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Angry mob take matters into its own hands

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, April 19 — Hundreds of angry men brought Abdulmalik Al-Baidani's three-storey house down and set fire to his car on Wednesday, amid calls from mosque preachers and community leaders to halt the violence. Police stood helplessly by.

The Yemeni Parliament and community leaders formed a committee with the Ministry of Interior to investigate the issue on Sunday.

A day earlier, men at the Al-Anqa'a mosque in Al-Hasaba were waiting to perform their prayers when they heard a loud commotion and quickly ran out to see what it was. They were shocked to find pages of the holy Quran torn up and scattered on the floor near Abdulmalik Al-Baidani's house, which is next door to the mosque.

"I am a non-believer," shouted Al-Baidani, holding a gun and threatening

to shoot anyone who attempted to salvage the pages, say eyewitnesses. After the neighbors' cries of condemnation, he went back inside his house and people hurriedly picked up the pages from the ground.

"I saw Abdulmalik Al-Baidani tearing up the holy Quran book and stepping on the holy book. He was also holding a gun and threatening to shoot at people," Ahmed Al-Ja'dabi, an eye witness to the incident, said.

Nabeel Al-Ansi, preacher of Al-Anqa'a mosque, condemned the "irreligious" incident and called on people to stay calm, report the issue to the police and let justice take its course.

"We and hundreds of people took the torn Holy Quran with us in front of the leader of the neighborhood, Sheikh Fayadhi Al-Rawni," said Al-Ansi. "He told us to go to the Al-Shaheed Al-Ahmer Police Station, which is the station in the Al-Anqa'a neighborhood

and immediately called the prosecution and General Security."

"We went to the Al-Shaheed Al-Ahmer Police Station, handed them the torn out holy Quran book and delivered them the eyewitnesses to the incident," said Al-Ansi.

After the case was taken to the police, and in attempt to control the situation, preachers and members of the local council formed a commission to follow up the case with the concerned bodies and control the mass anger.

The commission is headed by the Al-Sheikh Faydhai, the social leader of the Al-Anqa'a neighborhood and includes members of the neighboring mosques preachers, military leaders and social dignitaries by the residents' signatures.

The formed commission also was mixed from different currents and parties to be as a social case not as a political one.



Continued on page 2 Police stood by as hundreds of angry men tore down the house.

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Donors demand government commitment to reforms

By: Alice Hackman

SANA'A, April 19 — Donors remain committed to supporting development in Yemen, but stress the need for the government to confirm their commitment to a prioritized set of reforms to safeguard continued donor support, said main donors in a press release last week.

Despite Yemen's admission to partial failure in reaching its development goals on April 5, donors are not increasing their pledges to Yemen. Instead, they are reassessing

their spending after the world financial crisis and some warn that they may not be able to continue the same level of support to the country next year.

Key donors representatives met with Prime Minister Ali Mujawar on Monday to discuss slow national progress in reaching developmental goals and implementing reforms set out at the 2006 London donor conference.

"It was a discussion with others for poverty alleviation and important measures to keep the economy running," said Harry Buikema, Dutch

Ambassador to Yemen, who attended the meeting.

"We will continue to support the Yemeni government, but some measures have to be taken."

"As far as I know, we can still reach our level of expenses for this year," he said, "but there is a debate in the Netherlands among the public and Parliament on how to deal with the public budget."

"To solve the crisis, one of the suggestions is to decrease the level of development expenditures," he said, explaining that whether the

Netherlands can maintain the same level of help to Yemeni development next year remains to be decided.

A spokesperson for the British Embassy in Sana'a said that there would be no change to UK Department for International Development's (DEFID) budget for Yemen.

"There has been no retreat from our pledge," said the U.S. Embassy's press officer, explaining that donors did however hold regular meetings such as the one last week to assess Yemen's progress in carrying out the reforms set out at the London conference.

The German Embassy was not available to comment.

Donors made significant pledges in London, but the challenge is now one of implementation, Daniela Gressani, the World Bank's regional vice president for the Middle East and North Africa, recently told the press.

She stressed the need to translate pledges into action on the ground and ensure that activities financed by donors were true priorities for the country.

Since the London donor conference, around 81 percent of the pledges made

to support Yemen's development have been honored, Nabil Shibani, head of the International Aid Coordination Unit at the Ministry of Planning, told the press on April 5.

Pledges for financial and other assistance are reported to exceed USD 5.5 billion, and up to USD 2.5 billion —almost half— were made by Gulf States.

The 2006 London donor's conference was attended by senior officials from 39 countries and development agencies, according to the World Bank.

Frequency of blackouts increases

By: Ola Al-Shami

SANA'A, April 19 — Government negotiations with a British Company over buying power generators are well underway, according to official sources. These power generators are expected to bring the deteriorating electricity situation to an end.

The duration of electricity cuts have noticeably increased. On Friday, power outages across the capital lasted for up to four hours causing losses to businesses and disrupting studies.

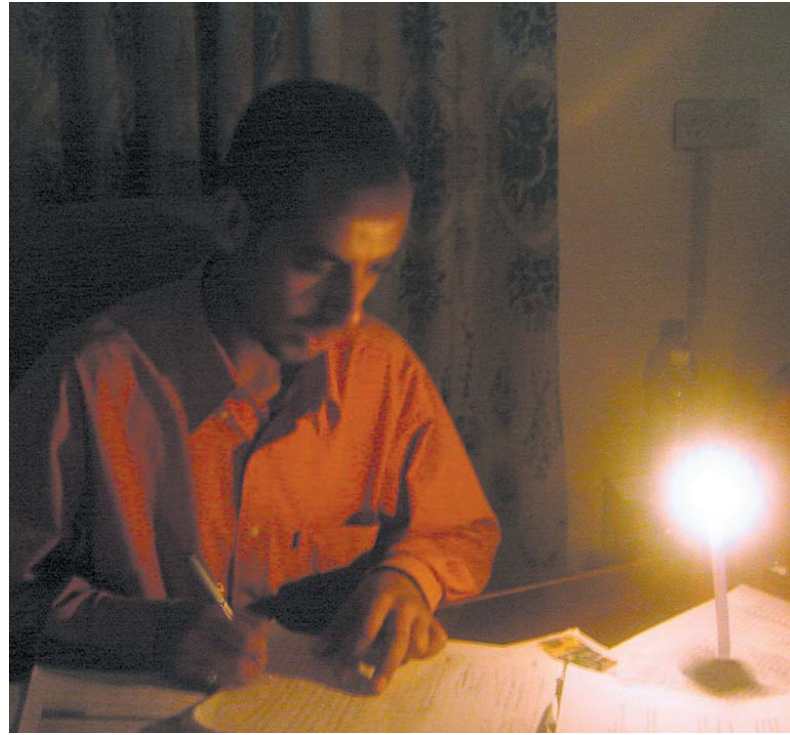
The blackouts were due to the heavy rains which damaged a large part of the electricity station's power generators, according to officials in the Ministry of Electricity.

People had different reactions towards the long hours they were left without electricity, "I wanted to teach my children, but they found the power outage a chance to escape from their homework instead."

They ended up sleeping early since the electricity returned very late in the day," said Nabila, a mother of two. She added that she cannot remember the last time the power was out for this long.

Students at the secondary school level found it particularly annoying, especially those in the twelfth grade. "I had a strict study schedule but it was disrupted because of the power, or rather lack thereof! I ended up studying by candlelight," said Ekram Ali, a twelfth year student at the Seventh of July school.

The cyber café owners complained that they sustained financial damage. "Those hours were too much. We lost more than fifteen thousand riyals and we got bored and angry," said Fadil



Increased blackouts have forced Yemenis to resort to reading and working by candle light.

Shafa'a, a cyber café owner.

Dressmakers also complained harshly about the long power outage. "I told my customers to come back for their dresses at a specific date, but this long blackout destroys me and my reputation as a reliable dressmaker. Now I have to either to postpone my customers' appointments or to work more than I can bear," said Mrs. Hayat.

Losses were great for most people; however this was not the case with all of them. "We have our own generator that cost us \$50,000, so we don't care if the power was on or off," said Mohammed Amin, an assistant in his

father's shop.

The loss in money for most of Sana'a's citizens was not the only problem; the power outage also resulted in chaos on the streets. "We were coming in from Hodaidah on Friday night. Throughout Sana'a the traffic lights were off and drivers were driving crazily without any restraint. Also, because of the rain, the roads were damaged on our way. It was terrible," said Samah Shakir.

Resources at the Ministry of Electricity confirm that technicians are fixing the power generators in an effort to avoid any future blackouts.

Calm resumes in J'aar Abyan after months of insecurity

By: Fuad Mus'ed
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, April 19 — J'aar city of Khanfar in Abyan governorate is now in a state of calm after unprecedented tension, following the military and security campaign launched by the government last month.

The campaign, led by Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, Minister of Defense, saw the security tracking down a number of persons wanted for creating chaos in the region, destabilizing public tranquility, committing unlawful acts, vandalizing public facilities and committing aggressions against citizens.

J'aar city is considered to be the second largest city in Abyan after Zunjubar city, the capital of the governorate. It had witnessed acts of violence by armed jihadist groups. Violence included killing a number of citizens, shootings and attempted assassinations against local figures.

According to residents, the army set tanks in most entrances to the city, cleaned it up in their quest for the armed jihadists. They said that these jihadists exchanged gunfire with the army on streets of the city before dozens were arrested.

Security apparatuses in the governorate said that the number of those arrested in J'aar during the campaign amounted to 57 people. The sources said that 17 of them were released after they were investigated, confirming that investigations are ongoing with the other 40 who were involved, the security source said, in acts of sabotage, creating road blocks,

targeting security, public and economic constructions and other crimes related to destabilizing security in Abyan.

The sources said that investigations with the accused during the past days revealed information about others wanted by security for their participation in the crimes. They said that security is hunting them down to bring them to justice.

Observers say that the last security campaign comes to regain the power of the government and its security institutions after these jihadist groups continued their acts ignoring agreements the government made with them in appreciation for their support during the civil war in 1994.

The campaign came after high ranking military and security leaders held many meetings to discuss the situation in Abyan before transferring the task to the army, particularly given that the city witnessed an unprecedented security vacuum.

For his part, Ahmed Al-Maisari, governor of Abyan, said that primary results of investigations revealed that they are affiliated with Al-Qaeda and that they were involved in terrorist acts. He pointed out that security is currently hunting the area to track down the rest of the elements. He added that the security campaign came to put an end to the bullying acts, arrest the criminal elements and prevent the area from their evils, according to the governor.

Head of the Islah Party Executive Office in Abyan Nasser Abdulla Al-Bejairi said that the security campaign on J'aar aggravated the problem, criticizing what he called

marginalizing role of the governor in the security field.

"Although those who are tracked down are wanted by security because they threaten our interests in the governorate, we have no idea about the campaign, its results and management," said Al-Bejairi in a statement to the press.

He confirmed that Abyan has been living a state of insecurity for the past few months and not only J'aar city. He added that the solution to this problem is not through campaigns that aggravate the problem, but rather through authorizing security under the leadership of the governor to deal with the situation.

Head of Abyan Security Hamoud Hassan Al-Harithi said that among those arrested during the campaign in J'aar in Abyan, Shabwa, and Aden governorates, there are 20 of the dangerous persons wanted by security for charges of committing killing, robbery, and road block in J'aar.

He confirmed that a team of members from the General Administration for Combating Terror and Organized Crime is currently investigating them to obtain important information that can reinforce the power of law and order in the governorate.

He added that the campaign was successful due to cooperation of the residents, further confirming that J'aar has become safer and more secure.

"All those who were arrested are Yemenis and there are no foreigners among them," said Al-Harithi. "Many of the wanted by security surrendered willingly to the security."

Over a million more Yemenis to receive UAE wheat

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, April 19 — "Over a million public employees will benefit from the United Arab Emirates' food aid," said Deputy General Manager of Yemeni Economic Corporation (YEC) Abdullah Al-Kuhali.

The beneficiaries of the wheat donation are retirees from military and civil service institutions as well as employees in public and government civil service sectors that have positions under level four, meaning they are deputy general managers or lower.

In cooperation with the General Authority for Post and Postal Saving (GAPPS), up to 216,000 retirees are receiving their food aid from food donated by the UAE. These retirees have previously received cards from GAPPS, ensuring the ease with which

every retiree will receive his 50 kilogram sack of wheat.

An official from YEC, the body responsible for receiving the food aid from the UAE, said that the second batch of the donations is estimated at 66,000 tons. The distribution process is also the duty of the corporation.

"We are almost done with distributing the donation to the retirees. Now we are preparing documents with GAPPS to distribute the rest of the second batch to employees in public and mixed sectors," said al-Kuhali.

Distributing the wheat donation to retirees via the post authority is a measure taken to ease burdens on retirees receiving aid from YGC. It also facilitates the corporation's duties and measures in the process of distribution, General Manager of GAPPS Ahmad Abu Ghanem told a

state-run news agency earlier.

One month ago, the cabinet agreed during its weekly Tuesday meeting on the process of distributing the second batch of the donation, estimated at 66,000 tons and equal to 320,000 sacks of wheat, to employees in public institutions who are beneath the level of deputy general managers and to other government workers who are under contract.

Concerning the type and quality of wheat, Al-Kuhali confirmed that this wheat is also the whole grain type. Beneficiaries earlier said that this kind of wheat is not very desirable because they prefer white. However, the first batch of wheat was from Germany and the current one is Australian. "Both quantities from Germany and from Australia are excellent and healthier than white wheat, and contain more

ingredients," Al-Kuhali said.

According to state-run news sources, the wheat distribution process began across the country late last March. In Abyan, Secretary General of the Local Council Naser al-Fadhli, along with General Manager of YEC's Branch in the governorate Saeed al-Rowaishan, launched the distribution of 20,000 sacks of wheat to retirees in all districts of the governorate, particularly the remote ones.

The governor of Mahra sponsored distributing the second batch of the wheat aid which consisted of 750 sacks to military and civil service retirees. Meanwhile, the governor of Mahwit started distributing the wheat aid to 1,500 retirees across the governorate.

The Deputy General Manager for Trade Affairs said the third batch of wheat from the UAE will arrive in

May.

The donation is reaching Yemen in stages; each batch consists of 66,000 tons.

The National Supreme Committee for distributing the wheat aid, headed by Deputy Prime Minister for Interior Affairs Sadiq Ameen Abu-Ras, will set mechanisms to distribute the forthcoming batches, al-Kuhali indicated.

During the receiving ceremony of the first batch of the donation on Jan. 10, the Minister of Industry and Trade, Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawakel, said that the aid reflects the warm brotherly relations between the people of Yemen and the UAE. He also confirmed that the wheat would be distributed to the less fortunate.

The first donation of wheat was distributed to disabled and people

registered in the Social Security Fund.

The United Arab Emirates had committed to donating 500,000 tons of wheat to support Yemenis. However, since the start of distribution of the wheat to the beneficiaries, Yemenis have been complaining that the type of wheat donated was not desirable in Yemen because of the preference for the less nutritious white wheat.

The UAE has also started to donate one million tons of wheat to Egypt and 500,000 tons of wheat to Syria.

According to a recent assessment by the World Food Program, families in remote villages in Yemen are regularly skipping meals while spending over two-thirds of their income on food due to high international prices, forcing some families to pull children out of school because they cannot afford to keep them there.

Continued from page 1

Angry mob take matters into its own hands

This however did not allay neighbors concerns as Al-Baidani was still in his house and nothing was done about the incident until Wednesday morning. Deciding to take matters into their own hands, people for the surrounding neighborhoods brought the house down.

"As they were demolishing and burning the house, military vehicles

turned up and brought the suspect out from the house, whereas before the incident the police station had claimed that they searched the house and could not find him," said Al-Ansi.

After damaging the house, people allegedly found drugs, wine, pornographic material and grenades in the house.

"I saw people taking out cartons of drugs, wine and grenades from the house," said Haroon Al-Sabri the sus-

pect's neighbor said.

The leader, mosque preachers and residents of Al-Hasaba accounted for the violence against the family in reaction to their past crimes that went unpunished by the security apparatuses.

In 2005, the same man raped a six-year girl, killed her and buried her body in the house. That incident was reported and the medical statement confirmed the incident, according to Sheikh Al-Rawni, the leader of the

neighborhood.

At the time, the court sentenced Al-Baidani in to death, but the girl was Al-Baidani's stepdaughter and, because her mother forgave him, the sentence was overturned.

"Abdulmalik Al-Baidani and his mother Makkiah had committed previous criminal acts which are recorded in the prosecution court and the police station," said Al-Rawni. "The biggest act they committed was raping the girl and killing her."

"Makkiah, the mother of the suspect is also well-known for prostitution in Al-Hasaba district in Sana'a and for drinking alcohol," stated Al-Rawni. "We do not claim or speak irresponsibly; all of what I said is documented."

"Around 400 people surrounded my house and accused me of assisting the family in insulting the holy Quran. I tried to control their emotions, but I could not and the security was late in arriving," he explained.

There are now a number of people in prison awaiting investigation. They are Mohamed Al-Wadee preacher of a nearby mosque, Yahya Abdul-Karim, community leader of Sanhob, a nearby neighborhood and Fouad Al-Surayhi, community leader of a nearby neighborhood. They are charged with instigating the violence.

Abdulmalik Al-Baidani is also in custody.

The Ministry of Interior refused to comment on the case.

In Brief

SANAA
Minister of oil meets GOGAS company delegation

Minister of Oil and Minerals Amir Al-Aydarus reviewed on Wednesday the available investment opportunities in Yemen in oil and gas with Hamdi Atta, director of the UAE oil and gas company GOGAS and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the minister pointed to the promising investment opportunities in oil and gas sector in Yemen, noting that investment laws would facilitate investment.

Al-Aydarus directed the oil exploration board to provide all information for the GOGAS about the sectors and promised opportunities in this regard.

Yemenia approves establishing supply, free markets company

The board of directors of Yemen Airways (Yemenia) approved establishing a company for supply and free markets in partnership with a French-Canadian company on Wednesday.

The meeting, chaired by Captain Abdul-Khaliq Al-Qadi, Yemen Airways' chairman of board of directors, reviewed the report of the company's 2008 final accounts.

The meeting also dealt with the agenda and plans of the company's board of directors for improving the company's performance during the coming period and enhancing its competitive abilities.

Yemen Airways carried over 1,400,000 passengers during 2008.

Al-Qintar in Yemen for Palestinian Prisoner's Day

Samir Al-Qintar, Israel's longest held Lebanese prisoner who was freed in a Hezbollah-Israeli prisoner swap in November 2008, has arrived in Yemen, the 26sep.net has reported.

Al-Qintar's visit is aimed to take part in the activities of the Palestinian Prisoner's Day which will start next Sunday in Sana'a. The activities would be organized by Kana'an organization.

Arriving in Sana'a, Al-Qintar expressed his pleasure at being in Yemen, praising Yemen's stances towards Arab issues and resistance to Israeli occupation.

Samir Al-Qintar spent almost 30 years in an Israeli prison and was the first among five Lebanese prisoners Israel released in a Hezbollah-Israeli prisoner exchange last year.

In the swap, Israel freed five Hezbollah fighters in exchange for two Israeli soldiers who were seized in a border-cross raid that triggered a 33-day war between the two sides in the summer of 2006.

Police arrest six wanted persons

The Ministry of the Interior has announced that security arrested six wanted persons in Abyan, Hajja, Taiz and Sana'a, the ministry's media center reported.

The security bodies arrested two want-

ed persons in Ja'ar, Abyan, after exchanging fire with did not lead to any casualties, the center said. The forces also arrested a house owner in the city who was harboring them.

The center added that the security forces also arrested a man in Aflah, Hajja governorate, while he and other distributed Houthi publications in region. The other man escaped after exchanging fire with security forces.

In Taiz, the police arrested a wanted person for the murder of the director of the Damnat Khadir district in the governorate last month.

Meanwhile, Sana'a police arrested a wanted person in Bani Dhabyan, Sana'a.

ADEN
Training course on combating AIDS launched on Wednesday

A training course on combating AIDS was launched here on Wednesday with the participation of 25 women from Al-Mustaqbal and Al-Fardoos development organizations.

The one-week course is organized by the United Nations AIDS Program in collaboration with the Social Welfare Fund.

The participants received lectures and instructions on the methods of transmission of the disease and its negative effects on people, as well as the role of the family and society in creating awareness in the fight against this deadly epidemic.

In the course, a number of films intro-

ducing a brief introduction of the disease, its transmission and how to combat and reduce its spread will be presented.

Omani delegation visits investment projects in Aden

An Omani delegation headed by the chairman of the Salalah Commercial and Industrial Chamber paid an inspection visit to the project of Anma Company for Real Estate Development in Aden on Wednesday.

The delegation inspected work progress in the project which cost USD 189 million.

The delegation also visited the Al-Rahab factory for perfumes in Aden Free Zone. Up to 75 percent of the products of the factory are exported to countries of Africa and Middle East and 25 percent are destined to the local market.

MSI organizes lectures on reproductive health

Marie Stopes International (MSI) organized here on Tuesday awareness activities on reproductive health by delivering lectures in three schools and at the Yemen Women Union (YWU).

The organization's manager in Aden Enas, Abu-Bakr, declared in a statement to Saba that the one-week series of lectures aim to familiarize participants with family planning, reproductive health, pregnancy, childbirth problems and ways of giving medical advice.

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World's Press Rallies to Journalists in Danger on World Press Freedom Day

The World Association of Newspapers is urging publications world-wide to show their support on World Press Freedom Day, 3 May, for journalists who put their

lives in danger to get the news. WAN, which represents 18,000 newspapers world-wide, is dedicating its 2009 World Press Freedom Day campaign to "Journalists in the Firing Line", and is producing editorials, advertisements, political cartoons, interviews and other materials for publication in newspapers and other media on 3 May.

Newspapers wishing to view, download and publish the materials, free of charge, can find them at <http://www.worldpressfreedomday.org>.

The materials will be offered in English, French, Spanish, and Russian, but newspapers are encouraged to translate them into other languages as well.

Thousands of newspapers world-wide publish the WAN materials on World Press Freedom Day each year.

"Day after day, journalists investigate and file reports on issues they know can lead to harassment, physical retaliation, arrest, prison and even death. On World Press Freedom Day, newspapers can help their readers better understand the contributions these journalists make to their societies, and the dangers they face in doing so," said Timothy Balding, the CEO of the Paris-based WAN.

"Journalists in many countries are threatened, attacked and even murdered when they carry out their essential role of investigating corruption organized crime, political violence and other acts carried out by those who fear exposure," said Mr Balding. "In most of these cases, the perpetrators of these crimes go unpunished."

"The majority of the world's population does not enjoy the basic human right of freedom of expression, and journalists who are courageous enough to report on sensitive issues in repressive countries are often (re)warded with jail sentence, or worse," he said.

More than 70 journalists were killed world-wide last year, at least 670 were arrested, and 125 remain in prison.

The materials provided by WAN for 3 May give an in-depth look at the problem and include:

- Cartoons, created by noted French cartoonist Michel Cambon, that illustrate the problems facing journalists in the firing line. The cartoons, including an animated version for websites and broadcasters, can be found at www.wanpress.org/3may/2009/cartoons.php?id=892
- Public service advertisements that help raise awareness of the problem and allow newspapers to express solidarity with those who put their lives on the line. The advertisements can be found at www.wanpress.org/3may/2009/articles.php?id=948
- Interviews with journalists who have suffered harassment and attacks but continue to report despite the hardships. The texts can be found at www.wanpress.org/3may/2009/texts.php?id=774
- An editorial for newspaper_op-ed pages to be published on World Press Freedom Day, which can be found at www.wanpress.org/3may/2009/articles.php?id=906

- Maps and infographics showing where journalists were killed, arrested and imprisoned world-wide in 2008. The graphics can be found at www.wanpress.org/3may/2009/articles.php?id=885

- Photographs that newspapers can use to illustrate the articles and other materials, provided by Agence France-Press expressly for the World Press Freedom Day initiative, at www.wanpress.org/3may/2009/photos.php?id=899

- Materials to be used in Newspapers in Education programmes that can be found at www.wanpress.org/3may/2009/articles.php?id=913

World Press Freedom Day marks the anniversary of the 1991 Declaration of Windhoek, a statement of principles calling for a free, independent and pluralistic media throughout the world. The Declaration affirms that a free press is essential to the existence of democracy

Al-Thuriya acquires new printing press

Al-Thuriya for Printing and Advertising, a digital printing company based in Sana'a, has invested in a new 5 meter Jeti 5024 from Gandinnovations. The new press can print up to 200 meters per hour and can produce prints with 600 dpi in eight colors.



"We saw this machine at several exhibitions and were impressed with its accuracy and high printing speed," said Mahmoud Saeed, general manager of Al-Thuriya. "We are now able to print 5 meter-wide advertising boards on various materials, [including] flags and carpets."

Al-Thuriya offers a number of services including, but not limited to, indoor and outdoor printing of Uniball and PRISM 3D signs, billboards, vehicle wrap-ups and exhibition material. Al-Thuriya owns one of the 25 Chinese digital presses in Sana'a, and one of the eight Vutek presses in the capital.

"Since we are a relatively new

company, we only cater to the local market, but we are keen to export our services to other countries in the future," said Saeed, adding that even in Sana'a competition has become more fierce as the advertising markets have suffered from the financial crisis.

Named after the general manager's daughter who was born at the time, Al-Thuriya for Printing and Advertising was established in early 2007. The company has 32 employees, who work in three shifts. The press' production capacity is around 6,000 square meters a month and 72,000 square meters a year.

Opening a coronary artery without invasive surgery at the Yemen International Hospital in Taiz

By: Yemen Times
Taiz Bureau

The Yemen International Hospital in Taiz witnessed the first successful operation conducted for the right coronary artery of Abdullah Saleh Faraj's heart. The operation was carried out through developed cardio therapeutic catheterization and using the balloon and pillar "net" method without need to conduct open heart surgery. This procedure came after preventive therapy failed through applying an artery clot dissolver to open the obstructed coronary artery. The operation was conducted by the diagnostic and therapeutic cardio catheterization team in the hospital under the supervision of Professor Blasim Salman Dera', con-

sultant cardiologist, in cooperation with consultant doctor A'del Al-Qubati, doctors, and personnel of the cardio intensive care unit.

The catheterization intervention was highly successful due to efforts exerted by the administration of the hospital and the cardio intensive care unit. The intensive care unit at the hospital is equipped with the most modern medical techniques and personnel qualified to deal with such urgent humanitarian cases.

For his part, Faraj expressed his utmost happiness over the success of the operation that he underwent, further expressing his deep appreciation for the hospital's administration, consultant doctors, and medical crew that participated in the operation.

CSSW celebrates receiving ISO

The Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) will celebrate receiving the international quality certificate related to quality management this coming Thursday. Dr. Mohammed Abdu Al-Qubati, general director of the society, said that



the CSSW is considered the first Yemeni non-governmental institution to receive the latest version of the international quality certificates, which are issued by a group of German companies known as TUV. Dr. Al-Qubati added that attaining the ISO certificate was a direct result of its commitments to institutional work and its principle of transparency in its partnerships with popular and official bodies and donors. This transparency created an outstanding presence for the society in many charitable and humanitarian fields. Dr. Al-Qubati further pointed out that the CSSW put the international quality certificate among its goals of the society's strategic plan for 2007-2009. In prepara-

tion, the society conducted a comprehensive reassessment of its system of quality management and execution of requirements of the new standards which qualified CSSW to attain the certificate. A delegation from the TUV inspected and reviewed the society during a visit to the CSSW which confirmed CSSW's ability to achieve the certificate

Dr. Al-Qubati stated that the CSSW made 'development and improvement' its slogan during 2009. It continues to work on integrating whatever's new in the field of humanitarian and developmental services and improving its performance to reach the best possible results. He further added that this celebration coincides with the 19th anniversary of establishing the CSSW, confirming that the ISO certificate is considered an incentive for the society to succeed and achieve even more over the months and years to come.

DHL EXPRESS updates in the region

DHL Express demonstrates green commitment with special shipment for United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) - DHL Express sent its first carbon neutral express shipments, on the first anniversary of the Climate



Neutral Network (CN Net), of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The shipment of trophies, made from recycled materials, was sent from Nairobi, Kenya, to the 86 global companies that form UNEP's CN NET. Deutsche Post DHL is the first global logistics company to join CN Net, highlighting DHL's commitment to stay at the forefront of the logistics industry's efforts to lower emissions and improve carbon efficiency.

Ain't no mountain high enough for DHL Express - DHL Express proved why it's the world's leading express and logistics service provider last month when Roland Thomas, the Global VP of Product Management climbed 6,962 meters (22,834 feet) to pre-launch the DHL EXPRESS ENVELOPE. The new product, which will be launched worldwide over the course of this year, is the speedy dispatch solution for documents weighing up to 250g (approximately 8 ounces). The launch took place near the Chilean border on Cerro Aconcagua in the Argentinean Andes - the highest peak in the Western and

Southern hemispheres.

DHL employs first female workforce in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - DHL is first logistics and shipping provider to employ 50 women in Al Koba, Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. DHL has shown support of the Saudi government's ambition to open its doors to female employees by setting up an all women team within its Express business. DHL has invested in an extensive training module specially designed for the women, which covers enhancing soft skills, sales techniques, management skills and pricing.

DHL Express appoints new area director - DHL Express has appointed Garry Kemp as the new Area Director to the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (MENAT). Located at DHL Express' MENAT area office in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, Garry will oversee the strategic development of this key area of the Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa (EEMEA) region. Garry Kemp began his career with DHL in 1980 and has held several positions in general management, operations, sales and commercial.

A busy lawyer with time for compassion

By: Salma Ismail

Shatha Mohamed Nasser, human rights activist and prominent lawyer in Yemen starts her day at around 6:30am, or 7:00am when she is really tired. She gets her two children, 5 year-old Khalid and 10 year-old Lamiya, ready for school and puts on her power suit before starting her day. "The most important thing I do in the morning is to put on comfortable shoes," she says. Throughout the day it becomes obvious why.

She arrives at the Commercial Court for a hearing at 9:30am. She parks her car a little far off and walks a distance. A number of young beggars rush up to her modest car with their hands stretched out and mischievous smiles on their faces. "Go beg from your president. I am just like you, I don't have any money," she jokingly tells them.

Walking on the narrow sidewalk, she is greeted by an old shopkeeper she knows. "Salam. Meet my daughter," he says pointing to a little eight-year old girl dressed in black from head to toe. Shatha asks him, "Why do you let such an adorable girl like her dress like an old woman?" She smiles to the girl and asks her about school.

She enters the courthouse. After climbing up a steep four floors she arrives barely out of breath. She quickly finds the courtroom where she takes a seat and waits for her turn to come. Her notes are in her hand and she attentively pays attention to every word that is being said.

A soft spoken woman, the court goes silent when it is her turn to address the judge. Many are silent in awe at the fact that she is a woman.

Even among the educated women of Yemen, Shatha has been lucky to accomplish all that she has. The majority of Yemeni girls who graduate from university are unable to enter the workforce due to their husbands' wishes or domestic pressures. But Shatha is married to Dr. Mohamed Ali Al Saqqaf, a professor of international law who shares her passion for fighting for rights and defending the oppressed.

There is a long brown bench where

three persons are seated wearing dark robes. Shatha stands on her tip-toes to get closer and talk to the judge. The accused interrupts her to say something. "Wait, let me finish," she gently tells him. He obliges. Following a brief exchange with the judge, the trial was deferred for couple of weeks.

On her way out, a guard greets her and she firmly presses a YR 500 note in his hand. "Thank you for running errands," she graciously tells the man with a large family.

She gets in her car and heads off to the Ministry of Legal Affairs. "I need to buy a book, I have a case coming up and need an update on the concerning laws," she says. She parks at a distance and walks across to the ground floor library, which is full of old dusty paperbacks and papers piled up all over the place. "I came here at 8:30 but you weren't open yet," she tells the clerk behind the counter before asking for the book she wants.

A man who works at the ministry called Abdul Karim walks over and asks her, "Ms. Shatha, can I help you?" They exchange a few words then he shouts to the shopkeeper "Give the lady whatever she wants." He then insists that the book be brought to Shatha even if it's "from the corners of the universe."

While waiting she meets a woman who is also at the shop trying to find a book. She exchanges business cards with her. She makes a brief phone call to her brother Ayman Nasser, a journalist running Al-Tariq Newspaper in Aden, and asks him if he would like anything from the ministry's bookstore.

On her way out to the Marassi Advertising Company to get a signature for a client, her phone rings, "Its two eggs and don't forget the vanilla," she tells her sister Abeer who is making chocolate mousse.

She briskly makes her way up the advertising company's stairs, sincerely greeting everyone she encounters. The head of the company genuinely asks her how she has been. The exchange a few kind words and Shatha opens her bag to give him the required documents.

A dynamic lawyer she is respected

and recognized by everyone that she comes across.

It is around 11:45 and Shatha makes a brief stop at her house. Entering the house, she savors the aroma of fresh homemade cookies. She rests at home for an hour before she heads to South West Court of Sana'a.

In the courtyard of this building she encounters a truck full of Somalis that have been arrested. Always ready to help the oppressed she inquires to their case. "Why would you do a thing like that," she chidingly asks them. It turns out they were arrested for insulting police officers.

She climbs many flights of stairs to reach an office where she professionally introduces herself to three lawyers in crumpled suits and unpolished shoes. Many have cigarettes dangling from their mouths.

She sits on a plastic bench, waiting for these men to get her the documents she wants. Having been a lawyer for 15 years, she is used to being patient. Her phone rings again. It is her sister. "Put it in the refrigerator for a couple of hours," she quietly tells her with a smile.

She then dictates to her colleague a case that she is currently dealing with, "He walked into the Sana'a Trade Centre, bought a pair of brand-name glasses for USD 1,000, a brand-name suit for USD 5,000, and shoes for USD 2,000 among other things. He paid for them with a fake cheque and flew to Aden to spend time with his elderly mother," she said. The lawyers exchange legal jargon share a good laugh.

On average she addresses two or three legal cases a day. Her commitment to her clients and dedication have earned her international recognition.

Among the unkempt tribal men who fill the office is a little boy. They all stand in between her and her colleague. "Excuse me little champ," she says to the little boy and pats his head before making her way across the room.

She quickly browses through some documents and asks for others, then makes her way back to the bench to wait. The little boy looks at her. She



One of the first female lawyers in Sana'a, Nasser has won a number of cases which have earned her international recognition.

smiles, quickly looks around to make sure no one is watching, and pulls a funny face at him. He laughs.

The legal papers are now ready. She signs them, thanks her colleagues and files the documents away in her small feminine briefcase.

She quickly glances at her watch and says, "I never get to perform my prayers on time."

By now it is 2pm. Shatha picks up her two children from school and has lunch with them. After a brief rest, she takes them out. "We are going to visit the orphans after your ballet class," she tells her daughter. "The orphans, again?" her little boy asks. "Yes we are going to visit Maryam," she says. Shatha is taking care of a 10 year-old Somali orphan and visits her whenever she has the time. Despite her busy schedule Shatha enjoys domestic work and often seeks to strike a balance between her professional career and

family life. Her determination is what has allowed her to overcome obstacles and barriers to become one of the first female lawyers in the city of Sana'a to open a law firm in 1996.

Shatha sits cross legged on the basement floor of the Cinderella Ballet House. She admiringly watches a group of about 15 little girls practicing ballet moves with the help of their Russian instructor.

Her son Khalid plays with his toys cars on the floor as he waits. She gives her daughter a glance of approval every now and then. A few minutes later, her sister walks in with her little girl.

They quietly share a few words and exchange newspaper clippings. "Did you watch Oprah last night?" her sister asks. The conversation then flows to a number of women's issues and girly giggles. "How did the chocolate mousse turn out?" she asks her sister.

Shatha rings the doorbell at the Dar

Al-Aytam. "How are you?" She hugs Souad, the woman in charge of the building, and takes a look at the plants decorating the yard to check that they are well-watered. "I will bring you some more next time," she tells her, pointing to an exotic-looking flower.

She enters the immaculately clean building with her two children and climbs more stairs to the first floor. Around ten children run up to her. She kisses and hugs them all. "How have you been Sara?" she asks one. Talking to each child she inquires in a motherly manner as to how they have been.

She holds a little infant in her hand and his innocent look almost brings tears to her eyes. She asks what happened to his parents before kissing him and gently placing him back in his cot.

She leaves the orphanage with her children in tow. As they make their way to her car, she asks them about their homework.



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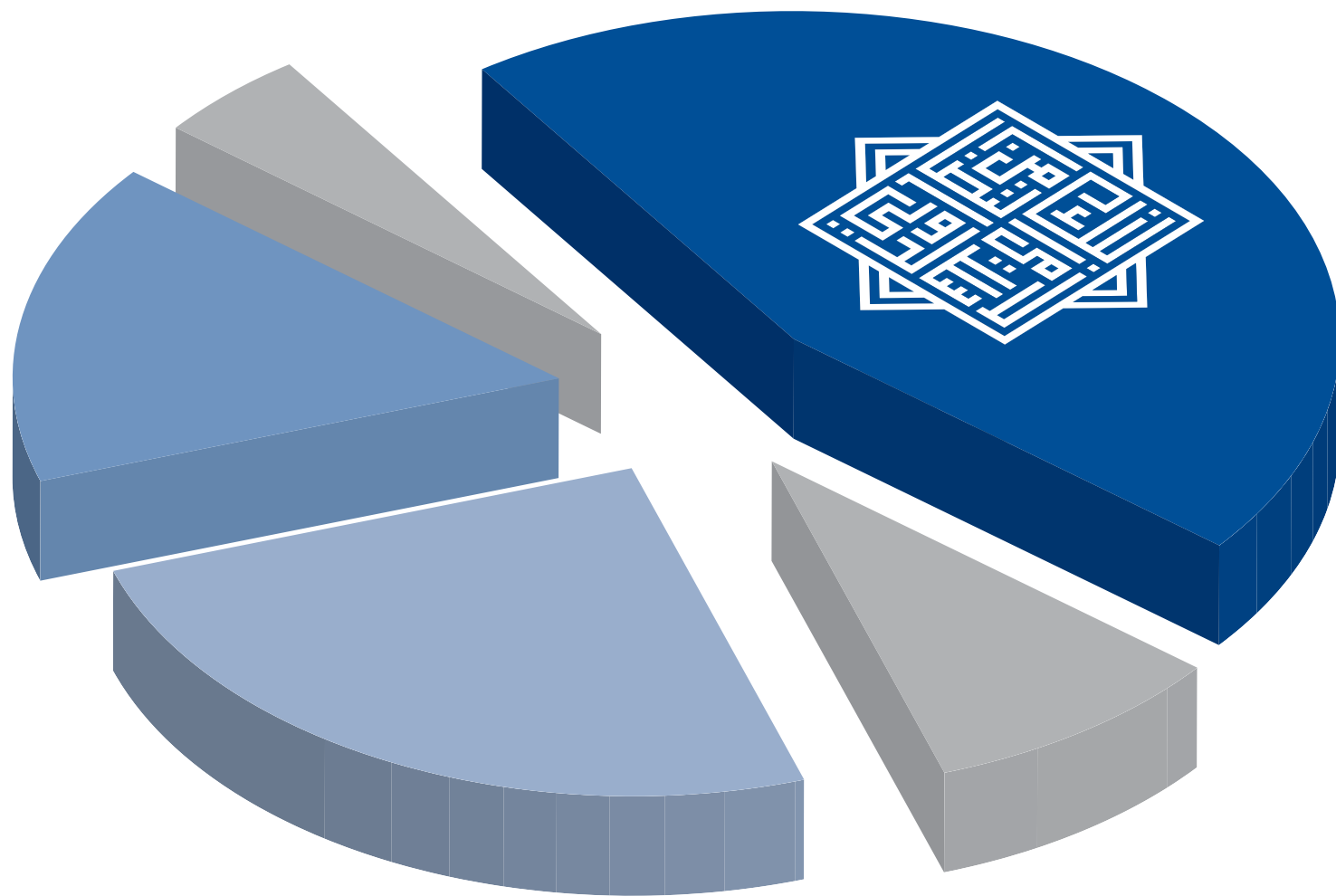


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Confessions of a Saudi thobe designer

By: Alexandra Sandels
MENASSAT

Contrary to the traditional thobes often associated with Saudi Arabia, a new hip modernized line of abayas appear to have become a hit selling item both for women and men in Saudi Arabia, redefining fashion in the ultra-conservative Kingdom.

In the capital city Jeddah, young Saudi men crowd the myriad of giant shopping malls sipping lattes wearing thobes that are trimmed with large zippers and color stripes. Groups of women sporting giant black shades walk around squawking into their mobile phones, dressed in high-end thobes with shimmering gold sleeves and exquisite colorful designs.

Filwa Nazer, a Jeddah-based designer in her thirties, is one of the pioneers of the thobe design movement. Nazer's thobe line (thobes are normally worn under the traditional long robe 'abaya' in public), has taken the traditional, more conservative thobe design and turned it into a feminine and elegant dress-like abaya with flattering cuts and striking colorful patterns, often made with hand-made embroideries.

It's been six years since her debut Ramadan collection hit Jeddah and the designer is now working on her sixth collection.

In that time, many new talents have emerged in the field.

Jeddah-based male thobe designer Yahia Al-Bishri has been dubbed the "man who put color back in Saudi menswear," with his bold and colorful line of thobes. His client list includes members of the royal family, including the Saudi monarch, King Abdullah.

Some of the designers even promote sociopolitical causes. During the Gaza war, for example, Hatim Alakeel designed a number of thobes using the colors of the Palestinian flag

Long gone are the days of the over-sized black abaya and pale white floor-length thobe in Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom's thobe designers are taking the Saudi fashion scene by storm, filling shops and ateliers with colorful and hip thobes for those seeking a modern flare to their traditional garbs. MENASSAT had a chat with pioneer women's thobe designer Filwa Nazer in Jeddah.



Filwa Nazer's latest collection.

with patterns of the iconic black and white checkered scarf (*keffiyeh*).

MENASSAT sat down with pioneer designer Nazer in Jeddah to discuss thobes, how she began in the industry and fashion as a tool for self-expression.

MENASSAT: So how did your thobe designing come about?

Nazer: "I had been studying at a fashion school in Milan and did a training program with Italian designer Ferre before coming back to Saudi Arabia

six years ago. It (thobe designing) actually started with me falling into it."

"I was going through somewhat of an existential crisis, asking myself whether I wanted to become a designer or an artist. I was trying out different things."

"Then my aunt who runs a boutique store in Jeddah where she's been selling abayas for as long as I remember, asked me if I could make her a small collection of designer thobes for the Ramadan season. That's when every-

one buys new thobes here in Saudi Arabia."

MENASSAT: Did people end up buying them?

Nazer: "It was a very small collection. I wasn't sure if people would like it or not, but I received good feedback on the collection. People wanted more."

MENASSAT: Who mainly buys your thobes? Daring young trend setters or the older generation as well?

Nazer: "Well, the older generation didn't jump on it (the first collection). It was different from what they were used to. But now we have people in their fifties and sixties buying the thobes."

"They get excited about the colors. Demand for colorful thobes has increased and people now have a whole new definition of thobes. Before they were comfortable and traditional but never funky. Now they are young and fresh with a traditional element."

MENASSAT: And you also do custom-made thobes?

Nazer: "Yes. For example, the more conservative women usually add longer sleeves and close up the slit."

MENASSAT: Thobes with a slit?

Nazer: "Yes, of course. There are short options too. Many like to wear their thobes with leggings. The more you do this (thobe design), the more experimental you become and the more your work improves."

MENASSAT: Can you expand on that statement?

Nazer: "It lies in our human nature to express ourselves. There are limitations in doing that here. People want to express themselves here and are trying to do so. Fashion is one way of doing it."

MENASSAT: What makes your thobes different from those of other designers?

Nazer: "Not only are they feminine, but they're elegant and come with an edge. We buy most of the fabrics from India and many of the thobes come with hand embroidery. And the designs are always thoroughly researched."

MENASSAT: And the inspiration behind the designs. Where do you get it from?

Nazer: "I buy many books and attend exhibitions. I also travel a lot which serves as a great source of inspiration for me. The artist scene is still limited in Saudi Arabia and artists are just starting to receive recognition. Freedom of expression is a big part of being an artist. So I soak up influences as much as I can from outside."



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- Writes and monitors Section work plan. Collaboratively determines sections individual performance and development /learning plans; Assigns and supports staff to meet work requirements.
- Maintains close contacts with government officials to ensure privileges and immunities are being applied.

Qualification Requirements

- Master's Degree or equivalent in Business Administration, Public Administration, Economics or related field. Knowledge of the United Nations Policies and Procedures. Specialized training in Procurement & Travel related issues are an asset. Computer proficiency (Office, Internet).
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The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 02 May 2009

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Yemeni women take on the harassers

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Yemen and Egypt have the worst reputation for sexual harassment in the Arab World, according to Egyptian film director Mohammad Al-Assyuti, who has made a documentary about sexual harassment in Egypt.

Women in Yemen are taking on their aggressors, and telling them that they can't get away with their behavior.

"Once I was on a bus and a man tried to touch me, so I stabbed him in the hand with a pair of scissors that was in my handbag!" said Om Hani, who says that she usually ignores verbal harassment, but knows she has a pin in her head scarf ready to be used if anyone goes any further.

"When I was at high school, a man was following me so I picked up a stone from the road and kept it in my hand until he ran away," said Nisreen Shaded. "After that, I kept a small knife in my handbag for the last two

years of high school."

"On the bus, a man tried to touch me from the seat behind," said one young girl in her twenties. "I took off my shoe and hit him on the head. The other passengers hit him too and forced him get off the bus."

Most of the harassers and stalkers are found on Jamal Street in Tahrir and Al-Zumr Market in Old Sana'a City, according to a policeman in Tahrir. Frequent harassers are men new to the city and are in both streets. Many victims of harassment don't report the cases to the police.

Ishraq Mohammad, who knows Judo and Karate, prefers not to reply to verbal harassment in the street, but says it becomes necessary for her to defend herself when it comes to touching.

"A girl can learn techniques to hit the sensitive parts of the body like the nose for example," said Mohammad. "It is easy and it makes the attacker lose vision for a while and in at this time that a girl can run away or hit other parts."

Girls are somewhat responsible for inviting verbal harassment by stepping outdoors in tight clothes or with make-up or perfume, said Mohammad.

Halima Al-Siraji was walking along Bab Al-Salaam Street one day when a man pushed her: "I avoided falling by holding on to a car, then I hit him on the head with my handbag," she said.

Although she didn't use them on that occasion, Al-Siraji always has two pocket knives -one big and one small- in her handbag. She hides the small one in a pocket in handbag, and when her bag is checked, she only hands over the bigger one.

"A woman is not like a man, it is a matter of honor for her," said Al-Siraji.

Al-Siraji suggests other techniques for a girl to defend herself against harassment in the street, for example suggesting throwing soil into the eyes of the culprit, throwing a stone at him or even shouting for help.

Nada Me'asar, 17, high school student, always goes to school with her mother. She takes lessons in Karate

and doesn't hesitate to hit men who bother her on the street. "The way women dress is not an excuse at all," Me'asar said. "Yemeni women are modestly dressed, but even veiled women are victims of harassment."

Amani Taher agrees that learning martial arts of self-defense techniques has taught her to have more confidence in not carrying any self-defense implements.

Other girls continue to carry around pen knives and electrical shock detonators next to their purse in their handbags. Asma'a Sharafudeen, 20, for example, keeps a carpet knife in her purse. At least one daughter of a sheikh carries a gun.

According to girls interviewed, the majority of men who harass them are tribesmen, the uneducated and those who come from rural areas.

A 2007 report by the Supreme Council for Women stated that 17 harassment cases, 10 cases of women's kidnapping, 71 rape cases of which 23 where under 18, 33 attempted cases of rape were recorded by the police station.

Although Yemeni law provides one year imprisonment as punishment for harassing a woman, the law is not enforced because many of the harassment cases are not reported or are difficult to prove. On the other hand, there are not enough specialized policemen.

At the beginning of this year, the Ministry of Interior directed policemen to combat sexual harassment against women in streets all over Yemen. But although a similar campaign was previously launched in 2005, women say the campaign's impact is limited.

Defending oneself remains the safest option: "Women learn how to escape dangerous situations," said Tsuneke Ito Japanese, karate coach and volunteer



http://www.markubchahamaw.com/

from the Japanese development organization JICA at the Bilqis sports club, "but they shouldn't show off their karate skills on street because there are men who carry weapons and that may put them in trouble."

Fear of harassment stops women from walking alone in unfamiliar or unsafe areas especially dark lanes. It is uncommon to find women walking in the street after sunset, except in Ramadan.

Fadia Saleh, a married woman, avoids walking in dark or desolate streets. She once threw a stone at a man and caused him to bleed. "If someone tries harassing me, I try ignoring him, and if I'm on the bus, I ask the driver to make him get off the bus and I pay his fare instead," said Saleh.

"Policemen don't help," said Nawal Omar, another girl. "They sometimes do the harassing themselves!"

4U

Examples of tactics that might stop sexual harassment

- ¥ Leave the harasser as quickly as possible
- ¥ Do not start talking to them or answer their questions
- ¥ Do not apologize or ask a question, be firm and assertive. Say: □ Stop doing X □
- ¥ Use strong body language, and speak in a strong, clear voice.

Source: www.stopstreeharassment.com

Sexual harassment is unwanted and unwelcome behavior, or attention, of a sexual nature that interferes with your life. Sexual advances, forced sexual activity, statements about sexual orientation or sexuality, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature all constitute sexual harassment. The behavior may be direct or implied. Sexual harassment can affect an individual's work or school performance, and can create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

الشركة
السعودية
اليمنية
لخدمات
النقل
المحدودة

Zain
تاكسي زين



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شاكر فون	ش حده بجوار مطعم الخضراء
معامل حسان للتصوير	ش تعز / بجانب فندق الشام
كشك القادسية	ش تعز جوار مدرسة تدريب افراد الشرطة
نور ماركت	الصافية / بجوار جامع بدر
كشك التعاون العربي	باب اليمن / جوار المؤسسة الاقتصادية
المكتبة الرئيسية	امام الجامعة القديمة
كشك الخيل	الجامعة الجديدة
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(تاكسي العائلة)

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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
OPINIONDevelopment goals
and survival

Yemen's government recently admitted to its people and to the whole world that it would not be able to reach its development goals by 2015. This would not have been a surprise to anyone working in development in Yemen. On many occasions, various agencies working on a certain goal would discuss the shortcomings in their field and the reasons why progress is really slow.

However, this is almost the first time that the government has raised a white flag declaring its failure. And such news should not be taken lightly by anyone, especially the donor community who pride themselves in helping Yemen's development.

What Yemen needs now is a contingency plan, a disaster mitigation strategy by which we minimize the damage caused by careless management and stalling. We had ample time to know that we would be crashing this hard, yet confronting the problem was not an option, until recently.

I think what the Ministry of Planning has done is a courageous step, although quite overdue. But what should come next is reorganizing the country's priorities and identifying what can be saved before the flood.

We need to address certain vital sectors very urgently. By focusing on health and education and reallocating funds from other sectors into those two fields, we can dramatically turn the situation around. Only doing this can we push for urgent development across the country.

We will have to cut back on all the other spending. Although this might sound dramatic and almost unreasonable, it is what other countries did decades ago to become the example of success they are today. Consider Malaysia for example, a country that twenty years ago dedicated more than 30 percent of its budget to education. This 30 percent was taken from other fields, yet Malaysia managed to develop in all sectors. This happened because the improvement in education automatically had an impact on all other sectors.

Therefore, it goes without saying that investing in health and education would also benefit Yemen's economy and overall development. Think of this: Yemen loses 28 percent of its work force productivity every year due to illness, and the child mortality of 17 percent is due to inadequate sanitation. These children could have contributed to the country's development and the time their families spent taking care of them during sickness could have been utilized elsewhere.

More than two million Yemenis working abroad in advanced fields do not want to come back to the country because there is no intellectual, educational system that nurtures their acquired knowledge and transfers it to new generations.

And the list goes on. What we need to do now is reform the way Yemen deals with its challenges and re-wire the way donors provide aid to Yemen. Yes, terrorism, dictatorship and corruption are important but they are byproducts of other factors. Instead of dealing with the symptoms, let us be true to Yemen and dare to change what and how we do things.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

From tragedy to triumph?

By: Dr. Terry Lacy

You will not believe the power of what water can do, until you see it for yourself. The Dutch colonial authorities constructed the Situ Gintung 16 metre earth dam in 1933, in Tangerang, greater Jakarta, resulting in a lake 10 meters deep, to irrigate rice paddies, now used for fish farming and ground-water supply.

Just over 75 years after its construction, the dam is surrounded by dense housing, right up to the main sluice gate. Land zoning and environmental controls collapsed under urban pressures, and then the dam collapsed too on Friday 27 March, killing almost 100 people.

There was no rain gauge, no adequate maintenance and no adequate alarm system. Reportedly the lake simply filled up in torrential rain and over-topped. People downstream had no warning.

The collapse of the main sluice gate unleashed an estimated 2,000,000 cubic meters of water down the Pesangrahan River, smashing into the densely populated area of Cirendeui, with most destruction in an area about 80 meters wide and 1.5 kilometers long.

The houses and people in this densely populated area were hit after 4 a.m. by a wall of water three to four meters high, that flowed for 15 minutes and left large areas 2.5 meters under water for up to three hours.

The water went through the dam like a knife through butter, leaving a canyon 70 meters wide and 20 meters deep.

By a miracle only just under 100 people died, although 295 families, comprising 1084 registered victims are effectively refugees, according to the army post, and 400 homes were destroyed, with 1,600 people displaced and thousands affected. (UPI,

28.03.09).

Local residents fishing on the dam reportedly realized the danger, raised the alarm, a siren was sounded and 50 families in the houses near the dam clambered to safety.

Members of nearby Depok city council demanded the inspection of all seven dams in the area. "Their structures and topographies are similar to that of Situ Gintung and the dams have been poorly maintained" said a Council member. "We want the city government to take preventive action now".

There are said to be 26 similar dams, mostly 4 metres deep rather than the 10 meters at Situ Gintung in the Jakarta area and perhaps 200 in the greater Jakarta conurbation.

Edi Prasetyo Utomo, a senior geotechnology researcher with the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) said an earth filled dam should not be surrounded by built up areas. He also said other similarly constructed dams could burst due to lack of maintenance and monitoring. (Jakarta Globe, 31.03.09).

Berry Nahdian Furqon, the executive director of WALHI, a leading environmental agency, has reported six politicians and officials to the police for suspected negligence, starting with Public Works Minister Djoko Kirmanto, but including the Banten Governor Ratu Atut and South Tangerang Mayor Mohammad Saleh. (Jakarta Globe 07.04.09).

But Public Works Minister Djoko Kirmanto blamed Tangerang District local government, for issuing permits too freely to convert irrigated fields surrounding the dam into residential areas.

National Police spokesman Abubakar Nataprawira confirmed "We have yet to conclude whether the incident was the result of negligence, and if so who was responsible". (Jakarta Post 01.04.09).

Nobody believes there is any such

thing as a natural disaster when an urban dam gives way in a highly populated area, after a history of poor maintenance and irregular land zoning practices.

Indonesia is gradually transforming from a deal driven society where corrupt politicians and public officials have acted with impunity, towards a rule driven society in which rules and laws will be enforced. In the case of Situ Gintung, so that little children tucked up in bed will not die in what should be the safety of their own homes.

The wave of water that destroyed Situ Gintung and part of the community of Cirendeui is helping to reinforce a wave of change sweeping Indonesia, as its civic culture gets stronger.

Indonesia managed to double its individual tax base from 6 to 12 million registered taxpayers in 2008-2009. In the general election held on April 9, about 120 million people elected 560 seats for the House of Representatives, 132 seats for the provincial-based Regional Representatives Council and 18,000 local government seats.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, will need to take note of the wave of sympathy for the victims of the Situ Gintung flood disaster. The message is clear.

No taxation without representation. No representation without accountability. Public services should serve the people.

But Indonesia is taking steps to achieve this with democracy and stability, alongside a 4.5 percent economic growth rate, while much of ASEAN is hit by recession and political instability.

Terry Lacy is a development economist who writes from Jakarta on modernization in the Muslim world, investment and trade relations with the EU and Islamic banking.

Piracy is not the problem

By: Ahmed Al-Babili

The international community finally realized that there is a major problem in Somalia, a country whose suffering everybody was indifferent to with the exception of some neighboring countries such as Yemen.

Although the international community realized this ordeal late in the game, it still doesn't recognize the problem fully. The whole world is concerned with the spread of piracy in waters that surround Somalia, which is certainly a source of concern for all. However, this reason for this concern is because pirates started threatening international navigation in important water passages. This threat required deploying international forces to protect ships and restrict piracy.

The actions taken by the international community towards Somalia is like treating the side effects of a disease without treating the cause of the disease itself. A Saudi oil tanker carrying a quarter of Saudi oil production was kidnapped off the Kenyan coast, far from the international forces deployed in the region. International forces alone won't stop the problem.

I don't think that anyone can afford continuous armed protection along the Somali coasts. A question emerges here: Why isn't the Somali problem itself tackled instead of attempts to tackle piracy alone, a mere side effect of the real issue?

The main problem that Somalia faces is its complete inability to provide for its citizens. Somalis are currently living without adequate food, security, or medicine.

The country is undergoing a fierce war that results in tens of victims every day. Somalia is being destroyed and everything in it is being buried, and it has been going on for twenty years. It is a humanitarian and political problem that led to the displacement of millions of refugees who surged into Yemen via Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Only half of these evacuees arrive at their destination, whereas the rest pass away at sea. They make this difficult choice to flee via this dangerous route because of the difficult situation that created despair inside the hearts of Somali citizens.

History has taught us that when governments collapse, the country is lead into chaos. This is what happened in Iraq, for instance, following the collapse of the regime. The same situation is taking place in Somalia and is leading to the spread of piracy, as there is no one in Somalia who can stop them.

Since the government of Mohammed Siyad Berry collapsed in 1991, Somalia hasn't had any stability with the exception of the brief period during which the Islamic Courts in Somalia assumed power. Although many disagreed with these Islamic Courts on multiple issues, they were the only power that imposed order and security in Somalia and reunited the city of Mogadishu after war veterans and militia leaders had split it amongst themselves. The Islamic Courts also restricted piracy off the Somali coasts before their regime collapsed, a collapse which was a direct result of the Ethiopian military intervention in Somalia. Based on this experience, the only solution to piracy in international waters is a strong national

government that can control Somali lands and coasts. In addition, this government should be able to maintain security and stability, reconstruct this devastated country, and recover it from its current situation which will spontaneously lead to the end of piracy.

Support for the political process in Somalia - particularly after a new president was elected and a reconciliation agreement was recently signed between the Somali adversaries - will not cost the international community even half the cost of the armed protection off the coasts of Somalia. In this case, an Arab-Islamic plan will have the biggest impact in urging the international community to adopt such a solution, particularly after the whole world realized the danger of the current situation.

The Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization act cautiously when it comes to Arab and Muslim countries such as Somalia where the entire population is Muslim. Nevertheless, their plan even may require sending Islamic forces to Somalia - especially following the withdrawal of the Ethiopian forces - as a part of a comprehensive peace and reconstruction plan.

In conclusion, I would like to say that pretending to care about the safety of international maritime passages and sending international maritime forces to participate in restricting piracy only aims to achieve an evil intention. The deliberate indifference to the Somali situation is aggravating, particularly considering that nobody knows the effects a failed state like Somalia will have on the future of the world.

Source:marebpress.net

SILVER LINING

"Talibanisation"
of Yemen

What happened in al-Hasabah district last Wednesday is completely shocking and frightening. A group of fundamentalists gathered around after dawn prayers and decided, based on a religious fatwa or edict issued by some clerics, to destroy and burn the house of Abdulmalik al-Baidhani under the pretext of humiliating the holy Quran by tearing and footing on it.



By: Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi

The fundamentalists who are believed to be members of the religious police, or "authority to promote virtue and curb vice" whose establishment was announced last year. The people manipulated the innate religious fervor of ordinary people and instigated them to take part in attacking the house and its owner. It is absolutely chaotic and demonstrates these guys recklessness to the state and its institutions; they have accused the man, put him on trial, passing their own verdicts and then executing their rulings immediately. Wow, this is awfully horrific.

According to media reports, the police and fire fighters went immediately to the scene in a bid to stop the attack but when they arrived and found attackers shouting "allah akbar", they were unmoving. Instead of doing their job and safeguarding the house and its properties, they kept watching this absurd play which opens a new chapter of an abhorrent "Talibanisation" of our life, if I may dub this growing behavior of some extremists.

I know people are easily irritated when it comes to Islamic beliefs, but this natural passion should not be manipulated by some fanatic groups to achieve their own objectives in acting in place of state institutions. Everybody will not accept the abuse of the Quran, but this feeling does not give the right to anybody to hold the al-Baidhani, if he has truly offended the Quran, accountable for this is the function of the state and its court.

I have heard and read disgusting stories about radical members who belong to Salafia movement and how they abuse the rights of citizens. These extremists are, according to eyewitnesses, conducting a campaign against the satellite dishes in Mabar in Thamar province under allegations they are source of vice. People tend to hide their dishes to avoid the headache these militants can bring to them. Similar stories have been reported from Hodiedah.

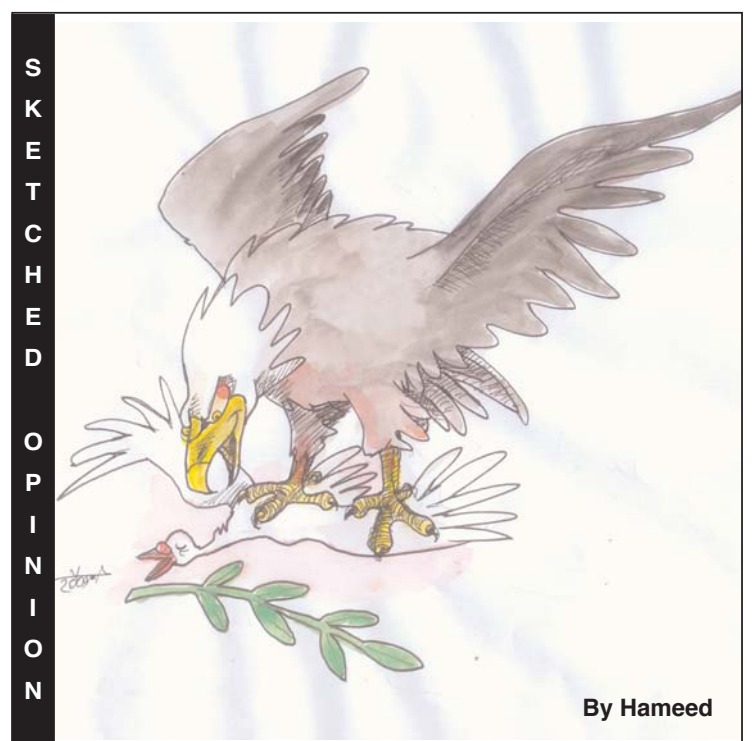
I understand the "virtue" committee has not publicly kicked off its activities. However, these incidents, a blatant human rights abuse that contravenes the state's duty to protect individual rights, show that the members of this committee are already doing their job on the ground. In the absence and corruption of security agencies, these militants will be ready to operate.

This heinous crime of al-Hasabah should break hell loose, but I was stunned that political parties and human rights organizations have not yet condemned the flagrant attack. I believe it is now the responsibility of the parliament to question the government for not protecting the rights of al-Baidhani and others whose rights have been abused at the hands of extremists who have dubbed themselves as "agents of virtue and protection of religion". I understand the people in the neighborhood have complained the mother of al-Baidhani, accusing her of running prostitution in her house. The police, according to the people in the neighborhood, kept mute and never responded to their complaints. This shows the seriousness of security corruption for it will open the doors wide to such radical Salafis or Taliban of Yemen to take the law into their hands and in this situation the jungle law would prevail.

In short, the passiveness of the state agencies in doing their function and enforcing the rule of law would encourage such Talibanized scenarios which are a good pointer of a failed state.

It was reported later on Friday that the authorities had arrested some Salafis and owner of the bulldozer used in demolishing the house. I hope this might be the start to restore the deflowered dignity of the state and would lead to holding the perpetrators accountable and at the same time, move positively to address the complaints of the neighborhood. For, such acts would undermine the attempts of radicals and their dream in talibanising the society.

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



By Hameed

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

E-mail: yteditor@gmail.com

Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

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

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Khair Aldin Al Nsour

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Ola Al-Shami

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 Al-Saqqaf
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

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Almethaq.net, affiliated with General People Congress (ruling party)
Thursday, April 16, 2009

Top Story

- VP: National Unity is the property of all Yemenis, we sacrificed blood for its survival

Vice President of the Republic Abdurabu Mansour Hadi, who is also first Deputy Leader of the General People's Congress GPC and Secretary General of the party, confirmed on Wednesday that the Yemen unity is a gain for all the Yemenis, the website reported. He added, "He who thinks of returning to before 22 May is but dreaming.

I repeat he is dreaming because the Yemeni unity is the property of the Yemenis and we paid blood for it in 1994 and we are ready to pay doubles of that blood again for the unity."

The First Deputy Leader of the GPC added the unity is the conviction of all the Yemenis because they realize that their security and stability and their economy are in their unity rather than in their fragmentation.

He further said in his address while presiding over meetings of the third ordinary session of the GPC's Local Permanent Committee in the capital on

Wednesday, "the one who thinks of Yemen returning to the period before 26 September is also dreaming and that he who tries to come up with foreign ideas to apply inside Yemen would not be able to do so because all that is impossible to take place in Yemen.

Hadi has made it clear that Yemen has achieved leaps that needed long years, indicating at the same time that Yemen is facing great challenges, mainly economic difficulties represented by ramifications of the financial crisis and retreat in oil prices. He said the country needs to complete projects of infrastructure especially in areas of electricity, waters and communication.

The GPC Secretary General also clarified that the security aspect represents another challenge affecting the investment, economy and all components of life. He said the attempts of chaos that some individuals try to provoke affect the development and investment, warning that all Yemenis will pay the price of any impingement upon the homeland security.

Hadi also pointed out the danger represented by Al-Qaeda organization and its terrorist acts on the homeland security, its economy and reputation. He indicated that the organization is linked to intelligence relations and works for deforming Islam and to deal strikes to it from within, citing what many countries witness due to the terrorist acts such as violence and victims. Such acts are offending Islam and deforming the image of Moslems before the world, he went on to say.

The senior official said Yemen has achieved big leaps, saying with transparency and political plurality big leaps have taken place especially in the freedom of opinion and expression, indicating that some individuals try to exploit this freedom in a bad manner for political purposes until the extent that some newspapers and internet websites turned to promote talks that do not exist on the ground.

He affirmed that the GPC shoulders a historical responsibility for the protection of the homeland security and stability. This responsibility is the result of the confidence the people granted to it at different electoral stages, the latest of which are the presidential and local elections. He said, "The GPC has to face those challenges through joining forces and cohesion and preservation of the national achievements embodied by the republican system, the national unity and the democratic practices." These things are connected to security and stability, he added.

The GPC Secretary General presided over meetings of the 3rd ordinary session of the GPC Local Permanent Committee of the capital and it was attended by a number of assistant secretary-generals, members of the General Committee and a number of senior officials at the ruling party general secretariat.

The meeting listened to address of the General Secretariat of the GPC given during meetings of the local permanent committees and conference branches of offices and districts. The

address was delivered by Dr Ahmed Bin Dagher, Assistant Secretary General for the Thought, Culture and Information at the ruling party.



Al-Wasat.net, an independent news website
Wednesday, April 15, 2009

Top Story

- Fatwa is no longer in favor of Islah Party

If the Islah Party hammered the final pin in the Fatwa Coffin within its lines, that would be considered as a historical, political and civil victory for the party. This came during an interview with Sheikh Abdulmajid Al-Zindani, published in Al-Wasat weekly last week. Opening the interview, Abdullelah Haidar, a journalist specialized in terrorism and Islamic militants affairs, said, "Al-Zindani witnessed hammering the final pin in the Fatwa Coffin within the party during the most recent Islah Conference last March.

Based on the analysis given by Haidar, who knows Al-Zindani better than any other journalist, thanks to his close relation with the scholar, Islah Party Chairman Mohammed Al-Yadumi was quoted as saying "Judgment is left for participants when they differed over the right of women

to engage in politics."

The majority of participants supported the right of women to fully engage in politics, including their right to run for Parliament seats. This is one of the women rights, which has been for a long time opposed by the Islah Party due to the opinions of some of its leaders, among them Al-Zindani. Their viewpoints are based on old Islamic jurisprudence prohibiting women's hold of power or occupation of senior political positions.

The journalist also highlighted that moderate leaders in the Islah Party, supported by the U.S., managed to eliminate Al-Zindani from the party membership. If such is correct, it is not in Al-Zindani's favor to remain in the Islamic party. Why? Not because of this elimination or due to the end of Fatwa Era, but because he is wanted by the U.S. for allegedly supporting terrorism.

In addition, it is not in favor of Islah Party, which strengthens its relation with the U.S., to retain Al-Zindani as one of its senior leaders. Al-Zindani's departure from the Islah Party will represent "a maturity mark" for the man and the party as well.

This doesn't mean that the Islamic Scholar alone will confront the U.S. call for his handover if he quits the party and declares his resignation. All the political parties and individuals will support him as they always do, not because he is a Yemeni citizen, but because he is a reputed religious figure in Yemen.

The declaration of Al-Zindani's departure from the party will help reduce the internal and external pressure on the Islah Party. It will also help increase popular support for Al-Zindani as a citizen and religious figure. This is due to prevent extortion practiced by the government against the Islah as a major opposition party. The government's stance will be braver and clearer when it claims dropping Al-Zindani's name from the terror list.

If Haidar's prediction that the Fatwa Era within the party will end comes true, this will be a historical victory for the major opposition party. Any one saying that the Islah is a political and civil party with an Islamic religious reference will fall into evasiveness that is not needed by the Islah, which is a strong and well-organized party seeking good governance based on democracy, transparency and accountability.

People will not differ over the fact that Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) is the Prophet of Muslims. They will not also differ over the fact that Allah is the Lord of Mankind, however, they will remain differing over authority and power, which are the source of their daily interests.

They will differ over who will rule and how in order to achieve justice. They will differ over how he will hold officials to account or fire them if justice hasn't been achieved. I don't believe that an Islah fan eager for a civil government will need to say, "We are a political civil party with Islamic religious reference."

Banned: The Brotherhood at the box office

By: Joseph Mayton
The Media Line News Agency

Assassins shot and killed Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood (MB) founder Hasan Al-Banna, 60 years ago. The silver screen will retell his life's story for all to watch. In what is being seen as a political move by the brotherhood to show their founder's life through the movement's own lens, the Islamic leader will once more be thrust into the consciousness of Egyptians and the world.

Thanks to MB Member of Parliament Muhsin Ra'di, the film appears to be coming to fruition after nearly two years of speculation. Ra'di has put forward half the capital for the film to be produced – one of the largest budgets in Egyptian history of some \$4 million – and the other half is expected to come from private financing.

Tentatively titled "Hasan Al-Banna and an Undiminished Journey," the movie will portray the controversial leader's life beginning in a northern Egyptian village through to the found-

ing of the Brotherhood in 1928 and his subsequent confrontation with the government and his assassination in 1949.

The late Al-Banna's son, Ahmad Seif Al-Islam Hasan Al-Banna, says the film will reflect his father's religious tolerance and the Sufi influence that characterized his early life.

Ra'di told the brotherhood's mouthpiece, *Ikhwanonline*, that the film's scenario was prepared by Dr. Walid Qutb and a team of three others. He is in negotiations with a director for the project after an unnamed director backed out.

For its part, the brotherhood's leadership apparatus is not directly involved. "This is a privately-funded project and the Guidance Committee is not having any financial input in the film," Ra'di told The Media Line, although he did say that the movement has a literary right to amend aspects of the project as Al-Banna and the Muslim Brotherhood are "inseparable."

Despite a finalized script and a production schedule announced for this fall, critics and observers are already wondering if the project, now two

years in the making, will even be allowed to film, let alone show, in Egypt.

The *Daily News Egypt's* Culture Editor Joseph Fahim is no stranger to the film industry, writing extensively about the country's numerous projects for many years. He tells The Media Line that he is unsure whether production will even be allowed to go ahead in Egypt considering the brotherhood's relationship with the government.

"If you think about it, the crew must get all the necessary permits, from the Ministry of Interior and so on in order to even begin to shoot the movie, so that could be a major setback for the film being made," he said.

Even before the director begins to tell the actors what is needed, problems could arise. Fahim believes that censorship and the banning of films in Egypt has slowed down in recent years, but a brotherhood film would certainly raise eyebrows among the authorities.

"Even if the film is made, it could still face an uphill battle in the country. Remember that a lot of movies are not shown in the country or are censored because of their content. The govern-

ment does not want to upset groups here," he added.

Egypt is no stranger to controversy over film. In July 2006, when the controversial film *The Yacoubian Building* was released, a number of Egyptian MP's called for the film to be censored. Ironically, it was brotherhood MP's who spoke out in favor of allowing the film to run is.

"We are in a critical time where we support the practicing of all freedoms of expression. We are suffering from repression in a closed society, and calling for omission or banning would be a road to confusion," brotherhood MP Hamdi Hasan said at the time. Over 100 Egyptian MP's called for a committee to be established to decide what would be cut.

The Yacoubian Building was based on a book by 'Alaa Al-Aswani, which depicts a fictitious story based on people living in downtown Cairo's real Yacoubian building. The book, by the Cairo dentist, was an instant best-seller across the Arab world.

Despite the popularity of the film, its outward depiction of homosexuality created a divide among Egyptians and

members of Parliament. The film was the most expensive movie ever produced in Egypt and rewrote box-office records.

Only two months earlier, the international blockbuster *The Da Vinci Code* was banned from Egypt because of its content. Coptic Christians – who make up approximately 10 percent of the country's 80 million people – complained that the film was "blasphemous" concerning the true history of Jesus Christ. The book version has only recently – almost three years later – been available at Egypt's myriad bookstores.

There is an Arabic translation readily available as well.

The film is a fictional portrayal that speculates Jesus did not die on the cross, but instead married Mary Magdalene and that their descendants exist in secret up to this day. Following a murder in the Louvre, the story takes the viewer on a whirlwind tour through ancient secrets that unfold to reveal that Christ's heirs still survive. It is an entirely fictional account of writer Dan Brown's imagination about what could have happened.

Throughout Egypt's history, a number of films have been banned from showing in the North-African nation's theaters, including *The Ten Commandments*, which was partially filmed in Egypt. It was banned shortly after its 1956 release due to accusations it was Zionist propaganda. It is still banned today.

In 1997, *The Devil's Advocate* made a brief appearance on the big screens, only to be banned soon thereafter. The final speech of Al Pacino's character, Satan, was originally screened without Arabic subtitles, but that did not stop the censors from cracking down.

The questions remain for "Hasan Al-Banna and an Undiminished Journey". Will it be given a stage to be filmed and subsequently screen in Egypt, despite its Egyptian origins and financing? These are questions that will soon have answers. Hasan Al-Banna's legacy in Egypt is strong, but will the government allow its greatest adversary voice the story of their leader?

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Which globalization will survive?

By: Joseph S. Nye

The world economy will shrink this year for the first time since 1945, and some economists worry that the current crisis could spell the beginning of the end of globalization. Hard economic times are correlated with protectionism, as each country blames others and protects its domestic jobs. In the 1930's, such "beggar-thy-neighbor" policies worsened the situation. Unless political leaders resist such responses, the past could become the future.

Ironically, however, such a grim prospect would not mean the end of globalization, defined as the increase in worldwide networks of interdependence. Globalization has several dimensions, and, though economists all too often portray it and the world economy as being one and the same, other forms of globalization also have significant effects – not all of them benign – on our daily lives.

The oldest form of globalization is environmental. For example, the first smallpox epidemic was recorded in

Egypt in 1350 BC. It reached China in 49 AD, Europe after 700, the Americas in 1520, and Australia in 1789. Bubonic plague, or the Black Death, originated in Asia, but its spread killed a quarter to a third of Europe's population in the fourteenth century.

Europeans carried diseases to the Americas in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries that destroyed up to 95% of the indigenous population. In 1918, a flu pandemic caused by a bird virus killed some 40 million people around the world, far more than the recently concluded world war. Some scientists today predict a repeat of an avian flu pandemic.

Since 1973, 30 previously unknown infectious diseases have emerged, and other familiar diseases have spread geographically in new, drug-resistant forms. In the 20 years after HIV/AIDS was identified in the 1980's it killed 20 million people and infected another 40 million around the world. Some experts project that that number will double by 2010. The spread of foreign species of flora and fauna to new areas has wiped out native species, and may result in economic losses of several

hundred billion dollars per year.

Global climate change will affect the lives of people everywhere. Thousands of scientists from more than 100 countries recently reported that there is new and strong evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities, and average global temperatures in the twenty-first century are projected to increase between 2.5 and 10 degrees Fahrenheit. The result could be more severe variations in climate, with too much water in some regions and not enough in others.

The effects will include stronger storms, hurricanes, and floods, deeper droughts, and more landslides. Rising temperatures have lengthened the freeze-free season in many regions, and glaciers are melting. The rate at which the sea level rose in the last century was ten times faster than the average rate over the last three millennia.

Then there is military globalization, consisting of networks of interdependence in which force, or the threat of force, is employed. The world wars of the twentieth century are a case in point. The prior era of economic

globalization reached its peak in 1914, and was set back by the world wars. But, while global economic integration did not regain its 1914 level until half a century later, military globalization grew as economic globalization shrank.

During the Cold War, the global strategic interdependence between the United States and the Soviet Union was acute and well recognized. Not only did it produce world-straddling alliances, but either side could have used intercontinental missiles to destroy the other within 30 minutes.

This was distinctive not because it was totally new, but because the scale and speed of the potential conflict arising from military interdependence were so enormous. Today, Al Qaeda and other transnational actors have formed global networks of operatives, challenging conventional approaches to national defense through what has been called "asymmetrical warfare."

Finally, social globalization consists in the spread of peoples, cultures, images, and ideas. Migration is a concrete example. In the nineteenth century, some 80 million people

crossed oceans to new homes – far more than in the twentieth century. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, 32 million US residents (11.5% of the population) were foreign-born. In addition, some 30 million visitors (students, businesspeople, tourists) enter the country each year.

Ideas are an equally important aspect of social globalization. Technology makes physical mobility easier, but local political reactions against immigrants had been growing even before the current economic crisis.

The danger today is that short-sighted protectionist reactions to the economic crisis could help to choke off the economic globalization that has spread growth and raised hundreds of millions of people out of poverty over the past half-century. But protectionism will not curb the other forms of globalization.

Modern technology means that pathogens travel more easily than in earlier periods. Easy travel plus hard economic times means that immigration rates may accelerate to the point where social friction exceeds

general economic benefit. Similarly, hard economic times may worsen relations among governments, as well as domestic conflicts that can lead to violence.

At the same time, transnational terrorists will continue to benefit from modern information technology, such as the Internet. And, while depressed economic activity may slow somewhat the rate of greenhouse-gas build-up in the atmosphere, it will also slow the types of costly programs that governments must enact to address emissions that have already occurred.

So, unless governments cooperate to stimulate their economies and resist protectionism, the world may find that the current economic crisis does not mean the end of globalization, but only the end of the good kind, leaving us with the worst of all worlds.

Joseph S. Nye, Jr., a professor at Harvard, was recently rated as one of the most influential scholars of the past 20 years by other scholars of international relations.
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Hope for healthcare in Shabwa

By: Nasser Abdullah Nasser Salah
For Yemen Times

Shabwa governorate encompasses more than 7000 square kilometers that are a mixture of both arid and mountainous lands. This mix of topography drastically affects the state of health in the governorate. Access to health care services, including simple first aid, is unavailable for most of Shabwa's citizens, largely because healthcare personnel are unable to reach the people that need health care the most. In spite of all this, the future looks promising.

To address the governorate's challenges, authorities in the Shabwa Office for Health Affairs, in collaboration with other local authorities, have painstakingly tried to take action to combat the health issue for years by training individuals in various health care services.

The first nursing assistant course, sponsored by Ameen Nashir Institute for Health Sciences in Aden, was inaugurated on October 14, 1988. A room in the Ataq Central Hospital served as a temporary classroom.

Admission to the two year course in practical nursing was initially open to eight-year unity school students. The Office of Health Affairs strived to establish a separate building for their students, and they did. Courses ran continuously at the institute until 1998 when it was turned into a three year

system in order to provide for additional students who only received basic education. These students are increasingly joining the program, each one eager to learn practical nursing.

Under the umbrella of Yemen unification, in the middle of August 1998 classes were transferred from the old institute into a new larger building. The new building was able to meet the demands of the increasing number of students who wanted to study public nursing and midwifery.

Furthermore, in 2001 a supplementary nursing course was started for those students who completed the two year assistant nursing course before the three year course was available. Additionally, a course training both male and female health guidance counselors was established.

All of the above actions were considered a step in the right direction towards meeting the healthcare requirements of the governorate.

It is also worth mentioning that Shabwa governorate witnessed a number of achievements when it was agreed in 2007 to introduce a 3 year doctoral assistant training course. This program relies on students who have their general secondary school certificates to staff governorates that desperately need healthcare professionals.

"The Health Manpower Institute in Shabwa plays an important part in supporting the health sector. It provides people with the health care

training and experience required, for men as well as for women," said Dr. Abu-Bakr Mohammad Ash-Shaklyia, director of the institute.

"In fact, we try hard to get over difficulties thoughtfully, discussing seemingly intractable matters with all concerned," Ash-Shaklyia continued. "Our reports and programs are regularly submitted to the authorities responsible, whom we are on good terms with, both locally and centrally.

"He who gathers roses must not fear thorns, as the saying goes," he added.

Ash-Shaklyia noted that with cooperation and all parties taking responsibility, everything could be achieved. "We are obliged to carry out our promise to follow up on the bodies responsible and to work together to responsibly tackle difficulties and to develop and reach our goals."

Ash-Shaklyia asserted the value of the institute saying, "We will have a three year high school program where students can choose between nursing, laboratory technician, and pharmacist courses. Depending on the interest of the general secondary certificate students, these courses will be available soon."

Omer Ahmad Affluh, teacher of nursing and laboratory skills as well as an academic assistant, remarked that the institute was fortunate in having a bus to meet the needs of the institute. The bus is at the students' disposal, which is especially useful for female students. Additionally, well qualified and experienced teachers work at the



Shabwa's new nursing students aim to improve healthcare in the governorate.

institute, some of whom are on contract. This is a fact that helps the institute to move ahead with its plans for the future.

From 1990 to 2008, 327 practical nurse assistants, 490 general nurses, 114 midwives, and 719 health guidance counselors have graduated from the institute.

"The numbers of students who complete their basic schooling as well as those holding secondary general certificates are notably increasing. These students are joining institutes such as ours by the score. Incidentally, we are facing some obstacles concerning health care training, among which is the complete lack of educational hospitals in Shabwa," Affluh said.

The Ataq Central Hospital is considered the best and most technically advanced in the governorate. At the same time, it copes with the challenges of having an increasing number of students who are hoping to gain medical experience. Affluh complained about the lack of resources, including not having a library equipped with essential scientific material. There is a computer room available, but unfortunately the number of computers is too small to meet demand. There is also laboratory for general nursing students, but the lab is not equipped or prepared for doctoral

assistant students.

Students were given the chance to comment on the institute and give constructive criticism that could help the institute make changes for the better. Ahmad Omer Bal-Baheeth, a doctoral assistant student, applauded the courses but complained about the poor laboratory facilities.

Liza Ahmad Abdullah, a midwifery student, put emphasis on the issue of girls' education since sometimes traditions and customs create obstacles for girls' schooling. She hoped that someone in charge would take this issue into account and help to boost the status of women in today's society as mothers and sisters in general and as health care practitioners in particular, such as nurses, midwives and even doctors.

Gamal Rajih, another general nursing student, said that everything runs smoothly at the institute but that students hope to have better instructional health care activities available so that they can acquire skills and abilities in all different fields of health care. Wataneia Saleh Mansoor, a second year general nursing student, maintained that efforts should be exerted to iron out the difficulties concerning practical work in the hospital. "In effect, we are pretty optimistic about the future of this institute in seeing new laboratory halls as well as rehabilitation courses

for further studies. We would also like the institute to place more stress on the role of women as teachers and nurses." She called for awareness campaigns to confirm the importance of women's participation in social activities.

Dr. Abu-Bakr Ash-Shaklyia added, "I am so happy to see female students joining the institute, especially in midwifery and nursery, and I hope that secondary general certificate female students will also join in the near future." Dr. Ash-Shaklyia encourages all students to be well-rounded, saying, "We try to motivate students to participate in all kinds of, intellectual, sport and cultural activities."

He pointed out that the institute is fortunate enough to be supported by the Ministry of Health and the Social Fund for Development (SFD) in Shabwa, not to mention the support of the USAID Agency for International Development and the Netherlands Office for Development (TASH) in Shabwa.

"We are grateful to everyone who is doing their best in cooperating through mutual work to enhance the value of this institute, helping us finding practical solutions for our difficulties," Ash-Shaklyia said. "I highly appreciate all the achievements under the wise leadership of the pioneers of modern Yemen and the reasons for its success."



A new generation of nurses are being trained to staff hospitals in Shabwa.

Invitation for Bids

Tender Advertisement no. (12) 2009 for 2nd Time
(One Envelope System - Technical + Financial)

The Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (12) for supplying One No. New survey Boat for Port of Aden which will be financed from Government sources.

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to Tender committee Secretary to receive Bidding Documents for an amount 150USD non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at

Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden- Tawahi
Tel : 00 967 02 20200168
Fax: 00 967 02 201541
YGAPCplanning@y.net.ye

The deadline for selling BDs will be on 26 MAY 2009

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman of the Board Executive Chairman. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- 1- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (60,000 USD for one survey boat) (Sixty Thousand American Dollars.) Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than 150 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
- 2- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
- 3- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
- 4- Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness.)

- A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.
- The Deadline for submission and bids opening will be **Sunday at 11:00 Am on 09 MAY 2009**. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened.
- Bid Opening will take place at the **Office Chairman Executive — Headquarters** and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
- Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period 27 days starting from advertisement.

Vacancy: Full Time LEVA Driver



There is an immediate vacancy for a full-time Driver at the British Embassy. Working hours will be 40 hours per week and plus a week as on-call duty driver each month. The incumbent will report to the Transport Manager.

The successful candidate will require a driver's license, and preferably training in the driving of an armoured vehicle. Good oral and written English and Arabic is essential as well as a smart and clean appearance. The successful candidate should have a traceable background that can be verified by the PSO prior to the appointment.

The main duties will include:

Driving embassy staff between the embassy and their residential accommodation. Delivery of staff to meetings with Yemen Government officials and other Diplomats, and collection from such meetings. Delivering official correspondence to Government departments and other Diplomatic missions. One week in four you will be required to undertake the duties of Duty Driver, this will involve undertaking all transport requests outside of the normal embassy working hours.

The current full time salary range for this grade is YER 66,800 to 96,800. Applicants should note that it is policy to pay recruits at the minimum of the range unless they offer previous experience in or experience relevant to this particular job. In these cases, the Embassy has discretion to pay a higher starting salary. Locally engaged staff salaries are reviewed on an annual basis. There is a fixed overtime allowance included in the monthly salary and an additional allowance is paid to the Duty Driver.

Applications should be made in the applicant's own handwriting and enclosing a full CV, in an envelope addressed to:
Management Officer (Human Resources)
(Driver Post)
British Embassy
PO Box 1287
Sana'a

Applications should be received on or before 22 April 2009. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

THE BRITISH EMBASSY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Vacancy: Full Time LEII Information and Press & Public Affairs Officer



The full-time vacancy for an Information and Press & Public Affairs Officer at the British Embassy is available immediately. Working hours will be 35 hours per week. The incumbent will report to the Political/Press and Public Affairs Officer.

The successful candidate will require good teamwork, communication and good organisational skills. Good oral and written English and Arabic essential.

The main duties will include:

Government liaison
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Establishing and fostering relationships with the media
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Translation and interpreting

The current full time salary range for this grade is YER 155,600 to YER 231,600. Applicants should note that it is policy to pay recruits at the minimum of the range unless they offer previous experience in or experience relevant to this particular job. In these cases, the Embassy has discretion to pay a higher starting salary. Locally engaged staff salaries are reviewed on an annual basis.

Applications should be made in the applicant's own handwriting and enclosing a full CV, in an envelope addressed to:
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THE BRITISH EMBASSY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

Water and sanitation across the country – Part 1

Collecting raindrops in mountainous Hajja

By: Alice Hackman

Water in Hajja is vital to health and girl's education. In a mountainous governorate where well over half the population is without sanitation or reticulated water supply, difficult access to water means reduced hygiene, increased risk of child mortality and low girls' enrollment in school.

To help an overburdened government to improve water supply, Yemeni and foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been restoring old water structures and experimenting with dew collection to improve the water situation and bring the governorate's inhabitants closer to a brighter future.

Struggling to maintain good health and hygiene, up to 65 percent of dwellings in Hajja governorate are without sanitation, according to a 2007 report by Vision Hope International (VHI), a German NGO working in Hajja to bring its inhabitants easier access to clean water.

Providing water and sanitation to the entire governorate is a gargantuan mission, and so far the government's projects reach less than 3 percent of the entire governorate's population, according to figures from the local Water and Sanitation Office. Most of these are concentrated in Hajja city.

The governmental office is planning to improve services in several other areas of the governorate but, said Wadhah Ahmed who works there, its work is hampered by the recent increase of electricity bills by over a half, the increasing cost of pumping water, and water wastage on qat.

Wadi Sheris feeds the city

Over 780,000 cubic meters of water are consumed by the inhabitants of Hajja city alone each year, according to 2008 official statistics. Most of this water comes from the Wadi Sheris aquifer to the east of Hajja city, but there are no official studies as to how long this groundwater will last.

"In the 1980s, we conducted a survey in Wadi Sheris in Hajja and found a sandstone aquifer in the wadi itself," explained Ali Kassim Manshalin, senior program officer at the German Development Bank (KfW) in Sana'a, previously project manager at the National Water and Sanitation Authority. "We found it to be recharged from the base floor of the wadi."

"The aquifer is still the main source of water in the area, but there have been no more measurements on its sustainability since," he added.

In some urban areas, the KfW is planning to further develop access to water for Hajja's inhabitants, because even there fetching water for daily chores is not straight forward. These will include drilling some more wells and studying different water resources, said Manshalin.

Collecting raindrops to live

Especially in rural areas, Hajja inhabitants who have no pipes to bring water directly to their homes collect water the old-fashioned way.

Over two thirds of the water consumed by the governorate's inhabitants for household use is fetched from rainwater harvesting systems, springs and wells, according to a recent VHI report.

The water is carried by women and girls for sometimes long distances, leading not only to health consequences, especially back problems, but also to lower enrollment of girls in school and reduced participation of women in income-generating activities.

For areas without reticulated supply, rainwater harvesting close to inhabited areas is a popular solution. Rainwater collection cisterns in Hajja are centuries,



Rehabilitating rainwater cisterns has brought water closer to many homes.

even millennium old, according to VHI, but after the 1962 Revolution, many of these cisterns fell into disrepair.

Since, VHI and its local partners have repaired old cisterns and built many new ones. The project has proved to be a great success, other education-oriented NGOs have integrated water harvesting into their programs in the governorate, building water cisterns on the roofs of new schools, for example.

"A new cistern -with cover- costs around EURO 2,300 for the materials, plus EURO 1,000 as local contribution in form of labor," said CEO of VHI Matthias Liebbrand. "This cistern would be around 175 cubic meter of water. Rehabilitation can start with EURO 200."

Importance of purification

In many parts of Hajja, the water collected in these cisterns is used as drinking water. But before it is ready for human consumption, it has to be purified to clean it of impurities and potentially threatening pathogens. According to research by VHI and its partners, the preferred methods of purification are the slow sand filter and bucket-ceramic filter.

Although boiling, noted a recent VHI report, provides the safest water of all and is best for sick people, small children and babies, it is not a viable solution for water purification on a daily basis because it consumes too much cooking gas and precious fire wood – especially at high altitude where water takes longer to boil.

VHI programs to train the local community in using the purification systems are accompanied by education in general hygiene because, although diarrhea can be prevented by purification, the transmission of other water-borne diseases such as malaria and bilharzias are not.

To prevent these illnesses as well as the re-contamination of purified water, clean hygienic practices at home are essential. In particular, key pieces of the bucket filters have to be removed on a regular basis and boiled to kill any bacteria in them.

Hygiene around cisterns

Around the cisterns too, inhabitants are also encouraged to adopt hygienic behavior, not swimming in the cistern and avoiding direct contact with the harvested water for example.

In districts where the rainwater harvesting area is below the houses, hygiene is especially important to protect the villagers' main source of water.

"In Herba [district in Hajja], basic

hygiene rules seem to be ignored," noted Stephan Kramer in his graduation thesis on the treatment of cistern water at household level, based on his research with VHI in Hajja in 2003. "Catchment areas are beneath residential areas [polluted by] garbage and feces, waiting for the next rain to wash them into the cistern."

To avoid spoiling these precious sources of life, covers have been designed to keep all pollution out and cisterns are built above the villages when possible, according to Liebbrand. These covers are also essential to reduce evaporation so that no water is lost, and to ensure that high water quality is preserved in dark cisterns.

Fog water experiment

But cisterns are not the only way to collect drops of precious water from the skies. Water can be collected from humid air, according to scientists, and the resulting fog water is suitable for drinking. The method was tried out in Hajja in 2003.

"There are no wells up in the high dry mountains. The fog collectors produce clean water in these mountain locations meaning the water does not have to be



NGOs have chosen women from the local community to train their peers in using the cost-effective bucket filter to purify their water

brought from the valley bottoms," said Robert Shemenauer, executive director of Fogquest, the Canadian non-governmental organization that carried out the experiment.

Fog water collection rates were highest between the altitudes of 2,000 m and 2,500 m in the districts of Mabyan and Maswar, where the fog collectors intercepted humid air blowing inland from the Red Sea, according to the results of the Yemeni-Canadian feasibility study.

But, despite the large 40 meter square fog collectors in Mabyan producing each on average 180 liters of water per day – enough water to sustain a family of seven people, results were not impressive enough to maintain fog water collectors in the governorate long term. Those set up have fallen into disuse after some were blown over in a storm.

"The current design is too costly," said Liebbrand. The cost of one large fog collector is about USD 1,000.

Coffee plantation

If water is needed in Hajja's household to drink, cook and clean, it is also vital to agriculture. As in other governorates,

food crops compete with the more lucrative qat for water resources. In Hajja, the restoration of an old dam has blown new life in to the local non-qat based economy.

The Abu-Saleh dam was renovated in 2004 by Swiss NGO innovaid and local NGO Jami'ya Al-Mustaqbal. Now fully operational, it supports 250 families directly with water and provides irrigation to a 25-hectare coffee plantation, according to Liebbrand.

"Firstly the [farmer] families' income is secured and secondly coffee trees are preserved, which are substituted at other places in Yemen by qat," he said. "Also the cultivation area is extended."

While the modest initiatives of local and foreign NGOs in Hajja have given the opportunity to more girls to go to school and blown a little new life into the governorate's economy, much still remains to be done.

For the time being, rehabilitating old water-collecting systems such as the dam and building new rainwater cisterns seem to be the most cost-efficient ways to improve access to water, as well as boost health and education in the governorate.



Bucket filters need to be cleaned on a regular basis A VHI chart here explains when according to the moon cycle



Although expensive, a 40 meter square fog collector can collect up to 180 liters of drinking water from the air in a day.



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Yemeni women finding the power within

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Cutting through the male dominating culture of Yemen, thirty one women have gathered every Thursday for the past four weeks to learn about their potentials. Funded and organized by the British Council, the first Springboard Women's Development Program was conducted at the British Council in Sana'a for women from Sana'a, Aden and Hodeida to provide them with the chance to overcome their inhibitions and seize opportunities for growth and empowerment.

"Every Wednesday night I start a seven-hour bus journey by bus with my son and daughter just to be a part of this program from 9 to 4 on Thursday, and then I travel another seven hours back home to Aden," said Nori Nabeeh, sitting on the steps leading to the training hall waiting for the day's program to start.

Nabeeh is a Lieutenant Colonel working in the investigations section in Aden Airport Security. She has worked in the field for over 12 years and was one of the first four women who joined the criminal investigation college in 1988. Throughout her career, she has worked hard to prove herself and, with the support of her Egyptian husband and family, has managed to stay afloat and challenge the norms of a tough work environment.

"I did what they [male colleagues] did, I wore the same clothes, even the heavy boots, went through the same military exercises, was on call at odd times at night and went to crime scenes to collect evidence," she said. "I didn't want to be your normal docile Yemeni woman and wanted to prove that I can do it. I did it all, but throughout my career, I never had the courage to complain about injustices that happen to me, or demand my rights."

Like Nori, there are many Yemeni



Springboard is encouraging Yemeni women to speak up and stand for their rights

women who know they can perform equally -if not better- than men, yet "they are bypassed for promotion or leading positions because they don't know how to ask for their rights or say I am here and I deserve this," said Khadija Al-Sarhi, trainer of the Springboard program.

Springboard is a personal and professional self-development program which enables women to take more control over their lives. This program, which usually runs for a month, already has a successful track record in 26 countries with approximately 200,000 past participants. It delivers excellent results in the short and long term, sometimes 10 years after the course.

As a result of the Springboard course, there is much evidence to show that these women become more open to -and better at managing- change. They take more responsibility for themselves, their development and their influence both at work and in their communities. They make decisions and take action based on their core values, have a higher profile, are better at people management and participate more. Women completing the Springboard

program will join the global network of women and in particular, build links with UK participants.

"This is the first Springboard training program in Yemen run by the British Council and it's one of the most successful training programs offered by us. It is an award winning personal development program for women," said Huda Saleem, English Projects Assistant & Springboard Representative at the British Council Yemen.

Of the new graduates of the recent program, three women will be chosen for a training of trainers' course that will take place in July this year in Lebanon. These women will then return to Yemen as trainers with the obligation to conduct four trainings each throughout 2009 and into 2010.

Each training session will include between 15 to 30 women during November 2009, January, March and May 2010. Candidates will come from the three trainers' organizations or be interested individuals.

"Each trainee will need to pay a fee of GBP 50 for the course book," said Saleem. "This might be a problem for some women who are eager but cannot afford the course. The British

Council will underwrite some of these costs, but is also actively seeking sponsors and partners to ensure that even more women get this opportunity."

Nabeeh has seen herself change throughout the course. She has already talked to her bosses and colleagues at work and told her children and friends about the issues she has learnt about.

"My colleagues are surprised at the change in me," said Nabeeh. "They say, 'Where did you get all this enthusiasm and courage from?' I say it was all there but I did not know how to express myself and how to ask for what is mine."

Nabeeh's 12 year-old daughter Riham is already inspired and says she wants to be a criminal investigator like her mother. She loves it when her mother stands tall and everyone salutes her with respect. Riham now dares to ask her teachers and even the principal in school if she has questions or doubts.

Many Yemeni children and especially girls are raised up in a way that does not allow them to question their confidence and ability to fight for their rights.

"The changes in these women is amazing," said Al-Sarhi. "They come from very different backgrounds, various experiences in the same room and I feel the room is bursting with excitement as the women progress from one chapter to the other."

Some of the participants are highly-educated women who come from intellectual families. Yet even they find the course informative and inspiring. Nabila Abdullah Adel is a PhD degree holder in social sciences. She had been working as a researcher in social services and sciences.

"I am a strong woman, my experience and work in Yemen and abroad have made me realize what I can achieve," she said. "This course is so helpful not only to me but I think it should be given to all, men and women of all levels."

She encourages women to use it because they need to overcome the cultural challenges in Yemen's male-dominated culture: "I know my goals and have made a plan."

Published by Hawthorn Press, the book the trainees read has 15 chapters starting with "Knowing One's Self" and ending with "Making it Happen." The authors, Liz Willis and Jenny Daisley, are two of the better known women's development consultants in the UK. In addition to their training and consultancy work, they are also substantial writers on women's development.

The three month Springboard Women's Development Program has won the Lady Platt Award for the most innovative equal opportunities training program, as well as the prestigious government-awarded National Training Award.

The course teaches everything all of knowing one's strengths and weaknesses, how to establish good relations with others and create a good first impression, how to set goals, how to find useful information to achieve these goals, how to be positive and assertive, have more energy and less anxiety, and deal with failure and celebrate success.

"Cascading" is the most important part of this program as it ensures that trainees share this knowledge with the people around them. Sharing knowledge also helps women to believe in what they have learnt as they repeat it all again to others.

"I have been telling my friends what I learn lesson by lesson and explaining what I learnt in the last four weeks to my family at meals," said Hiba Bazara'a an eleven grade student at Al-Hadhara School and one of the youngest participants in the

course. "I was shy and did not interact with people I did not know. I knew that I am smart and my grades proved it, but I was not sure how to make a good impression on others, and talking in public was my biggest fear."

Bazara'a explains that when reading the book and discussing its contents throughout the program's sessions, she realized that most of her inhibitions are baseless: "I loved the example in which we were told to think of what we would do with YR 1 million if we had it. It made us think about our priorities in life."

She promised to use the newly-acquired knowledge to develop herself and society further.

"Now I plan my time," she said. "Before this course, I never thought of the time I waste just doing nothing. Now there is a strong urge in me that I should make sure I utilize all my gifts and resources, and that everything I do should be part of my self-development to become a better person and a more productive member of society," she said.

Over the course of four weeks, 31 women have met every Thursday to learn about their abilities and how to achieve their quests in life.

4U

If you are interested in participating in this program or wish to support women's participation by donating money for training materials, please contact Huda Saleem at Huda.Saleem@ye.britishcouncil.org. The British Council is the UK's leading agency for cultural relations and is running the Springboard Programme in Yemen to help women contribute to positive social change, and build trust and understanding between Yemen and the UK.

A quiet refuge for girls

By: Ola Al-Shami

Yasmin Mohammed's family will not allow her to study English because at the institute near to her home boys were allowed to attend. She was dismayed at having lost the chance to improve her language skills until she heard about the Girls' Association in Sana'a.

While still a freshman in the Faculty of Education in an all girl university, Yasmin joined the association to learn English. "My family does not mind that I come here to study, they even encourage me to do so," she said.

In Yemen's conservative society where many families do not let their daughters venture outside without a male chaperone, the Girls' Association has won the approval

with guardians.

It is strictly run by women and only caters to their needs.

The association provides a refuge to girls only, who can come and go as they please. Because the building is strictly for women only, they do not have to cover up or wear a veil all day. The girls come to the center to learn, are participate in religious studies, tailoring and handicraft sessions.

Although the association often organizes open days and competitions, just spending a day at the center is entertainment in itself. With a cafeteria, small shop, internet café, two libraries- one of them audiovisual, the girls have everything they need under one roof.

Close to the University of Sana'a, the Girls' Association was established in 2001 under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the

Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training.

Girls often finish their lectures at the nearby university and go to the association to spend the rest of their day or have a break between classes. They may choose to pray, or go to its library to read one of its many books on history, culture and religion.

"When I am free, I come here to benefit from the books," said Tagreed Abdo, a fourth year student in the Religious Studies Department at the Faculty of Education.

"I also benefit from the courses they hold and find teachers to teach me Qur'an recital."

Female students can compliment their research projects by surfing the internet in the Girl's Cultural Center: "The association offers many courses in human development and in business management," said Amatareheem Dhaba'an, public relations officer and the association, adding that it offers a program called 'How to Prepare a Scientific Research Paper' which costs YR 500 for the female university students.

The girls in the association hold many seminars in human development and other kinds of activities like presenting poetry and holding competitions which enhance their abilities: "We try to define students' needs, and when we know what they want we arrange a course and bring in a trainer for it," said Fatheiah Hazza, media officer at the association.

"The association aims at building girl's capacities and qualifying them intellectually and religiously to guarantee their positive cooperation in strengthening society while preserving her Islamic Identity," added Hazza. "Some competitions are held on memorizing Islamic books or the Qur'an to encourage their relation



Women learn how to design dresses at the association.



Learning to use a computer is one of the important skills taught at the association.

with religion."

The association is divided into two sections, one for all girls free of charge and a second that offers training to girls who pay for the courses they join. Here, there is the dress designing section, a language section and a computer section. There are currently 173 girls registered for these courses.

The association follows the university's activities, and rewards

outstanding students from schools and university by allowing them to join for free: "Lately we have offered two positions for students from Al-Rowad Schools and they will join our programs," said Dhaba'an.

In addition it holds many seminars for the university female students and invites them to join such activities. "Most of the girls are from the university, they join us and tell their friends about the programs we hold

and so others come this way and so on.

"The association is supported by many companies whose products we market or by benefactors convince by our programs," said Hazza.

"I study at this center because I feel that I have privacy, all of the people here are women so we take off our veils and feel more comfortable," said an English language student. "The teachers here are excellent."

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Young Arab scientists aim for the stars

By: Ali Saeed

To stimulate and inspire bright Arab youth, new Qatari reality television program 'Stars of Science' will see 16 budding scientists from the Arab world compete for the best invention and a USD 300,000 prize this May.

Filming of the series is almost complete and the show was last week launched with great excitement by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development in Doha. Stars of Science will be aired for the first time on May 29.

The show, already syndicated to 15



A panel of four expert judges will give feedback to the participants.

Arab television channels, will air its final episode on in June 26, giving viewers all over the Middle East the opportunity to vote for their favorite young scientist to be crowned the best inventor of the moment and claim the cash prize.

Sixteen candidates from 11 countries were selected from 5,600 applications to take part in Stars of Science based on their ideas. This time, no Yemenis were selected to participate.

The latest in a series of new pan-Arab reality television shows and competitions, Stars of Science will be broadcasted over the course of five weeks from May 29 to June 26, when the Arab world's best young inventor will be chosen.

It will consist of five prime-time episodes of 90 minutes on Fridays, and 20 daily shows of 45 minutes, from Sunday to Thursday. It will be presented by Khalid Al-Jumaily, a young, friendly and dynamic host from Qatar.

Prime-time episodes will focus consecutively on engineering, design and business, and participants will showcase their ideas according to their aspirations. Throughout the episodes, viewers will be able to follow the life of the candidates and learn more about science in an entertaining way.

"Stars of Science is set to endorse a healthy competitive spirit, encourage creativity, team-building and innovate careers among Arabs youth," said Dr. Abdullah Al-Thani, vice president of Education at the Qatar Foundation, and head of the competition's steering committee.

"It is a good initiative to build Arabs youth's confidence to be able to innovate, produce, and market their own projects," commented Dr. Mona Zaki, an Egyptian businesswoman and marketing specialist who will one of the judges in the program.

The sixteen candidates have very different aspirations. Wahiba Chair, 26, from Algeria, wants to put the skills she learnt in computer engineering to good use to help people eat according to their nutritional needs.

The projects of these bright young inventors are noble. Sarah Al-Sammak, 24, a statistics graduate from Bahrain, wants to solve the global problem of pollution.

Egyptian Mohammed Hijazi, 25, trained in physiotherapy, wants to help people with disabilities recover faster, while Imad Al-Harthy, 23, from Oman, aspires to give the disabled more mobility.

The goal of 28-year-old Sager Al-Fayez, a pharmacology student from Saudi Arabia, is to enable the blind to read the great books of past and present.

Mathematician Yasser Ramil, 21, from Morocco strives to keep all people stay mobile, even when technological devices need recharging. As for 25-year-old Mohammed Khalaf from Palestine, he studies biochemical engineering and dreams of improving information input into computers.

A jury of four world-class experts will judge these promising young inventors. Dr. Sadeq Farris, an engineer from Libya with over 600 patents, and Abdullah Al-Thani, vice president for education of the Qatar Foundation, will join William Sawaya, a designer from Lebanon, and Dr. Mona Zaki, a marketing consultant from Egypt to give feedback to the show's various contestants.

"What we saw in the program's preparation is very attractive and optimistic since the program is concerned with reality and changing the viewers' routines with new ideas in each episode," said Hussein Baslim, chairman of Yemeni state-owned tele-



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vision.

"In general Stars of Science is excellent because it encourages creativity among Arab youth, something that television programs in Arab sometimes lack," he said, adding that Yemeni television is now discussing the possibility of airing the show in Yemen with

the Yemeni General Corporation for Radio and Television.

'Stars of Science' is an initiative by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), which has an overall mission to promote human development in Qatar and the Middle East.



The show's 16 participants will develop their ideas and Arab viewers will vote for the best one.