




Hertz
Take A Break From Your Work Load and Take Hertz Along with you.....
Universal Rent a Car
Sana'a Tel: (01) 440309, Aden (02) 245625
Movenpick Branch (01) 546063

YEMEN TIMES

DHL EXPRESS
we move the world
Sana'a: Hadda St. (01) 441099/8/7/6, Zubairy St. 249878
Aden: (02) 245627/8, Fax: (04) 252455
Hodeidah: (03) 208689, Mukalla: (05) 354844
Seiyun: (05) 404288, Ibb: (04) 407418

Monday, 11 February 2008 • Issue No. 1128 • Price 40 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf www.yementimes.com

Inside:  **5** Efforts to educate girls confront cultural, social and economic challenges  **10** When journalists accept money  **12** Qat increases sex drive but inhibits sexual performances

Saleh forms new committee to end Sa'ada turmoil

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Feb. 10 – Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh decided to form a new presidential committee to end ongoing confrontations between the army and Houthis in Sa'ada governorate, official media sources said on Thursday. Comprised of many social and political dignitaries, the committee is due to start the job soon.

The same sources noted the committee will conduct field visits to the restive governorate with the aim of ending the fighting, pointing out that President Saleh ordered military detachments deployed in Sa'ada to suspend all military operations, according to resolutions made by the National Defense Council last December.

Observers commented on forming a new committee to replace the previous one, made up of government, opposition and parliament staff saying, "The new committee is composed of dignitaries loyal to President Saleh and the ruling party. It will not act neutrally and will be partial to the government at the expense of containing the crisis."

The new committee members are: Mohammed Hatim Al-Khawi, Mohammed Saleh Qura'a, Mohammed Al-Moayadi, Qasim Sallam, Abdu Al-Janadi, Dr. Mute'e Jubeir, Ali Nasser Qarsha, Naji Bakhtan, Hemyar Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Abdulaziz Muqbil, Hussein Al-Sawadi, Hussein Thawra and Saleh Mohammed Sharafah.

Hassan Zaid, Al-Haq Party's Secretary General, criticized the way the new committee was formed, as he claims it is composed of those who object to reaching any truce or peace deal between the government and Houthis.



Government's military intensifies its presence in Sa'ada city.

"The new committee members, mainly Dr. Qasim Sallam, a Baath Socialist & Nationalist Party staff member who doesn't differentiate between Houthi in Yemen and Sistani in Iraq, belong to an extremist sect that only cares about escalating the Sa'ada fighting until it claims the life of the last Shia child there. Sallam is believed to be leading a Baathi battle against Shias here in Sa'ada," Zaid asserted. He further stated, "The remaining committee members are not different from some irresponsible journalists, like Abdu Al-Janadi and Abdulaziz Muqbil, who are dissatisfied with any security, stability and peace in Yemen."

Zaid concluded that the new committee will only hinder the recent Qatar-brokered peace deal. "I think that this committee shouldn't have been formed, since the Yemeni leadership's political will is serious about ending the crisis, clear-cut evidence of this is the deal signed by presidential delegate Abdulkarim Al-Eryani in the presence of Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, a powerful general in Yemen," he added. "Sa'ada locals, in turn, show a strong and true desire to implement the agreement because they have been living in constant suffering since the fighting broke out in June 2004."

The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP)

Higher Council sent a letter to Saleh on Saturday, informing him that the five opposition parties are boycotting the committee.

Official JMP spokesman Mohammed Al-Sabri considered the boycott as his coalition's reaction to the government's disrespect for constitutional institutions, pointing out that the authority cancelled the former mediation committee one month ago and replaced it with another one. He criticized the authority for not reconsidering efforts expended by members of the former committee in June and July 2007 to end the Sa'ada fighting.

Continued on page 3

Qarnaw
For Oilfield Services

QARNAW
(A Member of Al-Shaif Int'l Group)
Qarnaw focuses on delivering the best solutions and multi-services to our clients.
Tel: 01 448447/8, Fax: 01 448446, 3rd Floor, Sana'a Trade Center, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
E-M: godwin@qarnaw.com W: www.shaifgroup.com

GLEMGAS ITALY


طباخات جليز غاز الإيطالية الشهيرة
أحدث وأدق أنظمة السلامة والأمان
شركة ارتكس التجارية المحدودة
ص.ب. 3803، صنعاء، الجمهورية اليمنية
هاتف: 01-400445/6 فاكس: 01-400447 بريد إلكتروني: artex@y.net.ye
فرع صنعاء: صنعاء، الجمهورية اليمنية، هاتف: 02-263112 فاكس: 02-263110/1
معدلات الجبتي التجارية: ص.ب. 5274، مكة المكرمة، الجمهورية العربية السورية، هاتف: 04-338172

atlas
EASY LANGUAGE
Discover the world of Atlas
Where reality and myth & where simplicity and technology meet

Specialized dictionaries (medical, engineering, commercial, scientific, legal, public relations, political, military and sports)
Comprehensive guide to English level tests. Ideal for college and university students. Clear vocal facility.
KTC مجموعة الخلاقي للتجارة والمقاولات المحدودة
Al-khulaki Group For Trading & Construction Ltd.
الرئيسي: صنعاء ت: 606152 لدى فروعا: شعوب: 282429، الشيخ: 395571/2، الكلا: 350842، ولدي موزعتنا: صنعاء - الجابري: 275137، العسكري: 272975، مكتبي: 240419، المظفر: 207692، أبو توفيق: 280302، جميل الديني: 505921، عدن: العدل: 253772، نجر: قيب توب: 239899، العدنانية: مكتبة ادب: 219336، إب: مركز الشارقة: 409094، الكلا: مكتبة شيام: 303090، ذمار: أبو صدام: 501409

Want service and value?
Budget
Car Rental
National and International Reservations
Reservation Tel. 309618 - 506372, Reservation Fax. 240958, Hadda, Reservation Tel. 411727
24 hours (Hot Line) 733652317

الوطنية للتأمين
AL-WATANIA INSURANCE
www.alwataniansurance.com E-mail: alwataniansurance@y.net.ye
Sana'a, Tel: (01) 272713, 272874, Fax: (01) 272924, G.M. (01) 276745, Hodeidah: (03) 219941/44, Fax: (03) 219945
المستشفى الحديث
Al-Hadi Modern Hospital
بصنعاء - فرع عتبان - ت: ٤٤٤٤٤٤ - ف: ٤٤٤٤٤٤
صنعاء - فرع عتبان - ت: ٤٤٤٤٤٤ - ف: ٤٤٤٤٤٤
Email: info@hadithalahl.com www.hadithalahl.com

AL-JEEL AL-JADEED GROUP
A world of books & stationery
الورق الأكثر مبيعا في العالم

www.aljeel-aljadeed.com

KONICA MINOLTA كونيكا مينولتا
COLOUR B/W
Choose your best MFP Products Lineup
Thabet Son Corporation مؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة
Sana'a: Tel: 278546-8 Fax: 283596, Taiz: Tel: 219057 Fax: 214306, Aden: Tel: 244625 Fax: 246787, Hodeidah: Tel: 204483 Fax: 204490, Mukalla: Tel: 316710 Fax: 316711
E-mail: ta@yemen.net.ye, Website: www.thabetson.com.ye

imagine sharpness better than real
SAMSUNG
SAM Digital
IT-Telecom & AV
Tel.: +967 1 494700 - 494999

شركة صناعات ومطاحن عذون (ش.م.ي)
Aden Silos & Mills Co. (S.Y.C.)

Yemen Commercial Bank **YCB** البنك التجاري اليمني
Child's Treasure Program
for better future
Toll free 8008000
Phone 01-299988
www.ycb.com.ye

Protest in Sana'a over Guantanamo

By: Sarah Wolff
& Amira Al-Sharif

SANA'A, Feb. 9 — Hundreds of people and two human rights organizations protested in front of Parliament on Saturday to demand that the government create a special committee to speed up the repatriation process for the nearly 100 Yemeni detainees held at The United States' Guantanamo Bay military prison.

Though other countries such as Jordan and Saudi Arabia have taken back their countries' detainees, the Yemeni and American governments have yet to reach an agreement about how the prisoners will be repatriated. The United States' deputy assistant secretary of defense for detainee affairs said publicly that Yemen must do more to assure that the former detainees do not attack the U.S. or its allies. A main concern is that once released and repatriated, the Yemeni detainees will travel to Iraq to fight in the war.

Attendees at the rally included friends, cousins and family members of detainees currently held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. Many of the people that the Yemen Times interviewed had not heard from their loved ones since the beginning of their incarceration at the facility.

"We heard news about him from Red Cross - he is not on trial nor has any accusations against him," Mohammed Abdullah Al-Bakri, father of Ameen Al-Bakri, who was arrested in 2002. "We want information about why he has not returned yet."

Others like Mohammed Ali Omar, the brother of detainee Othman Ali Omar, say that fraudulent government officials should be detained in Guantanamo instead of his brother.

"Exchange our Yemeni detainees in return for our corrupt rulers," said Ali Omar.

Anger and confusion reigned at the rally, and many of the protesters expressed frustration at the lack of information they had received about the Yemeni prisoners. Though some directed their anger at the Yemeni government for not doing enough to obtain the prisoners' release, many others attended to voice their outrage at both the U.S. and Yemeni governments and to demand the closure of the infamous military prison.

Majed Al-Hosein, a friend of the detainee Basheer Ali Al-Marwalah, said that he wanted freedom of all of the inmates, not only the Yemeni detainees. "We do not think that the Yemeni Government does not want to receive Yemeni detainees," he said. Al-



Hosein implied that he thought the problem with repatriation was America's fault.

The human rights group HOOD organized the protest, and insisted that the government make a special committee to discuss the plans for obtaining the Yemeni prisoners' release.

Another human rights organization, Al-Karamah, also showed up to support the cause.

The American government said that Yemeni government refused to accept them, while the Yemeni government said that American Government refused to send them back to their homes," said Khalid Al-Ansi, a lawyer and executive director of HOOD. "We don't know the reality. So we are here asking for a parliamentary committee to investigate."

President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued a letter last week to American Ambassador to Yemen Steven Seche, asking for the immediate release of the Guantanamo detainees. But the disagreement at the heart of prisoner negotiation remains the same: how will Yemen rehabilitate and keep track of these former detainees?

Though Yemen's government has previously rehabilitated convicts held in the Central Prison through skills-training programs, it is unclear what tactics or plans it will use to deal with the Guantanamo inmates. However, it was reported in the international media that Yemen tried to initiate an Islamic religion re-training program begun in Saudi Arabia. Thus far, Yemenis with jihadist backgrounds released from U.S. or Yemeni custody have only to sign a statement, backed by family and tribe members, claiming that they will no longer pursue violent jihad.

"The Yemeni reaction is clear and

frank; return the detainees, and anyone who has accusations against him will complete his punishment in Yemen. Anyone who does not have accusations against him will return to Yemen and live his normal life," said Sheikh Abdo Raboh Al-Omari, a member of the General People's Congress. "Yemen's government is weak, as our president Saleh asked for their return in every summit and in Europe, but there has been no response."

"Our government said it is not true at all - they demanded many times to get back detainees," said Abdul Rahman Bafadel, member of the Islah Party. "Yemen refused any conditions; we want detainees without any conditions."

"America considers Yemen to be a tribal country. They are afraid of Yemenis as they find them everywhere they go; in Iraq, in Afghanistan," he continued. "Yemen's policy is not what they think. They should give us our detainees and we are free to deal with them according to our constitutional laws."

The New York Times reported on Friday that the US Military's Joint Task Force is preparing to try six high-priority prisoners within a few months in a military court. Among the prisoners who will go to trial is Ramzi Bin Al-Shaibah, a Yemeni citizen and former roommate of Mohammed Atta, purported leader of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S.

This news directly follows the U.S.'s recent admission of the use of controversial interrogation techniques like water boarding, as well as the existence of a secret "prison within a prison" inside of the Guantanamo Bay facility, as reported in USA Today newspaper.

that southern institutions were eliminated and most of the military and civilian government personnel were excluded from important duties.

"Democracy which was associated with unification was changed into a decorative game used to change positions, hide corruption and minimizing authority and privileges of [southern] officials," Al-Mutawakel further explained.

Ahmed Al-Maisari, a GPC leader, also admitted that the state's bad administration and false practices are the key reason behind the popular protests taking place in the southern governorates as well as the anti-unification political dynamic.

Al-Maisari also requested that northerners be in solidarity with southerners, as well as adopt their concerns to avoid lifting secession slogans.

A southern local from Abyan governorate, Al-Maisari further declared that "without unity, Yemen will have a dark future," expressing his willingness to fight in favor of unity, adding that 90 percent of southern locals were in favor of unification during the war of 1994.

Al-Maisari agreed that the solution of the southerners' problem is to create a state which has law and order where corrupt ministers and officials can be held accountable. He added, "If the breakdown of the regime will maintain unity, let it break down," calling all parties to rectify wrong acts and solve problems within Yemen.

Parliament hardliners demand shutdown of Al-Mustaqilah newspaper

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, Feb. 9 — Parliamentarian Ahmed Hashid, considered a disbeliever by a group of parliamentarians affiliated with Islah Party, is part of a media campaign conducted by extremists supported by the ruling General People Congress (GPC). He expects that the campaign will lead to his elimination.

Hashid, also the founder of Al-Mustaqilah, an independent Yemeni newspaper, was exposed to a verbal attack in which eleven Islah Party-affiliated MPs, including Mohammed Al-Hamzi, Aref Al-Sabri, Haza'a Al-Maswari and Saleh, accused him of being a disbeliever. The parliamentarians filed a lawsuit with the Attorney General last Tuesday, demanding that he revoke Hashid's position and close down his newspaper.

In a telephone interview, Hashid told the Yemen Times, "I was considered a disbeliever due to some articles recently published in my newspaper, one of which reported a meeting with an insane person who said, 'Allah was not fair to me.' Another issue related to one of the ladies who inquired about a fatwa related to prayer and adultery."

In turn, a group of political and civil ceremonies held in Yemen condemned the disbelief campaign to which Al-Mustaqilah is subjected, describing the campaign as a means of jeopardizing social peace.

Likewise, Al-Tagheer Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, as well as the Arab Sisters Forum for Human Rights, denounced the attack made against Hashid and his newspaper.

Al-Tagheer issued a statement last



Ahmed Hashid

Wednesday in which it said that the campaign made against Hashid, who is also a member of the Rights and Freedoms Committee in Parliament, came on the heels of a series of harassments and violations Hashid was exposed to before, while parliamentarians remain a deaf ear.

The statement also described the campaign as a way to instigate dangerous attacks against Hashid and his newspaper, highlighting that the hidden motive to use violence in order to eliminate him is likely to happen as a result of the campaign. The statement claimed that the campaign's mastermind was successful in persuading other MPs and bringing the accusation into the limelight of the Yemeni satellite channel, which aired the request made by the Parliament hardliners.

It also pointed out that the Parliament session aired on the Yemeni

satellite channel is clear leverage against Hashid and his newspaper's editorial staff and permanent assets, and demanded that official bodies defend Hashid's life and protect his newspaper's staff and equipment.

The Arab Sisters Forum wondered how the Islah-affiliated parliamentarians were able to use the Islah bloc to frighten Hashid, though he is a member of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), which considered the harassment and violations made against Hashid as state terror.

The forum also demanded that the JMP and Islah be held accountable for what it deems "religious persuasion" and ensure Hashid's safety and constitutional rights. It is irrational to use religion to cause a politician's death, the forum's statement highlighted.

Moreover, legislators considered the acceptance of the lawsuit demanding the shutdown of the newspaper unconstitutional, stating, "Parliament is specialized to enact general laws but not laws related to executive power."

Ameen Hajer, a human rights activist and judge, said, "Hashid has the right to lodge a lawsuit against what he was exposed to". Hajer also described the campaign as a way for other MPs to forget Hashid's disputes with his colleagues.

The Attorney General referred the lawsuit made by Islah-affiliated MPs to the Technical Office to study it, saying that the office will decide whether the lawsuit is valid or not.

Hashid has been exposed to several violations, beginning in 2004 when his chauffeur was killed. In 2006 and 2007 Hashid was detained in the Political Security and in the Passport Authority respectively.

Yemen's poverty gap continues to widen

By: Almgidag Dahesh Mojalli

SANA'A, Feb. 8 — A December 2007 report by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program, or UNDP, concluded that attempts to reduce poverty in Yemen are progressing more slowly than expected.

According to the report, poverty in Yemen decreased between 2005 and 2006, with urban districts benefiting the most from these poverty reduction attempts more than rural districts.

Nevertheless, seven million people still live below the poverty line, with the report indicating that this number will remain constant for at least the next seven years due to Yemen's rapidly growing population.

The report surveyed family budgets between April 2005 and March 2006. The poverty ratio, meaning the percentage of the population living below the poverty line, decreased in rural areas from 42.4 percent in 1998 to 40.1 percent in 2006, while the poverty ratio decreased in urban districts from 32.2 percent to 20.7 percent during the same time period.

This general decrease in poverty was attributed to the connection between urban areas and Yemen's development of the petroleum industry. According to the Yemeni government, the nation's economy mainly depends upon oil production, which constitutes 85 percent of its total exports and 33 percent of gross domestic product. The other 15 percent of Yemen's exports consist of fish, raisins, fruits and vegetables.

"The poor don't benefit from the progress that comes from oil, especially those in rural areas, where oil doesn't contribute to creating jobs because it's an industrial sector requiring professionals usually brought in from abroad," the report indicated.

Outgoing UNDP representative Flavia Pansieri noted that the development process doesn't reach rural areas in the same way it reaches urban ones, which is problematic because 75 percent of Yemen's population lives in rural areas.

For this reason, Pansieri added, "Rural districts must be given priority in offering them services and enabling residents to seize opportunities in order to extricate themselves from the cycle of poverty."

Information within the report indicated that it will be difficult for Yemen to achieve the Millennium

Development Goal related to halving its poverty ratio by 2015. It further indicated that the poverty ratio has increased 10 to 15 percent in 12 governorates in Yemen's northern middle, western middle and eastern districts.

The Social Patronage Fund, the Yemeni government's anti-poverty arm, recently announced that just over 1.44 million individuals benefited from the fund during 2007, receiving more than YR 18.77 billion annually.

The fund's executive manager Qasem Ahmed Khalil explained that distribution occurs through 187 field committees at the district level, affirming that the money is given to recipients via hand-to-hand contact. These field committees are made up of fund employees who go to villages to determine who needs financial aid the most.

However, Ismail Al-Ghabri, whose

4U

As price hikes continue increasing and the poverty gap widens, can the Yemeni government really help destitute citizens with the equivalent of only \$5 per month provided by its Social Patronage Fund?

Send your comments to almgidag_m@yahoo.com

daughter is one of the beneficiaries, noted that while his daughter should receive YR 3,000 every three months, in reality, she only receives YR 2,500. "The cashier only gives my daughter YR 2,500, taking off YR 500 for nothing," Al-Ghabri said

Poor government policies cause southern governorate protests, say politicians

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, Feb. 9 — A number of Yemeni politicians affiliated with the ruling party as well as the opposition unanimously agreed that the popular protests experienced by the southern governorates was due to bad policies set up by the authority after the 1994 war. They demanded political solutions within the framework of the unified state.

In a political seminar organized by the Dialogue Forum in Sana'a, Yaseen Sa'eed No'man, the Security General of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), said that the protests were caused by the "absence of volunteer democratic and peaceful unity projects", which he claims were destroyed in the war by partisan politics.

Yaseen went on to say that south Yemen should be made a partner in the country again, considering the popular demonstrations taking place in the southern governorates is political in nature and the authority failed to implement a national unification project after the 1994 war.

"The authority could not fill the gap represented by the national project. Conspiracies hindered this project, undermining the southern part of Yemen and creating the current popular drive to implement this political and historical project once again. We must understand that this phenomenon is due to an imbalance and infringement resulting in the destruction of the

unification project. Southern Yemen is looted by an authority which did not present any national project," Yaseen further declared.

Parliamentarian Aidarous Al-Naqeeb stated that the 1994 war resulted in dividing Yemenis into "winners and losers" and then into secessionists and unionists, bringing a state of psychological breakdown as well as preventing those considered as losers from feeling that they are full citizens.

Al-Naqeeb further reiterated that "the authority which won in the 1994 war was not only thinking of excluding its partner, the YSP, from the authority. This exclusion was a means of removing everybody and shortening the arena of political opposition in order to control everything."

Mohammed A. Al-Mutawakel, a political science professor in Sana'a University, pointed out that the southern part of Yemen was a state when unified with the northern part. "It merged with the northern part with its institutions within an international treaty and constitution. The unification was conditionally associated with democracy," he added.

Addressing the present problem, Al-Mutawakel stated that after the 1994 power conflict, south Yemen, not the YSP, united with north Yemen. He asserted that south Yemen is considered merely as a branch of north Yemen. He quoted amendments to the constitution in favor of north Yemen as evidence to the claim, elaborating

((وبشر الصابرين الذين اذا اصابتهم مصيبة قالوا انا لله وانا اليه راجعون))
صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بأحر التعازي
القلبية إلى:

معالي الأستاذ / عبد العزيز عبد الغني
رئيس مجلس الشورى
وأخوانه واسرته جميعاً
بوفاة المغفور له /
جلال عبد الغني

تغمده الله الفقيد بواسع رحمته وألهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان
إن لله وإن إليه راجعون

المعزون:

أمين احمد قاسم - رئيس مجلس الإدارة
حسن أمين احمد قاسم - المدير العام
وجميع العاملين بالشركة اليمنية للتجارة والإنشاءات المحدودة

WHAT IT MEANS...

What it means is an analytical feature of Yemen Times, in which Yemeni topics are discussed and analyzed by Yemeni and international experts. Contributions and comments are welcomed, they could be sent to the feature's coordinator: Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih (dralfaqih@yahoo.com).

By: Khaled Fattah
kf62@st-andrews.ac.uk

Somalization is a geopolitical syndrome characterized by multiple long-term security, socio-political and economic breakdowns and abnormalities. In this sense, Somalization resembles other political syndromes like Afghanization, Lebanization and Balkanization.

Although, under normal circumstances, these syndromes are contained and not infectious, experts warn that fragmented societies governed by failing states are more prone to develop much political pathology, including these syndromes.

Some Yemeni politicians and commentators recently have been sounding warning bells at the possibility of Somalization Syndrome, or SS, infecting the young socio-political body of unified Yemen. How valid is this warning and how did they make their diagnosis?

To begin with, spotting cases at high risk of SS is notoriously controversial, with the epicenter of the debate being on which criteria the diagnosis should be made and by whom such criteria are established and validated.

However, the most widely accepted approach among investigators is based on accruing data from independent lines of evidence within weak states governing deeply fragmented societies. The most commonly used diagnostic validator in this approach is the level of ethnic, religious or tribal tensions and the impact of such tensions upon national identity.

On the other hand, in the first approach, diagnosis is made by measuring the degrees of legitimacy, resources and the capacity to penetrate society.

With this in mind, let's attempt to confirm or refute Yemen's diagnosis as a case at risk of Somalization Syndrome. A simple glance at Yemen reveals the absence of ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities that threaten social cohesion or challenge

national identity. Despite existing tribal pluralism, Yemen is one of the most homogenous societies in the Middle East. Serious inter-tribal clashes in Yemen often are political administration-made.

Turning to the Yemeni state, one can't help but notice its fragility and weak performance in delivering its citizens political and social goods. However, the map of the developing world is covered with similarly weak states failing to meet international standard criteria of a "successful state."

Records show that the majority of these states never were infected by SS. Only a few of them, due to particular contextual determinants, collapsed and developed the symptoms of Somalization Syndrome.

Observers of Yemen who adopt a "big picture" analytical focus are well aware that there's nothing new about the failure of the modern Yemeni state – Northern, Southern or united – to exercise its authority easily outside the major cities.

Today's Yemeni state isn't in a ceaseless struggle

for survival in a Darwinian world; rather, it's the Yemeni administration that's struggling to extend the expiration date of a legitimacy based on the unification project.

Yemen isn't a dangerous political community with warlords and gang warfare by rival clans; fortunately, it's a nation free of severe ethnic and/or religious divisions. Instead, what plagues Yemen today is the political abuse by officials who are injecting the state's weak political and administrative bodies with higher doses of patronage and corruption.

Clearly, the warnings about a Somalization Syndrome are politically motivated, with the purpose being to shift focus away from the current political and economic crisis and give the impression that chaos will reign if the Yemeni state fails to control the roaring demands of a democracy based upon inclusion and social justice.

Khaled Fattah is a doctoral candidate, University of St. Andrews, U.K.

Their News

24 charitable associations organize mass marriage



The governorate of Hadramout celebrated last week a mass marriage for 1,100 couples, sponsored by twenty four charitable associations.

The festival was launched in Mukalla, in which the grooms signed marriage contracts in the grand mosque of Mukalla. In the afternoon on the same day, the newlyweds led processions in the streets, followed by locals who performed traditional dances and also a sea parade in Khour Al-Mukalla.

In a nighttime concert attended by Hadramout's governor, prominent Saudi clerics, businessmen, and Minister of Endowment and Preaching Humoud Al-Hatar congratulated the couples and donated 5 million YR to the wedding.

Adel Al-Jueidi, chief organizer of the event, said that the aim of the mass weddings is to help virtuous youth who can't afford to get married and start a family due to financial difficulties. By assisting them financially, he stated that it would help "spread purity and chastity."

Mass marriages are a common practice in Yemen and were initiated in 1992 by Islah Charitable Association. The sponsors bear wedding expenses like meals, gifts and sometimes negotiating with the bride's family to reduce the dowry.

YCMES opens its door to foreign students

The study abroad program at the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies announced that it will accept applications for its inaugural year, starting September 2008.

The program is geared for foreigners who want to study intensive Arabic and the contemporary Middle East.

The college is centrally located in Sana'a, in a residential neighborhood near the main square of the city and within walking distance of the historic old city. It will draw its Arabic language program from the Yemen Language Center, an institute with nearly twenty years of experience.

Moreover, the Program in Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies offers a wide range of university-level courses on contemporary subjects. Each semester, a select number of courses are offered as a cross-discipline reflection of the current faculty, comprised of the world's best specialists on the region, both Yemeni and non-Yemeni, most of whom have positions at leading universities. Classes will be kept small in size, seminar-style with 12-15 students, in order to maintain high academic quality. Students will also be given opportunities to work with faculty in independ-

ent research, gain field experience, perform academic internships, and do volunteer work.

The full class schedule and course offerings will be announced at a later date. Scheduled courses currently include: Comparative Politics of the Middle East; Constitutional, Legislative, and Democratic Developments of the Arab Gulf; History of Modern Arabia; History of Modern Iraq; Islamic Feminism; The Modern Muslim World; Religious Minorities: Muslims & non-Muslims, Islamic Architecture and Urbanism in Yemen; Cultural Anthropology of Yemen & the Middle East, etc.

To learn more about the program, please visit www.ycmes.org

New scheme targets high school drop-outs in Mukalla



The Awan Foundation for Development (AFD) signed last week in Mukalla an agreement with Al-Musadna Association for Health and Education to carry out the first stage of a project targeting absent students in the city of Mukalla.

Commenting on the agreement, Mr. Omer Mubarak, deputy governor, commended the efforts of the AFD for

its education, health and community service projects, as "they always partner with the local authority in many programs and projects." He went on to say that "The new project is central to a larger project designed to reduce the school drop-out rate to preserve the community from many negative phenomena."

For his part, Adel Bahameed, executive director of the AFD, spoke briefly about the project: "It targets only drop-outs from 2003 and onwards, who received marks under 70% in secondary schools, less than the passing mark."

The AFD has allocated more than nine million Yemeni Riyals to train four hundred students in English and computer skills, starting and running private businesses and other vocational training. A group of the targeted students will be given an international computer driving license.

Bahameed added that the so-called Youth Hope project could enable students to find decent jobs and become productive members of society. "The idea of the project focuses on the problem of students who receive low grades from secondary school and are consequently unable to enroll in universities. Those students have two choices: either to work in low-paying, laborious jobs or stay jobless."

Active mTicker mobile service in Yemen

MobiComp announced on Monday that its Active mTicker service has been chosen by Hi-Tec Alaswadi for Information Technology and GSM

Solutions (Hi-Tec).

MobiComp's Active mTicker enables operators to send customized information to subscribers via a scrolling 'ticker' that runs along the bottom of the screen of a mobile device when it is in idle mode. It was specifically developed to solve two problems common to the majority of mobile markets across the globe: users not clicking through to access mobile content because they don't know how to find items of interest, and operators needing to find a way to send personalized content, products, services and advertising to their users.

Hi-Tec was established in 2005 to provide innovative applications to the three mobile operators in Yemen (MTN, Sabafon, and Yemen Mobile).

Nashwan Alaswadi, Hi-Tec's CEO, said: "Mobile operators have spent the last few years debating and experimenting with ways of using high-value, mobile data services. We believe that MobiComp has found the ultimate solution in Active mTicker. Mobile users in Yemen will soon have an easy way to access and find information they are actually interested in."

Active mTicker can be used to deliver customized information and advertising to handsets, including national and international news, weather, sports, ring tones, images, film clips, Java games and news about products, services and events. When users see a message, piece of content or service that interests them, they can access further information through a single click.

The service is already being used by TMN, Portugal's largest mobile operator, and has driven demand for high-

value data services from customers, including ring tones, applications and music downloads.

The technology has also created a new source of revenue for TMN as an effective new media channel for advertisers.

Carlos Oliveira, CEO of MobiComp, mentioned, "We provide a win/win service for

operators and their customers. Pushing relevant content directly to the phone of subscribers encourages them to click through and start spending."

Active Mobile Ticker is a client/server platform that supports a variety of device clients for Symbian S60/S80/UIQ, SIM cards, J2ME, Windows Mobile Smartphone and Pocket PC, Windows XP and Vista.

In October 2007 MobiComp announced that Hi-Tec was providing MobiComp's MobileKeeper Backup and Restore to the three mobile operators in Yemen. Backup and Restore automatically backs up and restores all types of mobile data from contacts, calendars, text messages, photos, videos, music, bookmarks, ring tones and applications to Microsoft Word.

In addition to MobileKeeper Backup and Restore and Active mTicker,

MobiComp also offers a Communities & Sharing module, a social networking solution that enables users to access, share and publish their mobile content to personal communities as well as major community web sites like Facebook and Flickr.

In November 2007 MobiComp was named as a top innovator at the GSMA's first Mobile Innovation summit.

Continued from page 1

Saleh forms new committee to end Sa'ada turmoil

Al-Sabri added that the authority and Houthis are shedding the blood of Yemeni people and the opposition coalition refuses to engage in such crimes. He called for a national solution to the crisis before it worsens.

Sheikh Saleh Habra, the Houthi representative at the Doha Peace Deal between the government and Houthis, revealed that the Qatari committee mandated to oversee the ceasefire agreement will arrive in Sana'a and then head for Sa'ada. According to Habra, the deal stated that Houthis should be represented by five members in the new presidential committee, formed after the Qatari mediation.

Habra went on to say that the Qatari capital witnessed serious debates between him and Yahya Al-Houthi, an MP currently residing in Germany, on the one hand, and on the other, Political Advisor to Yemeni President Abdulkarim Al-Eryani and Northwest Military Flank Commander Ali

Mohsen Al-Ahmar, adding that the debates reached positive results on how to bring a binding mechanism to ensure that both conflicting sides abide by the Doha-brokered deal.

He confirmed that the most recent agreement discussed the case file of those detained in several Yemeni governorates over alleged connections with the Sa'ada fighting, stating that the detainees must be released within at least one month from the deal's date.

"Other numerous files regarding those killed or injured in the fighting were brought to Doha to be discussed as part of the deal's proceedings," Habra said. "The government has undertaken to treat all those wounded in the events in Yemen or abroad, as well as form a committee from Yemeni and Qatari officials, and Houthis to assess the damage on citizens' homes, farms and other property."

In a statement to Al-Nedaa weekly, Habra explained that both sides reached an agreement by which the Yemeni and Qatari Red Crescent associations assess property damage in cooperation with the Sa'ada local

council. "Both sides have agreed to form another committee to discuss the case of those killed in the repeated clashes, among them Hussein Al-Houthi. We provided a list of 280 people killed during the different Sa'ada wars, plus hundreds of detainees from Taiz, Hodeidah, Hajjah and Sa'ada, who should be released. Those dismissed from their government jobs over the Sa'ada events have to be reinstated," the tribal sheikh maintained.

According to Habra, the problem will end if both sides abide by the agreement. "We discussed the legal violations committed by army members against Sa'ada citizens and their property, and demanded the government's removal of security checkpoints set up on different Sa'ada roads, to lift the government lockdown of Sa'ada, which denies citizens' access to hospitals, schools and farmlands, and prevented entry of drugs, food supplies and other consumables to the war-ravaged governorate."

Houthi field leader Abdulmali Al-Houthi accused the government of violating the agreement and ordering its

troops to fire at his supporters after both sides signed the Doha Peace Deal ten days ago.

"Government forces continue escalating their military operations in the Haidan district," Abdulmalik Al-Houthi said during a conversation with the Qatari *Al-Arab* newspaper. He continued, "The 17th Military Division continues attacking citizens with tanks and rockets, destroying their homes and forcing families to evacuate their homes and live outdoors. This behavior obliged us to retaliate to defend ourselves."

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi praised the efforts expended by the Qatari government to enhance Yemen's security and stability. In a statement to Qatar News Agency, the official noted that Qatar is always concerned about events in Yemen and supports Yemeni unity. He also expressed his deep gratitude to Qatari officials, mainly Sheikh Hamed Bin Khalifa Al Thani, for their mediation efforts to end the Sa'ada crisis.

Al-Qirbi described Yemeni-Qatari relations as 'unique', saying that insti-

tutions in both countries cooperate and coordinate mutual efforts to serve their common interests.

Replying to a question about the future of Sa'ada, the Foreign Minister stated, "Houthis should behave reasonably and learn that the security and stability of their area has a direct impact on their children's future."

Al-Shamou weekly reported that the Doha agreement between government and Houthis came as part of a Yemeni-Saudi-Qatari compromise, aimed at providing the necessary support for the Yemeni government to contain the Sa'ada crisis and boost security and stability in its territory.

The weekly continued, "The Yemeni government's consent to reinforce the previous agreement is an important step toward saving citizens' lives." Sources quoted by the weekly, a local paper that supports continuing the Sa'ada clashes, said that "The Yemeni government and Houthis exchanged guarantees to remain committed to the agreement."

It revealed that a Qatari delegation, presided over by a Yemeni committee,

will oversee both conflicting parties' abidance by the agreement, while Red Crescent associations in both states will assess property damage and determine the required compensation.

According to the weekly, a Qatar-Saudi-Yemeni compromise may be positive if Qatar and Saudi Arabia are truly concerned about the region's security and stability. Although the paper warned against transferring the case from the local to the regional level, it then stated that intervention by Qatar and Saudi Arabia may be positive in resolving the crisis, in the event that both states are serious about reconciliation between the Yemeni government and Houthis.

Political analyses published in pro-army newspapers warned on the eve of signing the peace deal that an agreement between the government and Houthi supporters may be dangerous, disclosing that a dispute between Yemen and Saudi Arabia forced the former to request a Qatari mediation committee to come to Sa'ada and oversee how committed both conflicting sides are to the agreement.

الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال Yemen LNG Company



Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquefied natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden which will export 6.7 million tons of LNG per annum. The project offices are based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

Preference will be given to Yemeni Nationals.

WORK LOCATION

Sana'a - Capital city of the Republic of Yemen
Balhaf - On the Gulf of Aden in the Republic of Yemen

WORK SYSTEM

Sana'a: 8 hours per day, 5 days per week. Additional work hours which are not paid may be required on occasions. Additional days worked are paid as per company regulations.

Balhaf (On Site): 12 hours per day on shift (including meal breaks) on a rotation of 4 weeks on site followed by 4 weeks of rest period. Additional days on site for hand-over purpose are required for some positions.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT POSITIONS

1. Inspection Methods Engineer (CMMS/RBI)	Ref. No.161 (Sana'a)
2. Cost & Planning Engineer	Ref. No.162 (Sana'a)
3. Project Engineer	Ref. No.163 (Sana'a)
4. Civil/Structural Engineer	Ref. No.164 (Sana'a)
5. Production Control Engineer	Ref. No.165 (Sana'a)
6. Piping Engineer	Ref. No.166 (Sana'a)

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT POSITIONS

- Bachelor degree or above in Mechanical/Electrical/Electronics&Instrument, Chemical or Civil Engineering disciplines
- 10-14 years in plant operations, maintenance and project experience in the Oil & Gas or Petrochemical industry
- Excellent knowledge of oil and gas industry equipment, production, construction, mechanical equipment, piping inspection systems and methods respectively
- Very good organizational skills and the ability to work with multi-disciplined teams

UPSTREAM OPERATIONS POSITIONS

1. Upstream Operations Coordinator	Ref. No.167 (Sana'a)
2. Upstream Production Supervisor	Ref. No.168 (Rotational)
3. Upstream Maintenance & Inspection Supervisor	Ref. No.169 (Rotational)

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR UPSTREAM POSITIONS

- Bachelor degree or above in Mechanical/Electrical/Electronics&Instrument, Chemical or Civil Engineering disciplines
- 10-14 years in plant operations, maintenance in the Oil & Gas or Petrochemical industry with a minimum of 3 years on cryogenic Plant
- Very good organizational skills and the ability to work with multi-disciplined teams

PRODUCTION LABORATORY POSITION

1. Laboratory Supervisor	Ref. No.170 (Rotational – Balhaf)
--------------------------	-----------------------------------

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR LABORATORY SUPERVISOR POSITIONS

- Bachelor degree in Chemistry with a full understanding of laboratory activities and procedures, expertise in laboratory discipline and good practice in chromatography
- 10 years working experience in the oil and gas industry with a minimum of 3 years on LNG or cryogenic plant
- Fluent written and spoken English
- Good supervisory skills and the ability to organize and motivate a team

HSE (Health, Safety & Environment) POSITIONS

1. HSE Methods Engineer	Ref. No.171 (Rotational – Balhaf)
2. HSE Supervisor	Ref. No.172 (Rotational – Balhaf)

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR HSE POSITIONS

- Technical degree or diploma in a related field and extensive HSE training and experience gained at certified industrial training centres or centres of further education
- Minimum of 10 years experience in oil and gas industry operations (production/ maintenance/ construction) with a minimum of 3 years in HSE positions
- Experience in Risk Assessment techniques (HAZOP, HAZAN, Cause-Tree Analysis etc.) Ability to determine hazardous situations, to assess the risk level and to identify appropriate controls and risk- reducing measures
- Very good interpersonal skills to motivate staff to respect HSE principles
- Fluent written and spoken English

FIRE-FIGHTING POSITIONS

1. Fire-fighting Brigade Team Leader	Ref. No.173 (Rotational – Balhaf)
2. Fire-fighting Training Supervisor	Ref. No.174 (Rotational – Balhaf)

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR FIREFIGHTING POSITIONS

- Technical diploma in a related Field and extensive training/experience in fire prevention, protection and intervention
- 5 to 10 years' in the oil and gas or petrochemical industry, with a minimum of 3 years in fire fighting
- Skills in management and fire fighting section organisation
- Excellent condition of health and physical fitness
- Good knowledge of written and spoken English

SUPPORT SERVICES POSITIONS (ROTATIONAL - BALHAF)

1. Telecommunication Engineer	Ref. No.175 (Rotational – Balhaf)
2. Contract Supervisor	Ref. No.176 (Rotational – Balhaf)
3. Procurement Coordinator	Ref. No.177 (Rotational – Balhaf)
4. Camp Supervisor	Ref. No.178 (Rotational – Balhaf)
5. Warehouse Supervisor	Ref. No.179 (Rotational – Balhaf)
6. Industrial Transport Supervisor	Ref. No.180 (Rotational – Balhaf)

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR TELECOMMS POSITIONS

- Bachelor degree or higher in Telecommunications/Electronic Engineering
- Minimum of 5 years experience in Telecommunications Operations
- Up to date knowledge of the following technologies to provide the professional service and to specify the requirements and equipment (Fibre Optic Transmission Systems, VSAT, Microwave, VHF, UHF and HF Radio Systems, AL CATEL OmniPCX PBX, VPN encryption, Videoconferencing, Dynamic routing protocols - RIP or OSPF - Cisco)
- Ability to communicate well with users, clarify and understand user problems

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR CONTRACT/PROCUREMENT/WAREHOUSE/CAMP ADMINISTRATION POSITIONS

- Bachelor degree, preferably in an engineering discipline
- 7-10 years' experience in contract preparation/service agreements, materials and stock control management, procurement and warehouse administration with logistics and administrative expertise at least 3 years in a supervisory position
- Strong interpersonal and supervisory skills
- Good knowledge of computerized material management system (e.g. SAP)
- Excellent knowledge of spoken and written English

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORT POSITION

- Bachelor degree, preferably in an engineering discipline
- 7-10 years' experience in industrial transport , material movements activities (aviation, marine and road transportation), heavy loads handling and lifting expertise at least 3 years in a supervisory position
- Strong interpersonal and supervisory skills
- Excellent knowledge of spoken and written English

ADMIN & FINANCE POSITIONS

1. Head of Administration & Finance	Ref. No.181 (Rotational – Balhaf)
2. HR Officer	Ref. No.182 (Rotational – Balhaf)

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR ADMIN&FINANCE POSITIONS

- Bachelor degree in Human Resources/Business Administration or similar
- 7-10 years' experience in personnel and administration functions, 3 years of which should have been spent in a supervisory position
- Good understanding of standard HR policies and procedures, employee relations and practices, training development and compensation & benefit practices
- Knowledge of accounting principles is essential
- Fluent in written and spoken English
- Strongly developed reasoning and interpersonal skills

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Visit Yemen LNG's website at (WWW.YEMENLNG.COM).
- Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply, mentioning the title and the reference number of the position you are applying for.

- Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

BRIDGE is increasing the number of female students in rural areas of Taiz

Efforts to educate girls confront cultural, social and economic challenges

The Japan International Cooperation Agency, or JICA, currently is supporting the BRIDGE girls' education project in Taiz governorate. The project recently invited nine journalists to visit target schools to see how the program is going in rural Taiz and how it is helping Yemeni girls to attend school.

The following is an edited version of an article written by *Abdullah Al-Salemi*, which the BRIDGE project team selected as the best from among the nine journalists.

BRIDGE — Broadening Regional Initiative for Developing Girls' Education — is a girls' education project targeting 59 schools in six Taiz governorate districts: Al-Waziyah, Maawiyah, Al-Makha, Maqbanah, Sameh and Dhubab. It began in June 2005 and will continue until November 2008.

The following report concludes my Nov. 4-7, 2007 field visits to several BRIDGE target schools, organized by BRIDGE in cooperation with the Yemen Times. I visited five schools in Al-Waziyah and Maawiyah districts to assess the level of girls' education in these rural areas and evaluate BRIDGE's efforts.

Al-Waziyah district

Cultural factors

"The problem is where girls may learn, not why they don't learn," expressed one teacher employed by BRIDGE and working at Al-Fawz School. This statement sums up the problem facing girls' education in the region.

The project used religious ideas as the theme in launching its activities seeking to increase local awareness about the importance of girls' education. The phrase, "Girls' education is a religious duty," was used as a motto because religious awareness is considered just as important and influential as cultural awareness.

Separating girls and boys so that the former may have classes with female teachers was preferable among those interviewed in the area and an idea premised on strong traditional beliefs and norms.

One man mentioned the importance of educating girls according to religious principles, but didn't object to girls having male teachers, explaining that although a male teacher from the same local community is acceptable, some prefer a female teacher for girls.

"Residents here say that it's shameful to allow girls to study with boys or be taught by male teachers because we're tribal," he noted, adding, "They sometimes say that isn't good, speaking in the name of religion or sometimes in the name of the tribes."

Extreme religious beliefs and certain tribal traditions have been the main reasons preventing girls' education. "One thing preventing girls from attending school is that parents think that when their daughter reaches grade 9 or 12, she'll need someone to photograph her for her certificate and from their standpoint, this is shameful and prohibited. Such a view isn't motivated by extreme religious culture as much as it is a result of a misinterpretation of tribal traditions," one teacher commented.

Sa'eed Al-Dwrafi, manager of Al-Waziyah's District Education Office, cited the efforts of mosque preachers in raising public awareness about the importance of educating girls. "Area residents have come to understand and accept that girls as well as boys should attend school. For example, at Al-Fawz School, there are classes above grade 6 comprised of both boys and girls," he noted.

One eighth-grader reflected on her class situation: "We started out as 20 girls in the class, but now there are only four." Such a decrease in female students is a source of frustration for both the girls and their families and may lead to more girls dropping out.

The same student continued, "My parents have allowed me to study this year, but they'll take me out of school next year unless a school with female teachers opens specifically for girls."

While most families desire all-girls schools, it seems they accept co-ed classes because they are the only alternative to all-girl classes.

One father of three daughters in grades 6 to 9 accepts the current situation, saying, "I don't mind a male teacher for girls. We must raise people's religious awareness within our community."

Based on this area's visit, the following conclusions were made:

- Parents with daughters in grades 6 to 9 accept co-ed classes with male teachers.

- Some residents want to hinder the progress of girls' educational projects for various reasons, such as out of envy, they have no daughters or they don't send their daughters to school and they want others to do the same.

- Parents who disagree with co-ed classes and male teachers are more willing to express their opinions because they see it as a chance to persuade authorities to open gender-segregated schools.

Another obstacle to area girls' education is their brothers' jealous protection of them. Such jealousy apparently is motivated by the increasing harassment of girls, with brothers fearing that their sisters will be subjected to the same harassment. Thus, by preventing their sisters from attending school, their brothers actually are protecting them.

On the other hand, some parents are sufficiently satisfied with their daughters' basic education because they don't expect them to seek employment after that. This illustrates the need to increase awareness of the importance of educating girls, especially in terms of how doing so will benefit their families and communities.

Material factors

The BRIDGE project grants each target school YR 500,000 to improve its educational environment and quality of education. Schools use the grant to construct classrooms, hire teachers, hold school competitions, etc. With its grant, Al-Zahra School contracted four female teachers, two with diplomas and two with high school certificates.

The project's positive results at Al-Zahra School include increased girls' enrollment during the 2007-2008 school year to 384 girls in grades 1 to 9, 20 girls in 10th grade, 18 girls in 11th grade and, for the first time in the school's history 12th grade opened with 27 girls.

Moreover, the dropout rate for girls has decreased. Thus, these examples show that the BRIDGE project is achieving its goal of closing the gap between



the genders by increasing girls' enrollment to 85 percent of the boys' rate.

The following can be concluded from this review:

- A poor school environment (lack of facilities such as toilets, chairs, classrooms, textbooks, teachers and teaching aids, in addition to crowded classrooms) cause parents to be hesitant in sending their daughters to school.

- School environments can be improved by adding equipment and classrooms and employing female teachers, which will make co-ed classes more acceptable to the community.

Maawiyah district

Maawiyah district is very different from Al-Waziyah district and represents considerable development in girls' education. The key difference is a lack of issues related to local tradition and extreme religious opinions. While target schools in the area all promote girls' education at higher levels and accept girls being taught by males, some residents are seeking to separate boys and girls in the future.

Regarding materials, both schools I visited — Baha Al-Deen School and Al-Farooq School — were examples of the general standard of Yemeni schools, being in good condition and having large classrooms equipped with enough chairs. Two classrooms at Baha Al-Deen School were built by the BRIDGE project along with local contributions of approximately 5 percent of the grant amount.

One measure of the project's success at Al-Farooq School is the increased number of girls enrolled from 79 in the

project's first year to 136 in its second year and 299 in its third.

Also in the project's second year, the school introduced sewing classes enrolling 35 students. According to the school's head, "There's a connection between girls' increased school enrollment and the increase in literacy and sewing classes. When mothers join these classes, they realize the material advantages of education; consequently, they encourage their daughters to attend school and study hard."

Maawiyah District Education Office Manager Hassan Al-Gamily spoke enthusiastically about BRIDGE's efforts to develop girls' education in the district. "The project employs an innovative style to prepare the school each year by conducting training courses for various school committees, meeting with parents to encourage them to send their daughters

to school, encouraging sermons by mosque preachers and other activities, such as distributing pens to students, providing every school a camera, etc.," he noted, adding, "This process is sort of a 'warm up' for the local community to prepare families and interest them in sending their daughters to school."

Despite the project's positive feedback and results, strong cultural, social and economic challenges remain and threaten girls' education.

Cultural challenges include the problem of increasing community awareness regarding the importance of education and changing traditional perspectives on the role of women in order to promote their equality with men.

The social challenges likewise address changing women's role in society in order for them to be recognized and respected as active, capable and produc-

tive individuals.

Overcoming economic challenges requires a comprehensive social development program to improve living conditions in order to enable families to send their children to school, something that — at least currently — often is considered a luxury.

Comparisons

All challenges to promoting girls' education must be addressed equally, which requires examining the core reasons for each challenge and how they relate to one another.

The cultural, social and economic challenges are evident in Al-Waziyah, where priority should be given to increasing community awareness rather than purchasing additional equipment or materials. This doesn't mean the latter isn't important, but in this instance, the core of the challenge — lack of awareness — will continue no matter how much equipment is available.

However, the situation in Maawiyah is completely different because raising awareness isn't a major issue. As one member of the awareness campaign at Al-Farooq School commented, "Area residents have a good awareness about girls' education; however, we must solve the economic development problems that restrict girls' education, such as creating a suitable environment for girls once they complete high school."

Both District Education Office managers of Maawiyah and Al-Waziyah said they have benefited from the BRIDGE project in a variety of ways since the project began. The Fathers' Council also praised BRIDGE's efforts, applauding the project's success in creating favorable environments for girls' education by providing the necessary equipment and support in the target schools.

(This article originally was published Nov. 22, 2007 in the 22nd of May newspaper, Issue No. 737.)

unicef

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Yemen Country Office, Sana'a is in the process of reviewing its suppliers' database used to invite bids to add new suppliers and to update records of existing suppliers. All suppliers interested to do business with UNICEF must meet the following requirements:

- Complete and sign UNICEF supplier profile form
- Submit certificate of incorporation as business concern duly registered / licensed to conduct business in Yemen
- Demonstrate that the company has a minimum of three years experience in the concerned business area.
- Prove that it holds a valid VAT registration certificate
- Provide audited financial company accounts for two successive years
- Prepared to accept UNICEF's General Terms and conditions
- All documents should be presented in English Language

Products range covered under this exercise are:

Classroom supplies and equipment (exercise books, school uniform materials, desks, chalk, blackboards and benches); Educational kits; Playing materials; Music instruments; sports and recreation materials; generator sets and spare parts; submersible pumps and spare parts; centrifugal pumps with pipes; UPVC pipes; Polyethylene pipe; steel pipes; water storage tanks; hygiene and cleaning supplies; water treatment chemicals; emergency shelter and household supplies; (kitchen utensils, jerrycan, soap, tent, tarpaulin, blanket, footwear); Public addressing system (e.g. megaphone amplifier); office furniture; office stationery; photocopier and accessories, computer equipment (e.g. notebook computer) and related peripherals; mobile telephone, Thuraya telephone; vehicles spare parts, tyres and batteries, fuel and lubricants; communication equipment; and construction materials (cement, corrugated iron sheets, deformed iron bars); electronics (freezers, TV sets, air conditions, fans, VCD/VCR/DVD); Security equipment (CCTV, Access Control).

Services range covered under this exercise are:

Printing; Inspection, Carpentry Workshop, Blacksmith Workshop, Civil Contractor, Travel Agent (International / Domestic Flight), Translation, Customs Clearance; Vehicle Maintenance; Generator/AC Maintenance; IT Network, Telephone PABX Maintenance; Road and Air Transportation (Cargo); Catering; Cleaning Services.

Interested suppliers who meet above requirements should collect (free of charge) a copy of UNICEF supplier profile form and UNICEF general terms and conditions from on any working day between 09:00 15:00 hours from the registry desk. Contact person Mr. Yuji Taketomo (email ytaketomo@unicef.org). Suppliers should complete the form and return to UNICEF.

Existing UNICEF suppliers who have participated in UNICEF invitation to bids in the past are also requested to renew their interest by updating their records.

Deadline for return of documents

Duly completed supplier profile from together with all relevant supporting documents sealed in an envelope marked Expression of Interest, UNICEF Yemen Country Office, to be returned to UNICEF supply section, Office No. 5, Aser Area, Sana'a, YEMEN (Tel: 967-1-211400 ex. 182, Fax: 967-1-206092).

Closing Date for receiving supplier profile forms and support documents is 31/03/2008

وظيفة شاغرة

يعلن مجلس الترويج السياحي من حاجته إلى:

مصممين جرافكس

للعمل لفترة واحدة من الساعة 8 صباحاً وحتى الساعة 4 مساءً بحسب الشروط التالية:

- أن يكون ممماً بالبرامج التالية:

Ps Adobe Photoshop - 1

AI Adobe Illustrator - 2

ID Adobe InDesign - 3

- أن يكون يمني الجنسية وحاصل على البطاقة الشخصية

فعل من يجد في نفسه الرغبة عالية احضار السيرة الذاتية مع نسخة من أعماله في قرص CD وتسليمها لتقسم التصاميم بمجلس الترويج السياحي - وزارة السياحة.

علمنا أن اخر موعد للتسليم بتاريخ 27/2/2008م

اليمن السعيد... قصة سياحة

PRESS RELEASE

The Government of the Republic of Yemen received, in later half of 2004, a Credit (No. 3860-YEM) equivalent to US\$ 40 million from the International Development Association (IDA) to assist in financing of the Groundwater and Soil Conservation Project (GSCP) with a total cost of US\$ 53.36 million.

The objective of the project is to conserve irrigation water, especially groundwater and soils through (i) adoption of water saving technologies; (ii) rehabilitation of terraces, small and medium spate irrigation schemes, bank protection and soil conservation works; and (iii) capacity building of government institutions and community groups.

The work on this project commenced in August 2004 and is scheduled for completion in October 2009.

Considering the satisfactory progress on all the activities envisaged in the project, the IDA is considering supplementary financing of the project by about US\$ 15 million with an extension of two years.

Before commencing the work on this project an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was prepared. According to the EMP the GSCP was classified as a Category 'B' Project by environmental standards. The EMP determined that the GSCP was in compliance with most World Bank Safeguard Policies. The EMP identified the positive impacts that can be expected of the project and suggested all the measures that are required to mitigate the potential negative impacts of the project relating to Pest Management and Protection of Cultural Property. All the mitigation measures have been taken and are continuing as per the EMP.

The Supplementary Financing of the project does not envisage any new activity and activities envisaged under the GSCP only will be continued for the Supplemental Project. The EMP Document has been updated considering the supplementary financing and is available for the public for consultation in the office of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of the GSCP at the address given below:

**Project Director, GSCP,
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation,
P.O. Box 2805 , Sana'a,
Al-Hay Al-Seyasi Street, Near Abu Obeida Mosque, Sana'a (Republic of Yemen)
Phone (+967) 1 443219
Fax: (+967) 1 450076**

Any person who is interested in the updated EMP of the project may contact the Project Director on any working day during 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The document will also be available with the Public Information Center of the World Bank at Hadda Street No. 40, off Damascus Road, Sana'a or with the World Bank website: www.pic@worldbank.org



Save the Children

Sweden

VACANCY

Save the Children Sweden is a broad based democratic movement. We are a politically and religiously unaffiliated non-governmental organisation founded on the principle of voluntary, individual membership. Save the Children Sweden is an active member of the International Save the Children Alliance – a global movement for children's rights.

Save the Children-Sweden is seeking qualified candidates to fill the following position **A program officer** based in Aden but with frequent travel to the refugee camps and within the Republic of Yemen and the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Region.

Report to: Aden Office Manager

Requirements

- At minimum, a university degree in education, social studies, economics or other relevant fields.
- At least three years experience with an international NGO, a UN agency or a similar experience.
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.
- Excellent writing/reporting skills
- Computer skills
- Knowledge about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights global and regional treaties is an advantage.
- Good communication skills especially with the youth
- Experience in working with the refugees/ Knowledge about the situation of the refugees in Yemen
- Ability to work under pressure and the ability to work in team.
- Management and leadership skills.

Responsibilities

- Lead and coordinate the selection of refugee students and their admission to the relevant Yemeni academic institution
- Monitoring and follow-up the refugee students
- Provide support to the Somali youth students and community.
- Report on the progress of the project on monthly bases
- Contribute to the overall planning of Save the Children towards the promotion and implementation of the rights of the child and youth.

Application

Qualified and interested individuals are kindly requested to send their CV with cover letter to Save the Children Sweden only via email to asaed@scsmena.org

Applications are accepted no later than 14 Feb. 2008

Please do not send supporting certificates and documents at this stage. Short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

For more information about Save the Children Sweden, visit website www.scsmena.org or www.rb.se

Request for Expressions of Interest International Expert Services for the General Directorate of Animal Resources No. REI-CS/1/2008: RALP

NAME OF COUNTRY : Republic of Yemen.
NAME OF PROJECT : Consulting services.
CREDIT NO : 4220 - Yemen

The republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA); and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payment under the contract for consulting services.

The services include:

- 1- A livestock policy and legislation specialist
- 2- A specialist in epidemiology
- 3- A specialist trainer in participatory epidemiology
- 4- A disease prevalence and economic analysis specialist
- 5- A specialist trainer in participatory animal production and rural appraisal

The Rainfed Agriculture and Livestock Project -(RALP) now invites eligible firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). firms may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of firms by World Bank borrowers, May 2004.

Interested firms may obtain further information at the address below from (8:00 am to 3:00 pm).

Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below.

Ms. Bilquis Anwer A. Sattar-Manager Project Support Unit

Rainfed Agriculture and Livestock Project

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen - P.O.Box 13181

Telfax: - +967-1-532557

Email: - ralp@yemen.net.ye

Closing date:-10th, March 2008

Request for Expressions of Interest Technical Expertise for Project Implementation Veterinary No. REI-CS/2/2008: RALP

NAME OF COUNTRY : Republic of Yemen.
NAME OF PROJECT : Consulting services.
CREDIT NO : 4220 - Yemen

The republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA); and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payment under the contract for consulting services.

The services include:

- 1- A laboratory systems management expert
- 2- A specialist trainer in laboratory techniques
- 3- A quality assurance and laboratory information specialist

The Rainfed Agriculture and Livestock Project -(RALP) now invites eligible firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). firms may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of firms by World Bank borrowers, May 2004.

Interested firms may obtain further information at the address below from (8:00 am to 3:00 pm).

Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below.

Ms. Bilquis Anwer A. Sattar-Manager Project Support Unit

Rainfed Agriculture and Livestock Project

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen - P.O.Box 13181

Telfax: - +967-1-532557

Email: - ralp@yemen.net.ye

Closing date:-10th, March 2008

المكونات دقيق الفصح سكر صلب النخار نشا حليب جامد منزوع اللبنة مسحوق الترتير ملح مواد رافعة (E 500, E 503) حبات الموزة، ليمونين صويا (E 322) ونكهة مشابهة للطبيعية

Ingredients: Wheat Flour, Sugar, Palm Fat, Starch, Skimmed Milk Powder, Wheat Powder, Salt, Leavening Agents (E 500, E 503), Citric Acid, Soya Lecithin (E 322), Nature Identical Flavour.

Nutrition Composition per 100g		
Energy	Kcal	490.7
Protein	gm	6.33
Carbohydrate	gm	70.75
Fat	gm	20.27

... وتستمر الحكاية

Prelude of love...
Mövenpick Hotel Sana'a valentine's special

Cast a spell on your date and charm your partner with our seducing menus in an atmosphere bursting with romance and passion this Valentine's Day. Couples can exchange tender words over a romantic dinner in our Dar Fez Moroccan Restaurant as we have specially prepared the evening with gifts to mark this memorable day for you and your partner.

A special valentine dinner US\$ 50.00 per person set menu plus relevant taxes and service charge OR reserve a romantic valentine package stay in double occupancy, early check - in Thursday 12.00noon and late check - out till 6.00pm Friday, watch for free in-house movies in Auditorium, free entrance in Horse Shoe Night Spot, Friday brunch for two persons, a valentine dinner in Dar Fez Moroccan Restaurant for two person, 25 % discounts in The SPA special offered treatments i.e. Facial & Body Scrub, Relaxing Massage, Pedicure & Manicure at package rate of US\$ 250.00 Net per room per night inclusive of taxes and service charge.

For reservation, please call our hotel (01) 54 6666 extension 2203 / 2377 / 2378.

www.moevenpick-hotels.com
True Excellence in Swiss Hospitality.

MÖVENPICK
Hotel Sana'a

emirates.com/ye

Six flights weekly.

Introducing an additional weekly flight to Dubai and beyond.

Emirates gives you more flexibility and choice with an extra flight every week from 5th February 2008. You can now fly to Dubai and onward to over 90 destinations around the world at your own convenience.

Fly Emirates. Keep discovering.

Days	Depart Sana'a	Arrive Dubai	Flight
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	1015	1345	EK962

Days	Depart Dubai	Arrive Sana'a	Flight
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	0710	0900	EK961

Emirates

300 international awards and over 90 destinations worldwide. For more details contact your local travel agent or Emirates on Tel: 01 444442 or visit emirates.com/ye

Words of Wisdom



The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge. This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play.

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

OUR
OPINIONTaking care
of young readers

The developed world is quite anxious about the fact that the reading curve is declining. Fewer people are reading newspapers and even fewer young people are choosing to read the old-fashioned way; consequently, media is looking for ways to engage young readers and win them as loyal readers.

The problem is that young people in developed countries are seeking new modes of entertainment and are more interested in obtaining information from the web or through their mobile phones than reading newspapers or even watching television for that matter. Hence, for the newspaper business to survive, it must go to such readers, get them hooked and gradually pull them toward traditional media.

I had the chance to personally see some examples of this at the World Editors Forum as a participant on the World Association of Newspapers' Young Readers' Study Tour of Paris and London.

Among the examples is Play Bac, a French group dedicated to creating innovative, educational concepts and formats for children. They create newspapers for children and young adults, with the assistance of the children themselves.

Another French example is the new e-edition of l'Equipe named l'Equipe Junior, which is an innovative online edition set to launch Feb. 15 with a print-like design and Harry Potter-like features for children between ages 9 and 14.

L'Equipe Junior combines online characteristics with a print look, as well as pictures that move and content that magically enlarges when the cursor moves over it. Content will cater to youths' sports interests while offering content linked to classroom in mathematics and other subjects. In the U.K., the Newsroom is a unique place with in Europe for young readers created by The Guardian and The Observer. It gives children a rewarding experience in journalism, in addition to offering the newspapers an unparalleled advantage in creating awareness and excitement over other types of companies seeking to create loyalty. The Newsroom does this via fast-paced workshops where students create either their own front page or web site.

The Guardian also publishes an online news service for schools, learnnewsdesk, to foster young peoples' engagement with the news while enhancing the classroom curriculum. Used in more than 4,000 schools across the U.K., learnnewsdesk includes daily news stories, votes, quizzes, classroom activities and podcasts, all produced by Guardian editors specially trained in writing for young people. Students also may submit their own written and podcast reports to be published on moderated message boards.

Oink! is probably the world's only business newspaper for children. Considered a simplified Financial Times for children, it teaches them how to invest and deal with stocks, among other important financial operations in the real world.

These are just a few examples of how different countries are seeking to attract new generations and win them as loyal readers. It's important to publicize these successful stories and make them more known within the media industry, especially in young countries like Yemen, where more than half of the population is under 16 years old.

If we want to ensure a better future, we must make sure future generations have good resources for information – and are educated enough to know how to use them to their advantage.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

'New Yemen' and black goggles

By: Abu Ayman

At the very beginning, I would like to say that I am not a political analyst or an economic expert, nor can I interfere in politics in one way or another. But being a Yemeni citizen residing abroad, I share the same feelings of my brothers and cousins inside my homeland. I usually ask myself, "Are we, the Yemeni people, doomed to suffer for lifetime? If yes, why?"

I came to Yemen and didn't wear black goggles. Instead I wore medical glasses due to my nearsightedness in order to see things in their real sizes. But what did I see? Frankly, speaking, I saw kind and forgiving people to the extent that any one of them can slaughter a bull in order to be exempted from blood money or a death sentence for a willful or an intentional killing he committed. I saw people who willingly accept the lowest share of things and eat from the waste bins. I saw people damning and cursing their government during daytime and overnight, particularly after their rights were abused due to their government's poor policies. I questioned, "Is this 'the New Yemen'?"

If this is 'the New Yemen', we then prefer to have the old Yemen during which our forefathers and ancestors lived without any

concerns or fears from political or national security, or influential persons. We want to see the kind of Yemen that used to punish any soldiers for the irresponsible use of ammunition given to them.

In the "New Yemen", we usually find that weapons are robbed from government stores and sold to citizens while the relevant agencies show no reaction to what happens. However, I advise those, who claim that we should not wear black goggles, to bear in mind that it is the black goggles that harbored them and covered their faults. I also tell them to recommend citizens to wear black goggles in order for them not to see a policeman insulting a citizen. Additionally, citizens can wear black goggles in order for them not to see cars of influential persons racing with the wind in the streets without any obedience to traffic laws and regulations, or respect for pedestrians walking in the streets.

The government and its agencies are recommended to advise people to wear black goggles in order not to see influential persons looting public property and selling them to other people. When citizens wear black goggles, they will not see homeless children in streets as a result of poverty and destitution. Black goggles may help prevent citizens from seeing a tribal sheikh insulting citizens and women being bought and sold in markets. When citizens wear black glasses, they can not see where public

money goes. Citizens with black goggles will be blinded against all the violations practiced in their homeland and against their rights and dignity.

Wearing black goggles, citizens can not see physicians working for one hour in government hospitals, and 23 hours in their private clinics, nor can they see that drugs and medical equipment imported by the Ministry of Public Health and Population are sold in private pharmacies. Only these goggles can help blur citizens' vision in order not to see traffic men extorting people and taking bribes from them.

I left my homeland during the time of prosperity and bless when a US dollar was priced at 3.5 Yemeni Riyals. So how surprising it will be when we compare that price to YR 199.5 per one U.S. dollar for the time being. Patients used to stay in hospitals for years eating and receiving medical treatment and medicine for free, but now patients pay a lot of money for ineffective treatment in hospitals administered by irresponsible and unqualified men who have no clear conscience. Such things and the likes are the achievements so far made nationwide, thereby forcing the government release the slogan of "New Yemen".

The author is a Yemeni expatriate in the United Arab Emirates.
Source: Al-Wahdawi.net

Race of war and peace in Sa'ada

By: Mohammed Al-Maqaleh

As the Yemeni Prime Minister's plane landed in Doha Airport, the government troops were attacking the Haidan district, Houthis' stronghold, with tanks, mortars and rockets. And while, Gen.

Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar was sitting on the negotiation table with Houthis' representative Sheikh Saleh Habra, discussing the means of implementing the previous Doha Agreement and receiving funds from the Qatari government to compensate those whose property was damaged in the previous wars, tanks belonging to the 17th Military Division destroyed the house of the citizen Ahmad Al-Eyani in the Haidan district and killed his two younger daughters Atyaf, 6, and Wafa'a, 4. In addition, other family members have been reportedly injured in the operation including both parents.

Away from the humanitarian aspect in the civil wars, the critical question being raised here is that "Why all this? Does the authority want a fifth Sa'ada war to break out? Recent reports assessing the situation in the restive governorate indicates that the government has plans to wage a fifth war. Other reports reveal the regional positions about the crisis, mainly that of Saudi Arabia, rejecting any Qatari mediation efforts to contain the escalating crisis.

We are not sure whether the authority wants a truce amid the dire situations and political congestions nationwide, specifically in the south part of Yemen. The expected developments in the restive

governorate may give a clear answer to the question in the days to come.

What we can say for the time being is that there is confusion on the part of the authority with regard to how it can deal with the Sa'ada turmoil, and this confusion is traceable to a real dispute and controversy between the conflicting government officials. Some of them back the war while others want it to be postponed or suggest peaceful solutions to the problem.

Frankly speaking, some government officials say that protests in the South would have never occurred had the army scored victory in Sa'ada and defeated the Houthi-led rebellion. Ending the Sa'ada crisis by intensive military operations or other means is the only means for resolving South Yemen's turmoil and subduing all those triggering animosity toward the nation and its unity from inside Yemen or abroad, according to these government officials.

Through the past experience, I fear that the wing of force and war in the government is given priority to other things despite much talk about the Qatari and local mediation efforts. The situation worsens as there are political and ideological elements outside the country having their malicious plots to escalate tension between the conflicting parties. These elements appear to be promoting the Sa'ada war and marketing for it under the pretext that it is essential to strengthening and defending the national unity like what happened during the 1994 Civil War. They allege that defeating the other party in the 1994 war was a prerequisite for protecting the national unity and foiling all the secessionists' plots.

SILVER LINING

Hungry wolves

Wherever you go across Yemen, beggars will flock around you, asking for help. I visited Aden and Taiz during the last two weeks and the only visible common feature is the increasing number of poor people hanging around car drivers at traffic lights or other stop stations. Everyone is desperately appealing for help, while others are drifting aimlessly, talking to themselves. The economic hardships are hard for some people to handle and they lose their minds as they find themselves unable to make ends meet. Pains, cries and suffering feature the daily life of millions of Yemenis. This is incredibly a scaring panorama.

Many people leave their villages for towns in the hope of finding an opportunity to make a living—even if through begging, though it hurts their self-respect. I know people in the villages used to lead a decent life and would never think about employment of their children. Nevertheless, now public employment is their main concern. Not only this, they run after the social security support (2000 riyals per month), even if this sum does not make much difference to address their hardships and dire needs.

I feel very sorry for the people who enthusiastically went to the streets to express their support to President Saleh during his elections campaigns in 2006. They were promised that there would be no more price hikes. These promises have never seen the light of day.

The government is not only forsaking its responsibility of generating a decent life for its people, but also relinquishing its ethical and legal duty to protect their lives. After losing heart in the capability of the government to protect her life and her children, Anisah al-Shuabi appealed to Sheikh Sadek al-Ahmer, chief of Hashid tribe, to protect her and her children. Al-Ahmer responded positively to her tribal plea and provided housing and support to the helpless woman who has been hunting for justice after her rape by security personnel in jail. She has been facing hard times following her report of the rape crime to human rights organizations and media. She has been courageous enough to tell her story in public, heedless to the nasty social stigma she and her children will have to face in the rest of their lives. She had faith that the state would hold her perpetrators accountable for their reprehensible deeds. Unfortunately, she has continued to face the consequences of her resolve to find justice, experiencing harassment even in streets.

This attitude where people lose faith in the state and its ability to do them justice is eminently dangerous, as it gives chances for individuals and groups to replace the state and exercise its duty.

People across the country are facing hard times because the government is not doing its job and exercising the rule of law. Their pains demonstrated through protests here and there are concretely visible. The government, however, is doing nothing concrete to address the causes of the growing problems that are embroiling the country in a critical situation.

Both the ruling party and the opposition parties are distant from the substantial concerns of the public. They keep busying themselves with monotonous discourses that mean nothing for people with empty stomachs. They need a way out of this impasse. The people in charge might let down their citizens and neglect their appeals for help for a while, but the citizens' frustrations will turn them into hungry wolves, and we all know what hungry wolves can do.

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



By: Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi



By: Samer

YEMEN TIMES

www.yementimes.com

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

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

E-mail: editor@yementimes.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

Letters: letters@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Managing Editor
Amel Al-Ariqi

Feature Editor
Mohammed Al-Jabri

Copy Editor
Dana Patterson

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

Senior Reporter
Ismail Al-Ghabri

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Al-Ajel, Fatima Mojalli, Almgiddad
Addu'ais, Essam Thabet, Hamed

Offices

Aden Bureau:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaz@y.net.ye

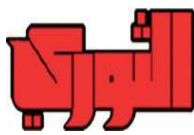
Subscription rates:

Individuals: YR 7,000
Yemeni companies/corporations: YR 8,000
Foreign companies/organizations: \$ 80

Policies:

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name, mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length.
- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices

Yemen Press Review



Al-Thawri Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Yemeni Socialist Party
Thursday, February 7

Top Stories

- Hajja political security releases 11 detainees among them 3 juveniles over alleged connections with Sa'ada events
- MPs insist on revoking Hashid's parliamentary immunity over allegedly insulting Islam
- Gulf expert: Yemen still needs fifty years to qualify for Gulf Cooperation Council's membership
- President Saleh gives directives to halt Sa'ada military operations
- An extremist Salafi leader calls for fighting Socialists, says protests are illegal
- Al-Jawf governorate organizes peaceful uprising against wealth robbery and exploitation of government jobs

Thousands of citizens staged a huge rally Tuesday in the Yemeni eastern province of Al-Jawf over what they called 'exploitation of government jobs and wealth robbery by influential officials' the weekly reported, adding that the event, believed to be the first of its kind in the governorate, took place at the Government Complex's yard in Hazm city. The Islah Party's Shoura Council Chairman and Festival's preparatory committee head Al-Hasan Ali Abu Bakr said addressing the rally participants that "You are more able to make change and by your sincere efforts, we can make unprecedented victory over injustice and oppression."

"We have trusted our political leadership and helped it take the highest job once again, but regretfully, it

reversed our expectations and looted our national wealth and natural resources," the weekly quoted Abu Bakr as saying. The man stressed the necessity of continuing the peaceful struggle irrespective of the challenges and obstacles expected to be standing in our way. "The false promises are impossible to gratify starving and thirsty people," he commented in an implication to promises made by the General People Congress's candidate ahead of 2006 presidential elections.

According to the weekly, Head of Islah Party's Executive Office in Al-Jawf Abdulhamid Amer noted the nation is experiencing 'a revolution of awareness about implications of the peaceful struggle and awakening of the Yemeni conscience'. He said that Yemeni people see that it is time to exterminate rampant corruption and property theft, as well as stop the irresponsible exploitation of military and security posts.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)
Tuesday, February 5

Top Stories

- Joint Meeting Parties boycott presidential committee's meeting
- JMP Spokesman: Government and Houthis underestimate blood and lives of Yemenis
- A military resource denies media report that an army helicopter was shot down by Houthis
- Opposition parties accuse Aden governor of provoking controversy over legitimacy of peaceful protests
- Seven Houthis and three soldiers shot

dead in recent Sa'ada clashes

- Hubeish locals protest against arrest of seven fellowmen by security authorities
- JMP higher leadership urges authority to stop arbitrary practices destroying social peace and contravening constitution

Joint Meeting Parties' Higher Leadership urged the authority to cease its arbitrary practices, which it say, may destroy social peace and contravene the constitution, stressing the necessity of organizing peaceful protests that are the best means for pressing the government and its corrupt officials to work for the sake of Yemen, the weekly reported in a front page story. In their Monday's meeting, chaired by JMP Higher Council Chairman Abdulwahab Al-Anisi, the opposition parties discussed a variety of political developments at the national level.

The meeting reviewed the continuous deterioration of economic, security and social situations and discussed the dangerous indicators, which according to opposition leaders, are symptomatic of the dire situations in the country, coupled with the continued legal violations and human rights abuses so far practiced by the security authorities. JMP called on the relevant government agencies to protect public money from irresponsible conducts and interrogate corrupt officials who constitute a threat to the nation, and its security and stability.

The opposition parties denounced the arbitrary practices that target peaceful protests and sit-ins in the southern governorates and harass human rights activists nationwide. According to the weekly, the JMP Higher Council's meeting came up with various recommendations with regard to the peaceful functions, which the oppressed citizens use as means to voice their concerns and claim their constitutional rights.



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, February 7

Top Stories

- At least policeman injured, others arrested in Aden land disputes between Works Camp and military police personnel
- Government assures donors of reinforcing sales tax law while tradesmen vows to sue it
- A new strike at Aden refinery suspended as management promised to meet strikers' demands
- Hodeida journalists sue Local Council Secretary General for violating Press Law
- Minister of Water and Environment discovers Sana'a Sanitation Network's faults
- Banking Law amendments require strong Yemeni economy
- Journalists exposed to intimidation
- The weekly quoted Committee to Protect Journalists (CPI) as saying that journalists covering a rebel insurgency and government corruption were subjected to a frightening array of violent attacks and politically motivated court cases. Threats against independent journalists continued at an alarming rate, taking on an almost routine air. Perpetrators, for the most part, went unpunished.

Since 2004, the government has been combating a regional insurgency led by tribal and religious figures in the northwestern Saada region. Until a tenuous cease-fire was reached in June, hundreds of civilians had been killed and thousands displaced during the three-year conflict. Yemeni authorities continued to respond aggressively toward journalists who tried to report

independently on the fighting. Government forces prevented journalists from entering the region to cover the conflict, effectively imposing a media blackout.

At least one journalist became ensnared in the government's attempt to stop coverage of the conflict. In June, in one of the year's most troubling press freedom incidents, Yemeni authorities stormed the home of Abdel Karim Al-Khaiwani, editor of an opposition news Web site and former editor of the online newspaper Al-Shoura. Al-Khaiwani was hauled before a State Security Court on vague terrorism charges that carried a possible death penalty.

In court, the government made a slew of unsubstantiated accusations, reinforcing the belief among Yemeni journalists and political observers that the editor's arrest was an attempt to punish him for his unrelenting criticism of the fight against rebels in Saada, as well as his writing about government nepotism. The preliminary evidence against Al-Khaiwani consisted of photographs of the fighting in Saada, an interview and contact with a rebel leader, and news articles, including one written by Al-Khaiwani that criticized President Ali Abdullah Saleh.



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, February 7

Top Stories

- President Saleh directs forming a new presidential committee
- A Senegalese envoy is due to arrive in Yemen with an official letter to President Saleh
- Information Ministry makes up legal committees to ensure that newspapers

- are law-abiding
- Parliamentary source: Yahya Al-Raei due to replace late Sheikh Al-Ahmar as Parliament Speaker
- Palestinian Authority President Abu Mazen to visit Sana'a this week
- Yemen to host journalists and European tourist companies' managers in coming April
- Yemen dropped from human rights abuses blacklist

The weekly quoted Yemen News Agency, Saba, as saying that Human Rights Watch dropped Yemen from human rights violations countries blacklist of 2007, made up of over 175 countries including 13 Arab states. In its 2008 report on the human rights violations all over the world, the Human Rights Watch omitted Yemen from the blacklist that was including Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

Human Rights Ministry and concerned bodies activists signaled that excluding Yemen from the blacklist showed the advancement of the human rights performance in the country. Hood Organization Executive Director Khalid Al-Anesi, however, said that exclusion of Yemen "does not mean the human rights situation in the country has improved", clarifying that the Organization's researchers have been prevented from coming into the country to scrutinize the human right situation.

The organization doesn't have a bureau in Yemen, Al-Anesi said, pointing out that the human rights organizations must carry out their works through field investigations and close assessments and observations. The New York-based Human Rights Watch, an organization dedicated to protecting the human rights of people around the world, was established in the United States of America in 1978.

The American election: A season of surprises

By: Amir Taheri

When the current American presidential campaign started a year ago, my initial reaction was an unprecedented lack of interest.

I say unprecedented because I had been interested in the four-yearly US ritual since my adolescent years when I followed the Kennedy-Nixon duel with some fascination. Later, I covered several US presidential elections for various newspapers, including this one.

This time, however, I found no one in the field who would set my imagination ablaze.

I had met Senator John McCain, now the Republican Party front-runner during the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland, and found him a straight-talking politician with a good grasp of international issues.

I met Senator Hillary Clinton, the Democrat party front-runner at her Senate office in Washington. We had a substantial conversation and I found her well informed and clear-headed.

I also met Mitt Romney at a dinner offered by a friend in New York. At the

time, he appeared to me the best placed of the candidates if only because he spoke of healing the internal wounds of America and using his skills as a successful businessman to deal with the looming economic crisis.

I have not met Senator Barack Obama.

I first heard of him in 2006, when attending a conference at Oxford University. One participant at the conference was a university professor from Illinois, Obama's state. With the enthusiasm reserved for youth, the professor told me that his state had produced "a young saviour for America".

I noted the name as I thought that Obama, a young black man with no fancy education, must be special to have captured the heart of an old, white and well-to-do professor with de luxe academic credentials.

All the same, as already noted, none of the main candidates captured my imagination. Other candidates were even less exciting. I had met Rudi Giuliani several times in the 1990s, and never thought he had the presidential stuff. Senator John Edwards I never liked if only because I have always been suspicious of claim lawyers.

In the past few weeks, however, I have

had second thoughts about this year's race.

After all, the role the US plays in international affairs is of such magnitude that no one could ignore the fight for its leadership.

The US is militarily present in 66 of the 192 countries that form the United Nations. It is the guarantor of stability in dozens of nations and the principal source of funds for virtually all international organisations. Although its share of international trade has fallen in relative terms, the US is still the biggest engine of the global economy and the source of more than 80 per cent of innovations that shape the post-industrial world.

The American presidency is so important that I think people in all countries should have a say in who goes to the White House.

For the time being, however, those of us who have no vote in the US, could play the chorus.

I still find none of the candidates outstanding. If I had a vote, I would have to force myself to vote for any of them, and then only because I think one must vote when one has such an opportunity.

Nevertheless, the race as a whole is interesting.

To start with, it provides a dramatic portrayal of America's amazing diversity.

For the first time, a black politician, Barack Obama, has reached the final stages of the race. Alongside him, there is Hillary Clinton, the first woman candidate to have a serious chance of winning her party's nomination and, perhaps, even the presidency.

Senator McCain is the oldest politician to be among the front-runners in a US presidential race at this late stage.

Romney is a Mormon, and thus the first follower of a made-in-US faith to fight for the presidency in the top division.

Giuliani is an Italian-American and Mike Huckabee, is the first Christian priest to emerge as a major contender for the US presidency.

Apart from highlighting diversity, the current campaign of primaries is notable for another American quality: tolerance.

When Obama first made the headlines, there were those who believed he would be jeered off the stage because he had Arabic first and middle names, Barack and Hussein, and a Swahili family name.

Professional Islamophobes started harping about the fact that Obama's father and stepfather had been Muslims

and that he himself had attended a madrassah during his childhood in Indonesia. Some even started calling him "Osama" to make a link with Al Qaeda's fugitive mastermind.

Obama's blackness was also used as a weapon against him. Some said he was not black enough because his mother was a white lady from Kansas, and his father, a Kenyan had not come from a family of African slaves. (One reporter even established that Obama's paternal clan, part of the Luo tribe in Kenya, may have been slave-traders!)

Remarkably, none of those stories managed to find wings, as journalists say. Most Americans proved mature enough to judge a person by his deeds rather than his origins and beliefs his ancestors.

In a world hat has witnessed the reemergence of the worst kinds of tribalism, including in the Balkans in the heart of Europe, the fact that most Americans have refused to take the racial bate against Obama is marvelous news.

The same is true of attempts at making Romney's Mormon faith an issue. This may have been important to small and marginal groups of evangelical Christians. However, there is no evidence that most Americans judged

Romney by his religious background.

Also remarkable is the fact that, despite efforts by some anti-Hillary circles, gender has not become a major issue.

Huckabee's experience is also interesting if only because his position as a priest did not prevent many non-believers from supporting him because of his views on political issues.

Another remarkable feature of this season of primaries is the busting of the myth that in major US elections money is the key. This time round, however, those who spent the most did not always score the most.

The money myth's twin, the myth that television decides major elections, was also busted thanks to bloggers and grassroots volunteers.

Finally, the debates generated by this campaign have turned out to be more interesting than what we witnessed in 2000 and 2004 when the Democrats fielded weak and confused candidates.

By the time this piece appears, we may well know who the final candidates are. What we already know is that pluralism works- at least in America.

Source: www.asharqalawsat

Did development fail in Kenya?

By: Jean-Michel Severino

A month ago, Kenya fell prey to a sudden burst of post-electoral violence that has left over 1000 dead and hundreds of thousands displaced. The intensity and scale of the violence have stunned the world.

Of course, Kenya had lived through tense electoral periods before, and few people who know Africa were blind to the many difficulties the country continued to face. But things seemed to be going well recently. This year's campaign was exceptionally peaceful, and millions of citizens voted on December 27 - at times walking and queuing for hours to cast their ballot.

Perhaps more fundamentally, Kenya was unanimously seen as the "good student" of development, sometimes referred

to as a symbol of an African renaissance. The "Kenya vision 2030 framework," a set of ambitious macroeconomic, legal, and constitutional reforms, was being implemented in close partnership with the World Bank.

Cherished by the donor community, Kenya received almost \$1 billion of official development assistance in 2006 - up by 250% since 2002. Its booming horticulture and tourist industries were hailed as models for other African states in their efforts to integrate into world trade. The country's economic expansion, which averaged 5.5% in the last four years and fuelled the progress of neighboring economies, appeared to prove that vigorous growth is possible in Africa even without mineral or fossil resources. Today, this economic miracle is up in the air.

All is not lost, and there are strong reasons to believe that Kenyans will surmount the current political crisis and put the country back on its promising track. Nevertheless, as we sit on the brink of the abyss, it is worth re-examining our assumptions that since poverty breeds conflict, socio-economic development must foster political stability and reduce recourse to violence.

The first lesson we should draw from this month of civil strife is that development, however well-managed, cannot solve everything. Some tensions are deeply ingrained in societies, and peace requires more than any development agency can deliver. Parallel to the growth agenda, there is a specific role for bilateral and multilateral diplomacy to play in support of improved governance.

In fact, development itself generates a

number of strains on societies that lie at the very roots of conflict. Fast-paced changes of identity caused by urbanization, the empowerment of women or exposure to foreign media tend to weaken traditional norms and social networks. And, at least initially, economic growth tends to increase inequalities within a country, as some communities or individuals benefit from rising income and others don't.

By displacing traditional centers of power, development can nurture collective resentment. Ethnic manipulation is a small step away, which many political leaders are disposed to take.

None of this, however, disproves the link between development and peace, or inverts the correlation. At both the micro and the macro level, development projects and economic growth can do much to

alleviate some of the structural causes of political violence. But development professionals, whose first duty is to "do no harm," should be more conscious of the complex strains brought upon developing societies. In Kenya too, this sensitivity has not sufficiently infused our organizations and projects.

Ultimately, the enhanced economic activity that development generates is the only way to reduce inequalities, particularly in a context of rapid demographic growth: it is easier to work on a fairer distribution of a growing pie than of a shrinking one.

Moreover, fast-paced but ill-distributed economic growth can be accompanied by programs that focus on those who are left behind, thereby mitigating grievances. It is no coincidence that much of Kenya's ongoing violence is occurring in the slums

of its large cities. Had more attention been given to the country's most glaring inequalities in access to water, shelter, or jobs, this population might not have chosen violence as an instrument of change.

Let us draw the right lessons from Kenya: socio-economic progress remains our best tool to prevent conflict in the long run. But the relationship between growth and political stability is subtler and less linear than we like to believe. Development is no miracle solution to violence, and may create its own set of grievances - particularly when done without regard to the abrupt changes it brings to societies. Kenya isn't an illustration of development failing, but of development at work: complex, powerful, and yet fragile.

Source: www.project-syndicate.org

When journalists accept money

By: Amira Al-Sharif
msmn82@yahoo.com

Some journalists in Yemen are demanding to be paid for their expenses in return for attending and covering press conferences.

Press agents often offer journalists money to draw them to their events, with the underlying expectation of gaining more media coverage. This money usually is offered under the auspices of reimbursing the journalist's transportation costs, as such expenses rarely are covered by the journalist's employer.

In order to serve society, journalism and reporting must remain neutral. When journalists accept money, gifts, trips or favors, it compromises their ability to be neutral. It also damages media credibility in general.

Although this problem is widespread in Yemeni media, there are some journalists who won't accept such money because they feel it demeans and influences their work.

"Not all journalists practice such bad habits, just those who experience difficulty with the deteriorating economy, which obliges them to accept such money," says Hefez Al-Bukari, a member of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate.

The practice of accepting money for additional costs incurred during reporting began in Yemen in 1980 and is rumored to have begun with the Egyptians, who introduced journalism to Yemen in the 1970s and '80s.

"Yemen is the only country that has this habit, which is due to its difficult and deteriorating economy and the need for money to do their job," Al-Bukari says, "so [journalists] justify receiving this money as payment for their transportation."

However, Yemen is not the only country that experiences this problem, as it exists worldwide in nearly every media organization. But the reasons Yemeni journalists accept money from press agents does differ from other



Accepting money and gifts is against journalism's ethical code.

countries' media organizations.

"[Yemeni] organizations don't provide sufficient facilities to cover their expenses," Al-Bukari points out, "The setup of mass media in general also is partially responsible for the problem because many media outlets don't pay their employees enough to live on."

However, Al-Bukari emphasized that, in the end, the responsibility does lie with the journalist and that he or she should not accept money.

Ghamdan Al-Yosifi, editor-in-chief of Al-Ray newspaper, agrees that even though journalists suffer financially,

they shouldn't accept money.

Al-Bukari believes that in order to circumvent this habit, journalists in Yemen need to pressure their organizations to pay their expenses and also develop better company-wide journalistic ethics standards.

He notes that syndicate members have suggested issuing an "Honesty Convention" for journalists to follow in cases like these. The convention would outline proper journalism ethics for all Yemeni media, both print and electronic.

Two Yemeni newspapers, Al-Nedaa

and Al-Sahwa, already abide by their own ethics codes, but most Yemeni newspapers have no clear rules for ethical conduct.

"The Honesty Convention should include a punishment for those who violate it," Al-Bukari adds, noting that the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate will discuss the issue of money-for-coverage at its General Summit meeting in June.

Others like Dalyia Ana'am, former executive manager of the Media Women Forum, view the situation from a humanitarian standpoint.

"Journalists suffer due to low salaries in a deteriorating economy, whereas donors are able to budget for their media conferences," points out Ana'am, who feels this isn't an overwhelming problem. She says she is embarrassed for those journalists who request payouts, particularly when conference organizers haven't budgeted for it.

"I know many journalists don't attend press conferences because they can't afford transportation. How can media outlets ask their journalists to cover such events when their pockets

4U

If you are a journalist with an ethics question, contact the Poynter Institute at www.poynter.org.

are empty?" Ana'am asked.

However, Yemeni Journalists Syndicate board member Hamdi Al-Bokary, states, "This habit is completely wrong on both sides – both the giver for paying it and the receiver for violating journalistic ethics."

He continues, "Journalists should receive transportation funds from their employers, which will limit this habit. Journalistic ethics aren't the duty of just the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, but of every mass media institution, which should issue its own journalistic rules."

Further, the board member mentioned what some editors already know: that issuing a code of ethics, making it readily available and strongly enforcing it is crucial to running a respectable media outlet.

However, Sa'eed Thabit, head secretary of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, points out, "The syndicate has 1,200 journalists, but we haven't received any formal statement [about this problem]."

Thabit says the syndicate will investigate any reported incidents of malfeasance and if a journalist is guilty of breaching ethics, the syndicate will recommend that person be dismissed from his or her job.

"Most of those [journalists] doing this aren't syndicate members," notes Al-Yosifi, who further proposes the syndicate hold a formal conference to condemn this habit.

He believes the problem also might be solved by a simple message on a publication's masthead: "The biggest favor you can do for our newspaper is to offer our editors information, not money."



ZPEB International (Yemen) Yemeni Nationals Only

ZPEB Yemen announces the following vacancies:

1) Roustabout /Floorman

Requirements:

- 1 year of experience in the oil and gas industry.
- Basic understanding of drilling technology and procedure.

2) Derrick man/ Assist Driller/Driller

Requirements:

- 5 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and have good understanding of drilling technology and procedure.
- Ability to operate and maintain the equipment skillfully related to his position.

3) HSE officer/ Toolpusher

Requirements:

- 8 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and good knowledge of drilling operation and HSE regulations.
- Good team supervisory skills, good personnel relations and communication skills.

4) Electrical / Mechanical Engineer

Requirements:

- Bachelor in electrical/mechanical engineering discipline or higher
- 8 years of experience in the oil and gas industry and excellent knowledge of equipment, maintenance system and methods.

Application Criteria:

- All candidates can speak both Arabic and English fluently, must be healthy and can do the field-work.
- The candidate with experience in same position should have the priority.
- Please send your CV in English with your qualification only by e-mail to the following address: zpebym@v.net.ye
- Applications must be submitted no later than Feb 25, 2008

New drive against dissidents The Greek tragedy that is Syria

The appearance of the Lebanese singer Fairuz in Damascus is a political issue. Should one pay the Syrian rulers the honour of singing for them? The controversy plays out against the backdrop of the arrests of prominent Syrian dissidents. Jan Marron with the details.

By: Jan Marron

A wave of excitement swept through Syria when the news broke: she's coming! At last! "She" is Fairuz, the voice of Arab freedom and unity. After an absence of 21 years, the Lebanese singer returned to the Syrian stage on 28 January as part of the festivities marking "Damascus, Capital of Arab Culture 2008". She is performing in the play *Sah an-naum* (Good morning), which premiered in Damascus in 1970.

The plot of the play is straightforward, but heavily symbolic. An egoistic ruler, who has inherited the insignia of power and an inflated and sluggish bureaucracy from his father, is surviving and thriving at the expense of his people. An ordinary girl (played by Fairuz) steals his most important instrument of power, his seal, and uses it to approve all kinds of petitions. This breathes intellectual life into the stricken

country and boosts its economy. The powerful ruler is defeated by the ordinary girl. Fairuz's son, Ziad al-Rahbani, who is himself a living legend in the music world, reworked the play – which was written by his father and uncle – exclusively for the Damascus performance. For many in Lebanon, which is sometimes referred to as "Rahbani country", this show of deference and respect for Damascus was just unbearable.

Setting foot on enemy territory
Members of the anti-Syrian "14 March" movement considered it "treason" that their icon was willing to set foot on enemy territory. A corresponding media campaign was launched. One appeal, which was also published in the French *Courrier International*, pleaded with the singer: "don't go." According to the Lebanese daily *An-Nahar*, which is published by Ghassan Tueni, the Syrian dictatorship was just waiting to "gild its image with

your concerts".

Tueni's son, Gibran, was one of the most prominent victims of the bomb attacks that have been shaking Lebanon since 2004 and for which the "14 March" movement holds Syria responsible.

Despite all this, there are voices in Lebanon encouraging Fairuz to play the concerts in Damascus. Pierre Abi-Saab, for instance, editor of the features section of the Lebanese daily *Al-Akhar*, wrote an emotional piece that can be summed up with the words "Yes, Fairuz, do go!"

"Go and sing for freedom"

He pointed out that as a symbol of the "brotherly affection" between Lebanon and Syria – two countries that are already very close and whose histories and futures are intricately entwined – she should not punish the Syrians for their dictatorship. "Go and sing for freedom, and Michel Kilo and his friends will hear you from their prison cells [...] as will all others who have been imprisoned for expressing an opinion and all those who are persecuted for their convictions."

These are moving words that can hardly be contradicted. But the Syrian regime answered in its own way. On 28 January,



an hour before Fairuz's performance, Riad al-Seif, member of the Syrian opposition, was arrested at his home.

The civil rights activist was elected secretary-general of the group called "Declaration of Damascus" at its very first meeting on 1 December. Since then, 11 members of the group have been imprisoned. Al-Seif was also one of the co-founders of the "Damascene Spring" initiative, which was set up in 2001. "This was our way of protesting against the way the constitution was amended following the death of President Hafez al-Assad, turning the Syrian republic into a Syrian succession," recalls Muhammad Ali Atassi, another member of the initiative.

Ever since, the regime has considered Riad al-Seif, the son of a carpenter, particularly dangerous. He set up factories that

employed hundreds of people, two-thirds of whom were female. These factories were characterised by excellent management practices and exemplary company benefits. A large majority also elected him as an independent candidate to parliament, where he tirelessly

pilloried the government's economic policies and its bottomless swamp of corruption.

The lively spirit of reform

It was this lively spirit of reform that put him behind bars for five years. Undaunted, he has been working hard for the "Damascene Spring" initiative, which promotes the cause of a pluralist state based on the rule of law, ever since his release in 2006. The movement counts nationalists, left-wingers, liberals, democratic Islamists, and minorities like Kurds and Assyrians among its members. A total of 163 people attended the very first meeting.

On 28 January, a court case was brought against ten of them – including the initiative's president, Fida Hurani, and two of its secretaries, Akram al-Bunni and

Ahmed Tuame. The highly elastic charge being brought against them is the weakening of the state by sectarian ideas, the foundation of a party intent on toppling the regime, and the dissemination of mendacious propaganda.

According to information supplied by the human rights lawyer Razan Zeitounch, one of the accused, Ali Abdallah, sustained injuries to his windpipe as a result of maltreatment in custody. Al-Seif himself is seriously ill with cancer. Since the middle of last year he has been requesting permission to leave the country in order to receive treatment. The rejection of this request is tantamount to a slow and gradual execution.

But what about Fairuz? She will give more concerts in Syria and bring some happiness into the lives of the Syrians. But this is not what matters on the political stage. The Syrian regime is too ignorant to understand what the significant Lebanese political scientist Joseph Samaha once wrote about the imprisonment of the intellectual Michel Kilo: the regime will only gain strength when Kilo is released. And because it is too ignorant to do so, the "14 March" has now even more arguments with which to pillory the regime in front of the entire population that it is oppressing. A double whammy.

© Qantara.de 2008

Translated from the German by Aingal Flanagan

Get Ready for an Enchanting Event

Valentines' Eve

Dine & Dance at Golden Oasis

Enjoy a 4 course menu specially made for this evening by our Executive Chef.

Get entertained by a 5 piece Girl Band with our DJ who will play your favourite romantic ballads.

Time : 7.30 pm onwards
Date : 14th February, 2008

Price 50 USD + taxes per Person
Inclusive of a Special Valentine's Drink

For reservation please call 272372 ext. 1125.

فندق سبأ SHEBA HOTEL
P.O. Box : 773, Ali Abdulmoghni Street, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Email : foodandbeverage@shebahotel.com Website: www.shebahotel.com

مجلة الأسرة والتربية
متعة القراءة في كل بيت
Family & Development
متعة القراءة في كل بيت

بألتها الجديدة

أول مجلة يمنية تقدم الأسرة بين يديك

الصحة و الطفولة و الفن و الجمال و أناقة التناول الجديد
مواضيع تهتم سيدات المجتمع و أخرى يحبها الرجال

كما تقرؤون في هذا العدد

الشيخ الأحمر.. أحب الناس فأحبوه

من يعيد للمستثمرة اليمنية أروى الهمداني حقوقها.

كواليس الغاز اليمني.. مؤامرات والغاز شماخ..

رجيل تاجر حكيم وتلميذ سياسي الشوكولاته أكثر إثارة من القبلات

www.alosra.net / E-mail: alosrayemen@yahoo.com ٢١٧١٥٦ / ف ٢١٧١٥٦ / ت ٥٥٥٣٤ . ج.م - تعز جوار مكتب اليمنية ص.ب.

aksa POWER GENERATION

THE RELIABLE SOURCE IN POWER GENERATION

Head office : Sana'a - Haddah St.
Tel : 510372 - Fax : 510373
E-mail : yesyem@y.net.ye
Showroom: Al-Zubairi St. Tel: 465574
Aden : Tel : 345503 - Fax : 345512

POWER YOUR LIFE

Yemen Equipment & Supply
YES
الشركة اليمنية للمعدات والتجهيزات المحدودة

Generating sets in the range of 2.2 KVA to 3000 KVA

Qat increases sex drive but inhibits sexual performances

By: Hamed Thabet
hamed_thabit@hotmail.com

Nearly all Yemenis believe that qat has an affect on their sexual relations, and many believe that qat increases their sexual prowess. Because of this, many husbands and wives chew qat together, in order to have more fulfilling sexual intercourse.

However, this long-held belief was found to be untrue according to a recent United Nations Development Program (UNDP) report on the use of qat in Yemen. While qat may stimulate a man's sex drive, it actually decreases his ability to perform, since chewing qat frequently leads to premature ejaculation, according to the report.

A woman's sexual appetite also increases when she chews qat. The predicament begins when a qat-chewing woman's increased desire combines with a qat-chewing man's premature ejaculation. This creates problems in the bedroom: an embarrassed husband and an unfulfilled wife.

Many people, like Hani Al-Hrazi and his two wives, chew qat together because they believe that their sexual experience is heightened during and after chewing.

"My wife and I usually chew qat together. I firmly believe that after chewing we both become better in bed," said Al-Hrazi. "I noticed that

when women chew qat, they become uncontrollably excited [sexually]. It works with my two wives all the time."

Al-Hrazi also noted that his wives' sex drives decrease and that his experience is less fulfilling when they do not chew qat.

"Before having sex with my wife I must chew qat. I feel that my prowess increases doubly," said Abud Al-Jalil Al-Dhalei, a married man. "I cannot be perfect in bed without it."

Though Yemenis disagree that qat makes them sexually weaker, Al-Dhalei admitted that when he chews, he becomes tired after the first round of sex and ejaculates quickly.

Qat Increases Sexual Arousal While Decreasing Sexual Ability

Chewing qat causes blood flow to the penis to increase, and because of this, men may ejaculate prematurely, explained Dr. Erfan Al-Shammari, a specialist in vascular diseases at Sana'a's Babylon Specialized Hospital.

According to Al-Shammari, the other sexual problem chewing qat causes is increased pressure the prostate gland during long hours spent sitting. When men sit for long stretches of time during a qat chew, this pressure makes the prostate gland swell. This pressure in the prostate makes men ejaculate prematurely.

The prostate gland supplies the fluid into which the testicles add the sperm during a man's ejaculation. So if a

man's prostate is excited in any way, as in the case of increased blood flow, the prostate may ejaculate fluids quickly, triggering the testicles to ejaculate the sperm, which causes premature ejaculation, explained Al-Shammari.

"The main secret behind this is that there is a rise in both male and female blood circulation, but women take longer to achieve orgasm than men," said Al-Shammari.

Qat Stimulates Desire In The Short-Term But Stifles It Over Time

Some people say that the side effects depend on the quality of the qat, and not all kinds of qat have the same effect. Qat chewers note that there is a qat for sex, a qat for studying, a qat to help you to stay awake, etc.

However, Al-Shammari said that many studies on qat showed that all types of qat have the same negative consequences for the body. In addition, sexual desire was shown to decrease whether the quality of qat was good or bad.

"I never chew qat when my wife is with me. I just chew whenever she goes to the village to visit her family, because I feel that I cannot be good in bed because of qat," said Ali Al-Mazana'i. "I become tired and I don't have desire, unlike when I'm not chewing qat."

As qat chewing continues, some areas of the brain become lethargic, leading to loss of motor skills and problems with speech and vision. When more Qat is chewed, the respiratory and cardiac centers in the brain's medulla are affected, which could eventually render a chewer comatose.

Though qat initially relieves anxiety, removing a sense of guilt and justifying personal failures, the user becomes indifferent to the needs of others. The chewer's attitudes change, their patterns of thought become confused and their behavior becomes stubborn. Said Dr. Ali Al-Mudhwah, director of Family Health in the Ministry of Health and Population.

According to Dr. Mohamed Al-Kamel at the Ain-Shams Faculty of Medicine in Cairo, Egypt, tests performed on laboratory animals suggest that low doses of the chemicals found in qat do indeed increase male sex drive, though men who use qat in high doses or for long periods may experience infertility or loss of interest in



Many Yemenis spend their afternoon in Qat chewing sessions.

having sex.

In human and animal studies, qat use has been shown to decrease sperm count, as well as hamper the sperm's ability to function. Additionally, defective sperm and decreased levels of testosterone have been documented in some men who use qat regularly.

The Psychological and Social Ills Caused By Qat

"Almost all the couples in the rural areas chew qat," said Dr. Ali Al-Mudhwah. In major cities like Sana'a, qat chewing couples are common, as is qat chewing among women. Qat is often distributed at women's gatherings and wedding parties, Al-Mudhwah added.

"In the past it was degrading for a girl or a woman to chew qat, but nowadays it has become a social custom," said Al-Mudhwah.

Because of widespread qat use, social problems between family members are happening more habitually, said Al-Mudhwah.

There are also psychological side effects for both men and women qat chewers, according to Al-Shammari.

Qat chewing can cause moodiness or depression, which has a direct effect on sexual relations. If one partner is depressed from chewing, the couple might be slower to have intercourse and quicker to fight, he said.

Disrupted family life, violence, arguments and fights happen when men sit with their friends for hours and chew qat while neglecting their relationship with their wives. Women left alone sometimes go out and chews with her friends in gatherings and get-togethers, thereby leaving the children on their own and fracturing family life.

The chemicals in qat can cause mental problems such as delusions of grandeur, insomnia, loss of appetite or weight. Qat is also the root cause of many cases of divorce, child abuse and physical injury. Pregnant women who chew qat cause congenital abnormalities to their unborn child in the womb, Al-Kamel says.

Qat contains chemicals in it like amphetamine, tannins and ascorbic acid, amino acids, minerals and vitamins, especially vitamin C. Too much vitamin C can cause nausea, fever, severe back pain and jaundice.

Chewing qat is bad for teeth and can cause lacerations in the mouth and oral ulcers. Qat is famously accompanied by sweet carbonated beverages and cigarettes, which are obviously bad for health, and add to the financial burden of daily use.

Al-Kamel added that qat isn't just a family problem; it has a severe negative impact on Yemen's national health as well. Qat users have breathing difficulties, high blood pressure, increased heart rate and stomach irritation. If the qat was treated chemically, it can lead to chemical hepatitis.

Continued use of qat over long periods produces diseases in virtually every organ of the body, such as the liver, heart, brain, pancreas and reproductive organs.

The high only lasts as long as the qat is stored in the cheek. Difficulty sleeping, loss of appetite, depression and diminished sex drive are some of the withdrawal symptoms that people feel after chewing qat. These side effects usually go away within a few hours, but the physical, psychological and social problems caused by qat chewing are real and permanent.



Qat chewing can cause moodiness or depression, which has a direct effect on sexual relations. If one partner is depressed from chewing.

"Not a single country fully implements all key tobacco control measures." Said WHO

World Health Organization confirmed last week that not a single country fully implements all key tobacco control measures.

In a new report which presents the first comprehensive analysis of global tobacco use and control efforts, WHO finds that only 5% of the world's population live in countries that fully protect their population with any one of the key measures that reduce smoking rates. The report also reveals that governments around the world collect 500 times more money in tobacco taxes each year than they spend on anti-tobacco efforts. It finds that tobacco taxes, the single most effective strategy, could be significantly increased in nearly all countries, providing a source of sustainable funding to implement and enforce the recommended approach, a package of six policies called MPOWER (see below).

"While efforts to combat tobacco are gaining momentum, virtually every country needs to do more. These six strategies are within the reach of every country, rich or poor and, when combined as a package, they offer us the best chance of reversing this growing



epidemic," said Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO. Dr Chan launched the WHO Report of the Global Tobacco Epidemic at a news conference with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Bloomberg Philanthropies helped fund the report.

"The report released today is revolutionary," Mayor Bloomberg said. "For the first time, we have both a rigorous approach to stop the tobacco epidemic and solid data to hold us all accountable. No country fully implements all of the MPOWER policies and 80% of countries don't fully implement even one policy. While tobacco control measures are sometimes controversial, they save lives and governments need to step up and do the right thing."

The six MPOWER strategies are:

- Monitor tobacco use and prevention policies
- Protect people from tobacco smoke
- Offer help to quit tobacco use
- Warn about the dangers of tobacco
- Enforce bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship
- Raise taxes on tobacco

The report also documents the epidemic's shift to the developing world, where 80% of the more than eight million annual tobacco-related deaths pro-

jected by 2030 are expected to occur.

This shift, the report says, results from a global tobacco industry strategy to target young people and adults in the developing world, ensuring that millions of people become fatally addicted every year. The targeting of young women in particular is highlighted as one of the "most ominous potential developments of the epidemic's growth".

The global analysis, compiled by WHO with information provided by 179 Member States, gives governments and other groups a baseline from which to monitor efforts to stop the epidemic in the years ahead. The MPOWER package provides countries with a roadmap to help them meet their commitments to the widely embraced global tobacco treaty known as the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which came into force in 2005.

WHO is also working with global partners to scale up the help that can be offered to countries to implement the strategies.

Dr Douglas Bettcher, Director of WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative, said the six MPOWER strategies would create a powerful response to the tobacco epidemic. "This package will create an enabling environment to help current

tobacco users quit, protect people from second-hand smoke and prevent young people from taking up the habit," he said.

Other key findings in the report include:

- Only 5% of the global population is protected by comprehensive national smoke-free legislation and 40% of countries still allow smoking in hospitals and schools;
- Only 5% of the world's population lives in countries with comprehensive national bans on tobacco advertising and promotion;
- Just 15 countries, representing 6% of the global population, mandate pictorial warnings on tobacco packaging;
- Services to treat tobacco dependence are fully available in only nine countries, covering 5% of the world's people;
- Tobacco tax revenues are more than 4000 times greater than spending on tobacco control in middle-income countries and more than 9000 times greater in lower-income countries. High-income countries collect about 340 times more money in tobacco taxes than they spend on tobacco control.

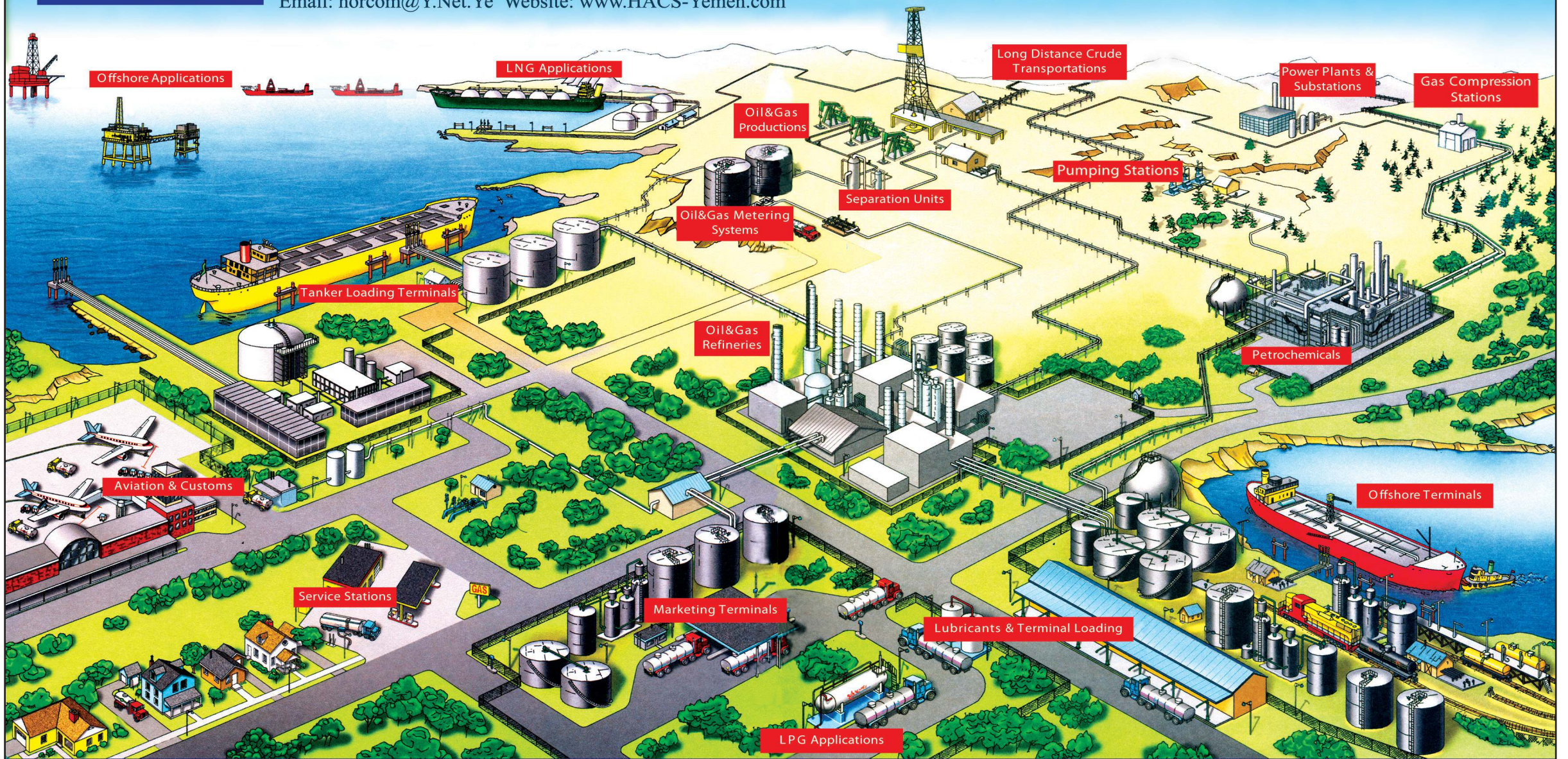


HORIZON AGENCIES & COMMERCIAL SERVICES (HACS)

P.O. Box : 15408 Sana'a , Republic of Yemen
 Tel : + 967 - 1 - 421508 / 421532 Fax : + 967 - 1 - 421514
 Email: horcom@Y.Net.Ye Website: www.HACS-Yemen.com

Served Markets

Typical Market Applications



AGENT FOR:



Yemen Commercial Bank



البنك التجاري اليمني

DREAM HAS BECOME REALITY WITH ATIJARI JAWAHER ACCOUNTS



3 CARS AND 160 PRECIOUS PRIZES MONTHLY

BESIDS THE GOLDEN DRAWING FOR THE DREAM OF YOUR HOME

Toll free 8008000
 Phone 01-299988



www.ycb.com.ye

Five Yemeni handcrafts are losing their identity (Part 2)

By: Nisreen Shadad
For Yemen Times

Many traditional Yemeni handcrafts are in great demand due to their elegant style and the high quality of raw materials used. However, many more have disappeared completely or are in danger of losing their identity because each craft demands a set of specialized skills and raw materials of high quality. Because Yemen's raw materials are exported outside the country, their prices have increased.

A December 2007 field study attempting to catalog and document traditional handcrafts in the Old City of Sana'a found that while 28 percent the area's residents are craftsmen, most have discontinued such work for several reasons, most importantly, low income and more cheaply imported similar handcrafts.

A national team from Yemen's General Organization of Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts, under the auspices of the Social Fund for Development, worked for a year to document all Yemeni handcrafts in the Old City of Sana'a, which are an important part of the nation's cultural heritage created by various civilizations throughout centuries of history. Thus, they are experiences handed down from generation to generation.

The seven-member research team consisted of: Amat Al-Bari Al-Adi, Amat Al-Razzaq Jahaf, Abdulqadir Al-Shaibani, Zaid Al-Faqih, Ibrahim Al-Hadid and Abdulaziz Ibrahim.

Team leader Al-Adi believes that imported handcrafts affect Yemeni handcrafts. According to initial team



An ancient door.

estimates, Jahaf says only 35 percent of such handcrafts exist today in the Old City, which threatens craftsmen with losing their livelihoods.

Further, because raw materials have become rare, many craftsmen depend on exported raw materials, which affects the quality of the handcrafts.

Al-Adi explained that in order to reach those outcomes, the team conducted its research in four stages, the first of which was a survey to determine the number of handcrafts, craftsmen and handcraft shops. The survey involved the type of handcraft, the number of shops selling it and the name of the street where it's located.

The team's leader continued, "Next, we analyzed the results and used them to apply stage two," which was collecting the historical background of the 27 Yemeni handcrafts.

"Stage three was preparing a meeting of specialists in this field to study what we did and to continue our work of cataloging the handcrafts," Al-Adi noted. The final stage was a comprehensive field study wherein the team surveyed and documented Old City handcrafts by photographing and recording everything, even the songs the craftsmen sing while they work.



Al-nasla made from animal horns.



lubat abu tair, the most famous ancient necklace.

Handcrafts losing their identity

Five out of 27 Yemeni handcrafts are threatened with losing their identity and those are the making of the jambiyya and its belt, traditional carpentry, Yemeni agate or onyx polishing and shaping, and silver making.

Jambiyya

Yemen's jambiyya consists of its handle, al-mibsam and al-nasla (the dagger itself).

Considered the most important part, jambiyya handles are made from the horns of animals such as cows, goats, rhinoceros and giraffes. With two types of cow horns, red and white, they are the cheapest while the best and most expensive jambiyya handles are made of rhinoceros horns.

Al-mibsam is an ornamental band of pure silver. If a jambiyya is valuable, the band is gilded. The meeting point between the handle and al-nasla, al-mibsam is affixed horizontally to the bottom of the handle. Al-nasla is the dagger itself made of iron.

Mohammed Al-Uzairi, an important source for the researchers, notes that his family passed down this traditional handcraft from generation to generation; therefore, their name has become a trademark for good jambiyyas.

"There are jambiyyas that are called Al-Uzairi, Al-Saifani and Al-Asadi," Jahaf adds.

Zaid Al-Gadhba, a 50-year-old craftsman making al-nasla in the Old City of Sana'a, suggests that the craft may be 1,000 years old. He makes three types of nasal (the plural of al-nasla): Banuz, Dhamaria and Sana'ania.

Nabeel Kaidama, a 40-year-old craftsman specialized in carving jambiyya handles, says that while Al-Uzairi is the most famous type of jambiyya, numerous types of janaby [plural for jambiyya] have emerged, adding that, "Craftsmen used to make them out of elephant tusks, camel hoofs, marble and Yemeni agate or onyx."

When laws against hunting rhinoceros began affecting the jambiyya industry, most craftsmen began using cow horns, which are called al-kark.

According to Al-Uzairi, the only valuable jambiyyas are those ancient ones whose owners were compelled to sell them because of their particular circumstances. The price of an ancient jambiyya may be as much as \$12,000.

No one dares to steal such a precious jambiyya because a thief neither can wear it nor sell it. Because the important janaby are well-known, particularly to specialists in the craft, anyone attempting to sell it will be discovered immediately and even if he does find someone to buy it, the buyer will be afraid to wear it because, as Al-Uzairi notes, "Such types are very distinctive."

The jambiyya belt

The importance of a jambiyya's belt lies in the importance of the jambiyya itself. "There's no information about

how the various types of jambiyya belts originated," Jahaf says. "But according to my research, I believe they simply developed from the ancient sword belts made of gold or silver."

Mohammed Jazem, a specialist in this handcraft, explains that there were two types of ancient sword belts – hammala and hayasa – however, they have since vanished because people wear today janbyyya instead of the ancient sword. There are only two or three craftsmen in the Old City of Sana'a, but no one requests.

The most common type of the belt nowadays is a different variation of those belts. It is a piece of hand-embroidered white cloth affixed to a leather belt, Jahaf notes.

Traditional carpentry

While the wood used in Sana'a varies, Al-Tanab is the best because it's strong enough to withstand both sunlight and wetness. Additionally, woodworms can't destroy doors made of this type of wood or eat it for hundreds of years.

The type of wood used to make locks, Al-Ghudhar, is different because although it's light, it's hard. Further, Al-Humr and Al-Barqouq wood are used in furniture making.

As Jahaf points out, "We've documented many traditional wood works, including numerous types of doors, windows, mashrabiyya (bay windows) and boxes."

Yemeni agate or onyx

Additionally, she says, "We've documented the traditional way of shaping and polishing Yemeni onyx."

Muslih Al-Hadad and Mohammed Abu Talib are the Old City's most famous craftsmen who informed the research team about the traditional way of shaping and polishing Yemeni agate or onyx. According to them, the traditional method involves preparing the raw agate in three steps: al-taqsiya, al-ramla and al-tashdeef; these steps for shaping the raw agate. In these steps, craftsmen harden the raw material and then cut the agate into a specific form.

Stage two is to polish the agate through four steps: al-tashweeb, al-qirab, al-tisi and al-talmee.

However, according to Al-Hadad, a trainer at the National Center for Handcrafts Development, a new way of shaping agates is to harden the raw material in two machines called Al-Jalkh and Dabasha.

Stones are placed in a specialized fireplace within an iron vessel. The agates are cut into several sizes and the Jalkh machine is used to sharpen them and make the patterns within them clearer. The final step is to polish the stones in the Dabasha machine, which resembles a plastic jar, Jahaf explains.

Silver making

Yemeni silver jewelry has a long-standing tradition and has enjoyed great popularity, not only in the Arab world, but worldwide. According to Jahaf, Yemeni silver has two distinctive cultural characteristics, the first one being the Yemeni name for silver itself, mikhlas. Even silver shops are called al-mikhlas.

"I asked one silversmith the meaning of this word and when exactly it was used. He told me it comes from the word 'sincerity' because those working at any job, but particularly in silver,

must be accurate in order to create pure silver," Jahaf said.

The second distinguishing characteristic is that Yemeni silver is free of Qur'anic verses. The reason for this, according to the Yemeni team's field study, is that since the 18th century, Yemeni silversmiths have been Jewish.

"They may have avoided inscribing Qur'anic verses on their work because it's not their religion or possibly out of respect because it's forbidden to wear something with the name of God in a bathroom," Jahaf offered.

Approximately 19 silversmiths lived in the Old City of Sana'a in 1960, with Jahaf explaining that the numbers decreased when Yemeni Jews emigrated to Palestine between 1948 and 1950.

"After that, Yemeni Jews trained other Yemenis in this handcraft and many excelled at it, but the most famous ones today are Mohammed Al-Ramush and Mohammed Al-Faqih," Jahaf noted.

However, people began abandoning traditional silver jewelry for many reasons. Women, particularly those who worked, preferred wearing the lighter gold jewelry. Thus, gold jewelry took over the status of silver because of its cost. Although silver jewelry is expensive to buy, it is sold cheaply.

"Exactly when this handcraft changed and lost its Yemeni identity remains vague, but a significant change has occurred regarding the status of silver in Yemen, thereby affecting its forms, the raw materials and machinery used. In the past, jewelry was hand-



An ancient window.

made, which made it more accurate and beautiful," Jahaf stated.

"We can't pinpoint the exact time, but, according to our study, a major change occurred in this handcraft when the National Center for Protecting Traditional Handcrafts opened.

"The center intended to preserve Yemeni heritage, particularly silver-smithing, but the project failed because the center's manager was interested in making new forms of jewelry instead of traditional ones. Moreover, he used poor quality raw materials," Jahaf added.

While there are four types of silver making in Yemen, depending on the region, the Yemeni team's study was interested only in those types produced in the Old City of Sana'a.

"The first type, Al-Bawsani, is the best because it's more accurate and the silver is more pure. The second type is Al-Badihi and it enjoys second status in terms of purity and accuracy, while the third type is Al-Mansouri, followed by Al-Shadadi," Jahaf explained.

Further, the names of ancient silver jewelry are different than more recent silver jewelry.

"Necklace was called al-lubata and there were many types such as lubat abu tair, lubat abu wajhain, lubat maza-mir, al-miasabah, al-mashaqer and al-asawer. There also were al-tafiyat (bracelets) such as al-tafiya Al-Bawsaniya and Al-Mansouriya. Other types of cuffed bracelets are masca and shumailiyya," Jahaf noted.

She concluded, "We also documented numerous types of rings, belts and ta'aeedh, which is something hung to protect one from 'the evil eye'."

CULTURAL SERIES 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.

Gabrielle Roy, English Canadians' favorite French Canadian

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

Canadian novelist, short story writer and journalist Gabrielle Roy was born March 22, 1909, in Saint Boniface, Manitoba, a small French-speaking community that is now part of Winnipeg.

Her father was a federal colonization agent working to resettle immigrants in western Canada. He lost his job in 1913 a few months before he would have qualified for retirement, leaving his family in dire straits, so Roy's mother took in sewing projects to keep the family afloat.

Roy's childhood as a poor Francophone Manitoban forced her to work hard at school, where she won prizes for work in both French and English. The money she won for her final examination results paid for her first year at Winnipeg Normal Institute, where she enrolled in 1927.

Obtaining her teaching certificate in 1929, she began teaching school in the backwoods of Manitoba, all the while continuing to contribute her wages to her family for years. Throughout her teaching years, Roy was a member of a drama troupe, Le Cercle Molière.

She left home in 1937 with her small savings to study dramatic art in England and France for two years. However, the 1939 outbreak of World War II hastened her return to Canada where she settled in Montréal, Québec, becoming a freelance journalist.

For the next six years in Montréal, Roy produced both journalism and short stories for Canadian publications such as Le Jour and Le Bulletin des Agriculteurs and the literary journal, La Revue Moderne.

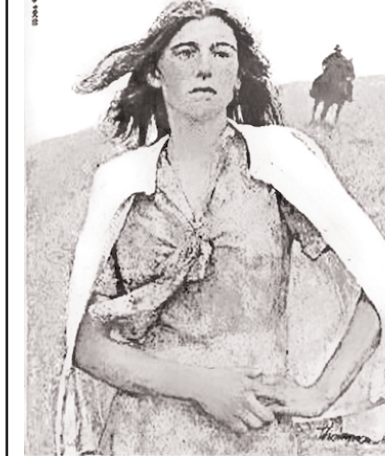
Following her marriage in 1947, Roy moved with her husband to live in Paris for the next three years. They returned to LaSalle, a city on Montréal Island, in 1950, settling two years later in Québec City.

Considered one of the most important Francophone writers of the post-war era in Canadian history, some of Roy's works being translated into 15 languages.

Throughout her prolific career, she received many honors, including three Governor General's Awards (in 1947, 1957 and 1978), the 1956 Duvernay Prize, the 1968 Medal of the Canada Council, the 1970 Athanase-David Prize, the 1971 David Prize, the 1978 Molson Prize and the Canada Council's 1980 prize for children's literature.

Additionally, Roy was the first woman to become a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1947 and was made Companion of the Order of Canada in 1967.

The central theme of Roy's work is that of humanity in pain and solitude, but redeemed by the love implicit in creation and by hope for a world in



which all human beings are reconciled.

Roy's novels are both urban and rural, with some set in Montréal, while others are on the prairies of her youth, and one book is set in the Canadian north.

Additionally, her novels and short stories frequently are included in high school curricula, either in their original French or in English translation.

Roy's first novel, "Bonheur d'occasion" (1945; The Tin Flute, 1947), is considered a masterpiece of social realism. The novel innovatively portrays the urban environment of Montréal and its poverty-stricken working-class neighborhood, Saint-Henri, during World War II.

"The Tin Flute" was the first Canadian novel to win both France's Prix Fémina and New York's Literary Guild Award in 1947 and it was made into a critically acclaimed movie in 1983.

Roy's second novel, 1950's "La Petite Poule d'Eau" (Where Nests the Water Hen, 1951), is set in the isolated area of northern Manitoba where Roy taught school in 1937. It presents a tender and idyllic portrait of a rural life of innocence and harmony away from the demands and temptations of the wider world. The novel became a staple for English Canadian school children to read in their French language classes.

The dark and emotional story, "Alexandre Chenevert," (The Cashier, 1955) is ranked as one of the most significant works of psychological realism in the history of Canadian literature.

Roy's other fictional works include "Rue Deschambault" (Street of Riches, 1957), "La Montagne Secrète," (The Hidden Mountain, 1962) which was set in the Canadian Arctic, "La Route d'Altamont" (The Road Past Altamont, 1966), "Cet Été qui Chantait" (Enchanted Summer, 1976) and "Un Jardin au Bout de Monde" (Garden in the Wind, 1977).

Her 1977 novel, "Ces Enfants de Ma Vie" (Children of My Heart, 1979) depicted her evident love for children and the happiness she received from teaching. Adapted into a television film in 2000, its English translation was selected for inclusion in the 2007 edition of Canada Reads.

In 1978, Roy published a collection of non-fiction writing spanning her entire life in her book, "Fragile Lumières de la Terre" (Fragile Lights of the Earth). She also penned three volumes of children's stories: "Ma Vache Bossie" (My Cow Bossie, 1988), "Courte-Queue" (Cliptail, 1980) and "L'Españole et Le Pékinoise" (The Tortoiseshell and the Pekinese, 1989).

Entitled "La Détresse et L'Enchantement" (Enchantment and Sorrow) and covering the years from her childhood in Manitoba to the time when she settled in Québec, her autobiography was published posthumously in 1984.

Roy died of a heart attack on July 13, 1983 in Québec City. The recognition won by her immense talent opened new vistas for Francophone writers in Canada. Perhaps her exemplary work and analysis of the human condition were possible due to the fact that her life was filled with both enchantment and sorrow.

**CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISEMENTS
PAGE**



COLOP self-inking stamps
اختتام ذاتية التحبير

Exclusive Agent : **Thabet Son Corporation** مؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة
Showroom Telefax 269924 - Sana'a - Mujahed St. - Beside Al-Basha Grocery



ASHIBAMI AGENCIES
For Stationery Supplies

المركز الرئيسي : صنعاء شارع الزبير
تلفون : 219054 - 530000
429065 - 429555
E-mail: ashibami@y.net.ye
www.ashibami.com

1 DOLLAR

American tourism in Jordan back on track...but slowly

The political turmoil that has gripped the Middle East for the past few years has driven away Western tourists from Jordan but slowly they have started to comeback The Media Line's *Mohammad Ben Hussein* reports.

Beyond American tourists were common visitors to bustling downtown Amman, wearing the traditional Middle Eastern kefiyahs, as they combed the market looking for souvenirs.

The centre of the capital Amman was once a Mecca for tourists, who were often seen on the congested streets, draped with their flashy cameras, visiting the Roman amphitheatre in the heart of the capital, and enjoying the flavor of their Middle-Eastern experience after trips to Petra and the Dead Sea.

But the political turmoil that has gripped the Middle East for the past few years has driven away Western tourists.

Americans in particular are now as rare a commodity as peace and stability in the neighbouring countries of Iraq, the Palestinian areas, Israel, and Lebanon.

Haidar Ziadat, director of the Jordan Travel and Tour Agencies Association says security warnings issued by American authorities to its citizens around the world has had a profound impact on the number of U.S. and Western tourists visiting Jordan.

"We consider American tourism as the most important in terms of spending. We hope it will increase if the American president succeeds in making peace. This will encourage many to come," says Ziadat.

The peaceful kingdom, ruled by a monarch who embraces reform and modernism, has fallen victim to its geographical location.

Jordan, with a population of 5.6 million, is an island in a sea of political instability, whose moderate leadership and close ties with the West made the country a safe haven for decades.

Millions of refugees from war-ravaged places including Iraq, the Palestinian areas, and Lebanon have made Jordan their home seeking a sense of normality.

Still, it is very difficult for folks across the Atlantic to distinguish between Jordan and Iraq, laments Tareq Atiyah, the bartender in a restaurant in Jabal Amman, regularly visited by foreigner employees after a long



In the first 11 months of 2007, 166,000 American tourists visited Jordan.

day's work. "We welcome Americans with open arms because they are our guests and we always treat our guests with respect," says Atiyah.

"We want them to come here to show our hospitality and how safe this country is."

The Jordanian government has embarked on an aggressive campaign to promote the kingdom in the United States and Europe hoping to attract more visitors.

"We expect more American tourists to visit Jordan this year, since Petra was chosen as one of the Seven Wonders of the World," says Fayyadh Sukkar, head of the statistics department at the Ministry of Tourism.

The campaign seems to have paid off, and ministry figures show a steady but small increase in the numbers of American tourists visiting Jordan. The numbers are still pretty dismal though.

In the first 11 months of 2007, 166,000 American tourists visited the country, an increase of four percent compared to the previous year.

Shop owners and street vendors say they do not mind going out of their way to lure American tourists to their humble shops, despite their outrage at American policy in the region and its occupation of Iraq.

"Americans are good people who elect evil leaders," says street vendor 'Abdallah Abu Kishik, reflecting on better days, when hundreds of Americans wandered the streets.

"In the 30 years I've been working here, I've noticed American people are kind, generous, and peace loving," says

Abu Kishik, who is quick to distinguish between the White House and the general public. "Most Americans have no interest or even knowledge of politics. Everyone is welcome in Amman," says the pale-looking man.

Jordan is home to breathtaking attractions such as the rock-engraved city of Petra, recently chosen as the Second Wonder of the World and featured in the Hollywood film, Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, the Dead Sea, and the Baptism site in the Jordan Valley, the lowest point on Earth.

Among Jordan's other attractions are the petrified mountains of Wadi Rum, Mount Nebo, an array of Roman and Islamic ruins, and the Red Sea resort of Aqaba, with its famous rainbow-coloured reef.

Business has also suffering in the ancient site of the city of Petra, where 17 hotels are on the brink of closing for defaulting on loans.

"American tourists often recount how reluctant they were to come to Jordan and that they are surprised to see how safe and hospitable it is," said Abdullah Helalat, manager of Candles Hotel in Petra.

But hotel owners in Petra also complain that most tourists just visit for a day trip and rarely spend the night in their hotels.

Tourists usually arrive from cruises docking at the Red Sea resort of Aqaba or from the border crossings with Israel.

"Most American tourists who come here do not eat or drink because they either bring their food with them or wait to eat when they get back to their

ship," said Salam Hasanat, a Petra tour guide.

In the meantime, some tourists wish to keep a low profile when visiting Jordan, such as U.S. soldiers and contractors working with the army in Iraq.

Several hotels in western Amman provide breathing space for thousands of soldiers, after months in war-torn Iraq. But, these visits are frowned upon in this conservative country, as the soldiers have been associated with excessive alcohol, gambling, and prostitution.



CCTV
Permeates anything
Observers everything
Doesn't Miss a thing
Panasonic like nothing else

ALFA شركة ألتا المحدودة
الوكيل الوحيد في الجمهورية اليمنية

Panasonic
ideas for life



CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS INTERNATIONAL COMPANY - SAL

CONSTRUCTION OF MECHANICAL AND HEAVY CIVIL PROJECTS

- Petrochemical plants, refineries.
- Heavy, light industrial plants.
- Power and desalination plants.
- Fuel and water storage tanks.
- Oil fields ancillary installations.
- Air purification for industry.
- Marine docks, harbours, deep sea berths & refinery terminals.
- Offshore structures and underwater works.
- Pipelines construction and maintenance.
- Prefabricated accommodation & office facilities.
- Sewage treatment plants & collection networks.
- Airports, roads, highways, bridges & fly-overs.
- High quality buildings & sports complexes.
- Water treatment plants, reservoirs & distribution systems.

Sanaa
Tel: (967-1) 441638
Fax: (967-1) 441630
E-Mail: cccyemen@y.net.ye

Aden
Tel: (967-2) 377328
Fax: (967-2) 377116
E-Mail: cccaden@y.net.ye



Building a better future
Global Leader

HYUNDAI HEAVY INDUSTRIES CO., LTD.

Innovation

الوكيل الوحيد في الجمهورية اليمنية: **ZTCO** شركة زبين للتجارة والصناعة

Soul agent in RoY **Zubayen Trading & Industry Company**
Sana'a (441575/571) - Fax :441579 - E-mail: zubayen1@y.net.ye • Aden (205060/1/2) - Fax : 205063



NOKIA XpressMusic

مفاتيح موسيقية تعمل بللمسة واحدة. ملائمة مع نماذج ملفات موسيقية متعددة. جودة صوت عالية النقاء. إمكانية تخزين ملفات موسيقية قابلة للتوسيع لحفظ حتى 3,000 أغنية مع بطاقة SD سعة 4GB، مدة إستماع إلى الموسيقى أكثر من 20 ساعة.

Press Play

Nokia 5310 XpressMusic الفل

Nokia 5610 XpressMusic الورد

الورد والفل (غنية للفلان محمد فرزند لاجي)

ضمانه ضمان ماكسيما نيكوم هي الضمانه الاكبره
الربوي: 275106 - القيادة: 561700 - مركز صنعاء التجاري: 448504 - حدة: 513900 - عصر: 289477
عمن: 02 243321 - الجديده: 03 22 44 42 - دعر: 250817 - 04 - المكلا: 302412 - 05