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Price hikes prompt Yemenis to change Eid plans

By: Almigdad Mojalli

SANA'A, Sep 24- Low income, price hikes, the rising cost of living and large families have forced many Yemenis to change the way they celebrate Eid.

For many years, it's been the norm for Yemenis to splurge on new clothes, great feasts and sweets during the holy celebration, as well as to travel to other governorates, like Aden, Hudaida, Mukala and Taiz to spend the holiday.

This Eid, many cannot afford to travel as they are struggling to make ends meet. Others will cancel travel plans to use the money to buy Eid sweets and new clothes for their children instead.

In addition to the general price hikes the country has witnessed during the past two years, the increase of



Sweets and nuts markets thrive during Eid time because Yemenis offer them to guests who visit during Eid days.

rates in tourist destinations such as Aden and Mukala during the Eid period have made it especially difficult for many people to spend their holidays there.

"I used to spend the Eid holiday in either Aden or Hudaida, or in my village, but unreasonable prices and an unchanged income have led me to cancel the idea this year," said Ahmed Al-Ezzi.

"We will spend the Eid holiday at home because my family is big and can't afford all the costs of the trip," adds Hana Mohammed

Marwan Al-Saqqaf, 32, used to travel to Taiz with his family to spend the Eid holiday with relatives. This year, he is going to travel alone. "Everything is expensive and it is difficult to take my whole family to Taiz," said Al-Saqqaf.

Continued on page 3

UN resident coordinator interview with Yemen Times

Yemen Times spoke to UN Resident Coordinator, Pratibha Mehta, who offered her perspective on issues involving development, security, refugees, the current situation in Sa'ada and the recent attack on the US embassy in Sana'a.

Mehta assured Yemen Times that the UN's work in Yemen is developmentoriented and not involved in politics: "Right now we are mostly concerned with humanitarian relief and life-saving needs. Food itself is a very big issue." She added that the UN "will support the Yemeni government in managing the country's security in [its] programs."

She also stressed that "All people -both men and women- should be engaged in national development. It is not just what the country can do for the



people, it is also what the people [...] can do for their country, and in this sense you cannot ignore 50 percent of the population"

Full interview next issue.

Traffic accidents kill 159, injure 1156 over the first half of Ramadan

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Sept 23 - The Interior Ministry's Traffic Department earlier this week released a report on the total number of traffic accident victims nationwide over the past 21 days of the holy month of Ramadan.

According to the report, as many as 159 people have been killed and 1159 others injured during the first half of Ramadan, and this is too much compared to other months of the year.

The report attributed these accidents to breakneck speed, poor car maintenance and poor awareness of traffic rules and regulations among drivers, who most often violate traffic laws. It also pointed poor road maintenance, non-abidance to technical criteria while implementing road projects, smuggled car spare parts and giving driving licenses to youngsters as being factors in the increase of road accidents

The report indicated that 945 traffic accidents had occurred during the first three weeks of Ramadan, of which 466 were car collisions, 347 accidents running over pedestrians and 132 car



As many as 159 people have been killed and 1159 others injured during the first half of Ramadan,

indicates increase in the number of fatalities related to traffic accidents over the past days of Ramadan compared to an average of between 35 and 40 deaths in other months.

The Traffic Department expressed concern about the high number of traffic accident victims during the month of fasting, particularly as traffic jams and movement between governorates usually increase during the final days of the month.

alert for the sake of their and others' safety.

Car drivers, from their side, criticized the Traffic Department and Public Works Authority for being careless in road maintenance, which should be undertaken to make them fit for vehicles. They complained of a lack of traffic signs to help guide them at intersections and avoid the holes in roads that cause numerous car accidents.

Terrorist acts affect over 140000 Yemenis, says al-Faqih

By: Almigdad Mojalli

SANA'A, Sep. 24 — Tourism Minister Nabil al-Faqih said on Monday that acts of terrorism are crippling the tourism sector in Yemen.

Al-Faqih said that tourists' reluctance to visit Yemen not only affects tourism investments, but also the livelihoods of those working in the tourism sector. He said that over 50,000 workers are affected directly and another 90,000 affected indirectly by this decrease in visitors to the country.

The Minister stressed the importance of tourism in the national economy, and noted the government's efforts to develop the sector on both a regional and international level.

Many companies and hotels confirm that they are affected by the bad press generated by terrorist attacks and kidnappings.

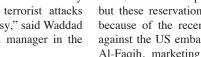
Tawfiq Al-Kameri, the president of the Yemen Hotels & Investment Company, stated that his company had lost more than USD\$ 13,000,000 dur ing the past few years because of kid-

napping and terrorism. "Who is going to visit or invest in Yemen, when he hears that criminals kidnapped a boy from the center of the capital city?" Al-Khameri asked

Europcar, a car rental company, stated that it its customers had cancelled all reservations this October.

"Our customers cancelled their reservations for October when they heard of the recent terrorist attacks against the US embassy," said Waddad Saleem, the financial manager in the company.

He also stated that his company loses up to USD\$ 3,000 per week when customers cancel reservations. Saleem







added that it was compelled to dismiss two of their employees due to the stagnancy of work.

Taj Sheba Hotel, a five-star hotel, lost the reservations of around 30 tourists who were supposed to visit Yemen.

"We had reservations for a group of 30 tourists coming through Abu Taleb and Universal companies in October, but these reservations were cancelled because of the recent terrorist attack against the US embassy," said Hassan Al-Faqih, marketing manager in Taj Sheba hotel.

Continued on page 3



turnovers.

According to the figures, up to 53 deaths had occurred per week, which



The department fears that the final days of Ramadan may see more traffic accident victims, and this is based on its reading of last week's 351 accidents that killed 70 people and left 440 others wounded.

The most tragic road accident nationwide is the one that occurred in Damt District, Al-Dhalea governorate, last Saturday, killing 12 people and injuring 3 others.

The Traffic Department urged car drivers and road users to maintain full

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SCHOOL BUS

Around the Nation



Media News and opportunities

Internet for Journalists Course Open to Arab Applicants

Radio Netherlands Training Center (RNTC) is offering a course for journalists to improve their use of the Internet for research, publication and distribution. The six-week course will be held in Hilversum, the Netherlands, from 11 May to 19 June 2009.

The intensive course will focus on content more than on technical skills, with special attention being paid to the two central tenets of the Internet: information and communication. The course will further explore the potential of the Internet and its use as an important source of information; discover how the Internet can best be used as a communication tool; and examine participant-specific uses of the Internet for publication and distribution.

Applicants from eligible countries (including Egypt, Jordan, Yemen and the Palestinian Territories) may apply for fellowships from the Dutch government to pay for travel expenses, accommodation and the course fee. For a list of eligible countries for the fellowship see the RNTC country list and for more information on the fellowship and how to apply see the RNTC fellowship page.

Applicants must have a secondary education, professional education or training in media, a minimum of three to four years experience, as well as computer skills and a good command of English.

The deadline for course applications is 1 October and the deadline for fellowship applications is 1 December. For more information please see the "Internet for Journalists" page on the RNTC website.

Call for Proposals from Environmentally-minded Journalists Journalists and researchers from developing and transitional countries are encouraged to apply to the 2008 Global Development Awards and Medals Competition. The competition and its organizer, The Global Development Network (GDN), aims to draw attention to environmental issues around the world.

Themed "Natural Resources and Development," the competition calls for potential applicants to submit research proposal and research papers on the following topics:

- The Governance and Political Economy of Natural Resource Management
- Exploitation of Natural Resources: Trends and Environmental Implications
- The Economics of Natural Resource Management
- Foreign Direct Investment and Natural Resources
- Societies and Natural Resource Management

GDN welcomes submissions from those with intresting research proposals on Natural Resource Management (NRM); those with research ideas on NRM; and those looking for funding t•expand an ongoing innovative development project benefiting their local community.

The deadline for the Most Innovative Development Project (MIDP) is 12 September and 26 September is the deadline for Outstanding Awards and Medals that include research proposals or papers.

Arab Media Award t•recognize coverage of children's rights

Media organizations and individuals as well as adolescents may submit journalistic pieces t•the new annual Arab Media Award, which honors journalism about the environments of children and youth in the Arab nations of the Middle East. Submissions can be in television, radio, print or Internet media.

One of the youths whohelped create the award, Mahmoud Sabri, is a 17-year-old activist whohas endured degenerative blindness since birth. Last year, Sabri and other activist

Last year, Saon and oner activist teenagers united in Dubai for the third Arab Media Forum, discussing the situation of adolescents and media representation. Participants contributed ideas for the new Arab Media Award.

The deadline for entries is October 15.

US\$100,000 ArtVenture Freedom t•Create Prize

Arab artists promoting human rights are encouraged to enter the ArtVenture Freedom to Create Prize. This US\$100,000 prize will honor creative artists worldwide whouse their talents to promote human rights and confront discrimination and oppression.

More than 50 artists from 20 countries are already registered to enter the award, including theater performers in Zimbabwe, a writer in Burma and a "voice of the oppressed" music group.

The main category in the ArtVenture Freedom t•Create Prize category will be open t•artists in all creative fields including the visual arts, film, music, dance and literature. The prize will be awarded t•an individual or group that uses their creative work t•promote human rights and freedom of expression in a restrictive or repressive environment. There are als•prize categories for artists under 18 years of age and an award for artists wh•have been imprisoned because of their artwork.

The ArtVenture Freedom t•Create Prize will be judged by a panel of eminent artists and human rights experts including Chilean documentary photographer and poet Carlos Reyes-Manzo, Htein Lin, Burmese painter and performance artist, and Andrew Dickinson, Guardian Unlimited art editor.

The prize has been established by the philanthropic organization, ArtVenture, in association with the London-based human rights organization ARTICLE 19.

The Inquirer Award 2008

Building on the success of previous years, British ambassadors in five Middle East locations have launched The Inquirer Award 2008 tofind the region's investigative reporter of the year.

For the first time, the program also includes print and television journalists from Iraq as well as Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. The award scheme, which is managed by the Thomson Foundation, aims to find the journalist who shows the ability to examine in depth a significant issue of relevance to the region and its people.

And also for the first time this year, the scheme includes a competition for photojournalists.

As part of the Inquirer Award program, the Thomson Foundation is running a series of training workshops on investigative reporting skills for both print and television media in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon

and Palestine. There will also be practical training workshops for photojournalists in the participating countries.

The program is funded by the British government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Application forms and rules will be

available on the Thomson Foundation's website in July 2008.
* Print and television journalists working for any Arabic language publication or TV station in Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine are eli-

gible to compete There are twoseparate categories for print and television journalists, so they will not be competing against each other

- A panel of independent judges will look for entries showing comprehensive and thorough research, incisive interviewing techniques and creative, well-constructed writing and presentation
- * As well as receiving the prestigious Inquirer Award 2008, the first-place winners in the television, print and photojournalism categories will win an all-expenses-paid one-week study tour in the UK

* The deadline for entries is December 28, 2008.

Next generation of European journalists t•meet at European Parliament

From October 15 t•17, young European journalists will convene in Brussels t•"shape the future of European journalism" at the second annual European Youth Media Days. Interested younth are invited t•apply until September 24.

The gathering, hosted by the European Parliaments and organized with the support of the European Youth Press, aims t•promote a broad discussion and networking on European issues.

Among the program's features: workshops, debates, cultural programming, and networking -- including with highranking officials. Applicants should be young people interested in media and politics, journalism students or young professionals living in one of the 27 countries of the European Union.

'Peace Channel' launched online An online channel devoted t•peace and global conflict resolution was launched September 12.

The new channel, called "Peace Channel," features video, picture galleries, debate forums and other material contributed by its users that focus on the world's wars and potential conflicts. According toits mission, Peace Channel will provide insight intoboth the reason for conflicts and their possible solutions. The Channel was launched by Point of Peace, an independent media and human rights organization based in Norway, and

the UK media company Ten Alps. For more information, email info@peacechannel.tv. Visit the site at http://www.peacechannel.tv.

3D Web site allows journalists t•monitor Earth's resources

Environmental journalists worldwide can now use a 3D-environmental Web site launched by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and Google Earth t•monitor environmental hotspots and the impact of climate change on the planet, and highlight this information in their stories. The site allows users t•look closely at more than 200 sites around the world, including the glaciers of Greenland and Alaska, the once biodiversity-rich forests in Madagascar and the Amazon forests.

"If we are tochange the hearts and minds of the global public we need tosurprise, toexcite and occasionally perhaps toshock. These images, allied tomodern computer technology, doall three," stated Achim Steiner, UN under-secretary general and UNEP executive director, in a press release made available toIJNet.

7T•access the map, visit http://na.unep.net/digital_atlas2/google.p hp. For further information, visit http://tinyurl.com/42r32b.

Commonwealth journalists invited t•international conference

The Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA) will hold an international conference in Kuching, Malaysia from October 14 t•18. Journalists working in Commonwealth countries are invited t•attend.

The conference, CJA's eighth, will be attended by more than 50 working journalists from Commonwealth countries. The subject of the conference is "News Targets for Today: Better democracy and a better environment." It will address a number of issues that are important t•today's journalists, including media in crisis, Internet opportunities, governance and the role of the media, democracy's frailness, journalists' role in communicating on climate change, press freedom in the Commonwealth and training for journalists.

Book on combating corruption issued in Egypt

A new book is available for journalists interested in learning about combating corruption. The publication, "Corruption, its causes, kinds and mechanisms tocombat it," was written by Egyptian deputy editor-in-chief of Al-Wafd newspaper, Majdi Hilmi

The 495-page book, considered a training guide for journalists, is divided int•four chapters. It was issued by Women Journalists without Chains and the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI).

Qatar t•hold free course in TV and radi•journalism

In cooperation with UNESCO, Al jazeera Media Training and Development Center in Qatar is offering a free six-week course on TV and radiojournalism from October 26 toDecember 4. Deadline for submissions is October 1

The course, which will be held in Doha, will focus on the principles of journalism, TV and radiescript-writing, the modern direction of media, and creating TV and radiereports.

Al jazeera and UNESC•will pay for all course expenses, which include travel and accommodation. Applicants should be n•older than 27 years old; have a college degree, preferably in media, or twoyears experience in journalism; be fluent in Arabic and English; and be computer literate, with skills in MS Office, and the Internet. Apply online and send the following required documents t•training@aljazeera.net fax or t•009744662898:

- Résumé or CV.

- A copy of the university transcript and certificates of experience (if available).

- A copy of passport.

- 2 new photos.

SUPP

SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN YEMEN

UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the Posts of:

<u>Post Title: Programme Associate Unit: Prgramme</u> <u>Post Level: G6</u>

Under the direct supervision of the Programme Officer, the immediate duties and responsibilities of the incumbent will be, but not limited to, the following: -

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Secure and review work plans for the portfolio, ensure their regular updating and consistency with expected programme objective s and RBM tools and recommend adjustments when required;
- Maintain close relationships with programme/project personnel and counterparts and monitor progress and highlight need for corrective



Invitation for General Bid No. (20) for the year 2008

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (20) for the year 2008 for:

Renting a Lunar Satellite Channel to broadcast Yemen's Satellite Channel in

- actions and policy implications, including drafting correspondences and translation of relevant documents. Liaise with the Operations Unit for the Mobilization of inputs;
- Undertake periodic programme monitoring visits, secure the preparation required substantive reports (APRs) and arrange for standard monitoring and evaluation exercises (TPRs Evaluations), including the preparation of terms of reference;
- Processes mandatory and budgetary revisions, verifies data from project delivery reports; maintain records, documents and work plans for the monitoring of project implementation; organizes data and information for easy follow-up;
- Prepare financial forecasts and reflect them in budgets; monitor expenditures;
- Processes the termination of financially completed programmes;
- Plan and contribute to portfolio-related advocacy events (workshops), including preparation of inputs for the CO website, brochure and periodic newsletters;
- Discuss with supervisor competency development plan, devote time for self-learning and maintain close working relationship with other CO colleagues.

Minimum Qualifications: -

- University degree in development or social science;
- Extended experience (3 Years) in Programme/Project management and development issues at the national or international level;
- Excellent knowledge of computer and Internet use including mastery of word processing;
- Excellent drafting and communication skills;
- Good knowledge of Arabic and English Languages
- Yemeni Nationality only

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- · Recognizes & responds appropriately to the ideas, interests & concerns of others; gives credit to the contributions of others;
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Innovation & Judgment

- · Contributes creative, practical ideas and approaches to deal with challenging situations;
- Pursues own personal and professional development.

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- Formulates written information clearly and persuasively;
- Presents oral information clearly and persuasively.

Job knowledge & Expertise

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- Uses Information Technology effectively as a tool and resource;
- Is motivated & demonstrates a capacity to pursue personal development & learn.

UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience. Please send your application with a covering letter to: UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a. Deadline for application: 28 October, 2009 Please note that only candidates who fulfil the above requirements will be considered and notified

addition to the general Radio-one and Radio-two programs to the following cotenants: Asia, North America, Europe.

All the interested companies specialized in satellite channels must apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:

The TV and Radio General Corporation General Administration for Projects Tel: (01/ 230752)

For buying the bid documents costing (\$300) non refundable. The deadline of selling the documents is: 19/10/2008.

The tender offer should be enveloped and sealed with the red wax and submitted to the secretary of bids and out-bids committee of the corporation. The file should be addressed with name of the authority, the name of the project, the number of the bid, and the name of the applicant, and the file should include all the following documents:

- 1- Submitting unconditional banking warranty with amount (\$36000) valid for 120 days starting from the day of opening the files or by a payable check.
- 2- Submitting a copy of the taxing card valid 2008, (all the foreign bidders, who don't work, submit a copy of the register documents for extra cost taxation from their countries.
- 3- Submitting a copy of the insurance card valid for 2008 year.
- 4- A copy of the alms card valid for 2008.
- 5- A copy of a valid commercial registration certificate for 2008.
- 6- A copy from a valid operating license certificate for 2008.
- 7- A copy of the registration certificate for general sales tax valid for 2008.

The deadline for receiving the documents and opening the files at 11:00 am on Saturday 25/10/2008 at the main branch of the corporation.

Around the Nation

Musical cartoon to empower Yemeni children

By: Khalid Al-Hilaly

EMEN

SANA'A, Sep 25 - A three-part cartoon entitled Ahmed and the Three Tales, to be released at the end of September by the Shawthab Foundation for Childhood and Development, will empower children in dealing with unwanted behaviors.

The cartoon is made up of three musical sketches, each six minutes long, and aims to empower children by teaching them to recognize and protect themselves against harmful behavior towards them at home, school or in the street.

This cartoon is the third of its kind produced by the Shawthab Foundation. The last two films were Ahmed's Return, a story of a Yemeni child smuggled to Saudi Arabia to work, and Ahmed and the Game of Death which focuses on children carrying firearms. All focus on children's issues.

In Ahmed and the Three Tales, children are implicitly warned against child harassment and sexual molestation. The sketches deliver indirect instructions for children to choose their friends carefully, to be cautious when dealing with strangers and to not be afraid to report any abuse.



"Ahmed's Return" the film won the third place at Cairo's annual Children's Cinema Festival in 2007.

The cartoon was produced with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which also supported the production of 'Ahmed's Return' last year.

The script was written by Yemeni national Nader Al-Hamady and produced in Egypt.

The language of the cartoon is Modern Standard Arabic, but the Yemeni actors –both adults and children- who lend their voices to its characters give the production a local twist. Actor Nabil Hizam described the short film as promising and a positive step towards the production of more professional Yemeni cartoons to compete in the market. "The cartoon carries moral and humanitarian lessons to both children and parents," he said.

Farouq Nabil Hizam, the actor behind Ahmed's cartoon voice, spoke of the admiration he received from children and parents for his contribution to the cartoon.

"Children enjoy the cartoon because

it tackles their lives' issues," he noted. Yemeni national television channels have never aired any of these cartoons, but Yemeni children watch them on CDs, at home or in school.

"There have been discussions with the national television companies about airing the cartoons on their channels," said Lamya Al-Eryani, director of the Shawthab Foundation.

"The success of 'Ahmed's Return' has had positive effects on the childsmuggling issue in Yemen, and this has made Yemeni television management reconsider their refusal to air the cartoons," she explained, adding that Dr. Abdullah Al-Zalab, general director of the Yemeni Public Corporation for Radio and Television had provisionally agreed to present the films on Yemeni television.

According to Al-Eryani, the Shawthab Foundation's next cartoon will focus on the theme of dialogue and tolerance, and aim to help children respect each other's point of view to develop the idea of freedom of speech among the younger generation. In the planned cartoon, two different groups of children argue and end up fighting each other. Ahmed, the series' main character, solves the quarrel through dialogue.



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Price hikes prompt Yemenis to change Eid plans

Kaid Al-Radfani, 37, mentioned that he will not be able to travel anywhere because of the extra price hikes in Aden during Eid. "During Eid, you will find that everything is double its normal price, especially in hotels, and we are living off a salary that hasn't been raised for a long time," Al-Radfani said.

In addition to the price hikes, having a large family is considered a main factor in changing the Eid program. "I have five sisters and six brothers as well as my parents; just imagine how much we need just for rooms. It is really difficult to take them all, and we can't take some and leave the others," said Zaid Ali.

To compensate, some people resort to taking their families to the suburbs in the Sana'a governorate for picnics, instead of traveling to other cities.

Ameed Ali stated that he would take his family for a picnic to the Bani Matar waterfall, the Stone Palace or another place because he cannot take them to another city.

Price hikes have affected children's enjoyment of Eid. In the past, people used to buy more than one dress or suit for a boy or a girl but now many people can hardly afford to

give their children one dress, and then ask them to keep it for the next Eid.

"In the past, I used to buy more than one dress for each of my children, but now I find it very difficult to buy at least one for each. Now I just buy new clothes for my younger children, I can't give anything to those who are above 17-years-old," said Mohammed Al-Haimi, a father of seven. In spite of all these difficulties, people are struggling to compromise to keep their lives in balance.

Terrorist acts affect over 140000 Yemenis, says al-Faqih

Jamil Al-Faqih, the general manager

of the Magellan Tour Company, stated that his company had lost the reservation of about 70 tourists coming from France and Switzerland. "Approximately, all the reservations that we had until the end of this year were cancelled because of the tourist kidnappings and the recent attack against the US embassy.

" He said this prompted them to decrease their employees' salary by up to 50 percent to compensate for the loss in business.

Al-Faqih called on all citizens to cooperate with the government in the fight against terrorism for the development and prosperity of Yemen.





م محمد عبدالله مبارك بن عيفان الرئيس العنفيذي – رئيس مجلس الادارة رئيس الجمبورية وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني العظيم مناسبة الذكرى السادسة والأربعين لغورة ال 26 من سبعمبر ويمناسبة عيد الفطر المبارك متمنيين دوام التقدم والازدهار لليمن الذي يشهد المجازات تعموية كبيرة في ظل الرهاية الحكيمة لفخامته وكل عام وأنعم بخير

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TIMES

Words of Wisdom



If more meaningful change is to be made in respect for human rights, the daily violations against the rights of ordinary citizens have to be addressed. This means introducing new values through education and re-education. One clear target is to train law-enforcement agencies and officers on the rights of citizens and how to respect them. Another has to do with retraining of prison wardens and personnel.

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



OUR OPINION

The Voices of Yemeni Women in Media

exual abuse, domestic violence, the female quota system for elections, reproductive health, maternal health and family planning issues are the main women's rights topics featured in the Yemeni media. However, other issues like sexual abuse inside of the family frame, domestic violence, rape inside of marriage and honor crimes get hardly any coverage at all.

Luckily, the situation has been changing gradually as many reporters start to focus on the influence of war, poverty and injustice on women's development in Yemen.

Such change is predictable, especially when gender-related development strategies are part of the government's agenda. Both official and unofficial studies conducted by the government and NGOs look at the concept of gender development and inequality as a key issue, which in turn gives journalists a new angle for their stories.

The problem is the fact that different studies have differing figures, which can discredit the journalist if he or she doesn't use accurate data or doesn't check the studies against each other.

At the same time, the reporters risk boring their readers with endless amounts of differing data, all which lack the human touch. Though it is often difficult to reach these women or difficult to persuade them to speak about their experiences, personal testimonies are absolutely necessary to make the reader understand the gravity of the issue.

In addition, the victimization of women was and still is the main feature of gender-related stories. There are a few exceptions in certain mass media outlets that try to show the progress that some Yemeni women have made. These include interviews with prominent women such as human right activists, intellectuals, and members of the government. But this means that the voice of the average woman is rarely conveyed.

Earlier this year, an eight-year-old girl named Nojoud was widely written about, portrayed as a victim of early marriage – a phenomenon that has existed for a long time and is widespread in Yemen.

Nojoud went to a Sana'a judge by herself to ask for a divorce from her 30-year-old husband. Nojoud's bravery attracted not just national and the international media attention, but also created grounds for discussion about early marriage among people worldwide.

The international coverage focused on Nojoud not as individual incident, but as a case representative of Yemeni women's general status. Nojoud's story was handled in a number of different ways: news, interview, investigation and opinion.

Potential end of new conservatives

By: Faruq Luqman

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

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

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

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

When a man loses his post

down his from the WB post because he violated the WB bylaws and committed a big mistake Wolfowitz gave his mistress an annual increase estimated at \$60,000 at one instalment before she moved to work for the Washington-based Department of State. As all the employees know, such an increase is the end of service entitlements and it also helps raise pension until the beneficiary dies. By this, the man ensured his mistress a comfortable job and excellent income for lifetime in a unique corruption case at the level of high-ranking officials. This can be compared to what the blind British Secretary John Pliant did when he took job of the Department of Labor. He committed a technical mistake by demanding his aides to accelerate procedures of the residence permission for a foreign female citizen to work in Britain according to the demands of his mistress that was in an urgent need of this foreigner. As the news was let out, people strongly criticized him while the media accused him of exceeding the limit of his powers because he has an advantage by helping his mistress. Ethics of the job requires that he should not intervene in doing a favor for his mistress. Actually, he was forced to step down in order not to perplex the Prime Minister Toney Blair, who used to prefer him to other well-eyed people. The man was highly respected

in favor of his mistress Shaha Ridha

an American citizen from an Iranian

origin when her entitlements

exceeded the WB agreed-upon limit.

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

Irrespective of what is said about Wolfowitz, the amazing fact is related with the deterioration of Bush's administration and the elimination of new conservatives who are responsible for catastrophes and devastation in the United States. They represent the American Rightists and the ugly face of capitalism that left behind the trade of slaves in the south, specifically in the State of Texas, the birthplace of Bush. This trade is denying some fifty million people the right to free medication and social security to ensure their survival since the social security lobby in the country is composed of the ugliest social classes who trigger hostility toward democracy. It is known that the lobby people assembled together in the face of the former democratic President Bill Clinton, as he tried to fight monopoly on medication in order to help the poor classes, who make up fifty million of the country's population, have an access to this right. They attempted to overthrow Clinton through the scandal of Monica Lewinsky as the president was deceived by the hired lady, however, the scandal of consecutive presidents in the White House is not a new fact. The fact wasn't kept secret since the very beginning. I needn't study the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which is chaired by Hover, in order to read more about corruption stories. Books in libraries are a clear-cut evidence of the behavior of presidents who used to hire prostitutes via mafias. Source: 26 September Weekly

Obstacles hindering political development in Yemen

By: Ahmad Mohammed Abdulghani

f democracy stands for the kind of political system that allows open race for power and is in line with respecting human rights, this means that democracy is in any way better than totalitarian regimes, be it in the area of economic and social development or in managing standing political conflicts.

Democracy doesn't monopolize possession of power, nor is it based on eliminating other political partners from power. Instead, democracy is based on the peaceful transfer of power and equal opportunity to every individual to take part in power, which ensures any decision being in line with people's opinions and taking for granted role of the opposition in evaluating mistakes and suggesting remedies. It goes without saying that democracy helps establish transparency and easy access to information, thereby encouraging all those concerned to express their viewpoints about particular issues and make use of the available resources in the country to suggest workable solutions to any pressing national issues. Although the Republic of Yemen announced following the democratic course from May 22, 1990 onward and confirmed this in the constitutional article (5), which reads that "Political System of the Republic is based on political and partisan plurality with the aim of enhancing the peaceful transfer of power", a quick glance at Yemen's political situation reveals that the country failed to overcome pressing totalitarianism-related problems. Consequently, Yemen could not have built real political and democratic experience. Eighteen years have passed since the

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national unity was established while we are still facing the same problems of the past as a result of a weak state and its vulnerable components, as well as a poor political system that couldn't understand successive changes and deal with them positively and effectively.

Members of Yemeni society feel that the state and ruling regime failed to manage and improve the available political, economic, social and cultural components in their homeland.

The tragedy continues to worsen in ze the eye of Yemeni society members grow who are currently paying the price for wh

mistakes committed by the government, coupled with its wrong and deceptive policies that fluctuate between available democratic texts and absent democratic practices, according to a statement released by Dr. Al-Dhahir.

In such a context, one may understand the salient obstacles faced by the process of political and democratic development in Yemen. Any state should have a representative character, sovereignty and ability to bring its citizens together and engage all social groups in political development. But, what happens in Yemen is that the state remained representing the natural expansion of fragmentations and splits with the local community, and therefore couldn't get rid of the traditional norms in terms of structures and their cohesive elements that govern community relations.

Seemingly, our state has become a single authority representing a particular social group and excluding other groups, which is why political observers predict that the same problem will be bequeathed to many generations to come.

Source: Al-Ahale Weekly

S Happy Eid

Because of this intense media coverage, there was a huge debate over the Yemeni law that stipulates the minimum age of marriage. Currently, the minimum age of marriage is 15, but parents and guardians are allowed to overrule that based on their own discretion to judge whether or not their daughter or charge is "ready" for marriage.

Though the media deals with certain themes related to women's issues, the character of "woman" is lacking in everyday stories and reports on topics like poverty, business and politics. Women are rarely interviewed for stories like these, and as a result the society assumes that they are not concerned or involved with these issues.

This is where the media can play a significant role in raising awareness and shaping public opinion to make sure that women, who make up 49 percent of the population of Yemen, have their voices heard on all subjects.

By allowing women to speak, decision makers are reminded that half of the population is female and consider this while making policies.

It is important for reporters to challenge societal traditions that subjugate women. Because of this, a journalist should use all the tools and channels they have available to write credible, objective and accessible stories that will generate change.

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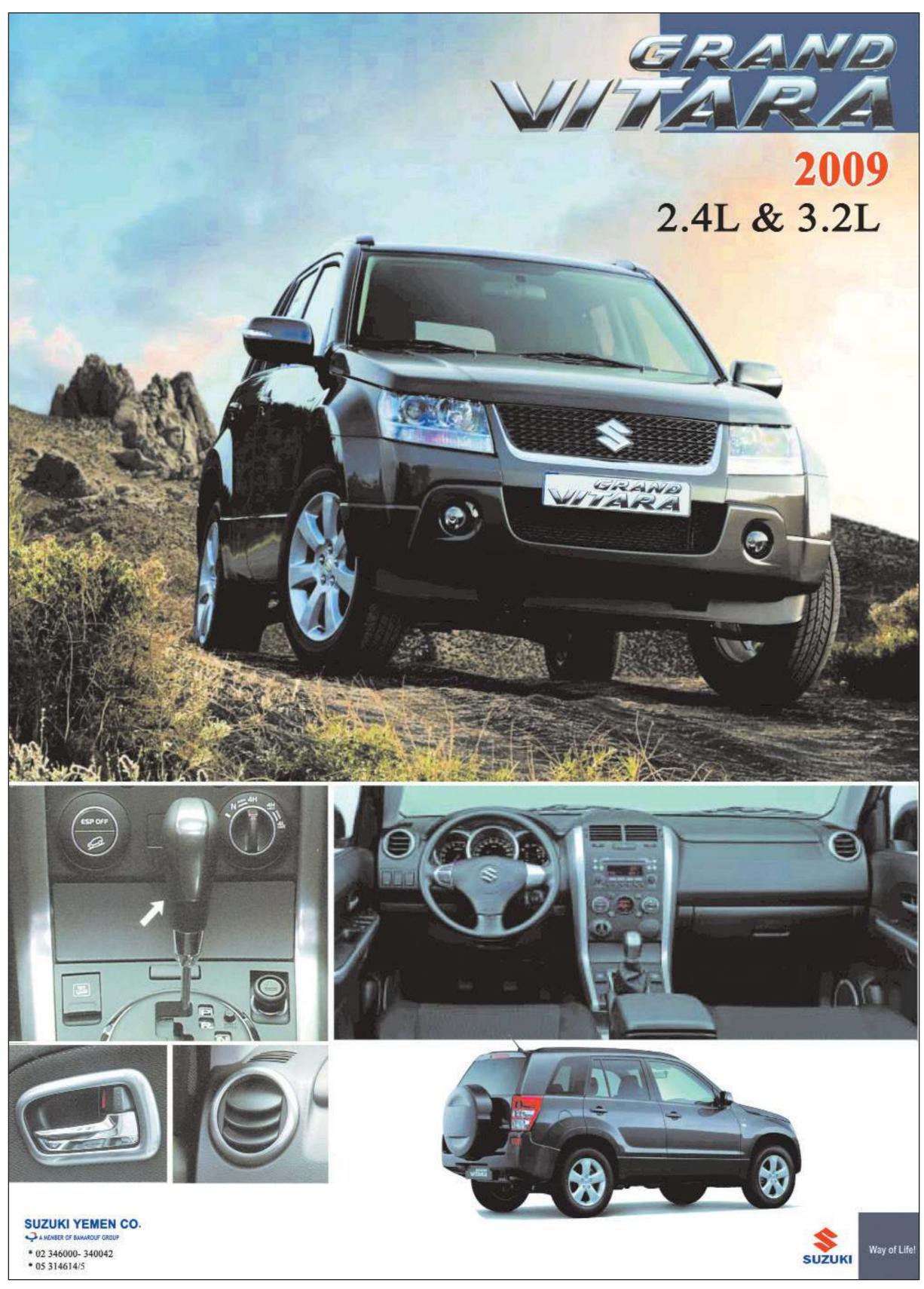
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نتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الأخ/ علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة الذكرمى السادسة والأربعين لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر والذكرمى الخامسة والأربعين لثورة الرابع عشر من اكتوبر وبمناسبة عيد الفطر المبارك

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Our congratulations and warmest wishes to

H. E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and to all Yemeni people on the 46th anniversary of the 26th of September Revolution,

the 45th anniversary of the 14th of October Revolution, and on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitar Al-Mubarak

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Environment / Report



Yemen's efforts to protect the ozone layer

aisal Ahmed Nasser Bin Ali Gaber, director of the National Ozone Unit of the Environment Protection Authority, answers some questions about Yemen's efforts and commitments towards protecting the Ozone layer.

community, the Yemeni government

signed the Vienna Convention for

the Protection of the Ozone Layer in

1985 and the Montréal Protocol on

Substances That Deplete the Ozone

Layer in 1987, in addition to signing

amendments to the protocol in

London in 1990, in Copenhagen in

established the National Ozone Unit,

working within the framework of the

Environment Protection Authority

since 1999, to carry out Yemeni

commitments to the protocol. Since

that time, the Yemeni government

has decreased the consumption of

HCFCs from 1071 tons in1998 to

Does Yemen report its progress in

its commitments to the Montréal

protocol, regarding the phase-out

Not only Yemen, but all the countries that signed the protocol,

are committed to sending annual

reports regarding their consumption,

import and export of ozone-

consuming substances under watch

of the protocol. According to the

seventh article of the Montreal

protocol, all signatories to the

protocol should make public this

information within a period not

exceeding nine months of the end of

the year in which it was gathered. If

any party delays in producing this

data, the delay will be discussed

during the meeting held at the end of

of ozone-consuming substances?

government

1992 and in Montréal in 1997.

The Yemeni

271 tons in 2007.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

What is the ozone layer?

Ozone is a molecule which makes up a layer surrounding the earth's atmosphere. This layer absorbs 93-99% of the sun's high frequency ultra-violet (UV) light which is potentially damaging to life on earth. It is 12 to 30 kilometers high. The ozone is vitally important to life as it absorbs biologically harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation emitted from the Sun.

Due to the increased emission of synthetic materials that have been used since the 1930s, particularly hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and carbonate substances, the ozone layer has been corroded and this has resulted in harmful radiation reaching Earth and causing many diseases such as skin cancer, eye diseases and immune deficiency.

The International community signed conventions to protect the ozone layer in 1985, but on 16 September 1987 the first executive protocol was signed to implement the previous conventions, defining a specific number of substances as being a threat to the ozone layer. It is to mark this day, that 16 September has become International Ozone Day

What are the Yemeni efforts to protect the ozone layer? In response to the international



Faisal Ahmed Nasser

every year for all the protocol's signatories.

A lot of governmental facilities in Yemen use freons. Is there any coordination between the Ozone Unit and these facilities? [Freons are the odorless, colorless, nonflammable, and non-corrosive chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) and hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) refrigerants which are used in air conditioning and refrigeration systems.]

In fact, the government offices that use ozone-consuming substances are not many compared with those in the private sector. The Ministry of Fish Wealth and the Yemeni Economic Corporation are the most public institutions to use ozone-consuming substances followed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Sana'a University and the Land Transportation Corporation.

In the maintenance sector of refrigerators and air-conditioners, the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training prepares and qualifies the personnel specialized for carrying out

maintenance

We enjoy a really good coordination with this ministry. In a first step, we teach national trainers refrigerating system maintenance according to the Montreal protocol, and include new ozone-friendly ideas in the curricula of the technical and vocational institutes. In a second step, Yemen's technical institutes train students in these new techniques according to Montreal protocol.

In fact, all institutions that use -whether private or publicshould follow the related legislations without the need for any special coordination with ministries, except with the Ministry of

Agriculture who should monitor the use of ozonedepleting substances by farmers. Does the Ozone

Unit work on training people in to how use refrigerating and air-conditioning devices? Yes, it does. As I mentioned, there is а unit that coordinates with the Technical and Vocational Ministry to train refrigerating

and airconditioning maintenance employees in two areas. The first is secure practices in maintenance to decrease the use of

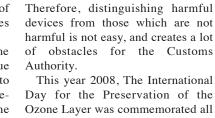
freons. The second

focuses on the decrease in the use of more ozone-consuming substances in repair. After 2010, the import of these ozone-depleting substances will be impossible.

Since its establishment, the Ozone Unit has exerted efforts to issue legislations which are convenient to control the import of ozoneconsuming substances and the devices that use them. In this regard, Cabinet resolution number 275 was issued in 2006 to control the import of these substances.

The resolution includes a ozone-consuming substances licensing system and a system to control the quantity of annual imports, in order to limit the use of ozone-consuming substances.

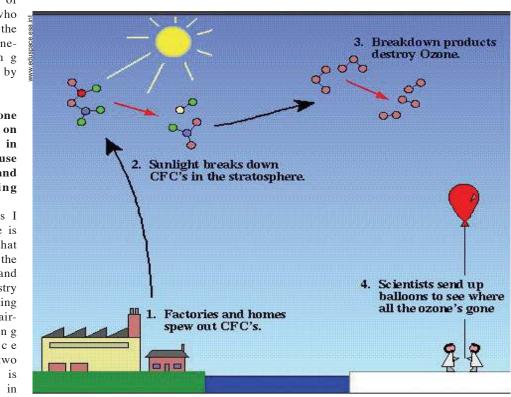
Unfortunately, the application of this resolution is difficult as the



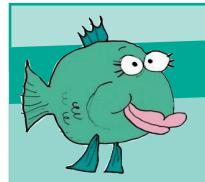
devices that consume ozone are

similar to those which don't.

over the world under the theme 'Montreal Protocol-Global partnership for global benefits'. On 19December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the establishment of the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer to be celebrated on 16 September every year.



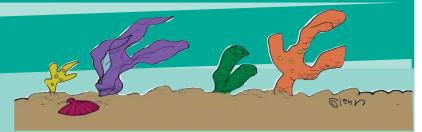
Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), along with other chlorine- and bromine-containing compounds, accelerate the depletion of ozone in the Earth's stratosphere.



FRANNIE LEARNS A LESSON

Last Chapter: Frannie makes friends with Jordan the Jellyfish. Frannie's first test is on Friday.

Chapter Seven:



In celebration of this year's World Literacy Day, the Yemen Times will be publishing, in collaboration with the World Association of Newspapers (WAN), an eight-part story entitled 'Frannie Learns a Lesson' in the next issues. The story is a short adventure for parents and children to read together, or individuals to read on their own, as a gesture of continued appreciation for the value of the written word in our world today. We hope you enjoy it, and don't forget to look out for the next chapter next issue!!

Frannie rode the bus home that day with her friends. They were all talking about the first test and how they planned to study for it. Frannie wasn't sure how to study for the test, but she was too embarrassed to ask her friends for help. She thought they would think she wasn't as smart as they were. Frannie listened to her friends' plans all the way home, and it only made her more anxious about the test.

Frannie swam inside her house and was headed up to her room when her parents stopped her in the hall.

"How was school today?" her mother asked.

"Fine " answered Frannie

"Fine?" her father asked. "Is that all? Did anything happen with your friends?"

"Well," Frannie began, "I decided that Bonnie and I could be friends, and I sat next to her on the bus and at lunch, and now she's friends with all of my friends."

"That's great!" her parents were happy for Frannie.

"And at lunch we met Jordan, he's a jellyfish that goes to my school. He's really nice, and now he's our friend, too."

"Well, we're glad you're making friends Frannie, but why do you look so sad?" her mother asked.

"I've got a big test Friday on Land stuff, and I'm nervous about studying for it." Frannie admitted.

"Well, we've taken many tests in our lifetimes," her father said. "My advice to you is, don't wait until the last minute to study.'

"And, we're here to help you, if you need it," her mother added.

"Thanks," said Frannie. "I'm going to look over some notes tonight, and I'll study more tomorrow."

Frannie went to bed that night feeling a little better. She felt even better the next day when the teacher handed out a



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study guide.

"Now class, these questions in the study guide are very similar to the questions on the test. If you fill out this guide, you should get a good grade on the test. I'm sure everyone will do just fine," said Mrs. S.

Frannie was feeling a lot less scared now.

At lunch Suzy, Tommy, Carter, Bonnie, Jordan and Frannie all talked about what they were doing that evening. Suzy went first, "I'm going to study for the test."

"Me, too, said Carter and Tommy.

"We don't have a test tomorrow in our class, so Jordan and I are going to swim over to the high school and watch the big finball match against Tidewater Town," Bonnie announced excitedly.

"Oh, I want to come," Frannie said.

"You can come," Jordan said, "Just meet us at the high school after school today. Bonnie's mom will be there too." "Frannie, shouldn't you study for the test tonight?" Suzy

asked.

"I looked over some notes last night, and as long as I finish the study guide, I'll be fine." Frannie told Suzy.

"Are you sure? Because it's not enough to just look over the stuff, you have to try to understand it and remember it all, too." Suzy said.

"I'll be fine, just chill out," Frannie was getting mad. "Okay," said Suzy. "I was just trying to help."

"I know, but don't worry I'll do fine on that test." Frannie smiled at Suzy.

That night Frannie went to the finball game with Jordan and Bonnie. The game started at four-thirty. It went into overtime, and didn't end until seven. By the time the game was over, the three friends were very hungry. Bonnie's mom treated them to a late dinner at the Coralville Diner. Frannie didn't get home until eight. She was so excited and told her parents about the game, the kelp burger she had at the diner, and how much fun she had with her friends. Before she knew it, it was eight-thirty and time for bed. Suddenly Frannie remembered that she hadn't done a single one of her study questions!

To do and think about ...

- 1. List four different feelings Frannie expressed in chapter seven:
- 2. Share a helpful study tip with your classmates. Make a display board of all the tips. Go over the tips together before the next classroom test or quiz.
- 3. Write which has been your favorite character of the story and why. Also, say which has been the character you least liked and give your reasons.

Using the newspaper

- 1. Cut out shapes and parts of pictures to create a scene from one of the chapters so far (tip: the "land wall" from chapter two would work really well).
- 2. Break up in small groups. Each group should create their own version of "finball". Be sure to include rules, pictures or drawings of what the game might www.wan-press.org/Frannie

When her parents came in to say goodnight, Frannie knew they noticed the look on her face. They asked if everything was okay. She lied and said yes; she didn't want them to be disappointed in her for not studying.

Frannie could hardly sleep that night. She was worried about the test and what her friends would think. She knew she had made a mistake by not studying, and she wished she could swim back in time to fix it.

After an extremely quiet bus ride, Frannie swam into the classroom with her head hanging down. She was very upset with herself. She tried not to think about how little she had studied.

As soon as the bell rang, everyone swam into class, and Mrs. S swam to the front of the room.

"Okay class, are you ready for your first test?" she asked. "Yes!" said everyone, but Frannie.

Frannie swallowed hard as Mrs. S passed out the test. Frannie took her paper and stared at it, scared to begin.

Next Chapter: "School is Cool"

look like, what kind of uniforms the players might wear. Use the newspaper to create the "equipment" to play your game.

REAL LIFE & VALUES: Rights and duties

Frannie has the right to an education, but she also has duties related to this right, such as studying. Describe the choices Frannie made in chapter seven. Describe a time you were in a similar situation and how you felt. Write a note to Frannie advising her of how she could best prepare for her test.

What will happen next?

Do you think Frannie will do well on her test?

More activities...

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Al-Hadi Mosque in Sa'ada City

ocated 242 km north of the capital, Sana'a, Sa'ada City rises 2261 meters above sea level, and was established on a plain known as Ka'a Al Sahn. First built as a trading point, Sa'ada spread out till it became a city. It came to the fore thanks to the attention it received from the Kings of Himiar, mainly because of its fertile soil and the crude iron that was discovered in its lands.

After the advent of Islam in Yemen, the city retained its great significance and flourished as a city of science, religion, culture, commerce and agriculture. Eventually, it became known as a city of Islamic monuments in Yemen as it contained several religious, civil and military buildings and movable rarities.

When Imam Hadi arrived in 897 A.D. to settle down in the city, he built a mosque and a house for himself outside the vicinity of the old city with an idea of making it the first stage of the construction of a new city that would develop and expand with time.

Today, the mosque is located at the southern east part of the city. It consists of an open nave in the middle surrounded by four porticos, the deepest of which is that of the kiblah. The mosque is accessible through thirteen doors and has two minarets, the bigger of which is placed in the nave. This



minaret is considered the tallest minaret in Yemen as its 52 meters high. The second minaret is smaller and is located at the southern courtyard.

The Al Hadi Mosque has great religious status, in addition to its fabulous religious and artistic Islamic architecture. It contains several architectural elements that give the



لايزالِ فندق شهران "الفندق للفضل لرجال الأعمال" مستمراً بتقديم خدماته اللتميزة لزواره . عيران مسكى معرون المسكن المسكن عرب المسكرية المعنية والعلية والعلية والمكولات البحرية. ميث أن مطعمه الموسع حديثاً يقدم أشهى المأكولات اليمنية و العللية و الماكولات البحرية. يلبي احتياجاتكم الكل المناسبات . كما أن صالة الاجتماعات والمؤمرات الحديثة الجهزة بأفخر جَهْزَةُ الصوت و العرض تتسع لأي فعالية أو مناسبة كانت . بياضافة خدمات الوجبات الخفيفة و الشيشة حديثاً في الباحة حول حمام السباحة أضفت

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different eras. The Al Hadi Mosque is considered the third mosque in Yemen to have a minaret - the first is the Farwa bin Maseek Mosque and the second is the Grand Mosque in Sana'a. It is also the oldest mosque to have annexes for the devotees and expatriates, in addition to the fact that it is the only mosque with a twolevel grade mihrab that tapers off as the

building rises. The mosque is also famed for its wooden pulpit which is considered the oldest pulpit with a recorded date of 922 A.D., in addition to eight other magnificent structures. These structures contain various types of Arab and

لأقمشة الستائر والتنجيد ولوازمها

(arabesque). Furthermore, the mosque has a number of tombstones with inscriptions engraved in stone. These highlight the creativity of the Yemeni calligrapher, and his ability and skills that survived the different eras of the Islamic times.

Another extraordinary feature of the mosque is its walls, which have miscellaneous plans, as well as geometric and written decorations made out of gypsum. All the building materials used in the construction, were taken by architects from the area surrounding the mosque. In fact, no other mosque in Yemen has as many buildings and facilities as Al Hadi Mosque.

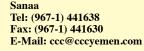
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