

YEMEN TIMES TIMES



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Inside:



Comic Book against Teenage Speech Balloons for Sleepers

Chat rooms...lawful or



Photo Essay: Domestic vio-

Hussein Al-Ahmar warns of gloomy future for Yemen

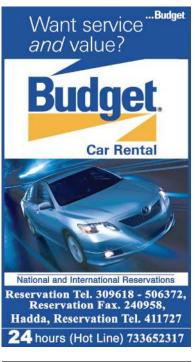
By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

AMRAN, Nov. 18 — The Hashid Tribe held a huge public rally on Saturday for its people in Amran's Khamer District, 50 km northwest of Sana'a. Attended by more than ten thousand people from the Hashid and other loyal tribes, the rally is the first of its kind for the tribe, the second largest in Yemen after the Bakeel tribe

During the rally, named the 'broader meeting for Hashid tribesmen', Parliament member (MP) Hussein Abdullah Al-Ahmar welcomed the attendees who came from different parts of the tribe to participate in the meeting. Al-Ahmar considered the meeting a new peaceful revolution to reform the situations and infringements which, according to him, are symptomatic of poor government policies.

"Yemen is undergoing serious difficulties due to the failed policies pursued by the government," Al-Ahmar said, reminding attendees of his father's statement at the Islah Party's Third Conference, that 'Yemen is passing through a gloomy tunnel.' He pointed out that corruption has become rampant in all the government offices, and therefore has permeated every house and family in the nation, adding that such a destructive phenomenon has spread to judicial, education and health sectors.

The tribal leader, who chairs the National Solidarity Council (NSC), went on to say, "If we want to continue the march toward a modern and strong Yemen, the Yemeni people must understand that the country's problems will never be solved without a nationwide





struggle. Today, Yemen is threatened by secession and fragmentation, which the corrupt regime is responsible for."

Declaring his solidarity with the protests staged by military and civil retirees in the southern and eastern governorates, Al-Ahmar stressed the necessity of confronting secession, adhering to national unity and struggling for its survival. "The regime wants tribesmen to be highwaymen, illiterates or guards at the doors of officials' houses," the MP commented. "The regime doesn't want us to join universities and unions. It doesn't want us to be doctors, scholars, journalists and engineers." He accused the authority of damaging national unity by its unwise conduct and policies.

According to the NSC chairman, the authority's practices constitute a danger to national unity and encourage secession. "We will no longer tolerate such practices. We will stand by oppressed citizens to obtain their rights without causing any damage to unity," Al-Ahmar continued, assuring listeners that he will do his best for the sake of protecting the nation's revolution and

Al-Ahmar called on oppressed citizens to claim their legal rights, adding that he will support them. "We are not intent on destruction. We want to provide a typical example for people on how to behave and claim their rights, as

our habits and traditions oblige us to stand for justice, equality and loyalty, and support those who suffer from injustice and oppression." During the rally, he invited Hashid tribesmen to get rid of habits that stain the nation's present and future, advising them to work with a unified spirit to confront threats and challenges, as well as avoid working in an unorganized manner.

The public rally released a statement containing two important points, the first of which focuses on the tribe's domestic situations. The statement recommended present tribesmen to unite and obey their tribal leaders and sheikhs. The second point clarified the tribe's strong objection to public statements made by the government, which it described as 'irresponsible' for denying their efforts toward establishing national unity. The statement strongly denounced the government's indifference toward the behavior of corrupt officials, accusing them of property theft and embezzlement under different guises.

Participants in the meeting listed several urgent demands for the government to fulfill, such as providing their areas with electricity, health care and water. They vowed to continue defending the achievements of the September and October revolutions, and to maintain the republican government, national unity and democracy.



More than ten thousand people from the Hashid and other loyal tribes hold a rally in Amran, where Hussein Al-Ahmar (inset) declared his solidarity with the protests staged by military and civil retirees in the southern and eastern governorates.

The participants agreed to continue fighting oppression, corruption, treason, tyranny, slavery and totalitarianism, and expressed solidarity with all civil community organizations and other human rights groups in Yemen. They praised the role of these groups in defending press freedoms and protecting journalists from repeated assaults by security agents.

The meeting insisted that the state put a stop to the skyrocketing prices of basic foodstuffs and impose tough policies against tradesmen who play with pricelists and monopolize commodities. It also advised the state to stop using force in dealing with problems that can be resolved through peaceful means, and demanded that it separate between the three authorities, set up an independent judiciary and neutral army, and set scientific plans to implement them in various fields, rather than follow random policies that damage the nation.

All the participants unanimously agreed to hold regular meetings and conferences, as well as expand them to include all Yemenis in order to serve the national interest. During the tribal meeting, Hussein Al-Ahmar declared the foundation of a charitable society in Hashid in the name of Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar to support the poor and needy, help patients get treatment, support youths who are getting married, and encourage school enrollment rates. He pledged YR 10 million return home and then enter Sana'a with per month for the newly established his personal gun.

On Saturday afternoon, policemen held Al-Arabiyya Satellite Channel reporters and other media personnel at a security checkpoint on the road to Sana'a as they were returning from the rally. The police asked journalists to submit their ID cards and prevented them from entering Sana'a with the footage they had taken at the rally. The media personnel were held at the checkpoint for more than one hour.

The huge rally, which the son of Parliament Speaker organized to display his popularity and the large numbers of supporters who stand by him against the regime, increased growing tension between him and the authority.

A few days ago, an excessive presence of security troops at a checkpoint north of Sana'a prevented Sheikh Hussein Al-Ahmar from entering the capital, under the pretext that his bodyguards were carrying machine guns, although the tribal leader told the police that he was ready to have his guards

Yemen unable to combat bird flu and Rift Valley Fever, report says

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, Nov. 18 — An official report revealed that Yemen is unable to fight possible outbreaks of the bird flu and Rift Valley Fever.

The report, issued by the General Authority for Animal Resources in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, showed that the general authority is unable to implement precautionary program measures to prevent a possible outbreak of these diseases. It also mentioned that the authority is unable to detect initial stages of the epidemics in order to implement control actions. The report attributes these problems to the lack of budget funds allocated to the operating management to carry out programs, although the Cabinet approved a project valued at YR 50 million, according to a 2007 ministeri-

Moreover, a report issued on Nov. 11, 2007 confirmed the current emergence of bird flu and its expansion in

nearby areas, especially throughout Saudi Arabia. According to the report, Yemen is one of the areas under threat of this disease. The report added that it is likely that the disease will spread, taking into consideration that there is vast poultry trading between the two countries, in addition to shared borders.

Ghaleb F. Al-Eryani, Director General of the Animal Resources Authority, criticized the statement released by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, in which the latter confirmed that Yemen is free of the bird flu disease and is able to fight Rift Valley Fever. Ghaleb stated, "I wonder how the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation could release such a statement, though the surveillance process has stopped. We haven't conducted any further surveys."

Al-Eryani further added, "Yemen is involved in the World Bank's bird flu program. One million dollars was allocated to assist Yemen in preparing precautionary measures. Yemen also

received aid from the U.S. to fight bird flu and the risk of infection.' Unfortunately, the donor countries have declared that if surveillance and veterinary services are not provided in Yemen, the aid will be withdrawn. according to the World Bank, adding, "It has been four months since surveillance personnel halted its work. We know nothing about the current situa tion. We have presented a plan to the Ministers' Council. The Cabinet approved an operation valued at YR 50 million to start fighting these diseases. But unfortunately, nothing has been implemented regarding what the Cabinet approved."

In case the disease emerges, it is possible that it will exterminate all poultry, causing the state to spend years bringing poultry back to the country. Billions of riyals will be lost, affecting the national economy. This disease may mutate and infect humans, which may cause a disaster of unprecedented dire consequences.











In brief

Tourism promotion delegation moves on to Paris

Nov. 18 — A Yemeni delegation participating in a promotional campaign for Yemeni tourism within European tourist markets headed to Paris, France on Thursday following its participation at the International Tourism Marketing exhibition in London.

Headed by Tourism Minister Nabil Al-Faqih, the delegation will hold a press conference for journalists and heads of tourism and public relations firms to improve Yemen's tourism image and alleviate the sharpness of warnings issued against its security and stability. The delegation will hold similar press conferences in Milan, Italy and Frankfurt, Germany for the same pur-

German support for NGOs to ease pollution, poverty

Nov. 18 — The German Embassy has granted YR 2.52 million to Abyan's "Friends of the Environment" to finance an eight-kilometer pipe in Zingibar to deliver recycled mosque water for irrigation, which will help protect the environment.

The embassy further granted \$10,000 to finance the purchase of laboratory equipment for the "Dar Atta'am" Association, which will help preserve the health of poor families in the Akhdam community.

HADRAMOUT

Industrial zone to be established Nov. 18 — Khalid Awadh, director of the Industry and Trade Ministry bureau in Hadramout governorate, revealed on Thursday that an industrial zone will be established in Al-Shehr city in January.

Awadh said Egyptian experts soon will complete special studies on the industrial zone, noting that the project will be one of the important strategic projects in the governorate, which currently is completing infrastructure in economic investment.

Emirati, Malaysian diplomats visit Nov. 18 - Sa'eed Ba-Yamain, secre-

tary-general of Hadramout governorate's local council, discussed with Ali Saif Sultan, the United Arab Emirates' ambassador to Yemen, investments in the governorate by Emirati businessmen. The Emirates is supporting Hadramout by drilling 40 wells to provide drinking water for citizens in the governorate's rural

Ba-Yamain also met with Malaysian Ambassador to Yemen Abdul-Samad Othman regarding fields of cooperation to improve the capabilities of the local authority, the tourism sector and technical institutes.

Lahj seeks to improve citizens' living conditions

Nov. 18 — Local council members and social figures in Lahj governorate on Thursday discussed numerous issues related to residents' living conditions there and how to complete approved projects in electricity, health, communications and other vital projects.

Lahj Governor Abdulwahab Al-Dorrh, as well as members of Parliament and the Shoura Council representing the governorate, affirmed the importance of uniting their efforts to promote and consolidate security and stability in the governorate.

positions:

Executing.

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Despite repeated extradition requests by Yemen

Abu Hamza faces possible extradition to U.S.

SANA'A, Nov. 16 — Abu Hamza Al-Masri could be extradited to the United States to face terrorism charges, including providing support to Al-Qaeda and involvement in a hostage-taking conspiracy in Yemen.

A British court ruled Thursday that radical Muslim cleric Mustafa Kamel, also known as Abu Hamza Al-Masri, 49, can be extradited to the U.S. However, British Home Secretary Jacqui Smith will make the final decision within two months regarding his

Abu Hamza, who was born in Egypt, currently is serving a seven-year prison term in Britain on charges that included encouraging his followers to kill non-

The British court convicted the cleric of possessing items, including a 10-volume "encyclopedia" of Afghan jihad, which the prosecutor described as "a manual for terrorism," the texts of which discussed how to make explosives, explained assassination methods and detailed the best means of attack.

He further was convicted of possessing video and audio recordings which prosecutors said he intended to distribute to incite racial hatred.

Abu Hamza, who preached outside Finsbury Park Mosque in north London, also is accused of helping to set up a terrorist training camp in the U.S. and helping to fund a jihadist recruit's trip to a terrorist training camp in the Middle East.

His followers included the so-called



"shoe bomber" Richard Reid, who was convicted of attempting to ignite a bomb in his shoes on a trans-Atlantic flight, and Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person to be charged in the United States in connection with the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

Abu Hamza was arrested on an extradition warrant issued by the U.S. government in May 2004, but the process was put on hold while he stood trial in Britain and attempted to appeal his U.K. convictions.

If his extradition is approved, Abu Hamza's jail sentence could be interrupted in order for him to be extradited to and stand trial in the United States, according to Britain's Home Office. If given a prison sentence following a U.S. trial, he would return to England to complete his sentence there before flying back to be imprisoned in the United

Yemen has accused Abu Hamza of providing support and resources for a terrorist group called the Aden-Abyan Army, which took 16 tourists hostage in

Yemen in 1998. He is said to have spoken to the terrorists before and after the incident.

Three British tourists and one Australian were killed when they were used as human shields during a shootout with Yemeni rescuers, it is claimed. For this reason, Yemeni authorities have been requesting Abu Hamza's arrest and extradition since 1999.

Yemen repeatedly has asked the British government for his extradition, but its requests have been denied, with Britain saying it will not extradite Abu Hamza to Yemen because he could possibly face the death penalty. Britain bans both the death penalty and sending suspects to those countries that apply capital punishment.

In 1999, Abu Hamza's son Mohammed Mustafa Kamel was sentenced to three years in prison in Yemen for his involvement in a terrorist bombing campaign when he was 17. He returned to Britain after completing his sentence in 2002.

Abu Hamza, who lost both hands and an eye while working in Afghanistan, likely will be held in a "supermax" prison in the U.S., where inmates are locked up 23 hours a day in cells measuring between 48 square feet and 80 square feet with no natural light, no control over electricity in their cells and no view outside their cells, according to American press. Additionally, they have no contact with other prisoners and no meaningful contact with prison

Hadramout university teaching staff raise warnings



Hadramout university' staff start to wear red ribbon

HADRAMOUT, Nov. 18 — Teaching staff at Hadramout University of Science and Technology have begun raising warnings, demanding the university administration meet their demands, which include applying the Law of Yemeni Universities at their university. They further demand administrative and academic reforms at the uni-

The problem began Aug. 29 when the administrative board of the university's teaching staff syndicate released a statement claiming 16 rights and demands by teaching staff. However, university Rector Ahmad Omar Bamashmous did not respond to their demands.

After their statement's release, the teaching staff syndicate said it would escalate the situation through a partial strike. This dissatisfied Bamashmous, who considered such action an assault against the university.

Moreover, the protestors say their demands are not about money; rather, they simply demand reforming the academic and administrative board.

In an effort to resolve the problem, Bamashmous accused the syndicate of escalating the political situation in that region, alleging that they are related to protestors in Yemen's southern gover-

The problem worsened when Bamashmous called for the university council meeting, at which he removed the syndicate's legally-elected represen-

However, the syndicate claimed the meeting was illegitimate, demanding the meeting's minutes be cancelled. Despite the intervention of the governor, Bamashmous refused to meet the syndicate's demands, for which the syndicate threatens to escalate the situation they remain unmet.

First charity school for girls to be built in Hadramout

known Yemeni businessman and investor, Abdullah Ahmed Buqshan, who also chairs the secretary-generals council at Hadramout Corporation for Human Development, has announced that Sheikh Abdullah Ba-Hamdan, a Saudi businessman of Yemeni origin, will build- next year in Mukalla- a charity school, where the female students don't have to pay any school

Buqshan made the announcement at a celebration the corporation staged for top students at Hadramout schools during the last academic year. Awards and certificates of recognition were presented to the top student in the two educational divisions of science and arts.

Buqshan gave a speech outlining how the Hadramout Corporation for Human Development was established.

It came about because businessmen felt the importance of contributing to eradicating illiteracy at the governorate level through adopting programs and activities that address both students' and teachers' needs.

He further noted that the corporation initiated its activities in Hadramout with a view to expanding its activities and programs across Yemen. The school for bright or top students, who got 90 percent in the primaries schools in Hadramout.

In closing, Buqshan congratulated the students, wishing them all the best in their academic endeavors.

Hadramout Additionally, the Corporation for Human Development



corporation has erected a Student receives her certification

announced that it will pay the costs of registering the "Little Giant" lighted clock invented for Mukalla by Hani Mohammed Bajalla, as well as Ali Abdulrahman Ba-Aqeel's electronic tourist guide of Yemen, in the United

Indian Embassy School holds Mahatma Ghandi competition

the chance to participate in such a com-

petition. It's very good because it gathers

students from different schools, which

will encourage them to do well in the

competition and gain advantages from

the other students.

SANA'A, Nov. 18 — The Indian Embassy School organized a Mahatma Memorial Inter-School Competition at the school last Thursday. The competition included painting, drawing, coloring, elocution, essays and quizzing.

It was the first ever competition conducted by the school without any entry fee for all English middle schools in Yemen, with a special emphasis on schools in Sana'a.

"These competitions surely will facilitate young people to exchange their ideas and also will provide an opportunity for testing their skills and abilities, beyond any boundaries," Indian School headmaster Manu Lal stated.

Thirteen-vear-old Sarra Al-Hadi from the Yemen Modern School commented, "I'm participating in the drawing competition. I drew the sunset because I like it

She continued, "I'm participating in Nadeed Abbass, 15, from the Indian the elocution competition, where they Embassy School said, "I'm happy I have give us the topic 15 minutes before the

> competition. I'll do my best to win." Eight-year-old Aisha from the Middle East School expressed, "I'm so happy to participate in this competition! I'm participating in the coloring competition by coloring a city, so I'll try to win."

under sheikh attack ately reported the act to the Saber pros-

Al-Qubah village

TAIZ, Nov. 18 — The National Authority for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) condemned the attack launched by Sheikh Jameel Al-Dhabab followers, who it claims set fires, looted and destroyed four houses belonging to locals of Al-Qubah vil-

HOOD denounced such outrageous acts, claiming in its press release that they "violate the principles and values of our religion and humanity," and adding, "Such unjustifiable actions indicate the narrow-mindedness of these violators and their contemptible views upon others. They look down upon others as if they are the lords and the others are their slaves. This view has declined over time; however, such acts taking place in some hamlets and isolated areas show us that this narrow-minded mentality still exists."

Shortly after receiving a complaint made by the victims, HOOD immediecution office.

The Yemen Times interviewed Abdul-Sallam M. Sultan, who said that one of the sheikhs' sons attacked a woman living in a house in his village, located west of Taiz. According to the witness, the sheikh bit the woman, for unclear reasons. The village's locals rescued her and evicted the attacker. As a result, the attacker brought a large group of people to attack village locals.

An ensuing firefight took place between the two sides, leading to the murder of one of the sheikh's followers. Then, the locals surrounded criminal investigation officials. The sheik's group attacked the village again when women and children were alone, looting, destroying and setting fire to houses.

HOOD, as well as relatives of the victims, requested the president and Attorney General to arrest the perpetrators and present them before justice.

Tender Announcement

The Civil Affairs Team in Yemen is announcing to interested contractors to bid on new building projects for the following:

- 1. 26 September school Socotra 2. Al-Shawkani school - Socotra
- 3. Alshayma girls school Alhodydah

Please RSVP with the Civil Affairs Engineer Mr. Roy Byington by Fax 01-423347 no later than 26 November 2007. Submit a one page resume in English which includes name, company name, address, experience, and phone number, so we may contact you with details and location.

إعلان مناقصة

يعلن فريق الشؤون المدنية باليمن للمقاولين الراغبين في المشاركة بعطائاتهم للمناقصات التالية :١- مدرسة ٢٦ سبتمبر - سقطرة ٢- مدرسة الشوكاني - سقطرة ٣- مدرسة الشيماء للبنات - الحديدة يرجى التواصل مع مهندس الشؤون المدنية السيد / روي بينقتون عبر فاكس رقم ٢٦٣٤٧ ٤-١٠ خلال مدة لا تتجاوز ٢٦ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٧م. يرجى ارسال صفحة واحدة فقط باللغة الإنجليزية وتحتوي على الاسم، اسم الشركة، العنوان، المشاريع السابقة التنفيذ، ورقم التلفون. هذا وسوف يتم التواصل بكم لمزيد من التفاصليل ومكان تسليم المظاريف.

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Al-Hashami wins Golden Crown, ISSO prizes

Al-Hashami International Group won the International Golden Crown and ISSO prizes in a London conference on Thursday, which coincided with the opening of its main center in Sana'a. It offers services such as hajj, umrah, tourism, investments, and general

Salem Atiyah Al-Hashami, company chairman and general manager, told the Yemen Times that the inauguration of the Sana'a center and expansion is for tourism investment.

He invited Qatari's deputy minister of foreign affairs to invest in Yemen. The Al-Hashami group has started investing in Hodeidah and the Red Sea coast, as well as in some Yemeni islands, in order to attract investors and international companies working in the field of investment. Al-Hashami added, "Nowadays we are making serious and effective preparations to work on these projects." He also confirmed that employees concentrate on making the group's projects in Yemen

"We moved from hajj and umrah services into tourist and real estate investments," Al-Hashami stated.

Meanwhile, the deputy minister of foreign affairs in Qatar said, "Making investments in Yemen is promising and prosperous. There are so many companies from the Gulf countries which have participated in investment in Yemen for 20 years.

Sheikh Nawaf Al-Meglad told the Yemen Times that the availability of Gulf banks in Yemen is an indication that the investment climate in Yemen is good.



Qatar Airways Awarded the Top Selling Agents for the year 2006-07

Qatar Airways held their annual Agency Award Tuesday evening at the Sana'a Sheraton hotel to award their top selling agents for their performance in the year

The party was attended by ambassadors, members of the business community and representatives from travel and

Qatar Airways Area Manager for Yemen, Mr. Wael Al Khaldi, began the ceremony by delivering a welcome speech to attendees, which was followed by a speech from Qatar Airways Regional Manager of the Arabian Peninsula, Mr. Ali Abdul Khaliq, who

came to Yemen specifically to attend the awards ceremony.

Mr. Ali's speech included a brief about Qatar Airways fleets, destinations and achievements, one of which is the Premium Terminal at Doha International Airport, used exclusively for departing first and business class

The Premium Terminal features facilities including a spa, jacuzzi, exclusive duty-free shopping, business center and fine dining restaurants. Built in just nine months, the \$90 million terminal is the world's first commercial passenger building dedicated to first and business



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- Arabic program from 12:00 noon 2:30 p.m.

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class passengers and offers departing and transit passengers an excellent opportunity to relax and unwind prior to

A presentation was given to the attendees introducing Qatar Airways current destinations, fleets, achievements and future plans.

Afterwards, the top ten travel agents, and top four cargo agents were announced and awarded with Crystal Aircraft models plus appreciation cer-

Qatar Airways currently operates a modern fleet of 58 all-Airbus aircraft to 79 destinations across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Far East, India

and North America. The highlight of this year's expansion was the launch of flights to New York (Newark) and Washington, DC - the airline's first move into the North American market.

The Doha-based carrier is one of only five airlines in the world with a five-star ranking for service and excellence awarded by Skytrax, the independent aviation industry monitoring agency. Skytrax also named Qatar Airways' cabin crew as best in the Middle East for the fifth year running in 2007, following a survey of more than 12 million passengers. During the 2006/07 financial year, Qatar Airways carried more than 8 million passengers worldwide.

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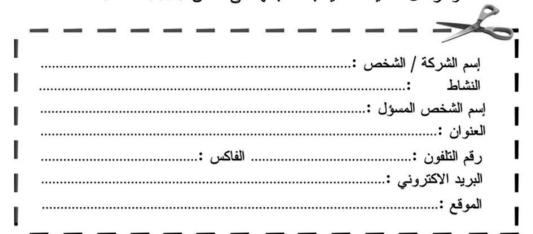
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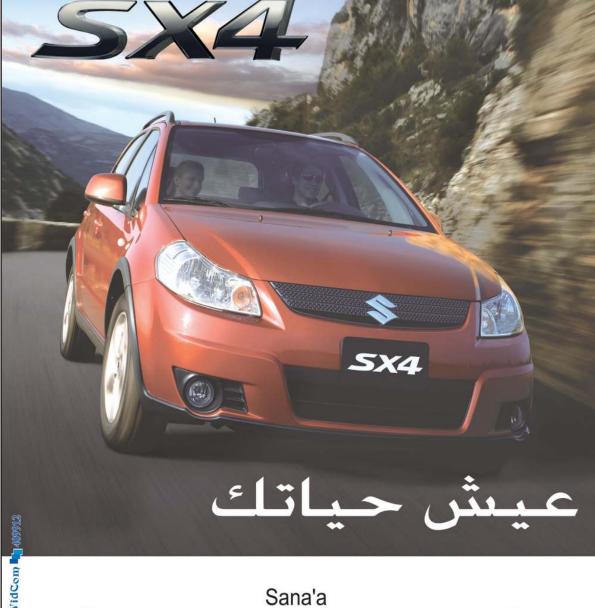
The Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC) administers the NFP on behalf of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Detailed information/brochure is available on the NUFFIC website at www.NUFFIC.NL/NFP To obtain a hard copy brochure or any further information on the Netherlands Fellowship Programme, please visit the Netherlands Embassy (tel: 01-421800) during fellowship office hours, every Sunday between 14.00 and 15.00 hours.

The Embassy calls upon ex-alumni of the Netherlands Fellowships Programme

The embassy hereby would like to invite interested ex-alumni to contact the Netherlands Embassy

The Embassy is attempting to revive a Netherlands Alumni Association in Yemen. By subscribing to the membership of this Association, the Embassy will be able to keep you informed on relevant developments with regards to academic co-operation between Yemen and The Netherlands and on events which may be of interest to Yemenis who spent some time in our country. The Embassy, or the Association itself, may organize social events where Yemeni alumni can meet and exchange experiences, with each other or with Dutch citizens.





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Way of Life!

Comic Book against Teenage Islamism

Speech Balloons for Sleepers

A German State Office for the Protection of the Constitution wants to deter students from radical Islamism - with a clichéd comic book and ingratiating advice such as "Don't play on the team of the mujaheddin".

By: Wolf Schmidt

t's getting crowded on German schoolyards: NPD is distributing CDs for the right wing, the Socialist Youth are distributing CDs against the right wing, and the publicly-owned Mitteldeutsche Rundfunk broadcasting corporation is distributing CDs for respect and tolerance.

Now even the North Rhine-Westphalian Office for the Protection of the Constitution wants to present students with a new comic book. The title: "Andi's Friend Murat Has Stress." And what can quickly happen to Muslims with stress is shown in the comic.

Andi's pal Murat nearly drifts into the Islamist scene, and only because his grades are bad, he didn't receive a training position, and all in all it's not easy for a young Muslim in Germany.

"Sharia is super"

The comic book doesn't fail to leave out

any platitudes. Just as Murat falls into his deprivation hole and hatred of foreigners and social marginalization is lurking around every corner, a new classmate appears on the scene. He is a fundamental Islamist who immediately carts Murat off to a preacher of hatred, who gives Murat the lowdown on the holy war:

Sharia is super, and war must be waged against the infidels ("Kuffar") as well as the imperialists and Zionists. The Terrorism 101 DVD is complimentary. And suddenly Little Murat is playing on the team of the mujaheddin – up until the happy end.

The comic is part two of the "Andi" series. In the first comic, published two years ago, the NRW protectors of the constitution set their sights on right-wing extremism, with Nazi "Eisenheinrich" ("Iron Henry) and skinhead girl Magda as side characters and Andi as the main character. Since then 170,000 comics have been distributed, which the North Rhine-Westphalian Ministry of the Interior cele-



Cultural disconent: Murat complains that Germans look down on Muslims

brates as a huge success.

The Interior Minister as a cartoon

But as so often with violence prevention programs the comic was well intentioned and well made - but a long shot from being good. Like part one, "Andi 2" is an embarrassing attempt to curry favor with young people, and not only with its language.

One or two "awesomes," "excellents" or "dudes" can be forgiven. Murat's totally cool outfit of baggy pants, beanie wool cap, and basketball shirt: okay.

But that North Rhine-Westphalian Minister of the Interior Dr. Ingo Wolf also appears as a comic figure and warns teenagers per speech balloon -"Extremists are trying to lure young people with their propaganda" - is sure to deter the next generation of sleeper operatives attending German schools from becoming assassins.

Muslims may be offended

If only bomb makers Fritz G. and Daniel

tainly have been spared the problem of "homegrown terrorism."

Experts also doubt that the 33,000 euros of taxpayers' money were meaningfully spent for the "Andi 2" comic, which had an initial circulation of 100,000. "I hardly believe that young people take the comic seriously at all," said Christian Pfeiffer, director of the Criminological Research Institute in Lower Saxony, who read the comic for the German newspaper taz. "The comic paints everything in black and white."

He thus sees few advantages coming from the campaign, but substantial risk on the other hand. "It could totally backfire," says Pfeiffer. "I see the danger that some Muslims could be offended.'

And indeed: Muslim organizations have been seething since the comic book came out.

The Central Muslim Council complains on its Web site that the Muslim communities were not consulted when the "Andi" comic was developed. "The preventive effect would have been much greater if they had," was the indignant comment written there.

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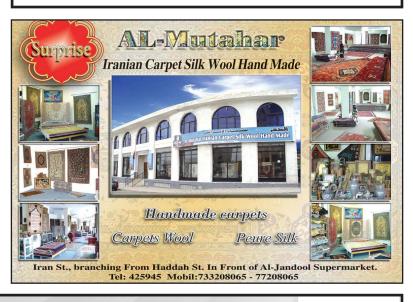
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who drink alcohol and are in a general state of moral decay Arabic gets breath of life in Israeli schools

Has the historic rivalry between the U.S. and Russia relocated its battlefield to the Middle East? This would seem to be the case, given that both powers are pouring huge amounts of money into the defense establishments of rivaling countries in the region. While describing it as a renewed Cold War might be an overstatement, observers agree the two countries are fiercely competing over their military, economic and political clout in the Middle

Murat complains that he's given bad grades and therefore has trouble find-

ing a job. Harun tells him to stick to Islam and warns him of the "infidels"

By: Rachelle Kliger,

praised," he answers.

today, in Arabic?"

ith one hand adjusting her hijab, Saida 'Subhi points the other at a pupil sitting near the window. "Maybe you can tell me, how are you today?" she asks a pupil in Arabic.

"Good. Who can tell me what day it is

"I'm well, alhamdullah, Allah be

A dozen hands shoot into the air. A girl with a braid and a necklace with a large Star of David around her neck is granted the privilege of telling her classmates, in Arabic, that today is Wednesday.

'Subhi may don a modest Muslim outfit, but her young audience is very much Jewish. She teaches her mother tongue at the Henrietta Szold elementary school in western Jerusalem.

The program she teaches, "Language as a Cultural Bridge," aims to revolutionize the instruction of Arabic in Israel and promote tolerance towards Israel's Arab minority, which comprises a fifth of the country's population.

A brainchild of the Abraham Fund, this program was initiated three years

ago in two mixed cities in Israel's north. The pilot program, applied in 2005, was taught to 900 fifth graders. Today it is taught in 115 schools throughout Israel to more than 11,000 pupils aged 10 to

The number of schools currently incorporating the program has nearly doubled since last year. The new program breaks away from the traditional Arabic curriculum, aiming to bring the Arab culture and the spoken language directly into the classroom.

Arabic is an official language in Israel. It is taught in Israel from junior high school upwards, but it is not a compulsory subject in the final school exams, a situation the Abraham Fund wishes to

Critics of the existing curriculum say it puts too much emphasis on the written Arabic and grammar and provides very few communication skills, if any.

Another grievance often voiced is that the current curriculum is geared towards recruiting school graduates into Israel's security agencies, where Arabic is required.

The new program places an emphasis on colloquial Arabic and promotes a better understanding of Arab culture.

The Israeli Ministry of Education seems to recognize the merits of revitalizing its current Arabic education strategies and is cooperating with the Abraham Fund. However, the program is still waiting for the ministry's official stamp of approval.

Similar to the existing curriculum, children studying "Language as a Cultural Bridge" do acquire basic reading skills in Arabic. But for the most part,

The kids are taught about playing Arab-style percussion instruments; they are taken to an Islamic art museum and they squabble over who gets to play which character when they read out dialogues from their schoolbooks.

'Subhi's sixth graders delightedly stomp their feet as she teaches them the Arabic version of the song, "If you're happy and you know it."

Dadi Komem, the manager of the initiative, says the main goal of the program is to teach everything that lies beyond the language.

"A language is a bridge to a culture and culture is part of the language," Komem says. "What we're trying to do is make a real change in the positions and opinions of the children. We try to reduce fears and reduce stereotypes."

In practice, this is no easy task.

Asked why they thought it was important to learn Arabic, several sixth graders automatically brought up the security

"Because if a terrorist kidnaps me, maybe I can speak with him in Arabic and he'll release me," says Maor.

"It's important to know for when you go in the army," shouts another pupil.

S. had read "Andi," Germany would cer-

In a region caught up in a long-lasting political conflict, Jewish and Arab children in Israel often harbor misconceptions about the other side.

Admittedly, Israeli Arabs are exposed to Hebrew and to Jewish culture through their work and through the Hebrew-language mainstream media. An Israeli Arab with no basic communication skills in Hebrew is uncommon.

However, on the Jewish side this is not the case. Jerusalem is a particularly difficult location in which to integrate this program. The city witnessed a spate of terror attacks in the years following the outbreak of violence in 2000 and its inhabitants are more right wing in their political views than, say, Tel Aviv.

This is manifested in the classrooms, where studying Arabic is often met with hostility from the children. The program's creators hope to expand the teaching to younger age groups and to more schools in order to change these attitudes.

Having a hijab-clad Muslim teacher call the shots in a Jewish classroom is not a sight you see every day.

"Everything at the beginning is difficult," 'Subhi says. "At the beginning they said, 'What do we need this for? It's not important,' but when I explained the language to them, they loved it."

'Subhi, 37, takes great pride in her profession and sees what she does almost as a mission. At first, she recalls, her appearance provoked many questions from the children but she patiently addressed their queries and explained what the hijab meant.

To some extent, the program appears to be succeeding and the children do see a positive element in learning the lan-

"I might have some Arab friends and I'll want to talk with them if they don't speak Hebrew," says Elad.

His friend, also called Elad, likes the musical aspect of the program and finds the language interesting.

"It's fun to learn," he says.

Through the program, children acquire a vocabulary of up to a 1,000 Arabic words. Half of these words are colloquial and the other half are used both in the spoken and written languages, so it lays the groundwork for students who wish to pursue the study of literary Arabic.

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Broadening Regional Initiative for Developing Girls' Education (BRIDGE)

Girls' education in rural areas needs much attention

By: Emad Al-Saqqaf

mbittered deteriorating conditions and problematic situations have caused many in Yemeni society to experience lives of abject poverty, misery and deprivation.

Yemeni society has clung to numerous bad social norms keeping women from their basic educational rights. One of the most heartbreaking aspects when touring villages across Yemen is witnessing the thousands of girls who are totally deprived of education.

However, the Broadening Regional Initiative for Developing Girls' Education, or BRIDGE, program, along with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, or JICA, initiated a girls' education project in remote districts of Taiz governorate in June 2005. The three-anda-half-year project grants schools YR 500,000 to improve their girls' education strategy

The Yemen Times and BRIDGE recently organized a workshop on the program and the importance of developing girls' education in Taiz, which should have the attention of the Yemeni government and Education Ministry officials.

Low-level education

Taiz is one of Yemen's most densely populated areas. Generally speaking, citizens seem to have a mistaken impression regarding the area's education levels when the reality is contrary, as the education level is quite low in its rural districts, where gender discrimination still exists and a large number of girls still are deprived of their basic educational rights.

The BRIDGE project selected six target districts in Taiz governorate: Dhubab, Maqbanah, Waziiya, Al-Makha, Mawia and Sama'e, involving 59 schools in these districts.

Through the beneficiaries' eyes

Considerable progress has been made and tangible results seen in several of these target districts, namely Dhubab and



discloses that JICA has undertaken his school's entire operating expenses. Without such support, our school would be brought to a standstill," he observes, noting that both he and his teachers receive their salaries from JICA. Additionally, a sewing workshop and three sewing machines have been provided to encourage girls to attend school.

Girls' attendance is unexpectedly and considerably high at Assalah School, totaling 450, which is a 50-percent increase, thanks to the BRIDGE project's active contribution to that school.

Student reactions

"Before the project's initiation, our schools were in dire need of basic neces-



Female students Walk two hours on foot to reach the school.

The BRIDGE project has helped us immensely in achieving a high schooling percentage for girls," Al-Amal School principal Ahmed Qasem enthuses.

He notes that the project strengthened

his school's basic infrastructure by constructing additional classrooms and launching awareness campaigns to urge parents to send their daughters to school. "Education facilities have been fully

provided, such as a microphone and its accessories, water tanks, school notebooks and transportation for girls. BRIDGE also has recruited and contracted four teachers for our school," he adds.

Omar Bin Abdulaziz School also has the project's support, which provided a YR 85,000 wooden structure for the school in nearby homes in order to make it easier for both girls and boys to attend school.

Tawfiq Ali Sa'eed, principal of Maqbanah district's Al-Hayah School,

sities and services, such as toilets, which is one of the main reasons girls are kept from school," student Souad explains, "Girls have to go home due to the nonexistence of toilets in schools." Al-Amal School student Haleemah

observes, "A large number of girls have returned to school due to the BRIDGE project's active contributions and giant strides in these districts.' Haleemah herself is returning to

school after four years to complete seventh grade. "My father prevented me from completing my basic education, but he now has allowed me to go back to school," she adds.

Just considering the openness of Haleemah's father to send her to school again is clear testimony of BRIDGE's many successes and positive contributions to improve the level of girls' education in these areas.

As if this weren't enough, BRIDGE

also has launched education-related public awareness campaigns for area locals regarding the importance of sending their daughters to school. The local community's active participation and interaction at the grassroots level is a key factor in fulfilling the project's desired development

In this regard, staff have been well trained and school committees have been established, along with forming Parenthood Assemblies in every school.

A four-hour daily trek

Girls in these target districts have a strong propensity toward education and their desire to learn has increased considerably, particularly after the BRIDGE project's implementation, which has paved the way for them to prepare, struggle and persist in acquiring knowledge.

For five girls heading to Maqbanah's Al-Hayah School, the worst thing about going to school is the four-hour daily walk there and back.

Student Karama says, "Education is very important, so I'm keen to be at school on time. I start walking to school with my classmates at 6 a.m., arriving at 8 a.m. When school finishes at noon, I usually reach home at 2:30 p.m.'

The girls in these schools enjoy limitless ambition. For example, Karama dreams of being a doctor so that she can treat patients in her village.

Assalah School student Iftikar also speaks highly of the BRIDGE project's contributions in her district. Like Karama, she also has high ambitions, but she aspires to be a lawyer. "I want to be a lawyer in order to bring the sheikhs to justice. They have plundered my father's lands and he has fallen a prey to their tyranny. They do this because my father is poor and helpless and can't confront them boldly," she says, voicing her griev-

Expanded awareness & local partici-

Sheikh Abdulghani M. Ali Qasem, a member of the Fatherhood Assembly at Maqbanah's Al-Amal School, believes education is of paramount importance and that educated daughters are the mothers of the future. "Before the BRIDGE project's initiation in our district, we were totally unaware of the significance of education or learning. We didn't even establish any type of contact with teachers," he notes.

ferent, as locals have established a Fatherhood Assembly to review and discuss their worries and concerns. "As members of the assembly, we can increase parents' awareness about the great significance of education, as well as urge them to send their daughters to school," he further remarked.

Female teachers are a must

Habits and customs in these target districts differ from one village to another village due to social traditions, followed by the locals themselves in these areas, which in turn has compelled parents not to send their daughters to school.

Even little girls aren't allowed to remove their veils from their faces, which is considered against social norms. Additionally, some women in these areas reportedly die of illnesses without even seeing a doctor.

Similarly, a large number of parents keep their daughters from school because they don't wish them to have male teach-

As one Fatherhood Assembly member explains, "Girls can't speak freely in front of male teachers because they aren't accustomed to doing that, so this negatively affects their level of understand-

"Personally speaking, there's no difference whether it's a male or a female teacher. Girls prefer male teachers to female ones," principal Omar Al-Mukhtar in Dhubab remarks.

One girl comments. "I want to become a teacher in my village because so many girls are deprived of education due to the lack of female teachers."

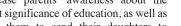
Mixed classes

Mixed gender classes are another reason girls don't attend school and this issue differs from one school to another, particularly during basic education. In secondary school, girls often don't have the desire to complete their education.

"Most of my classmates left school because of mixed classes," states Muna Abduraqeeb, "As for me, I still possess a strong determination, despite harassments I encounter while studying."

Teacher M. Fara'e asserts, "Mixed classes really are a serious issue for girls, so we must separate boys from them because considerable learning progress for both boys and girls clearly can be detected in doing so."





constitutes a repression that affects their lives and deprives them of enjoying their innocent childhood. According to Al-Mekhlafi, the reason

for the spread of veiling among young girls in basic education is attributed completely to mistaken religious beliefs. 'Some people think that revealing a girl's face is considered just like a private part, so this has led schoolgirls, particularly those in basic education, to wear veils, which presents another difficulty for them to assimilate the lessons properly during hot weather," she concludes.

He adds, "We're grateful for the

BRIDGE project's efforts in terms of

expanding and constructing additional

classrooms. However, in order to pave

the way for learners, particularly girls,

what's needed is constructing additional

Teacher Salwa Al-Mekhlafi believes

Not just girls, boys want to learn also. "What an uncertain future we have for our new generation!" Fatherhood

> classrooms are inadequate.' Several residents and school principals in the target districts have expressed their concerns and worries about the BRIDGE project's discontinuation, which is due to end in March 2008.

> Assembly member Ahmed Na'eem

observes, "I just wonder where our sons

and daughters can study because three

"If JICA leaves, we'll be like orphans and further efforts will be to no avail," one local resident remarks.

However, local participants in the BRIDGE project could ensure the sustainability of their efforts after the project's termination. "We really did acquire fruitful skills and experiences and we make use of it a lot in terms of administrative aspects. We could ensure the sustainability of the project, if the government provides us with the necessary assistance.'

Absence of the state's role

Education officials in the districts confirm that they have not received an estimated YR 320,000 in financial allocations under an agreement between



Waiting their turn to learn.

Early marriage

Early marriage in Yemeni society is considered a bad social custom and one of the main reasons for female high school dropouts. Thus, only by educating girls can we eradicate such a negative phenomenon. "When they marry, not one girl has completed her education," one school principal lamented.

Another student told of her former classmate who had married but now is sorry for not completing her education and wishes to return to school.

Scattered homes & rugged terrain

Scattered houses and villages, together with rugged terrain that makes life even harder, is a challenge hindering educational progress in general and for girls in particular, as it has become difficult to find a nearby school for all of those students living in scattered houses.

Such issue should be treated seriously and reviewed by concerned bodies. "A large number of girls must stay at home, totally deprived of education due to mixed classes with boys or living in remote places," Al-Mekhlafi explains.

On the other hand, parents don't want their daughters to study or learn in remote schools, so they aren't allowed to

Nonexistent secondary schools

Secondary schools are not found in a number of districts Because of their strong desire to study and because there are no secondary schools in their area, Khadijah and Zara'a Abbas must retake their final class.

Likewise, "I'm worried about my future because no secondary schools are available. What shall we do?" Al-Hayah School student Souad asks.

BRIDGE and the Yemeni government. represented by the local authority.

Contracted teachers have complained about government procrastination, but no definitive action has been taken in this regard. The teachers state unequivocally that they no longer wish to continue teaching once the BRIDGE project ends.

"Employment files have been submitted to the Civil Service Ministry for more than 10 years, but even up until now, nothing has been reconsidered," notes the principal of Assalah School.

Additionally, one teacher comments, "The state has approved several teaching posts for our area, but then they are moved to another area.'

Food first

One local council member points out that because villagers live in miserable conditions and they are in dire need of food, this issue should be given priority among other services. "This will pave the way for girls to attend school," he says.

Classroom rehabilitation needed

Classrooms at Omar Bin Abdulaziz School, which is situated amid scattered houses, are in a deteriorating condition. Because there are no seats, students sit on the floor and they are exposed to strong winds due to not installing windows in the classrooms.

Additionally, three different classes study together in one class. Such education is of no avail because how can two teachers teach in one room? What will be the outcome? This affects students' learning, as well as instructors' teaching abili-

However, due to lack of well-trained teachers in the target districts, the BRIDGE project has had to recruit incompetent teachers.

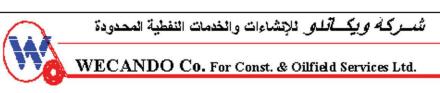




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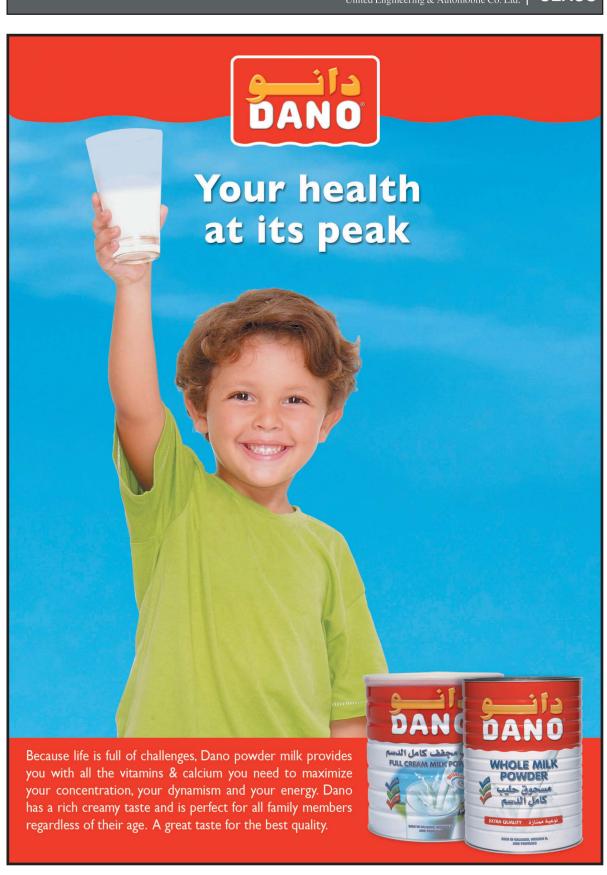
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Words of Wisdom



Malnutrition among children is a dangerous problem. Its future costs are enormous. It leads to stunted growth and more vulnerability. Therefore, it deserves our immediate attention. Offering food supplements in schools in poor neighborhoods should be considered. Charity organizations and NGOs, in direct or indirect partnership with the state could handle this responsibility. Malnutrition is an issue we

must address.

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



Towards a more democratic society

urrent efforts to modernize the civil societies law is facing stiff opposition from the government. The government claims that this law, at its inception in 2001, was the most progressive civil societies law in the region, and that the government has ratified numerous international treaties which regulate the operation of civil societies.

Since 2001, over five thousand civil society organizations have been licensed. However, the majority of these are charities and social-action organizations, with around a hundred active organizations working towards political reform and expanding democratic development and human rights.

In fact, activists involved in democratic development and human rights claim that the current law does not provide an empowering legal framework that allows them to pursue their activities. Apparently, when the current law was conceptualized, emphasis was given to associations, cooperatives, and charities, while little understanding of the legal demands of human rights organizations. Thereby calling for modernizing the law.

There are several loopholes in the relationship between human rights organizations and the regime, which are a direct result of the gap in the current legal framework. For example, a prominent human rights organization has recently called for establishing a 'people's court' where obstacles to the political participation of women are prosecuted. The court is a publicity stunt in order to draw attention to the obstacles and discuss how to overcome them, however, the current legal framework outlaws such activities.

Legislators state that it isn't the law to blame, it is the interpretation and implementation of the law that is the real problem. Regardless of how many laws and regulations Yemeni legislators and parliament members formulate and approve, the relevant government agencies will implement only parts of the law which they are comfortable with. The Ministry of Social affairs, which is responsible for licensing Civil Society organizations has denies many their licenses to operate, and revoked other organizations' licenses in violation of the

It's not merely about the modernizing the legal framework, but more importantly, it is about modernizing the minds of the persons regulating the implementation of the law.

The Editorial Board

Dear ruler! It's time to quit

By: Omar Al-Dhabyani

emen's political regime is still living a state of a war prisoner under the dominance of skilled media liars, and at the same time priding itself on its backwardness and slumbering mind that can not cope with demands of the 21st century. As happened to Imam Ahmad when he called all the Yemeni people to have their faces covered with tar in order to make sure that people are still backward and can be led blindly, the standing regime exercises relatively similar behaviors in order to shift citizens' attention away from claiming their rights.

What the current regime does nationwide in general and in the governorates confirms particular discriminative nature of this detestable government, which is for the time being concentrating on extinguishing Revolution of the South and humiliating its heroes after it dismissed them from government jobs and confiscated their lands in favor of notorious officials.

Public rage in South Yemen, which confused the ruler, is a good omen of a great revolution led by the people, who appear to no longer tolerate lies, fools and fake speeches after their income sources have been looted and their

children deprived of any access to education. Another problem of great concern in the south is deporting the historic leaders, who were raised in the southern governorates. And despite the regime tries to ornaments its ugliness with some leaders from the south, these leaders are uglier than the regime itself, and it never happened that one day they demonstrated to have political, social or tribal weight.

Those trembling and ill-spirited people are unable to shoulder any responsibility, nor can they stand firmly against any challenges because they accepted to remain as ornamental covers for the regime. At this point, the regime did not know that it puts in its pockets a curse of failure to govern the country through a national unity policy, and in accordance with the criterion of efficiency not loyalty.

Such people have not demonstrated any position for confronting the cycle of catastrophes in the republic, nor are they in a position to purify themselves from the sins they committed. Although, they hold higher positions, we really find that they are merely mummies, which the ruler uses as cheap tools against great national values. Our duty is to denounce the way the regime is splitting the national unity by using force against peaceful protests claiming basic rights of citizens. And, this Source: Al-Wahdwai.net

regime appears to master only the policy of crackdown and oppression.

The regime's style, which is intimidated by peaceful sit-ins, is what threatens the national unity, and is therefore accountable for any subsequent harm to people and their unity. We should make a distinction between those who demonstrate in a peaceful and civilized way and those who confront protestors with live

Those, who rule us these days, are a mafia band that converted Yemen into a consumables company to suck its wealth while its authentic contributors and shareholders die from hunger. It is now that we have realized that this band employs the policy of starvation and illiteracy for misleading the Yemeni people in order to shift their attention away from their concerns and engage them extremely in search of bread and survival factors.

Also, it is now that we have understood the words of wisdom uttered by the historic leader Jamal Abdunnaser, who said that "No freedom for starving people and no dignity for intimidated people". Having a cursory glance at this famous saying, it has been made apparent that we can not talk about democracy in an atmosphere of fears and starvation.

Opposition for construction, not for destruction

By: Abbas Al-Dailami

oubt is of two types, the first one is for construction, which leads to searching for facts and full satisfaction. The second type of doubt is meant for destruction, as it aims to circulate rumors of frustration and despair. This is the difference between the positive and negative doubts. The case is similar when it comes to the expected role to be played by the opposition. An opposition can be for construction, and this leads to exposing mistakes, identifying barriers and overcoming negatives. The opposition may be for destruction and its primary aim is to plant frustration, pessimism and pay harm to the nation and the public interests.

The opposition of destruction destroys itself before anything else, particularly if it got far away from the proper concept of its role. It ignores what is required from it to address the public reasonably and logically, nor does it care for public interests, the national principles and the right of everyone to live in the country and defend its sovereignty and achievements.

There is a huge difference between an opposition holding the scissors of a skilled surgeon having enough knowledge and adherence to ethics of his job and another opposition holding the hammer of destruction. The first type of opposition brings people together on a ground of shared efforts while the second loses what is around it and people look at it as a fool guy setting aflame a ship he is on board because he is

not satisfied with its crew. From this concept, we indicate

several achievements reached by the National Unity such as democracy, human rights, including the freedom of expression and the right to organize legal opposition and political parties. We pride the unity democracy which we learned about and understood its principles, regulations, as well as how to exercise it in a proper way. We have to understand and exercise the unity democracy as our predecessors did, and it is not a shame on us to benefit from others' experience.

Of the alphabets of learning democracy understanding the proper exercises of opposition is that opposition must be organized for the sake of the national interest, caring for correcting mistakes, exposing negatives, driving forward the development wheel toward construction, competing in the field of development and update and preventing any harm targeting the country and its unity.

Of the ignorance of the principles related with exercising the opposition-related right is that the individual concedes his/her right to live in the country and behave the way he likes on condition this doesn't contradicts the teachings of Islam, the national principles or ethics of the

To be clearer, the one who opposes a ruler, government or a ruling party and resorts to what harms the national principles, threatens the social security, divulge military secrets or gratify enemies of the country means that he/she abandoned his right to live

in the country. He/she appears bankrupt losing all the ethics of patriotism, thereby causing him/her to face harsh criticism that he/she is no longer eligible to live in the country.

We should make a distinction between the nation, which is the possession of everyone and not the possession of the ruler or his party, on the one hand, and other ideas and approaches we oppose to, on the other.

In the democratic countries, all the people race in the streets to gain the support of voters, and in light of this point, those in the government and others backing the opposition get equal chances in their attempt to win support of voters. Therefore, the Yemeni opposition is extremely foolish destruction a means for destroying the regime, or exploits any harms to the national interests and achievements in winning support of the public in streets and instigate the public against the regime. In this way, the opposition contradicts expectations of the public and work against the public interests, particularly if it reached the extent of harming the country's sovereignty and stability, as well as values and principles for the sake of which people saved no precious efforts.

It is time for us to learn about the opposition of construction, the type of opposition organized for the sake of the country and its people. We need to make a distinction between nobility of the opposition's role and behaving foolishly in a way harming the nation and its interests and people.

Source: 26 September Weekly.

SILVER LINING

Major challenge facing National Unity

ast week, both the ruling GPC and the opposition coalition JMP gathered in Aden to continue their suspended dialogue. Their media outlets described the meetings as good. The statements of the socialist and Islah parties in which they condemned calls for separation pleased the ruling party and the president. These parties openly announced they opposed any project for splitting the country again. For the last few months, we have been



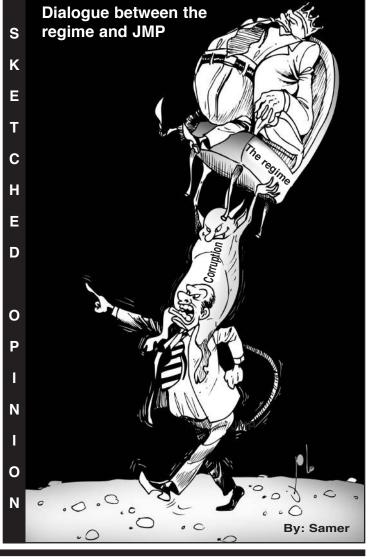
frightened by the accusations of foreign agencies of instigating the protests in the southern governorates in an attempt to destabilize and divide the country.

In my opinion, the major genuine challenge facing national unity now is not the foreign conspiracy as the government assumes; it is rather the frustration and defeat the people feel at heart. We remember what happened during the 1994 civil war. The people in the south did believe in the unification and stood by it. They let down their leaders when they declared secession. No foreign support to these leaders was able to defeat the will of the people in gripping a unified country. They were brought up to love and work for achieving the sublime goal of uniting the north and south. People in the north and south were hopeful that their situation would improve in a united Yemen.

Does this feeling remain the same? I doubt. The unification coincided with upheavals both at the domestic and regional levels that consequently brought about economic hardships. The situation of the people in the south exacerbated mainly after the 1994 civil war. Thousands of civil servants and military personnel were illegally dismissed; big chunks of land were looted by influential military and tribal figures. These people have felt injustice and in such a situation where frustration conquers the hearts and minds, it is possible that people become ready to engage in coalition even with the devil to put an end to their plight. This is why outraged people chanted separation calls during the protests of pensioners. They are psychologically defeated and feel fed up to even see people from the north in their governorates. This is the genuine challenge facing the national

Such frustration and disappointment cannot be sorted out just by beautiful rhetoric. Last week, president Saleh paid a visit to Dhal'e governorate. He delivered a nice speech to soften the tense situation mainly in this part of the country. He made some promises including setting up a university. Mr. President, the people are not looking for universities; they need the rule of law and justice. People are expecting concrete actions that can conquer the feeling of oppression, inequality and fragmentation.

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



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26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army Thursday, November 15

Top Stories

- Government meets with GPC General Secretariat in Aden
- President Saleh gives orders to resolve situations of Yemeni students in Egypt
- Yemeni Consul to U.S. and Lawyer Mohammed Allaw visit Sheikh Al-Moayyad and Zayed in a Colorado
- Authorities seize up to 40 thousand arm pieces until now
- 21 Arab and foreign ambassadors to Yemen to present their credentials on Nov. 25
- Saudi Arabia denies border problems with Yemen

The Saudi Interior Minister prince Naif Bin Abdul Aziz has denied that there are border problems between Yemeni and Saudi governments, the weekly reported. "The issue of Yemeni Saudi borders is over and we agreed on every thing" prince Naif stated in a press conference held here after a meeting with Minister of Interior Rashad Al-Alimi on mutual security cooperation.

Naif said that the Kingdom is working on reinforcing its border security with the adjacent countries, which are acquainted with all steps taken in this regard. Speaking on sneaking through joint borders, the Saudi prince said that both countries suffer from such phenomenon and concerned bodies in Yemen as well as in Saudi Arabia fight it strongly, adding that the two countries' efforts



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party Thursday, November 15

began producing the desired results.

Top Stories

- Radfan victims' lawyer accuses Lahj authorities of prolonging case procedures
- Taiz unions and organizations claim government to cash money owed to employees
- Socotra students protest against lack of teachers in their schools
- National campaign to increase awareness of pregnant and breastfeeding women about qat
- Parliament committee to investigate obstacles hindering inauguration of Satellite Education Channel
- Court adjourns trial of suspected

The State Security Specialized Penal Court adjourned on Monday issuance of a sentence against Yemenis accused of offering intelligences to an Arab state until the end of the current November without explaining the reasons behind that, the weekly reported. The first suspect Ahmed al-Dhahok,50, had confessed in the last hearing held on June 26 that he was working along with Abdul-Aziz al-Hatbani, 36, in the Saudi intelligence and that he had been dismissed.

During the hearing, the prosecutor affirmed to the court that the Egyptian Embassy to Sana'a' told them that suspects had extorted money from them alleging that they had intelligences concerning the Egyptian security. The prosecution had accused Ahmed Al-Dhahok and Abdul Aziz Al-Hatbani of giving false intelligences to the Egyptian Embassy.

It further spelled out that the suspects had pretended to the embassy that Kuwait and Saudi had funded and trained terrorist groups in order to dispatch them to launch terrorist operations in Egypt.



Al-Wasat Comprehensive **Independent Weekly** Wednesday, November 14

Top Stories

- Dialogue between parties is merely a waste of time and impossible to reach tangible results, says YSP leader
- Parliament approves additional provisions, helps corruption become rampant
- Minister of Local Administration praises Dhale's unionist role, dismisses Damt officials
- Penal Court adjourns verdict on intelligence case in favor of other Arab states
- Reporters Without Borders condemns charges filed against Al-Khaiwani
- Government pays US\$ 6 million as a compensation to a Canadian
- London-based Islamic Media Observatory demands Yemen to release an Uzbek detainee

The London-based Islamic Media Observatory asked the Yemeni government to immediately release the Uzbek national, who has been

detained in the Sana'a Passport Authority's jail over his deteriorated health, the independent weekly reported in a front page story. The inmate suffers osteopsthyrosis, which made him disabled due to lack of healthcare inside the jail.

Othman Fakhraddin, who has been living poor jail conditions for two years, according to the London-based observatory's letter, was detained by the Sana'a political security and then thrown in the Passports Authority's jail in preparation to deport him. The victim is still thrown in jail despite the fact that he obtained a refuge certificate from the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees in Sana'a on January 21, 2004. The observatory pressed the Yemeni government not to deport Fakhraddin to his home country because he may be exposed to fatal risks as Uzbekistan is known for launching extensive arrest campaigns against Muslims.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization Tuesday, November 13

Top Stories

- Joint Meeting Parties' Executive Staff condemns threats against opposition politicians and activists
- Yemen Female Media Forum call members to attend meeting with German Ambassador
- Band of highwaymen kills one, injures another in Ibb province
- Pesticide tradesmen and importers appeal to President to resolve their crisis with Ministry of Agriculture U.S. Embassy's attacker faces up to

five years in jail

The State Security Court sentenced a man to five years in jail on Monday for shooting at the U.S. Embassy's compound in 2006, the weekly paper reported. It added that the prosecution had charged the gunman, Saleh Al-Ammari, who shot a semi-automatic rifle at the Embassy in December, of seeking to damage Yemen's diplomatic relations, the agency said. Al-Ammari was wounded after embassy guards returned fire. No embassy staff were hurt.

The weekly quoted U.S. press as praising Yemeni government's efforts in cracking down on Al-Qaeda-linked militants after an attack on the U.S. warship Cole in 2000 that killed 17 sailors. An explosive-filled boat also rammed the French tanker Limburg off the Yemeni coast in 2002. The western media consider Yemen as the ancestral home of Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden, saying that its government jointed the U.S.-led war on terrorism after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress (Ruling Party)

Monday, November 12

Top Stories

- GPC rejects any attempts of political extortion, says Sheikh Al-Barakani
- Minister of Local Administration: land and retirees' issues to be resolved by Thursday
- President Saleh attends inaugural ceremony of Arab Games Round in

Cairo

- Statement for the fiscal year 2008 expects an estimated budget deficit of YR 399 billion
- Yemeni Saudi relations are excellent at all levels, Foreign Minister says
- COCA lashes out at random planning and poor financial management in Ministry of Technical Education & Vocational Training

A report released by the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) disclosed that there have been many spending violations in the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training during the fiscal year 2006, the ruling party's mouthpiece reported. It added that the report strongly criticized the random planning and poor financial management in the ministry, plus the irresponsible exploitation of project provisions in the Third Five-Year Plan 2006 - 2010. The report, of which a copy was obtained by Al-Methaq.net, indicated that there are eight projects that received provisions amounting up to YR 690 million in the state's general budge for the fiscal year 2006, but the implementation of which hasn't yet been completed. Another four projects received an amount of YR 75 million, however, they were not approved by the budget plan.

The report praised the ministry's achievement regarding the surplus of YR 3 billion, clarifying that nearly YR 5.5 billion has been allocated to 18 projects in the state's budge of the year 2006. It, however, criticized those who exceeded the allocated provisions for 19 projects contained in the budget and lashed out at the ministry's failure to implement 6 projects with a total cost of nearly YR 3.4 billion.

From Karl Popper to Karl Rove – and back

By: George Soros

n his novel 1984, George Orwell chillingly described a totalitarian regime in which all communication is controlled by a Ministry of Truth and dissidents are persecuted by political police. The United States remains a democracy governed by a constitution and the rule of law, with pluralistic media, yet there are disturbing signs that the propaganda methods Orwell described have taken root here.

Indeed techniques of decention have undergone enormous improvements since Orwell's time. Many of these techniques were developed in connection with the advertising and marketing of commercial products and services, and then adapted to politics. Their distinguishing feature is that they can be bought for money. More recently, cognitive science has helped to make the techniques of deception even more effective, giving rise to political professionals who concentrate only on "getting results."

These professionals take pride in their accomplishments, and may even enjoy the respect of an American public that admires success no matter how it is achieved. That fact casts doubt on Karl Popper's concept of open society, which is based on the recognition that, while perfect knowledge is unattainable, we can gain a better understanding of reality by engaging in critical thinking.

Popper failed to recognize that in democratic politics, gathering public support takes precedence over the pursuit of truth. In other areas, such as science and industry, the impulse to impose one's views on the world encounters the resistance of external reality. But in politics the electorate's perception of reality can be easily manipulated. As a result, political discourse, even in democratic societies, does not necessarily lead to a better understanding of reality.

The reason democratic politics leads to manipulation is that politicians do not aspire to tell the truth. They want to win elections, and the best way to do that is to skew reality to their own benefit.

This insight should lead us not to abandon the concept of open society, but

to revise and reaffirm the case for it. We must abandon Popper's tacit assumption that political discourse aims at a better understanding of reality and reintroduce it as an explicit requirement. The separation of powers, free speech, and free elections alone cannot ensure open society; a strong commitment to the pursuit of truth is also required.

We need to introduce new ground rules for political discourse. These cannot be identical to scientific method, but they should be similar in character, enshrining the pursuit of truth as the criteria on which political views are to be judged. Politicians will respect, rather than manipulate, reality only if the public cares about the truth and punishes politicians when it catches them in deliberate deception. And the public should care about the truth because deception misleads people in choosing their representatives, distorts policy choices, undermines accountability, and destroys trust in democracy.

Recent history provides convincing evidence that policies based on a misrepresenting reality backfire. The Bush administration's response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 - declaring a War on Terror and treating criticism as unpatriotic - succeeded in gathering public support, yet the results were the exact opposite to what the Bush administration intended, both for itself and the United States.

The practical difficulty is in recognizing when political professionals are distorting reality. There is an important role here for the media, the political elite, and the educational system, which must all act as watchdogs. In addition, the public needs to be inoculated against the various techniques of deception. The most effective techniques operate at the subconscious level. When emotions can be aroused by methods that bypass consciousness, the public is left largely defenseless. But if the public is made aware of the various techniques, it is likely to reject them.

One influential technique - which Republican pollster Frank Luntz says that he learned from 1984 - simply reverses meanings and turns reality on its head. Thus, Fox News calls itself "fair and balanced," and Karl Rove and his acolytes turn their opponents' strongest traits into their Achilles' heels, using insinuations and lies to portray the opponents' achievements as phony. That is how insinuations of cowardice and foul play helped defeat two highly decorated Vietnam War veterans, Senator Max Cleland in 2002, and John Kerry in 2004, while Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney - both of whom avoided military service - were portrayed as true

Another technique is transference: accusing opponents of having motives or using methods that characterize the accuser himself. For example, David Horowitz, who accuses me of being "the Lenin of the anti-American conspiracy," is a former Trotskyite for whom opponents are never adversaries to be debated, but rather enemies to be crushed.

The American public has proven remarkably susceptible to the manipulation of truth, which increasingly dominates the country's political discourse. Indeed, a whole network of publications. some of which manage to parade as mainstream media, is devoted to the task. Yet I believe that it is possible to inoculate the public against false arguments by arousing resentment against Orwellian Newspeak. What is needed is a concerted effort to identify the techniques of manipulation - and to name and shame those who use them.

Now is an ideal time to begin that effort. Americans are now awakening, as if from a bad dream. What we have learned from recent years' experience what we should have known all along is that the supremacy of critical thought in political discourse cannot be taken for granted. It can be ensured only by an electorate that respects reality and punishes politicians who lie or engage in other forms of deception.

Fund Management, and of the Open Society Institute.

George Soros is Chairman of Soros

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By: Manouchehr Mottaki

major shortcoming in today's world is the persistence of a zero-sum sense of geopolitics. The world expected something different in the post-Cold War era to promote peace and stability. Instead, after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, momentum swung toward a "global war on terror" that, in practice, Cold War mentality and supporting strategies of preemptive war and regime change that have intensified insecurity, instability, and international terrorism.

Consider my country, Iran, which has not invaded any country in the past 250 years. After decades of struggle against dictatorship and foreign domination, we secured our freedom and independence in 1979 by establishing a political system of our own choosing. But instead of establishing friendly relations with Iran based on this new reality, the United States has consistently sought to restore its domination, even providing massive diplomatic, financial, and military support to Saddam Hussein in his war against my country during the 1980's.

The current dispute over Iran's peaceful and legal nuclear program is part of this pattern, replete with unfounded accusations, double standards, and moral and legal inconsistency, all hidden behind the alleged threat of proliferation. But Iran's peaceful nuclear program originates from the late 1960's and 1970's. Iran's energy demand will exceed its supply, possibly reducing or even eliminating its oil export capacity in the near future. Thus, Iran urgently needs to produce 20,000 megawatts of nuclear power by 2020.

As long ago as 1973, the US government itself saw that Iran would need nuclear power. Indeed, the US expected that Iran would be capable of generating 20,000 megawatts by 1994. Despite the encouragement of Iran's civil nuclear program by the US, Britain, Germany, and France, they all ultimately reneged on their contractual commitments after our revolution in 1979. Today, some of these governments are even questioning

Iran's quest Iran's need for nuclear energy - a matter that was obvious to them 30 years ago.

Iran does not need nuclear weapons to protect its regional interests, and such weapons have no place in Iran's security strategy. It seeks to win the confidence of its neighbors and has remained within the confines of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The latest report from the International Atomic Energy Agency has verified that there has been no diversion of Iran's civil became the rationale for maintaining a nuclear program to weapons development. Iran has even proposed regional and multinational participation in its uranium enrichment facilities - only to be met by resounding silence from the Western powers.

Meanwhile, US policy toward nuclear non-proliferation and the NPT regime is a case in point of double standards and the lack of sensitivity to other countries' security concerns. While the US seeks to use unilateral and unlawful pressure to preclude Iran's legitimate right to peaceful nuclear energy, it has assisted in developing Israel's nuclear capabilities. Indeed, the US has acted as a buffer to insulate Israel-whose prime minister has boasted about its nuclear weaponsfrom any international scrutiny, while ignoring calls by Iran and other countries to create a Middle East nuclear-free zone.

With regard to international terrorism. Iran, as a victim of terrorism, condemns it in all its forms. But the same double standards are apparent here. The US has used and is still using extremist organizations to promote its foreign policy goals.

This could be said of US conduct with regard to al-Qaeda's precursors in Afghanistan in the 1980's, and of its current dealings with terrorist groups such as the People's Mujahadeen Organization (MKO), and the Kurdish PEJAK and PKK. The MKO, which was once on Saddam Hussein's payroll and responsible for the loss of many innocent lives in Iran and Iraq, is now under the protection of the US government in Iraq and operates freely in the US itself.

Iran has always considered regional stability to be in the vital interest of its own security and development. Our efforts to establish a regional security and

cooperation arrangement in the Persian Gulf date back to 1986, at the height of the war with Iraq. We have continued to pursue these initiatives in the post-Saddam era, engaging in confidencebuilding measures with our immediate neighbors in order to offset extra-regional agitations.

Iran currently applies the same policy considerations to Iraq and Afghanistan, despite its opposition to the US-led invasions of these countries. Iran has established excellent relations with post-Taliban Afghanistan and post-Saddam Iraq, and the most senior officials of both countries consistently reject US allegations of Iranian interference. These accusations are designed to portray Iran as a threat to regional stability and frighten other countries into creating an anti-Iran coalition, with the aim of diverting attention from the consequences of failed US policies not only in Iraq, but also in Lebanon and with respect to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The world deserves better. A just global order must be defined in terms of peace and security, alleviation of poverty, a fairer distribution of wealth, better protection of the environment, and respect for local cultural particularities. We can build a global order based on justice, one that negates the current unipolar order by developing tolerance for diversity instead of seeking imposition and assimi lation. Such an order will be culturally inclusive and less hegemonic, encompassing states, non-state actors, and social groups to minimize violence and maximize economic well-being

Erich Fromm, the late German psychologist and philosopher, once said that "history is a graveyard of cultures that came to their catastrophic ends because of their incapacity for planned and rational voluntary reaction to challenges." We cannot predict our fate, but we can be certain that security will only come through real solidarity and global

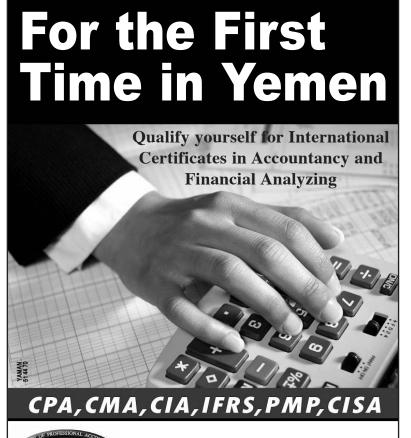
H. E. Manuchehr Mottaki is Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Copyright: Project Syndicate/Asia Society, 2007.

Chat rooms...lawful or unlawful?

Establishing Sharia legislation, prescribing law, laying down rules and regulations, and defining systems is a function specific to Allah

Allah has provided articulate proofs and clear source-evidence in order that believers should have no trouble finding their way to the particulars of His legislation, with reference to some of this source-

The main source-evidences upon which the entire ummah (Muslim community of believers) fully agrees are the Qur'an and the Sunnah (or Hadith, the teachings and practices of the prophet Mohammed), ijama'a (scholarly consensus) and qiyaas, the process of analogical reasoning from a known injunction (nass) to a new injunction.





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Some religious scholars say internet chat rooms are prohibited, but a lot of people, especially youth, seem can't do without it.

By: Nisreen Shadad For The Yemen Times

uslims around the world face many problems, but the question remains of whether something is lawful or unlawful? Internet chat rooms are one recent issue scholars have been discussing.

According to Ahmed Al-Hadad, a Dubai mufti (a jurist who interprets Muslim law) and lawgiver, internet chat rooms are prohibited because they lead to immoral deeds. Speaking to Arabia.net, he said chat rooms are similar to prohibited places of privacy where people go to do that which is prohibited. Added to that, he says, it wastes time.

Islam protects the soul and body, prohibiting anything that may corrupt them; however, Muslims living in this "bad nest" are wasting their time, money and youth, Al-Hadad asserts.

However, Abdulaziz Atiq, assistant director of the Cultural Center for Foreigners' Call, notes, "We use chat rooms at the center to introduce Islam and many people get to know about it this

As an example, Umm Mohammed, a student at the center, recalls, "Almost five years ago, I met a woman at the Cultural Center who had learned about Islam via

chatting and subsequently, came to Yemen to convert and study it."

Abdullah Al-Hashidi, professor of the Hadith at Iman University, says, "Based on the figh (understanding, especially of jurisprudence) principle 'al-wasaa'ilu lahaa ahkaamul-magaasid' ('the means take on the same ruling as their aims') which the lawgiver has permitted and allowed, whenever something leads to that which is good, it is lawful. But at other times, when they lead to that which is evil, they are added to those matters that are prohibited."

However, Atiq points out, "The problem is not the glass, but rather, the user of the glass.'

Al-Hashidi agrees, commenting, "Chat rooms, the internet and television are simply tools with two sides – good and bad. We are to avoid the bad and enjoy the

According to Huda Ahmed, an Islamic law student at Sharqeen Mosque, prohibitions are to save the soul and the mind of Muslims, but many become angry upon hearing that something is banned.

In his book, "Islam Between East and West," the great Bosnian Muslim intellectual Alija Ali Izetbegovic writes: "Morality was born out of prohibition and has remained so until today. Prohibition is religious in nature and origin. Of the Ten Commandments, eight are prohibitions. Morality is always a restrictive or prohibitive principle opposing animal instincts

Therefore, according to Ahmed, the purpose is not to prevent enjoyment, but rather to protect the purity of the heart and the house of faith.

"The importance of man's deeds rests in their effect upon the heart. Deeds are a building whose foundation is faith," she

Ibn Al-Qayyim, one of the Islamic scholars, said that whoever wants his building to be tall, must consolidate its foundation and take great care of it, because it is according to the foundation that his building can reach the highest height and stand firm.

Therefore, Ahmed explains, deeds are considered like a building whose foundation is faith. If the foundation is firm, it will be able to hold the building and have more added to it. Likewise, if any part of the building is destroyed, it will be easy to repair.

However, if the foundation is not firm enough, the building won't be constructed properly or strongly and it will be unstable. If any part of the foundation is destroyed, the building either will collapse or won't stand long before it is destroyed.

Muslims should respect both sides, as certain rulings (fatawa) fit a particular country and need to be applied, but not in another. Understanding the Usool Al-Fiqh (the fundamental principles of Figh) principle causes man to understand the comprehensive evidence scholars use from the Our'an and the Sunnah, said Ahmed.

Ahmed further explains that there are five ahkaam (rulings) upon which fiqh revolve: Waaiib (obligation) is that for which the doer is rewarded, while the one who neglects to do it is punished. Haraam (prohibition) is the opposite of an obligation.

Masnoon (recommended) is that for which the doer is rewarded, while the one who neglects to do it is not punished. Makrooh (detested) is the opposite of a recommendation. Lastly, Mubaah (permissible) is where both its doing and its neglect are equivalent.

These five rulings differ widely according to their state, level and effect. Thus, whatever is pure or of overwhelming benefit, the shaari' (lawgiver) commands its performance by either an obligation or a recommendation. Likewise, whatever is pure or of overwhelming harm, the lawgiver ceases its doing with either an absolute prohibition or a dislike.

FACES & TRACES

Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

Antoine Marie de Saint-Exupéry, a Frenchman of noble and timeless values

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

ntoine Marie de Saint-Exupéry was a French aviator, writer and poet. Born in 1900 in Lyon into an old family of provincial nobility, his father died in 1904, leaving the family in need of money. Consequently, his mother and her five children were forced to move in with her aunt in Le Mans in northern

Saint-Exupéry was enrolled in Our Lady of the Holy Cross School in Le Mans in 1909 and later sent to the Jesuit School in Villefranche.

During World War I, he was sent to Fribourg, Switzerland and enrolled in Marist College. He passed his baccalaureate exam in 1917 and prepared for admittance to the Naval Academy; however, he failed his final exams and instead entered L'École des Beaux-Arts to study architecture.

Saint-Exupéry's dream of aviation came true in 1921 when he was called up for military service in the Air Force and sent to Strasbourg, France for training as a pilot. He made his first solo flight in a Sopwith F-CTEE aircraft on July 9, 1921.

The following year, he obtained his pilot's license, was offered a transfer to

the Air Force and assigned as an assistant to landing services. His he was sent to Rabat, Morocco, where he rank of second lieutenant. However, due to

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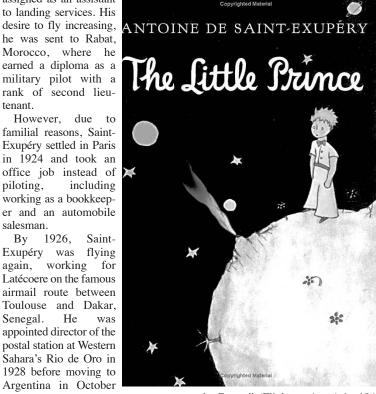
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Job Announcement

The YPHR/ Health Systems 20/20 Project funded by USAID announces two vacant positions. The HS20/20 project focuses on health systems strengthening world wide. In Yemen the project provides support at the central level to activities such as Health Information System /Immunization, National Health Accounts and Geographical Information System components. The project also supports the five USAID –targeted governorates of Al-Jawf, Amran, Sa'adah, Marib and Shabwa. The following positions will work as part of the project team in Sana'a with travel to other governorates.

Position 1: HIS/ Immunization Technical Specialist

 Lead the Immunization Information System project and aspects of other Health System projects including planning, training and implementation of all project activities.

Skills/Knowledge Required:

- BS/BA (minimum) or MPH/MHE/MBA, or a Doctorate Degree (desirable), in Public Health, Economics, Business, St.atistics, or other related field.
- 6-10 years of relevant professional experience with a BS/BA, 5 years with a Masters Degree; or 2-4 years of such experience with a Doctorate Degree.
- Relevant experience areas include Immunization, Public Health, HIS System Strengthening, and Statistics.
- · Excellent inter-personal and communication skills.
- Substantial experience with computers, internet, data processing, and spreadsheets
- Strong writing skills.
- · Fluency in English and Arabic strongly desired.

Position 2: Communication, Training and Monitoring Technical Specialist.

Work collaboratively with the project team and focus on supporting the implementation
of the Communication, Monitoring and Training components of the project which
include training, packaging of information for public consumption, monitoring results
and dissemination of outputs.

Skills/Knowledge Required:

- A University degree in a Communication, Education, Statistics or related field.
- 3-5 years of professional experience in the communication, education, monitoring or related field.
- · Excellent inter-personal and communication skills.
- Substantial experience with computers, internet, data processing, and spreadsheets
- · Excellent writing skills.
- · Fluency in English and Arabic required.

Deadline for application is Nov. 28, 2007. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Please send CV and a cover letter in English to Fax: 967 1 302 722, or email to ralmansoury@yemenphr.com.





The U.S. Department of State Middle East Partnership Initiative

Announces the

Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program

The U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and AMIDEAST are pleased to announce the **Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program.** The Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program is a new MEPI initiative for capable and highly-motivated high school graduates in the Middle East who could not otherwise afford to study abroad. The scholarship will provide a four-year, university-level scholarship and internship opportunities at select institutions of higher learning in the Middle East for individuals who have the potential to become leaders in their fields. The first Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship recipients should be prepared to begin the program in the **summer of 2008.**

The primary objective of MEPI's Tomorrow's Leaders scholarship program is to build, from among students of underserved backgrounds from the Middle East and North Africa, a cadre of university-age leaders who are civic-minded, intellectually able, and professionally skilled, and who will become the community, business, and national leaders of the future. The program intends to build leadership skills and the spirit of civic engagement and volunteerism among outstanding university-age students at American University in Cairo, American University of Beirut, and the Lebanese American University.

Scholarship recipients may pursue an undergraduate degree in the field of their choice, though *special* consideration can be given to candidates who have expressed an interest in the areas of legal studies, economics, education, journalism, history, and/or political science.

Participation in the program includes: travel, academic fees for four years of university study accident and sickness insurance, housing, and a monthly allowance.

Eliaibility

- Graduated from high school in 2007 and a citizen and permanent resident of Yemen;
- Has a strong academic record and the potential for academic success in admission exams; (Only short-listed candidates will be asked to take the January 2008 SAT I exam);
- Proficient in written and spoken English with an Institutional TOEFL (ITP) score of at least 530 (score report must be less than two years old);
- Demonstrates maturity, flexibility and leadership potential;
- Is able to start the program in the summer of 2008.

If you do not have a TOEFL score, or if your score is more than two years old, contact AMIDEAST for test scheduling

Deadline for submitting the application is December 31, 2007.

The application will be available online soon at www.amideast.org/tl

AMIDEAST

AMIDEAST Sana'a AMI

Walk-in: Off Algiers Street #66 Mail: P.O. Box 15508 Telefax: (01) 400-279, 280, 281 E-mail: yemen@amideast.org Attn: Abdulaziz Dada AMIDEAST Aden
Walk-in: 162 Miswat Street, Khormaksar
Mail: P.O. Box 6009, Khormaksar
Telefax: (02) 235-069, 070, 071
E-mail: aden@amideast.org

Attn: Gehan Adam

AMIDEAST Mukallah Walk-in: Hadramaut University, Fuah Mail: Hadramaut Un. P.O. Box 50511 Telefax: 371-560 E-mail: mukallah@amideast.org

For more information about the Middle East Partnership Initiative, please visit: www.mepi.state.gov.



Job Opportunities

The French Agency for Development (Agence Française de Développement : AFD) opens a new office in Sana'a and seeks Yemeni staff

SECRETARY/ACCOUNTANT

Job description

Clerical works :

Photocopying, faxing, mailing... Organise meetings Perform translations

Maintain an adequate filing and archiving system Answer phone calls & receive visitors at the Agency

Accountability :

Daily accountancy: register all the expenses, translate the nature and allocate proper accounting and financial codes (with AFD software)

Prepare & send monthly accountancy to head quarter.

Perform cash inventories & bank reconciliations Check fund transfers & manage petty cash

Education/skills requirement

Education degree & area: Minimum of two years post secondary education in accountability or other closely related areas.

Work experience : A minimum of two years practical experience in accountability, preferably in an international firm or organisation.

Others: Experience with working with computerized accounting systems.

Language skills : Arabic : mother tongue. Excellent French & English language skills (written and spoken).

Contract description

Full time. Permanent contract with a mandatory probationary period of three months Attractive salary (according to experience)

DRIVER/LOGISTICIAN

Job description

Drive AFD staff in Sana'a and sometimes in the backcountry.

Participate to the preparation of field visits

Take care of administrative procedures

Ensure the maintenance of the vehicle

Organize and ensure regular office purchases

Participate actively to the setting up of new AFD office in Sana'a (furniture, network, telephone exchange...)

Answer phone calls & receive visitors at the Agency

Education/skills requirement

Education degree & area : Secondary school diploma (minimum).

Work experience: A minimum of two years practical experience in the same field, preferably in an international firm or organisation

Others : minimum computer skills. Good knowledge of the administrative organisation

and procedures in Yemen.

Former police officer would be a plus

Language skills: Arabic: mother tongue. Good English language skills (written and spoken). Knowledge of French would be an asset.

Contract description

Full time. Permanent contract with a mandatory probationary period of three months
Attractive salary (according to experience)

Application should contains a completed resume' and cover sheet A written test and/or interview may be held

Contact person: Simon Goutner - project officer. E-mail: goutners@groupe-afd.org
AFD Sana'a Agency (temporary address)
French Embassy, French Trade Commission
Khartoum street, (ex-Moujahed street) P.O Box 1054. Fax: 967 1 269 068



12 19 November, 2007 Photo Essay

Domestic violence against children in Yemen

Photos by: Democracy School

he children in these pictures were subjected to mistreatment and domestic violence by their parents, family members, and community. These photos may be repulsive for most of us, but they depict the pains and suffering that most children are going through. Today many NGOs are calling to reconsider the childhood states in Yemen; one of their demands is to adjust the laws to protect the Yemeni children from sexual abuse, oral and physical punishment at home, school or elsewhere. A rising number of children are becoming victims of domestic violence, but few measures have been done to prevent that.



Hanan, tortured violently by her stepmother, was in intensive care for months to recover from injuries. She begged her stepmother to show kindness and compassion.



Fares, age 2 (now deceased), shown in Al-Thawrah hospital - kids section, was allegedly sexually abused by his father.



Ghada, a young girl who lived with her stepmother, was aggressively tortured by her. She was in intensive care for ten days until her death. Her only sin was that she asked her stepmother for mercy.

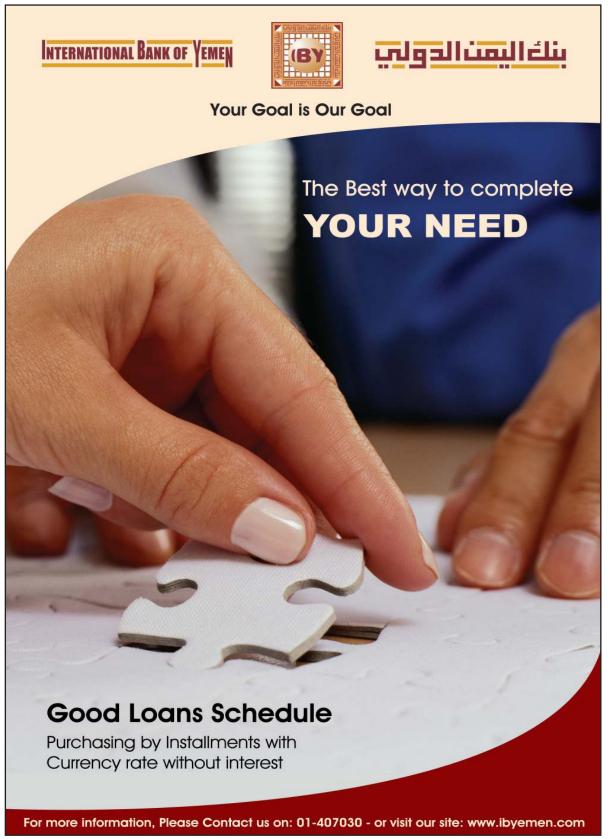


Hani, tortured by his cousin on suspicion of stealing his cousin's *jambiya*, was tied up for four hours and burned 35 times with an iron. His cousin then took him to criminal investigation to force him to confess his crime.



Ya'qub, 10 years old. His father continually tortured him until he died from his father's aggressive violence.







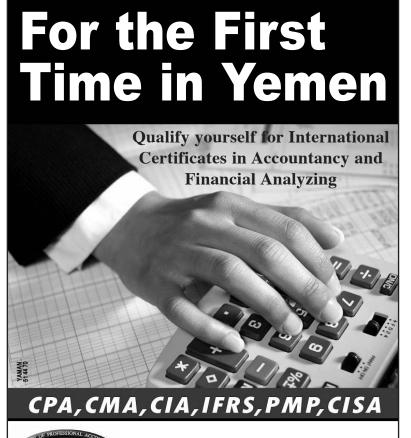


Chat rooms...lawful or unlawful?

Establishing Sharia legislation, prescribing law, laying down rules and regulations, and defining systems is a function specific to Allah

Allah has provided articulate proofs and clear source-evidence in order that believers should have no trouble finding their way to the particulars of His legislation, with reference to some of this source-

The main source-evidences upon which the entire ummah (Muslim community of believers) fully agrees are the Qur'an and the Sunnah (or Hadith, the teachings and practices of the prophet Mohammed), ijama'a (scholarly consensus) and qiyaas, the process of analogical reasoning from a known injunction (nass) to a new injunction.





Millennium Pro Services, Sana'a, Algeria St. in front of Sana'a Trade Center Tel: +967 1 468522, Fax: +967 1 403215. P.O. Box: 11328 wwww.mpsyemen.com, Email: info@mpsyemen.com



Some religious scholars say internet chat rooms are prohibited, but a lot of people, especially youth, seem can't do without it.

By: Nisreen Shadad For The Yemen Times

uslims around the world face many problems, but the question remains of whether something is lawful or unlawful? Internet chat rooms are one recent issue scholars have been discussing.

According to Ahmed Al-Hadad, a Dubai mufti (a jurist who interprets Muslim law) and lawgiver, internet chat rooms are prohibited because they lead to immoral deeds. Speaking to Arabia.net, he said chat rooms are similar to prohibited places of privacy where people go to do that which is prohibited. Added to that, he says, it wastes time.

Islam protects the soul and body, prohibiting anything that may corrupt them; however, Muslims living in this "bad nest" are wasting their time, money and youth, Al-Hadad asserts.

However, Abdulaziz Atiq, assistant director of the Cultural Center for Foreigners' Call, notes, "We use chat rooms at the center to introduce Islam and many people get to know about it this

As an example, Umm Mohammed, a student at the center, recalls, "Almost five years ago, I met a woman at the Cultural Center who had learned about Islam via

chatting and subsequently, came to Yemen to convert and study it."

Abdullah Al-Hashidi, professor of the Hadith at Iman University, says, "Based on the figh (understanding, especially of jurisprudence) principle 'al-wasaa'ilu lahaa ahkaamul-magaasid' ('the means take on the same ruling as their aims') which the lawgiver has permitted and allowed, whenever something leads to that which is good, it is lawful. But at other times, when they lead to that which is evil, they are added to those matters that are prohibited."

However, Atiq points out, "The problem is not the glass, but rather, the user of the glass.'

Al-Hashidi agrees, commenting, "Chat rooms, the internet and television are simply tools with two sides – good and bad. We are to avoid the bad and enjoy the

According to Huda Ahmed, an Islamic law student at Sharqeen Mosque, prohibitions are to save the soul and the mind of Muslims, but many become angry upon hearing that something is banned.

In his book, "Islam Between East and West," the great Bosnian Muslim intellectual Alija Ali Izetbegovic writes: "Morality was born out of prohibition and has remained so until today. Prohibition is religious in nature and origin. Of the Ten Commandments, eight are prohibitions. Morality is always a restrictive or prohibitive principle opposing animal instincts

Therefore, according to Ahmed, the purpose is not to prevent enjoyment, but rather to protect the purity of the heart and the house of faith.

"The importance of man's deeds rests in their effect upon the heart. Deeds are a building whose foundation is faith," she

Ibn Al-Qayyim, one of the Islamic scholars, said that whoever wants his building to be tall, must consolidate its foundation and take great care of it, because it is according to the foundation that his building can reach the highest height and stand firm.

Therefore, Ahmed explains, deeds are considered like a building whose foundation is faith. If the foundation is firm, it will be able to hold the building and have more added to it. Likewise, if any part of the building is destroyed, it will be easy to repair.

However, if the foundation is not firm enough, the building won't be constructed properly or strongly and it will be unstable. If any part of the foundation is destroyed, the building either will collapse or won't stand long before it is destroyed.

Muslims should respect both sides, as certain rulings (fatawa) fit a particular country and need to be applied, but not in another. Understanding the Usool Al-Fiqh (the fundamental principles of Figh) principle causes man to understand the comprehensive evidence scholars use from the Our'an and the Sunnah, said Ahmed.

Ahmed further explains that there are five ahkaam (rulings) upon which fiqh revolve: Waaiib (obligation) is that for which the doer is rewarded, while the one who neglects to do it is punished. Haraam (prohibition) is the opposite of an obligation.

Masnoon (recommended) is that for which the doer is rewarded, while the one who neglects to do it is not punished. Makrooh (detested) is the opposite of a recommendation. Lastly, Mubaah (permissible) is where both its doing and its neglect are equivalent.

These five rulings differ widely according to their state, level and effect. Thus, whatever is pure or of overwhelming benefit, the shaari' (lawgiver) commands its performance by either an obligation or a recommendation. Likewise, whatever is pure or of overwhelming harm, the lawgiver ceases its doing with either an absolute prohibition or a dislike.

FACES & TRACES

Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

Antoine Marie de Saint-Exupéry, a Frenchman of noble and timeless values

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

ntoine Marie de Saint-Exupéry was a French aviator, writer and poet. Born in 1900 in Lyon into an old family of provincial nobility, his father died in 1904, leaving the family in need of money. Consequently, his mother and her five children were forced to move in with her aunt in Le Mans in northern

Saint-Exupéry was enrolled in Our Lady of the Holy Cross School in Le Mans in 1909 and later sent to the Jesuit School in Villefranche.

During World War I, he was sent to Fribourg, Switzerland and enrolled in Marist College. He passed his baccalaureate exam in 1917 and prepared for admittance to the Naval Academy; however, he failed his final exams and instead entered L'École des Beaux-Arts to study architecture.

Saint-Exupéry's dream of aviation came true in 1921 when he was called up for military service in the Air Force and sent to Strasbourg, France for training as a pilot. He made his first solo flight in a Sopwith F-CTEE aircraft on July 9, 1921.

The following year, he obtained his pilot's license, was offered a transfer to

the Air Force and assigned as an assistant to landing services. His he was sent to Rabat, Morocco, where he rank of second lieutenant. However, due to

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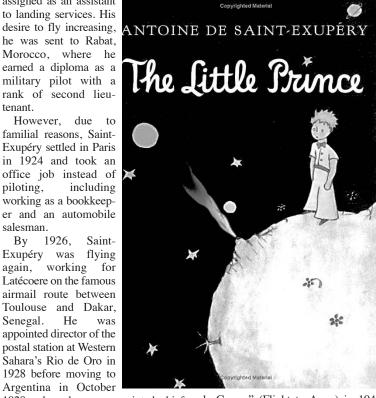
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RIBA celebrates Yemen architecture

AlArab-London -The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) is delighted to present Arabia Felix: the Architecture of Yemen, an exhibition celebrating the spectacular architecture of Yemen, exploring a unique building culture and its vast architectural heritage.

Located in the south-west corner of the Arabian Peninsula. Yemen was at the centre of a network of early urban civilizations that produced one of the world's most distinguished architectural disciplines, dating back hundreds of years. Focusing on four provinces: Dali', Yafi', Shabwah and Hadramut, the exhibition contains dramatic specially commissioned models, original drawings and artwork.

Documenting the accumulated

knowledge, expertise and intelligence explored in detail in a new book by of Yemeni builders, the extraordinary multi-storey buildings that form the heart of many Yemeni cities stand as testament to an expression of a living art and culture: Yemen is a city where architecture is alive, constantly merging the traditional and contemporary. These buildings are a stunning example of ecological and sustainable architecture, as they are continually renewed and rebuilt by their inhabitants using materials drawn from the earth and rock on which they are con-

The exhibition opens at a time when many of the cities and buildings featured are threatened with destruction by commercial development, urban expansion and neglect. This subject is eminent architect Salma Samar Damluji, called The Architecture of Yemen from Yafi' to Hadramut (Laurence King Publishing), which will be launched at a reception on 12 November 2007 from 6.30pm -8.30pm at the RIBA.

Damluji's book spans her research in southern and eastern Yemen from 1985-95, with more recent visits between 2000-6, documenting her research and work with the Yemeni people and master builders to help the established architectural traditions continue and flourish, to invest in them and encourage them.

Sunand Prasad, RIBA President said:"This exhibition is a fascinating insight into the heart of a region that few in the rest of the world know about; an exploration into the rich, sometimes awe-inspiring, but tragically threatened architectural heritage of cities which have been documented only in the last 25 years. Yemen boasts a distinctive legacy of architecture, and this exhibition will give many a wonderful opportunity to discover it."

Architect and author Salma Samar Damluji said: "I am often forced to wonder at the way architectural knowledge is squandered and wasted when I watch the destruction of architectural heritage in the cities in which I worked. My book is about cities that are being lost. It is for those who refuse to let this loss occur unopposed, and who consider that architecture can offer an intelligent pattern or matrix for the future."

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Yemeni gymnastic athlete clinches gold

By: Yemen Times Staff

emeni gymnastic competitor Nashwan Al-Harazi obtained on 16 November the gold medal in the gymnastic competitions, part of the 11th Round of Arab Sporting Games currently held in the Egyptian capital Cairo. Al-Harazi secured the medal just as he won two consecutive games over his top rivals from Egypt and Kuwait, thereby making it the first gold medal ever obtained by a Yemeni athlete in the Cairo-organized round of Arab sporting games, which is due to continue up to Nov. 25.

Some days ago, Ali Khasrouf, a judo athlete from Yemen was awarded a bronze in a 60kg-weight Judo competition. This came after his compatriot Walid Al-Kaizari clinched a silver in the over 73 kg-weight judo competition and received a sum of US\$ 5,500 as an award from the Minister of Youth and Sports Hamoud Mohammed Ubad in recognition of his superior performance.

Al-Kaizari advanced to the Arab Judo final after he demonstrated strong performance in the preliminary tournaments, which enabled him to defeat two competitors, one from Saudi Arabia and the other from Djibouti. He lost the final to the Egyptian athlete Hussein Hafeez with point difference while his compatriot Mohammed Al-Adhmi was eliminated in the preliminary tournaments of over 73 kg judo competitions.

Before the 11th Round of Arab Games kicked off, Yemeni Minister of Youth & Sports declared good financial awards for national athletes in event one of them clinches a gold, silver or bronze. A financial award worth YR 1 million for the one who gets the gold, YR 750 thousand for the one who scores the silver and YR 500 thousand for the one

their being morally honored by the Ministry of Youth & Sports.

On a side note, Yemen News Agency Saba reported that the two athletes Mohammed Al-Sane'a and Mohammed Al-Sharif scored good in their first international participation in gymnastic com-

Opening the taekwondo games, distinctive athlete Akram Al-Noor clinched a bronze in 62 kg-weight competitions, thus bringing to eight the number of medals obtained by Yemeni athletes until last Friday evening. One of the eight medals deserved by Yemeni participants is gold, four silvers and three bronzes.

Female athlete Asma'a Saeed secured a bronze in 53 kg weightlifting competitions with 110 grades in the Arab games currently held in the Egyptian city of Aswan. This is the first medal ever clinched by a female athlete from who secures the bronze, in addition to Yemen in an Arab sporting round.

Italy's "black cat day" aims to halt killings

ROME (Reuters) — Saturday is "black cat day", in Italy, an initiative by an animal rights group to try to stop the killing of thousands of the cats by superstitious citizens convinced they bring bad luck.

Black cats have a bad name in many countries, but nowhere more so than Italy, where a papal edict in the middle ages declared they were instruments of the devil. Black cats were thrown into the fires to join witches burned at the stake

The Italian Association for the Defence of Animals and the Environment (AIDAA) estimates 60,000 were killed last year, to ward off bad luck but also for use in satanic rites and in cosmetics laboratories where black fur gives the best results.

"We want to halt this massacre, educate people and restore dignity to black cats," said AIDAA President Lorenzo Croce.



The group has set up 200 information points in towns and cities around Italy, where passers-by will be given literature on black cats, asked to sign a petition and urged to adopt one of the 5,000 in cat refuges.

AIDAA has also sent a letter to Pope Benedict, a well known cat lover. "It would be great if he would speak out in recognition of our initiative and say the prejudice against black cats is a lot of nonsense," Croce said.





