explained on condition of anonymity.

Experts maintain that they can't study this historic area. For example, in order to obtain even basic information, they must go to Beit Al-Ashwal village and study its stones and sculptures, which

sculpted white stones that are so rare and have much valuable meaning. These stones can be found in the foundations, floors and façades of many homes in Beit Al-Ashwal," he explains.

Dhafar locals sold stones from their old and abandoned houses, so residents didn't have any housing problems because sufficient housing already was available. Hence, they simply sold the abandoned and old homes that they weren't using.

Regardless, studying the stones in Beit Al-Ashwal is insufficient in order to gather information on Dhafar's history. According to Khalid Al-Ansi, director of Ibb's General Authority for Antiquities and Museums, drilling and studies are ongoing in order to discover new places still buried underground in Dhafar.

"We aren't blaming anyone for destroying Dhafar and bringing its history to Beit Al-Ashwal because this process occurred in the past and over time. However, it did happen because residents of both villages were poor, as well as ignorant of the negative results their actions caused."

The same official clarified that local

were in another country, no one would be permitted to touch them. But unfortunately, in Beit Al-Ashwal, everyone has the right to walk and run all over them. As a result, these stones have become useless and have lost their valuable antiqueness.

Dhafar locals still don't know the historical heritage of the stones they lost. When asked about the damage they caused to ancient Dhafar, they argue, "Come on, they were just stones! What can a stone do for you? Our fathers and grandfathers needed money. We also helped our neighbors in Beit Al-Ashwal."

Resident Nasser Al-Ashwal, a medical student at Sana'a University, notes, "It's important to mention that people in our village never accept selling any piece of stone from their village to anyone, especially sculpted white stone. Moreover, it's right that they bought stones from Dhafar 50 or 60 years ago, but everything has changed now. After learning the value of their historical stones, locals in Beit Al-Ashwal kept them."

He adds, "If we want to move house, we'll take the stones with us to the new house because we take the stones from the old house and reuse them to build the new one. However, we sometimes just

**Dhafar locals still don't know the historical heritage of their antiquities. When confronted with the damages caused by their irresponsibility, they justify their actions, saying, "Come on, they were just stones! What can a stone do for you? Our fathers and grandfathers needed money. We also helped our neighbors in Beit Al-Ashwal." They consider that help.**

leave them at the old house without moving anything until we see what we're going to do about it. This is due to problems that occur when a father dies and his beneficiaries don't agree about the old house, so they just desert it without any protection, leaving everything inside."

Approximately 90 percent of homes in Beit Al-Ashwal are abandoned and only 10 percent are inhabited. More than once, abandoned homes have been subject to thieves.

"Most probably, locals steal the stones from the houses because nobody can get into our village without being known. Moreover, a few ancient stones with sculptures have been stolen from the village cemetery," says local council member Ibrahim Al-Ashwal notes.

"Many times, powerful individuals offer villagers great sums to compel them to sell the stones, but no one will do it. Although many homes are abandoned, residents are holding fast to their properties," says Zeyad Al-Ashwal, who is in charge of supervising the village's ancient sites.

According to councilman Ibrahim Al-Ashwal, one resident recently wanted to give an ancient white stone as a gift to someone else, but police caught him at a checkpoint while he was carrying it. He returned the stone and promised not to do it again.

#### Homes at risk

Residents are asking local authorities to

**"What's wrong if we put these sculpted white stones on the ground and walk on them? It makes no sense because they're just stones," say locals from Beit Al-Ashwal.**



Bait Al-Ashwal's village

preserve the area's homes and other historical sites because they are at risk of destruction.

Also responsible for supervising Beit Al-Ashwal's three dams, Zeyad Al-Ashwal says his job is to repair the dams and watercourses before they are destroyed, noting that cement is used to repair everything.

"When repairing old homes, we use cement, which has a bad effect on construction, as some parts of the dam,

future, vehicle emissions will damage the dam," according to officials.

However, Al-Ansi explains, "We had no other choice. The road was built [during my predecessor Ali Abdulqawi Al-Tulayhi's management] because residents needed it. Although residents, the local council and other tribes tried to stop its construction, the government built it."

The road's location was the best place, even though Dhafar generally is a sensi-

tive historical area. For example, most locations that were available for the road were on ancient burial grounds, historical treasures and many buried sites that haven't been drilled yet.

The road was paved in 2001. Al-Ansi further noted that the road project took a year because both locals and local officials tried to stop it. "Workers slept on the project site and the government brought in some of its army to be there if there were any problems," he adds.



The road which is crossing Al-A'war is a historical dam in Dhafar dating back to the Himyarite period of 850 B.C.-525 A.D.

will take much time.

Experts at the General Assembly for Antiquities and Museums say they need to trace each stone's original location in order to gather information about ancient



Old bull was brought from Dhafar to Beit Al-Ashwal

Dhafar's history.

According to the aforementioned expert, each stone is from a specific location; thus, history can be traced and studied from that location. For example, the types of stones used to build the temple inside Dhafar's Gheidan Palace were different than those typically used to build a palace or a stable, he noted.

"Additionally, decorations for their houses and markets had various types and shapes. The issue involves some

residents bought stones from Dhafar in order to have stones that were ready for construction.

"Locals have told us that instead of getting stones from the mountains, they preferred buying Dhafar's stones because they were shaped and ready to be reused. Residents of Dhafar and Beit Al-Ashwal at that time weren't concerned about their history, which is why they say, 'In the end, it's nothing more than stone. It doesn't really matter if it's considered a piece of history or not.'"

According to Al-Ansi, residents of Beit Al-Ashwal bought ready-cut stones from ruined homes in Dhafar. "The worst of it was that by offering some money, these people tore down the old houses of Dhafar and transferred all of its material to their village," he adds.

Currently in Beit Al-Ashwal, many special antique stones are used to decorate new homes, with some even decorating the floors and walls. However, many of the sculpted white stones are on the ground and some are used in conjunction with other normal ancient stones used to build homes.

There are two types of stone: normal ready-cut stone used for construction, which is old belongs to the Himyarite period. The other type is decorated white stone with beautiful inscriptions, which is rare and valuable. It is these white stones that are used to decorate the façades of homes, as well as pave the inside floors.

According to the same previously unnamed expert, "If these antiquities



Ancient stones are used in the ground of the houses and everyone can walk on it.



Old sculpted white stones brought from Dhafar and are used in the decoration of the houses Beit Al-Ashwal.

watercourse and some houses become damaged. However, we do this because we have no other choice and no experts in this field," he explains.

He continues, "We've asked the local council to consider Beit Al-Ashwal one of Yemen's historical sites. We sent a letter about this to the local official in charge of Al-Sadda district in Ibb governorate. Repairing old homes is something that's necessary and important before they are ruined."

Beit Al-Ashwal lacks those with construction knowledge. Zeyad Al-Ashwal notes that only one 90-year-old villager is knowledgeable about using the right material to repair the homes. "However, he's too old to teach others. We've asked the local council to give him whatever he needs in order to teach us and share his experience. If we continue in our own way, we'll destroy what's left of our village."

A German team from Heidrig University recently began drilling sites in Dhafar and discovered an ancient temple used for worship, according to Al-Ansi.

He further notes that the General Authority for Antiquities and Museums is working on several other programs according to a list of historical sites needing repair. He points out that, compared to other sites, homes in Beit Al-Ashwal are in good condition.

"Houses in Beit Al-Ashwal are properties and such endowment properties are now in our plan, so we're working on them first. We restore homes of public interest and then those owned by locals. It mainly depends on financial support, which is insufficient to cover all of the planned programs," he explains.

The museum authority considers Dhafar an important historical site and has placed barriers at newly discovered sites, such as the temple found by the German team in Dhafar. The temple is inside Gheidan Palace and was used for worship. Experts still are researching the temple to learn more; however, officials say there's not enough funding for such research.

#### Neglected dams

Al-A'war is a historical dam in Dhafar dating back to the Himyarite period of 850 B.C.-525 A.D.; however, an asphalt road now lies beside it. The distance between the dam and the road is just a meter.

"These types of historical sites must be encircled and not trodden on by people in order to preserve them. In the

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# Cancer in Yemen: Increasing numbers of sufferers vs. scarce facilities

With only one cancer treatment center in Yemen, it is insufficient for the thousands who get cancer every year. Saddam Al-Ashmori visited the center to speak with officials and patients.

For cancer patient Sultan Al-Selwi, getting treatment at the Sana'a-based National Cancer Treatment Center is difficult because, as he explains, "We can hardly afford to pay for accommodation and other expenses, such as transportation and meals, particularly those of us who are penniless sufferers from remote areas with no relatives in Sana'a to provide lodging."

He adds, "Despite the fact that we receive free medication at the center, its staff mistreats us most of the time, thereby forcing some patients to sleep outside the center."

Al-Selwi further claims that cancer center staff do not fulfill their pledges to patients regarding care at the center, even if patients' condition is critical.

Cancer has become a global threat destroying the lives of vast numbers of people, particularly in Yemen, where treatment costs are high and equipment to fight the deadly disease is scarcely available.

In this poor nation, cancer is one of the hardest diseases to treat, while scores of sufferers increase over time. According to the most recent nationwide study of cancer patients, there are 22,000 new cancer cases annually.

Amran, Hajjah and Mahwit governorates had the highest number of cancer sufferers, as discovered during the fifth National Campaign to Support Cancer Patients held in Sana'a.

According to this campaign, more than 280 types of pesticides typically used by farmers on fruits, vegetables and qat are responsible for the deadly disease's terrible proliferation in just those three governorates.

The campaign also attributed much infection to the common consumption of various types of *shamma*, a white or brown powder many addicted individuals put in their mouths in a manner similar to qat.

Despite such disease's threat and its terrible proliferation, there's only one cancer treatment center in Yemen, based in Sana'a near

Jumhuri Hospital. Lack of fully-equipped cancer treatment centers is a primary reason for patients' continual sufferings. After infection with the disease, patients normally feel neither improvement nor any signs of recovery, only exacerbating conditions with each passing day.

Dr. Nadim Sa'eed Mohammed, director of the National Cancer Treatment Center, explains, "The center was built in September 2005 with a total capacity of 44 beds. However, the radiation unit alone treats 90 to 100 and sometimes 120 patients per day, in addition to the outside clinic, which diagnoses 40 to 50 patients daily."

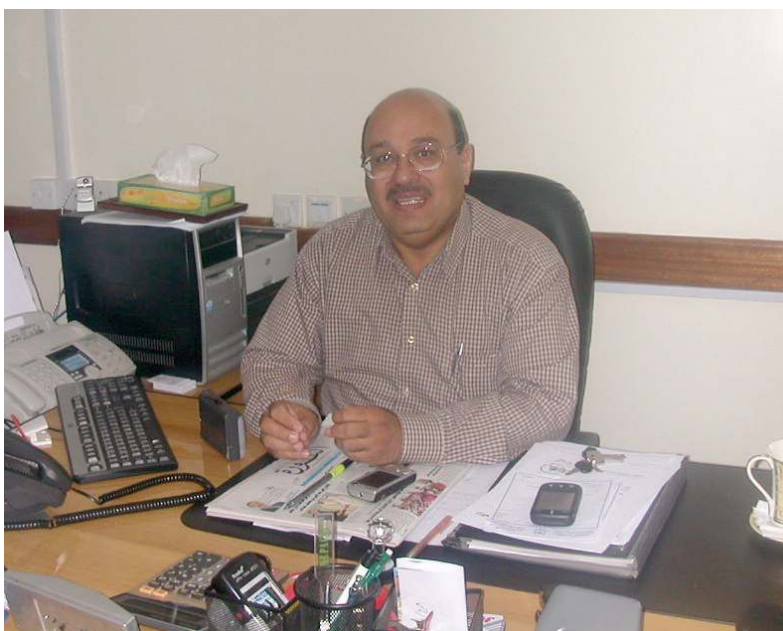
"There's another unit for daily chemotherapy, where patients are treated without requiring admittance to a bed, while the center's laboratory handles 80 to 120 patients per day," he adds. Because the Yemeni government finances all medical services at the center, it provides free care and treatment, so patients don't pay anything.

Asked why the lone center in Sana'a can't accommodate all of the nation's cases, the director responded, "Neither at the present time, nor in the future, will our center be able to accommodate all of Yemen's cancer sufferers. Just looking at the increasing numbers of cancer cases, it's illogical to say that one center is enough to treat those coming from all across the nation."

"For this reason, we're attempting to open four or five more centers in other governorates, such as the one being constructed in Hadramout. Other centers are planned in Ibb and Aden."

"Our map for constructing cancer treatment centers is designed in light of population density," he explains further.

However, "For the time being, patients come from different parts of the republic, we diagnose them and then prescribe appropriate medication. After that, we recommend they return home but maintain regular visits to our center's branch in their home governorates. We have simple and modestly-equipped branches in Aden, Hadramout and Ibb."



Regarding the availability of official statistics on the number of cancer patients, typical characteristics and symptoms of the disease and reasons for infections in Yemen, Mohammed notes, "In fact, there are no exact numbers regarding the disease because some patients come to the center for a specific time and then disappear or they travel abroad for treatment."

"Regardless, our center has recorded in its logbooks approximately 10,000 cancer cases in 2006 and 2007. Mastocarcinoma infections among women and throat, glandular and prostate cancers among men are the most widespread in Yemen, while their causes are smoking and using qat and shamma."

Asked what measures the cancer center is taking to reduce patients' concerns, Mohammed replied, "We admit that patients experience much suffering regarding accommodation, transportation and food expenses. However, our mandate is to diagnose any patient coming to the center and then decide who needs to be admitted and who doesn't. We try to do our best in order to alleviate patients' sufferings."

He pointed out that the cancer center has difficulty completing financial procedures at government ministries in order to obtain funds allocated for its operating expenses, coupled with a lack of sophisticated equipment.

Asma Mohammed Ali, whose leg is infected with a cancerous tumor, expresses, "We heartily thank all of those who contributed to establishing this center, which provides us free care. However,

many of us experience overcrowding and logjams at the center, which reduces the level of required care for patients."

"We hope there will be other centers to help reduce congestion and lines of people awaiting treatment. Establishing other cancer treatment centers should be given precedence over the required level of care," she concluded.

#### Foundation to support cancer patients

In response to the lack of well-equipped cancer treatment centers, the Foundation to Support Cancer Patients was established, launching nationwide campaigns in 2003 seeking to increase public awareness about the potential causes of various cancers. It also raises funds to establish cancer treatment centers, the first of which was the Sana'a-based one, which has been treating patients since early 2005.

Chairman Abdulwas'e Hayel Sa'eed Anam notes that the foundation has reached several achievements. Since its 2005 inauguration, the National Cancer Treatment Center thus far has admitted 2,110 patients, with an estimated 50 patients visiting daily for treatment and checkups. To date, its pharmacy has been provided YR 144 million worth of medication.

According to Anam, the foundation also has completed necessary arrangements to establish centers specialized in treating cancerous infections among children, mainly in Sana'a.

The Yemeni philanthropist further indicated that the foundation plans to open specialized units to diagnose cancerous tumors in Aden and Mukalla, in addition to recently inaugurated units in Hodeidah and Ibb.

In conclusion, Anam also stressed the necessity of increasing public awareness about how to curb the proliferation of cancer.

## Ischemic heart diseases in Yemen

Talking about Ischemic Heart Diseases (IHD) in Yemen is based on how many patients are subjected to the series of diseases that make IHD and the risk factors for it.

High-altitude living predisposes Yemenis to cardiac diseases. They develop IHD at a younger age and have a more adverse IHD risk profile. They demonstrate more adverse outcomes, both in terms of investigational findings and clinical events.

This suggests that higher altitudes may be a risk factor for acute attacks and should be taken into account when evaluating cardiovascular risk. The type of meal (as a part of the Middle East countries) that containing a high lipid is one of the predisposing factors for the IHD we have. In addition, smoking must be regarded as one of the most likely factor that leads to IHD, which also occurs in combination of other chronic diseases like diabetes mellitus and hypertension. Stress must be regarded as one of the predisposing factors.

During my work in Yemen since February 2004, I have seen 1,459 patients complaining from IHD 468 of them had myocardial infarction and the remaining had angina pectoris. 47 percent of them had atherosclerosis; 23 percent had diabetes mellitus; 19 percent had hypertension and the remaining percentage for patients who developed IHD without causes. This is according to my study, which is based on the clinical, laboratory and different diagnostic measures.

The age groups of the affected patients showed a wide spread of IHD among middle age group. The patients, who were young, give us an alert for the possible ways to prevent this serious disease. From the 1,459 patients only 241 of them were treated surgically and the remaining patients were treated by medical ways. The surgical way for treating IHD is advisable when the patient is fit to do it.

One of my patients, a man at the age of 32, was a heavy smoker, qat chewer and has over-weight subjected to myocardial infarction at one of the nights. When we admit him to the C.C.U as he was refusing admission, he developed a sudden cardiac standstill which is corrected by D.C electric shock. He stayed for one week in the hospital then we arranged a coronary angiography for him to show an occlusion in one of the coronaries which is treated by balloon then a stent was introduced to maintain a good blood flow to the heart.

We need to educate all the people not to ignore the heart attack and to be sure that the doctor is making the right decision what ever it is to save their lives as much as he can. Also the patients must follow the order of the doctor.

The triggering factor for the IHD



By: Dr. Erfan Y. Al-Shammari

is atherosclerosis which leads to sloughing of the coronary arteries lining epithelium and this will create atheroma which causes narrowing and then occlusion of the coronary artery. So we have to differentiate between two types of IHD

Angina pectoris: narrowing of the coronary artery by a spasm which is either single or multiple that decreases the blood supply for the affected cardiac muscle and the patient will have recurrent chest pain appears on exertion or any physical effort, the pain will be central in chest radiated to the left shoulder, some times associated with irregular heart beats. The patient may have shortness of breath also.

Myocardial Infarction: Occlusion of one or both of the coronary arteries will cause obliteration of the blood supply to the cardiac muscles in different walls anterior, lateral and inferior walls of the heart according to the segment affected.

The patient will have a severe retrosternal chest pain radiated to the left shoulder associated with shortness of breath and chest tightness; the patient will experience other symptoms like nausea, vomiting, pallor and restlessness.

Here the symptoms are more serious and the patient needs urgent treatment in the coronary care units (C.C.U), otherwise death will happen from irregularities of the heart beats.

The patient must be treated very well and must be handled carefully by the doctor according to the clinical findings, Electrocardiography (ECG), laboratory tests, stress ECG, echocardiography and latter coronary angiography which is an invasive method to visualize the coronaries by using a dye under control of X-ray fluoroscopy. However a lot of patients have a fear from angiography which is an accurate and easy way to diagnose IHD perfectly as we can demonstrate the site of lesion. After diagnose the site by diagnostic angiography we can treat the case by using balloon to re-open the coronary artery or putting a stent to make a patent coronary artery.

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# Yemeni traditional games: Remembering our childhood

Without disrupting their specialized small world, children still enjoy their childhood by playing traditional games. Traditional Yemeni children's games are many, but some have disappeared while others remain popular. *Fatima Al-Ajel* explores these various types of traditional games in a series. This fourth part describes games played by both boys and girls either together or separately.

Children ages 3 to 8 often gather in groups to play together. Many games are shared by both boys and girls; however, some games played by both are considered boys' and girls' games, but played separately, especially after a certain age.

The nature of these types of games depends on the group of players. For example, children in a family may play together or even children in a particular zone may gather to enjoy time playing. Such games create cooperation and build children's cultural and social ties.

In his research on the social communication theory contained in his "Children's Divan in Yemeni Public Literature," author Ali Hadad mentions that during play, children attempt to imitate the social behaviors in their community. "Environment plays a role in forming a child's character and future personality through practicing the social traditions most common in society," he explains.

Ghada wa asha, or lunch and dinner, is mostly a girls' game, but because boys often like to play the male roles, girls accept their joining in to play.

Ghada wa asha essentially is a reflection of their community as they mimic whatever their parents do in real life. They start by assigning the family roles to each child; for example, the eldest girl in the group is the mother, while the boys play the father and sons. It's similar to a play wherein the children act out their community life on stage.

They then set up the family home, bringing the necessary items. Play com-



In Quma Makshouf, players search for a hiding place while the hunter closes his or her eyes and gives them time to hide.

mences with the mother preparing lunch. She busies herself with cleaning the house, caring for the children and cooking lunch, while the father goes to work with his sons.

Sometimes, only girls play this game, so the theme of play changes as the girls concentrate on playing the roles of women in their neighborhood and how they interact with each other within their particular zone.

Child psychology professor Najat Sauem explains that this game reflects children's social interactions through such play. Children attempt to capture the elder generations' roles through such games. This game particularly develops the specialized roles for both boys and girls in their future society.

The group game Malahagah is either a girls' game or sometimes a mixed game where children assign the game's roles. They first select one child to be the evil one, who runs after the other children, while another acts as the mother and tries to save the children from jail and from being caught by the evil one.

When a child is caught, he must go to jail while the other children must get

close to the jail and touch him to release him; however, they face difficulty in doing so because the evil one is there. So, they devise a plan that some children will distract the evil one while the others go to save the prisoners with help and advice from the mother. They must run as fast as possible while the other children escape from the jail. Then the game is over.

Malahagah is a popular, fun game that's easy to play, but it's better if played with many children. To play another version of it, a group of children gathers and chooses one to be the hunter by drawing lots or tossing a coin. The hunter then counts to 10 while the rest of the children must run away as far as possible.

A child who doesn't want to be caught must say "Stop!" and then stop running until another player comes and touches his or her hand to release him or her. The player who is caught becomes the next hunter and play continues until the children tire.

Malahagah teaches children how to help each other when in need. For example, the one who says "Stop!" cannot move until someone helps him or her. However, the helper may have difficulty trying to help the stopped player because the hunter may catch him, so each player must cooperate with the others.

Quma Makshouf, or hide and seek, is a game played with more than three children. First, one child is chosen to be the hunter.

With eyes closed, the hunter counts from one to 10 and then asks, "Go, go wila 'adu?" When he hears the others reply, "Go, go," he or she starts searching for them. Everyone must run quickly and hide somewhere while the hunter is counting.

If the hunter finds someone, he must catch him or her. The other players attempt to escape, so the hunter starts chasing them. The one who was caught becomes the new hunter and so on.

Al-Kufya Al-Khudra, meaning the green hat, is another group game familiar to both boys and girls; however, due to



Al-Kufya Al-Khudra is mostly played by boys and girls. Children spend a nice time singing and running with each other.

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cultural roles, boys and girls play it separately. The game is similar to a Western one called duck, duck, goose, except that it requires a ball and a large group of children to play.

Players sit on the ground in a circle while one takes a small ball and walks around them while singing the game's song. At the end of the song, he or she orders the children to close their eyes while he hides the ball behind one player and then runs away.

The one with the ball then must run to catch and hit the player with the ball. If he or she is successful, he or she then leads the game and starts to play again while the first one joins the circle.

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