

INSIDE

Report
Al-Sabaeen Park's investor remains defiant amid calls to hand over park
Pages 3

Opinion
Sana'a's security dilemma
Pages 4

Report
Politics of Qat: The Role of a Drug in Ruling Yemen (part 2)
Page 6



Business
Yemenis juggle multiple jobs in difficult times
Pages 8



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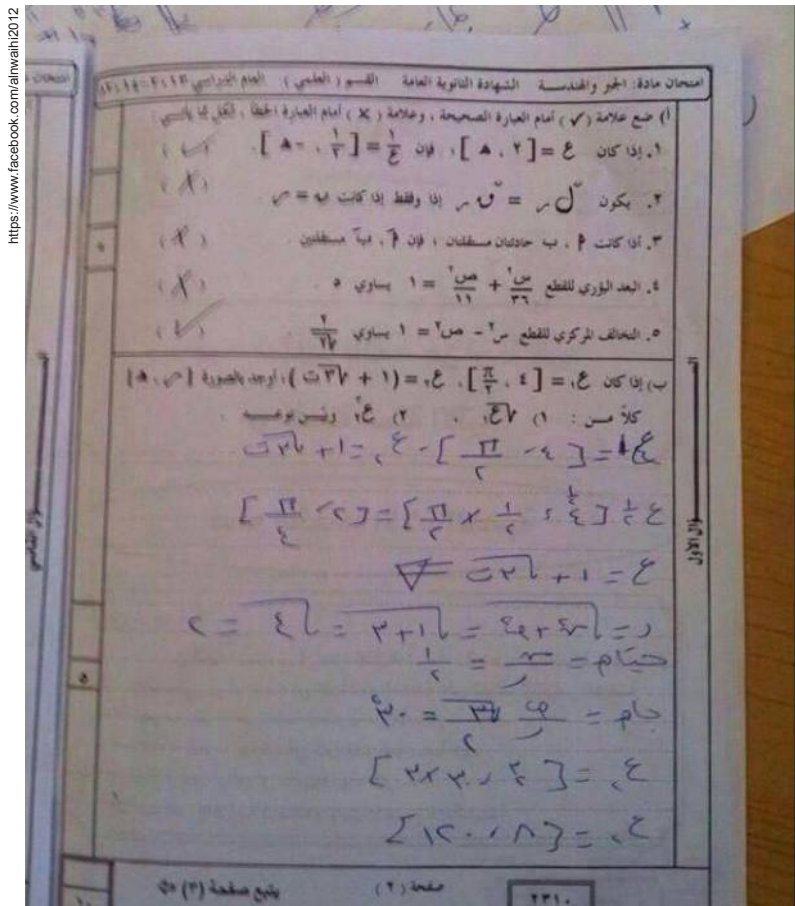
Education Ministry delays three high school exams nationwide

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, June 17—On Tuesday the Education Ministry formed a committee to investigate the leak of three high school examination question sheets the previous day.

The ministry announced in a

statement that secondary school examinations for algebra, geometry, and geography have been postponed across the country except for Amran governorate. Exams in Amran will continue as planned because the governorate was supplied with special exam papers due to the ongoing clashes between Houthi



A copy of one of the leaked exam question sheets obtained by the Yemen Times.

rebels and military forces.

The delayed exams were scheduled for Tuesday morning but have been pushed back to late June.

The leaked papers were posted on social media networks including Facebook, Whatsapp, and Twitter.

However, students have complained about the delay.

"I came to Dhamar from Sana'a to take the examinations. I spend money everyday and will have to spend more after the exams were delayed," said Abdulla Al-Qadi, a high school student.

He continued, "exams were scheduled to end one day before Ramadan but now I will have to wait because the exams will be held on the first day of Ramadan [June 28]. I'm here alone and it will be

difficult to stay without my family."

Al-Qadi said that the ministry should have had alternative exam papers in case a leak occurred.

Mustafa Al-Saberi, the Education Ministry's press secretary, said the committee will investigate the incident and will implement measures to ensure that similar incidents do not occur. Al-Saberi told the Yemen Times that they have yet to find who is responsible for leaking the questions. He added that about 300 teachers, heads of examination centers and supervisors were suspended and referred to investigations.

The students began their final exams this year amid prolonged power cuts and chronic fuel shortages in many parts of the country.



An image posted on the "Together we fight cheating in Yemen" Facebook page allegedly showing students cheating during an exam.

UNICEF report details widespread child abuse by armed groups in Yemen

■ Bassam Al-Khameri

SANA'A, June 18—According to a UNICEF report released Tuesday (AQAP) sexually abused children during its control of Abyan governorate, while the government continues to use child soldiers.

The report, titled "Situation Analysis of Children in Yemen 2014," which covers topics ranging from maternal healthcare to sexual violence in conflict areas, says that both girls and boys are at risk of sexual violence in Yemen.

"One particular form of such grave acts is the forced marriage of girls, which is reported to have affected up to 100 girls in Abyan alone during 2012, involving leaders or members of Ansar Al-Sharia (AQAP in Abyan and Shawba governorates). Such reports are very difficult to confirm," the report read.

"Seven cases of forced marriage involving girls under 13 have been verified," UNICEF reported. In addition to that, "two girls were given as [gifts]" to members of AQAP by their brothers who had just joined the organization.

UNICEF notes that "even though dowries as high as \$5,000 are

paid to the families of girls whose monthly incomes average \$12," the phenomenon is not only based on economics, but the dynamics of the conflict and the specific conduct of AQAP. "Most girls who are victims of forced marriages within armed groups are from Abyan governorate," the report read.

Ahmed Al-Qershhi, head of the Sana'a-based SEYAJ Organization for Childhood Protection, an NGO promoting children's rights, argues that the report lacks nuance and understanding of Yemen's cultural context in the way it uses certain terms such as sexual abuse. He says that child marriage, which is commonplace in Yemen, should not automatically be conflated with sexual abuse and rape despite how controversial it is.

Al-Qershhi added that despite how widespread child marriage is across the country, Abyan was given particular attention because of the fighting between AQAP and the Yemeni army.

"We don't have a law that criminalizes child marriage yet and we are still calling on Parliament to pass a proposed law aimed at controlling child marriage," he said.

The Rights and Freedoms work-

ing group of the NDC on Oct. 2 voted in favor of a bill to be included in the new constitution that would set the minimum age of marriage at 18. However, Parliament has yet to pass the bill.

The report says that many of the married girls became pregnant, and in all of the verified cases the girls were reportedly left with their children when their husbands fled from Abyan as government forces retook the governorate. AQAP controlled Abyan in mid-2011 but the military drove them out of the governorate in mid-2012.

"A number of boys are also victims of sexual violence that is often even more concealed.... However, it is understood that boys are increasingly being recruited by Ansar Al-Sharia for purposes of sexual abuse and exploitation, which commonly follows their need to escape the stigmatization suffered by such abuse within their own communities," read the report.

The report said that it was more difficult to document the sexual abuse of young boys recruited by AQAP, but three cases were documented in 2012.

Although regional press has placed a heavy emphasis on the sec-

tion of the report detailing abuses by AQAP, the report also notes considerable abuses by the state.

Out of the verified 79 children killed and 210 maimed by armed groups in Yemen during the report's review period, 31 percent were victims of government forces, while AQAP was responsible for 10 percent of the casualties and two children were killed by the Houthis.

The UN Secretary General maintains a "list of parties that recruit or use children, kill or maim children, commit rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, or engage in attacks on schools and/or hospitals in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council."

UNICEF noted that in Yemen the army, the Houthi rebels, and AQAP all recruit children in conflict.

The recruitment of child soldiers "is encouraged by recruitment drives, inadequate screening procedures and limited alternative economic options for children, sometimes facilitated by brokers using false identification papers or children misrepresenting their actual age in the widespread absence of birth registration records," the report reads.

Renewed fighting in Amran as warplanes strike Houthi locations

■ Amal Al-Yarisi

SANA'A, June 11—Warplanes hit Houthi positions in Amran governorate on Tuesday after a short-lived ceasefire between Houthi rebels and the military broke down earlier this week. This comes after clashes between the 310th Brigade and Houthi militants in Amran governorate broke out again on Saturday, according to local security sources.

Mohammed Turaik, the security manager of Amran governorate, told the Yemen Times the government is failing to contain the conflict.

Mohammed Nabhan, a co-ordinator of several relief organizations in Amran, said that tension has been increasing since Monday. He said the number of the displaced is on the rise especially in the conflict-stricken areas of Ayal Suraih, Dafan, Al-Makhad and Al-Jamima.

According to Nabhan, the warplanes hit Houthi locations but casualty figures are unknown.

A local source in Sahb area of Amran, who requested anonymity, said the aircraft targeted the Sahb, Bani Maimon and Ayal Suraih areas in Amran.

On Tuesday, the army reopened the Sana'a-Amran road, according

to Nabhan. The army had earlier closed it off and surrounded Amran city in anticipation of Houthi incursions.

Meanwhile, the Houthis have been moving into the Bani Matar and Hamdan districts of Sana'a governorate where fierce clashes took place on Tuesday between the Houthis and opposing tribesmen.

The Houthis took control of Sa'ada after the breakout of the 2011 uprising against the regime of former president Ali Abdulla Saleh. They began pushing south towards Sana'a at the beginning of 2012.

Ali Al-Emad, the spokesperson of Al-Somoud Youth, a coalition sup-

portive of the Houthis, accused the Islah Party of exploding the situation in Amran. He said the Houthis are defending themselves.

"The Islah Party's men violated the agreement the two parties signed at the beginning of June. They created new checkpoints in Sahb and Al-Dafeer," he said.

The Houthis accuse the 310th Brigade of being affiliated to the Islah Party.

In early June, president Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi assigned a committee to broker a ceasefire in Amran. The Defense Ministry has not made any comment on the breakdown of the ceasefire.

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Southern tribal leader escapes house arrest, allegedly joins AQAP

■ Nasser Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, June 18—Tareq Al-Fadhli, a southern tribal leader and prominent figure of the Southern Movement, fled Aden to Abyan governorate, escaping house arrest imposed on him by Yemeni authorities since November 2012.

Aden Al-Ghad, a news website that mainly reports on the south, claimed that on Tuesday Al-Fadhli told the website that he escaped his imprisonment to officially join Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), adding that he is currently in Al-Maraqsha mountains of Abyan.

Mohammed Al-Fadhli, the son of Tareq Al-Fadhli, said that his father did not join AQAP but admitted that he left Aden for Abyan. "My father went to his relatives and clan in Abyan and broke the house

arrest. He announced an armed struggle against the government but didn't join AQAP," Tareq said.

Yemeni authorities in November 2012 forced Al-Fadhli to move from Abyan to Aden and placed him under house arrest after he refused to actively support the military in its campaign against Al-Qaeda.

Abyan is a major AQAP stronghold. The military on April 29 began an offensive in Abyan and neighboring Shabwa governorate against the militant Islamist group.

"My father only threatened to join AQAP if the southerners don't respond to the call of armed struggle against the Yemeni government," Added Tareq.

Al-Fadhli belongs to the secessionist Southern Movement, but the movement has not made any comment on the recent events.

Once a leading member of the



In 2012 Al-Fadhli was placed under house arrest for refusing to support the campaign against AQAP.

General People's Congress and later siding with the Southern Movement and urging southern secession, Al-Fadhli has long been a controversial figure in the country. In 2012, Al-Fadhli's house in Abyan was attacked and a number of his bodyguards were killed.

Government enters into talks with leading Hirak figure

■ Ali Saeed

SANA'A, June 17—Brigadier General Nasser Al-Nooba, a prominent founding member of the Southern Movement (Hirak), will begin talks with representatives of the ten countries sponsoring the GCC initiative within the next few days aimed at reaching a compromise between the secessionist movement and Yemen's government, the state-run Saba News Agency reported on Monday.

The planned talks will come after Al-Nooba earlier this month met President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi and UN Special Advisor on Yemen Jamal Benomar.

"On behalf of the Southern Movement's peaceful entities, Al-Nooba stands with President Hadi to overcome the status quo challenges in order to implement the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), particularly those on the southern issue," the Saba report read.

Al-Nooba said this during his meeting with Benomer on Monday, according to Saba.

The NDC, which concluded on Jan. 25, proposed that Yemen be made a federal state in order to assuage growing calls for secession in the country's south. The Southern Movement, an affiliation of groups pushing for greater autonomy for the South, was formed in 2007.

When NDC proceedings began on March 18, 2013, with the participation of some Hirak members, Al-Nooba was among those who rejected dialogue with "the government in Sana'a" and who sought total independence of the South, according to Khaled Ba Madhaf, one of the leading members of Hirak in Aden.

Al-Nooba met Hadi on June 8 and is reportedly preparing to form a new Hirak group sympathetic to the president called the National Front of the Peaceful Southern Movement. Hadi is himself originally from the southern governor-

ate of Abyan.

"[Al-Nooba] was against the dialogue and the leaders of the Hirak have not received any invitation from him on his reported [coalition]," said Ba Madhaf.

Ba Madhaf said that there have been similar attempts in the past by Sana'a to co-opt southern factions with the aim of minimizing the role of the Hirak in the south.

He added that "all these attempts failed."

According to Majed Siraj, head of the Strategic Studies Program at the Sheba Strategic Studies Center, these latest moves are in line with Hadi's attempts to lure key Hirak figures away from more hardline elements of the movement.

"It seems that he [Hadi] forgot that Hirak now has new young leaders who disown anyone who [compromises with] the government in Sana'a," said Siraj.

The Yemen Times tried for two consecutive days to call Al-Nooba but was unable to reach him.

Two pilots receive suspended prison sentences for refusing orders



A wreckage of military aircraft that crashed in May 2013.

■ Ali Ibrahim Al-Moshki

SANA'A, June 18—Two Yemeni pilots were handed six-month suspended prison sentences Monday by a military court in Sana'a for refusing to fly what they say was an out of service warplane.

Hayel Salam, the lawyer representing the pilots, said "Talal Al-Shawish and Sadeq Al-Taib [the two accused] refused to pilot a warplane that needed maintenance. The military court in Sana'a sentenced them to six months imprisonment and suspended the verdict, provided that they [the pilots] pledge not to refuse orders again."

Salam said that the two pilots did not abandon their posts and had received their salaries. Their sal-

ary records, he claims, contradict the testimony of an official who alleged the two had been absent.

Al-Shawish told the Al-Sharea newspaper that "the verdict is unfair because we provided official documents to prove that we weren't absent [from work]. I don't know how the judge made the verdict."

The defense says that the aircraft were in poor condition and that a technical committee report stating that the planes were not safe enough to fly has been concealed.

The Yemen Times attempted to contact the Air Force but did not receive a response.

Three military aircraft are known to have crashed near Sana'a in the last two years. The reasons for the

crashes are still unknown. In May last year a pilot was killed when a warplane crashed in Al-Khamseen street, south of Sana'a. At least 12 people were killed and 13 others wounded when a Sukhoi warplane crashed in February 2013 during training exercises. The year before, a Russian-made Antinov aircraft crashed in Sana'a's Al-Hasaba Market, killing the pilot and nine crew members.

According to the Air Force, Yemen has lost 28 warplanes over the past eight years. Eighteen pilots and co-pilots, and 23 trainers and technicians were killed in these incidents. According to reports by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism in 2012 and 2013, the Yemeni air force is "barely functional."

World Cup underway amid climate of apprehension



For this year's event fans can enjoy games under a large marquee set up in al-Tahrir Square.

Story by Ali Abulohoom
Photo by Ezzaddin Al-Zain

In the months following the June 2010 World Cup in South Africa, the so-called Arab Spring swept across the Arab World. Since the last tournament Yemen has witnessed major political and economic changes.

2010 was a very different time for Yemen, and people were able to enjoy the games in a much more relaxed atmosphere. Now, post-uprising, the economy is in disarray, the security situation is fragile at best, and chronic fuel and electricity shortages have cast a shadow over this year's World Cup. With the 2014 tournament now here, football fans are concerned the vibe will be dampened and they will miss out on important matches in this major global event.

Most Sana'anis have gotten used to constant hum of generators around the city, day and night. But the shortage of fuel means that generators often cannot run.

"It's not just about electricity, but the fuel crisis Yemen has sustained for about three months. I can buy a generator to solve the problem of electricity but it will be difficult to overcome the fuel problem," said Mohammed Marish, a 34-year-old pharmacist.

Sadeq Abdulsalam, a 35-year-old English teacher, has gone out of his way to make sure he doesn't miss a game. He bought a special battery system for his television so that if the power goes out and there's no fuel for the generator, he will be able to carry on watching. "I invite my friends to enjoy the World Cup in my home and we do not need to have to rely on the futile attempts of the government to restore the electricity wires and fuel pipelines after

they are sabotaged."

Nasser Al-Badawi, a 25-year-old supporter of Ahli Sana'a, a local football team, believes the government should make more of an effort to screen games publicly. He added that the World Cup provides an opportunity for Yemenis to forget their daily trials and tribulations. "Yemen has been beset with problems everywhere, economic and security issues... such an event [World Cup] helps people forget the hardships and enjoy life" he said.

Al-Badawi, has a place in mind where he can spend his time watching matches.

"When I heard that an advertising company will provide giant screens and generators in public spaces in Sana'a, I was still skeptical. But now that the company has set up [the facility] in al-Tahrir district, I am more confident."

In 2010, a large screen was set up in Sana'a's popular al-Thurafi stadium.

For the 2014 World Cup, an advertising company in co-operation with the Ministry of Youth and Sport has set up giant screens public areas across the capital and in other governorates.

Mohammed Al-Sufi, the deputy manager of projects at the Ministry of Youth and Sport, said that the screenings will provide some relief for Yemenis faced with multiple daily crises.

"We appreciate the initiative made by Golden Company to set up screens in public fields for people to watch the World Cup 2014. It's a kind of social responsibility," Al-Sufi said.

As the tournament gets underway, it remains to be seen how smoothly the public screenings will run and what ordinary Yemenis will make of this year's long awaited event.

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Al-Sabaeen Park's investor remains defiant amid calls to hand over park

Story and photos by
Amal Al-Yarisi

There is a special vibe in Sana'a's Al-Sabaeen Park, where families gather and children enjoy the many amusement rides on offer.

Al-Sabaeen Park, established by Abdulla Al-Maghshi in 1986, is one of the oldest parks in Sana'a. Prior to its establishment the land was an arid plot. Today the park attracts hundreds of visitors, though they have mixed views about the state of the area. While some see it as a top recreational spot, others remain unsatisfied.

Wid Abdulla, a university student, talks of her and her family's visit to the park. She sits with the children of her family in one corner of the park, observing them and the joy that they get from this wide green space. She admits that a lot of improvements can still be made to Al-Sabaeen, but she believes that the park could be one of the best in the capital. Abdulla says "there are not enough parks in the city, and Al-Sabaeen Park has not yet reached its full potential."

Al-Sabaeen Park should aim to be a magical spot, considering its perfect location and wide space. However, Abdulla explains that the park lacks the necessary infrastructure. There is a lack of playing facilities for children, she says. "All the amusements are old and worn-out."

Abdulla remembers visiting the park for the first time several years ago and since then she has seen no major developments. "Even if there are two or three new games built,

that still does not mean the park has been elevated," she said.

However, not all visitors are of the same opinion. Jihan Nasr, a teacher at Al-Qadasia school in Sana'a, said Al-Sabaeen Park has improved a lot. "New games have been installed, making it better than other parks in the city," she said.

She said some visitors will not be satisfied whatever developments are made to the park. "Even if the park becomes the best entertainment spot in the capital, some would say nothing has changed," she said.

There have been calls for new investors to pump money into the park.

Al-Maghshi has been the sole investor in the park for over thirty years. He claims he has been making constant improvements to the Al-Sabaeen Park, but efforts have been halted since the political turmoil in 2011. He says that the mayor's office has stood in the way of him upgrading the park.

He said he is more than willing to improve the park and install new facilities, but the mayor's office is less than willing to provide permits for these developments. Last year, the mayor's office decided that Al-Maghshi's contract had expired and the park should be handed over.

Hussein Al-Rawdhi, the parks manager in Sana'a, says although Al-Maghshi claims to have renewed his contract, the terms of the contract were breached and the contract is now void. "Al-Maghshi violated a number of terms, such as introducing second-hand amusement facilities without notifying the mayor's office. One of the terms of the contract is that the introduction of any equipment to the park should



Improvements to Al-Sabaeen Park is not expected to be made until ownership issues are resolved.

be authorized by the mayor's office," said Al-Rawdhi.

It is for this reason the issue has ended up in court. Despite allegations from the mayor's office of possessing a void contract, Al-Maghshi continues to run the park.

Al-Maghshi dismissed these claims. He said he has given his life to maintaining and improving

the park and his efforts are unappreciated. "Where were they when Yemen did not have a single park? They are trying to remove me out of envy and jealousy," he said.

He went on to say that he pays one million Yemeni rials (\$4,553) in tax every year. He also covers the water and electricity fees in addition to the monthly salaries of the

employees.

Last year, Mayor Abdulqadir Helal ordered Al-Maghshi to hand over the park within one month, saying his contract is over. However, Al-Maghshi maintains that his contract, which was signed at the beginning of 2012, is for ten years and he should be able to complete it. He insists, "whatever they do, I

will not hand over the park."

Because of the alleged breach of contract the issue has ended up in court. Yet despite these allegations from the mayor's office, Al-Maghshi continues to run Al-Sabaeen park.

No improvements are currently being made to the park until the issue is resolved in the court.

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Project Coordinator

Requirements

- Must have, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree.
- At least three- year experience in the financial or developmental sector.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- Ability to use computer.
- Willingness to move between Taiz Districts
- Ability to manage work team and work under pressure.

Main Tasks

- Manage, supervise and coordinate project work activities according to the procedures and instructions of Al-Amal Microfinance Bank to ensure the achievement of all the activities and objectives in time.
- Coordinate meetings with partners and relevant institutions in addition to the participation in the various meetings that are held within the project.
- Follow up project work progress in the field by building necessary tools and mechanisms to adequately implement the project.
- Provide Al-Amal Microfinance Bank, partners and funders with the required reports on work progress.
- Monitor the implementation of project budget and procedures and financial transactions related to it.

Training and Financial Education Specialist

Requirements

- Must have, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree.
- One-year experience in training.
- Willingness to move between Taiz Districts

Main Tasks

- Follow-up, supervise, coordinate and document project training programs, including identifying training schedules, evaluating training and educational materials related to training and fully coordinating with Training Department in Al-Amal Microfinance Bank and Al-Amal Foundation for Training and Entrepreneurship.
- Conduct training and raising awareness programs if needed

Financial Inclusion Specialist

Requirements

- Must have, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree.
- One-year experience in the Financial or developmental sector.
- Willingness to move between Taiz Districts.

Main Tasks

- Follow-up, supervise, coordinate and document financial inclusion programs and promote the culture of savings.
- Conduct financial inclusion programs if needed

All interested candidates should send their C.V.s to the following address in a period not exceeding one week after date:
Human Resources Department- Al-Amal Microfinance Bank - Baghdad Street- Sanaa- Republic of Yemen
Phone: 00967-1-449731, Fax 00967-1-449721, E-mail: hr@alamalbank.org

Head Office
Bagdad St., Sana'a
Tel.: 01 449731

Taiz Branch
26 September
Nearby AlSaeed Hospital
Tel.: 04 222494

Taiz Branch
22 May
Jamal Street
Tel.: 04 253177

Taiz Branch
14 October
Mafraq AlHawban
Tel.: 04 288845



ACTED

VACANT POSITION

ACTED is an independent international privet, non-partisan and non-profit organization that operates according to principles of strict neutrality, political and religious impartiality, and non-discrimination. For more information please visit our website at www.acted.org

Position: Project Development Officer
Contract duration: fixed term 6 months (renewable)
Location: Sana'a
Starting date: ASAP

Position profile:

- Project Cycle Management
- Information System
- Participatory Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Departmental Follow-up
- Ensuring the Production of Timely, Accurate and Analytical Reports for Donors
- Developing Internal Coordination and Communication mechanisms
- Developing an External Donor Relations Strategy
- Developing an External Communication Strategy
- Assisting the Project Development Manager and Country Director in developing the country strategy

Qualifications:

- Postgraduate diploma in International Development and (or) relevant Master's level degree (anthropology, development studies, humanitarian aid, sociology);
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- Proficiency in written and spoken English
- Strong writing abilities and analytical skills
- Skills in political sciences or international relations
- Ability to work efficiently under pressure
- Previous experience in the humanitarian field, proposals development, and donor relations are required
- Previous experience abroad is required

Applying procedures:

Send your English CV with specifying the position title and at least 4 references to sanaa@acted.org Not later than 26th of June 2014 15:00 PM.

Republic of Yemen Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation

Position Vacancy Announcement for Economic Opportunities Fund Chief Executive Officer

BACKGROUND

The Government of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and several cofinancier for the Economic Opportunities Programme (EOP), Fishery Investment Program (FIP) and Rural Employment Programme (REP). These Programmes aim to improve the economic status of rural women and men through the creation of sustainable private sector-led economic opportunities. The EOP, FIP and REP as well as several future investments, will be managed by a Economic Opportunities Fund (EOF) which is created as a public-private partnership. The EOF is managing investments valued in the range of USD 150 million over the next six years. MOPIC now seeks qualified Yemeni candidates for the key professional positions of the EOF as outlined below.

GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Reporting to the EOF Board of Directors, the CEO is accountable for the EOF performance. He provides leadership and manages donors-financed programmes, in accordance with the mission, values and strategic objectives established and/or approved by the Board. The CEO sits on the EOF Board of Directors as an observer.

NATURE AND SCOPE

The CEO has the responsibility to:

- Lead and manage the EOF within the guidelines established by the Board;
- Report to the Board of Directors;

- Recommend the AWP/B to the Board and implement the corresponding operational activities;
- Direct and monitor the activities of the EOF in a manner that ensures that the strategic, operational and capital plans are met and that the assets of the EOF are safeguarded and optimized in the best interests of the programme;
- Develop and recommend to the Board the overall corporate organizational structure and the appointment of Executive Management;
- Manage and oversee the required interfaces between the EOF and the public and act as the principal spokesperson of the EOF. This includes the responsibility for managing the equity and other financial market interfaces on behalf of the EOF.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will lead the EOF to improve the economic status of poor women and men in creating sustainable economic opportunities in the programmes area. He/she will direct the EOF to stimulate the growth and technological improvement of selected value chains and the creation/growth of rural business activities and enterprises, promote linkages between producers' associations and markets through contractual arrangements; promote compliance with national and international food security and safety standards; develop public and private economic infrastructure in support to the selected value chains; expand the rural outreach of financial institutions; enhance access to sustainable rural financial services; promote alternative financial services to stakeholders of selected value chains.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Guide programme implementation in accordance with provisions of the Grant/Financing Agreement between Government and IFAD and the guidelines of the Appraisal Report;
- Ensure the coordination of all programme components and activities between project staff, implementing partners, command area communities and other stakeholders;
- Approve the appointment of other EOF staff, participate to their evaluation and ensure that they are fulfilling their terms of reference;
- Ensure that Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPBs) are prepared and submitted in accordance with the Grant/Financing Agreement and with the rule of the Ministry of Finance;
- Ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all programme activities and that women beneficiaries participate effectively in programme interventions and benefit in an equitable manner.
- Take responsibility for the overall use of the programme financial resources;
- Creating Account/s and the Special Account;
- Ensure that the terms and conditions of the agreements/contracts with all implementing partners are adhered to;
- Ensure that the necessary disbursement and reimbursement procedures and M&E activities follow those specified in the Grant/Financing Agreement;
- Submit programme financial and physical progress reports in compliance with the Grant/Finance Agreement, Government requirements and the Project M&E system.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- A graduate degree in business or financial management or similar subject;
- A minimum of 12 years managerial level experience in the private, and public sectors.
- Working experience in donor-financed programmes.
- Wide network of contacts with MOPIC, MAI and MOF and the ability to communicate with and motivate a wide range of people including ministers, Senior Government Officials and leaders and ordinary members of civil society;
- Initiative, commitment, breadth of vision and capacity for innovative, latent thinking;
- Leadership and team building qualities and experience;
- Fluency in English both writing and speaking.

General Information

- The recruitment process will be based on open competition and equal opportunity for women and men applicants. Only short-listed candidates will be informed and invited for detailed interviews.
- Interested candidates should submit their applications, consisting of a cover letter and curriculum vitae (CV), to the minister's office-Ministry of Planning and International Cooperating, Email (technical.mopic@gmail.com) - fax: 250665)

The deadline for applications is 17.00hrs on 23 July 2014.



Politics of Qat: The Role of a Drug in Ruling Yemen

By Peer Gatter

Book review and extracts
Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The cover page shows an old man with an apprehensive look in his eyes, half-smiling as he hands you a bunch of qat leaves. In the background there is a wild-eyed teenage boy, cheeks swollen from the qat that fills them, peering into the camera.

This 862 page hard-cover book published

by Reichert Publications is a weapon in all senses of the word. Besides documenting the ever growing role qat plays in Yemen in the life of Yemenis, the book also analyses Yemen's qat policy, the tribal qat economy, and the qat connections of our decision makers.

I had this huge publication lying by my bedside for months before I summoned the courage to pick it up and start reading.

This was not only due to its intimidating size, but probably even more so due to its topic. Qat, and the political and economic schemes around it, was to me as a Yemeni always a well known problem. I just was too afraid to read for myself and acknowledge how I as a citizen am part of a society that enables this culture of qat.

I don't chew Qat and personally I am ardently opposed to it. But I live in a

society where Qat prevails. After years of research, Peer Gatter, the author of this book, published it in 2012, offering to the world an insight into this drug and what it has done to my country. Gatter was working for many years for the World Bank and UNDP in Yemen and is now heading the Integrated Expert Program for Afghanistan of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ-CIM).



PART 2/9

From agrarian state to oil rentier

Although in steady decline since the oil production peak in 2001, the hydrocarbon industry remains the backbone of Yemen's economy. The country has proven oil reserves of 3 billion barrels, of which by 2006 some 1.2 billion barrels remained unexploited.

Yemen's transformation into a rentier economy from a country largely depending on its agrarian production, with a ruling class subsisting on meager tax earnings, loomed ahead long before oil became the mainstay of Arabian economies.

Increased oil incomes gave economic development around the Persian Gulf a massive boost. The ensuing building boom and its impact on wage levels in the little-populous Arabian Gulf countries, made emigration a lucrative option.

Most affected by labor migration and an increasing lack in manpower were the mountain areas west and north-west of Sana'a, the areas along the common frontier with South Yemen, and the areas bordering Saudi Arabia, notably Hajja and Sa'ada.

The changes that Yemen experienced during the 1970s had a profound impact on Yemen's agricultural sector, its centuries-old patterns of land and water use. The drain of workers led to a sharp decline in the economic importance of Yemen's agricultural sector and of the country's agricultural area.

Countless terrace fields of the western escarpment were abandoned where rainfed agriculture had been practised for many centuries. Due to a lack of maintenance, many terrace walls simply collapsed and the soil that had been carried up to these mountain fields by generations of farmers eroded.

With the import of cheap grain, rural self-sufficiency had become superfluous. Investment in high-value and water intensive crops – vegetables, fruits and qat – replaced sustainable rainfed farming.

Also with social change and powerful economic incentives traditional controls over resource use fell into oblivion. As Yemen's government did not step in with modern regulations, an unrestrained mining of water resources set in.

Moreover, tribal autonomy was now no longer guaranteed by self-sufficiency in home-grown grains, but by worker remittances and by access to markets for the perishable leaves of qat.

The oil economy

Oil exploration in Yemen had started during the 1930s under British tutelage, however with little initial success. During the 1970s and 1980s, large scale prospection activities were re-launched with donor assistance in both north and south. This led to the signing of over a dozen exploration and production agreements with Soviet and western oil companies.



Only 2.9% of Yemen is suitable for agriculture, the remaining area consisting of deserts, semi-deserts and sheer mountains. With its fertile terrace fields Yemen's western escarpment was once the corn chamber of the Arabian Peninsula which earned the region in Roman times its name of "Arabia Felix". Today, qat is planted wherever the climate, water availability and road infrastructure permit. In this village overlooking the Wadi Qadaha in al-Rujum district of al-Mahwa, every square meter of arable land is used for qat and cereal farming.

In the mid-1990s, the government realised that without injecting new foreign investment, oil production would further drop over coming years. Terms for foreign companies were revised and new foreign partners actively sought. This led to a significant increase in the number of new companies engaging in Yemen's oil sector. In 1997 alone, 13 new production-sharing agreements were signed by the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources.

Most of these ventures have however failed to find oil in commercial quantities. More recently, exploration started in the large desert areas of al-Jawf and Hadramawt that became accessible after the signing of the June 2000 border agreement with Saudi Arabia.

With 440,000 barrels per day the oil peak was reached in 2001. World market oil prices of up to US\$ 147 per barrel, despite declining oil production, earned Yemen handsome windfalls during 2008 of 4.5 billion.

Since its peak, oil production has been steadily declining – mainly due to a lack of investment and the inadequate maintenance of production facilities – reaching an estimated 259,000 barrels per day by 2010 and further dropping to an average of 170,000 barrels per day during 2011.

The decline in oil revenue also led to a delay in Yemen's commitments

to reform made under a 1995 IMF-supported structural adjustment program, as the government found it increasingly difficult to mobilize the necessary political consensus for streamlining the country's economy.

When oil prices picked up after 1998, reaching US\$ 27.7 per barrel in 2000, the government went to great lengths to maintain tight control over spending and implemented a number of components of the IMF adjustment program.

The end of the oil age

Despite recent oil price increases due to a looming war over Iran's nuclear program, the future for Yemen's oil sector looks bleak. Apart from the current production and export shortfalls due to political unrest, the country is believed to face a steady decline in oil production over the coming years. Projections by the World Bank suggest that production from recently discovered oil fields cannot offset the decline in older fields.

At current extraction rates, oil resources may be exhausted as early as 2017 – more conservative estimates assume an end to oil production by 2020.

The decline in oil production will pose a major fiscal challenge for Yemen.

The World Bank warns that if expenditure is not controlled or



Young qat sellers in Al-Hasaba market of Sana'a with bunches of Hamdani qat.

if alternative revenues cannot be mobilized, Yemen will before long face a ballooning fiscal deficit. Any attempts to shrink this deficit by reducing development expenditures would on one side lead to rising levels of poverty, while the monetarization of the growing fiscal deficit would on the other side accelerate inflation.

A further critical problem facing Yemen is its increasing domestic thirst for hydrocarbons – especially seen against the backdrop of significant governmental fuel subsidies. The IMF calls these subsidies that account for about 8-10% of GDP the most generous in the region.

Consumption of petroleum products has more than doubled since unification, reaching an estimated 157,000 barrels per day in 2010. Given a daily average crude production of just 258,000 barrels in the same year, Yemen's net crude exports have declined to just 103,000 barrels/day (down from 339,000 barrels/day in 2001).

With a further production decline looming ahead in coming years, Yemen will face rapidly growing fuel imports. Yemen already had a foretaste of what is to come during 2011 when oil production plummeted due to a deteriorating security situation to the lowest level since the late 1980s, nearly matching domestic consumption.

This development will not only negatively affect the country's trade balance, which had – owing to rising oil prices – shown a very positive trend during the last decade, but also Yemen's debt service.

Dwindling financial resources have an immediate impact on Yemen's security situation as this curtails the patronage capacity of a

regime that is built on buying loyalties and toleration. As oil supplies run dry and activities of Islamists and tribal insurgents are on the increase.

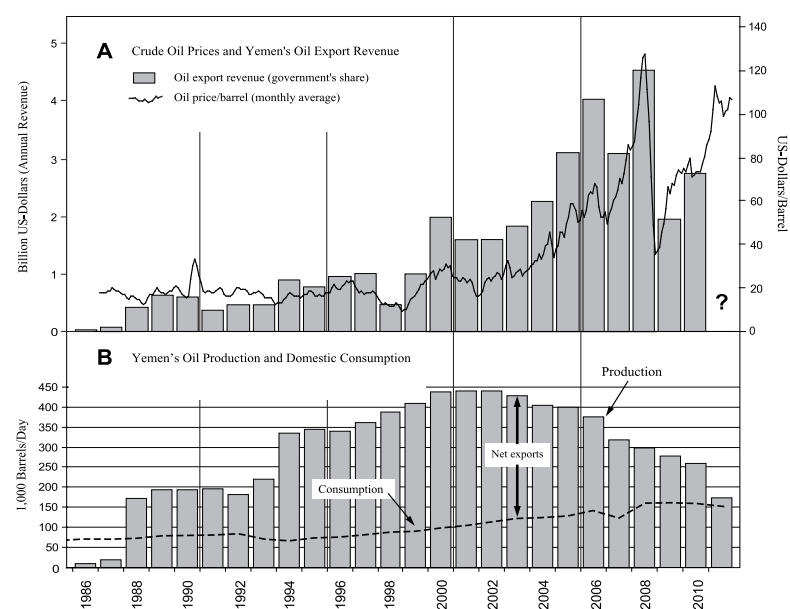
With oil revenue dwindling, the contribution of qat to Yemen's economy will gain in importance over the coming years. However, as the bulk of profits generated by the qat sector flow to tribal areas beyond central control, this will inevitably strengthen the qat producing highland tribes vis-à-vis the government. Ruling Yemen will undoubtedly become more difficult after the end of the oil era – the qat economy will play a major part in this.

Yemen has proven gas reserves of 17.1 trillion cubic feet (tcf), the bulk of which is found in the Marib area. In a regional comparison this is rather modest. Iran commands an estimated 993 tcf and Qatar 895 tcf.

As until very recently there was no export market for gas, natural gas contained in Marib oil has been prudently re-injected into the fields. In 2005, Yemen secured a 25-year contract to develop and export one-third of its gas reserves, providing projected exports of 6.2 million tons annually.

World Bank estimates put the gross annual value of the secured export contract at around US\$ 1.5 billion. As this represents just a fraction of the value of crude oil exports during 2008 and 2009, gas is thus unlikely to fill the role of oil in the future.

Given Yemen's dwindling oil supply, gas resources will also have to be used to address rising domestic energy needs and the government thus plans the transition from power generation with diesel to natural gas.



Sources: Central Bank of Yemen 2005 and 2007, Ministry of Planning and Development 2000, U.S. Energy Information Administration 2012, EIU Country Reports - Yemen (various issues). Oil revenue in (A) does not include the revenue share of oil companies.

Development of the Yemeni Oil Sector, 1986-2011



Infrastructure development greatly facilitated the qat trade. Owing to the expansion of Yemen's road network beginning in the 1960s, the perishable qat leaves could soon reach all parts of Yemen within a single day. Right: Imam Ahmad's riding party on the al-hudayda road before its grading by Chinese contractors. Left: Widening the Sana'a-Al-Hudayda highway within the framework of the World Bank-financed City Access Programme (a section east of Al-Masajid in 2004).

NGOs and the shock of the new

IRIN
First published June 17

The big international aid agencies have been hugely successful. Organizations that were once small civil society operations—groups of friends with a passion to make the world a better place—now have thousands of staff members, multi-story headquarter buildings and multi-million dollar budgets. But insiders fret that they have become too big and have lost the flexibility and responsiveness they once had.

They also worry about the future, and whether big international agencies are still the best way of doing things. It's hard to imagine a world without Oxfam or Save the Children, but 20 years ago it would have been hard to imagine a world without Kodak film and cameras, or multi-volume editions of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. Now both have gone, swept away by technological change they were slow to see coming.

In Britain a lot of soul-searching is taking place inside what is known as the START Network (once called the Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies), which brings together 19 major NGOs and their worldwide partner organizations. The Network's Director, Sean Lowrie, thinks the way the sector works is cumbersome and old fashioned. "NGOs are stuck in a Victorian model, which requires people to suffer and die to get on the front page of newspapers, and the newspapers trigger public donations and that triggers political will. It's a reactive model," he says.

It's also very slow. The START Network is explicitly looking for a new and better way of working, and has made a beginning with the START fund, a pot of money provided by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Irish Aid, which can be mobilized immediately in a crisis and channeled to whichever organization, international or local, is best placed to use it. The key is that the money is already there—it doesn't have to wait for a crisis to get on the television news. Smaller emergencies or slow-onset crises may never give rise to that kind of money-generating publicity.

Olivia Maehler, START's business manager, said they aim to consider proposals and release funds within 72 hours of receiving an alert. "We could get an alert on a Tuesday and the funding could be going out by Friday morning," she told IRIN.

This demands a collaborative way of working, and an unusual degree of selflessness on the part of member organizations, who may in the past have competed for funding and public profile. The principle is that the money goes to whoever can make best use of it straight away, and so far over half the money has gone directly to local implementing partners.

The fund is still in its 'design and build' stage, but has already been able to respond to the violence in Rakhine State, Myanmar, and to one of the sudden spikes in conflict and displacement in South Sudan. Until now the meetings to allocate funds have taken place in London. "We are hoping that for future project selection we will be able to do the decision-making in the field, at the local level," Maehler says.

But the tools that make this kind of devolved, collaborative way of working possible also threaten to disrupt the traditional roles of the big NGOs and perhaps bypass them altogether. At a public debate in London, linked to START's first annual conference, speakers presented the kind of innovations that have the power to shake up humanitarian action.

Paul Skinner, whose organization, 'Pimp My Cause', matches marketing volunteers with charities and social enterprises that need their

skills, spoke of the need to harness people's underlying participatory spirit, and "make a humanitarian of everyone."

"Whereas the NGO of the past may have been something you chose to support, maybe in quite passive ways, the NGO of the future is likely to be something you will turn to because they can help you achieve something worthwhile yourself," he said.

From your armchair

Luis Morago, of the online campaigning organization, Avaaz, described getting involved in a form of international activism which can bypass conventional NGOs altogether by using the example of Cyclone Nargis, which struck Myanmar in 2008.

The government was blocking aid flights so Avaaz's online followers rapidly raised US\$2 million and sent it via a network of Buddhist monks who had been appealing for help online. "I didn't leave my armchair," Morago said, "But still I was feeling very happy and it cost me ten dollars... but it's what happens after the clicks that matters—how we use that support. That's what can bring incredible change."

Other speakers in the debate included Laura Walker Hudson from Frontline SMS, which has created tools to conduct mass campaigns using basic mobile phone technology, and Harry Wood from Humanitarian OpenStreetMap, a free collaborative mapping project that came into its own during disasters like the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

The possibilities presented were exciting but also unsettling for many in the audience. Powerful new tools for mobilization, like Avaaz, could be used for good purposes, said Frances Stevenson of Help Age International, but also destructively. "Just imagine if they had been around in the 1930s," she said. "It could be used either way, so I suppose we had better grab it before the other side does!"

John Borton, a senior research associate in the Humanitarian Policy Group of the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), a UK think-tank, was struck by the way all this fizz of innovation was happening outside the established humanitarian NGOs. "They create their own organizations, and that makes me uncomfortable. I guess it's all part of the sector becoming more diffuse, expanding from dozens of organizations to hundreds," he said. "There's



A UNHCR convoy carries refugees from South Sudan home from Uganda

something here about the way that the established organizations embrace technology."

That concern got short shrift from Ken Banks, author of 'The Rise of the Reluctant Innovator,' which covers the stories of 10 people who solve unexpected problems. "Money kills innovation," he says bluntly. "Look at Ushahidi [a non-profit open-source software development company]. Why didn't the Red Cross build Ushahidi? They should have done. The Red Cross needed something like Ushahidi many times in the past. I think people taking their ideas to the bigger NGOs would absolutely kill them, and

drive them [innovators] to despair!"

The message is clear. Change—disruptive change—is inevitable, and the humanitarian sector needs to be prepared to work differently, and also to play a very different role in the future. What can't be predicted is whether change will kill their traditional business—as it killed the traditional business models of Kodak and Encyclopaedia Britannica—or whether—as in the case of digital publishing—it will give the sector a new lease of life.

Either way, says Luis Morago, change is coming. "Across the world now, there's a bubbling sense of democracy on the march. You will only be able to transform the humanitarian sector if it becomes part of that. Otherwise, the sector is doomed."

Republished with permission from IRIN.



Yemenis juggle multiple jobs in difficult times

Story and photos by
Ali Abulohoom

Mohammed Noman, a 22-year-old student from Sana'a University, juggles two jobs on top of his studies. Noman attends university in the morning and works as a freelance painter and security guard at night.

Holding multiple jobs is not uncommon in Yemen—a country where wages are often desperately low and fail to keep up with rising costs. According to the Central Statistics Office in Yemen, the inflation rate in the country averaged 11.54 percent from 2006 to 2014, peaking at 24.77 during the 2011 uprising. As average income failed to keep pace with rising costs of living and soaring food prices, Yemenis have increasingly taken on odd jobs to supplement their incomes.

Noman's financial situation worsened with the death of his father, leaving him as the sole provider for his mother and six sisters. He was no longer able to rely on one job alone to fulfill his commitments to his family.

"Before the revolution I could eke out a living depending on my salary, which stood at YR30,000 (\$150). The salary rose [after the uprising] to YR35,000 (\$163) but the increase did not come in line with price hikes," said Noman.

Noman was hired by a painting company under a temporary contract to paint streets, houses, and companies. "I have only a few hours to rest during the day as my schedule is busy to the core. I spend the morning in the university, afternoon painting surfaces and during the evening hours I keep my eyes open during my security work. Life must go on," said Noman.

Yemen has been in the midst of an economic recession since the uprising of 2011 which led to the stepping down of the country's former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Mohammed Radwan, head of the Population Studies Center at Sana'a University, said that nearly 54 percent of Yemen's roughly 25 million people remain below the poverty line.

Faisal Mohammed, adviser to the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Yemen, said among the reasons for the 2011 uprising were high rates of poverty and inflation, a problem the movement has so far failed to resolve.

Saleh Qasim, a 45-year-old who is dependent on his taxi to cover the needs of his family, said "life continues to be hard in light of inflation and [fuel costs]."

When Qasim realized that driving a taxi would no longer be a sufficient source of income, he decided to explore other options. He bought prepaid phone cards to sell to his passengers. "I sell about 15 phone cards a day plus the fare of the taxi bringing the total yield to about YR4,000 (\$19) a day while I used to earn from YR2,000 to 2,500 (\$9 to 12)," Qasim said.

Om Ismail, a 51-year-old school janitor whose husband was killed in a car accident, says "I have been working as cleaner for 20 years moving from one school to another with a minimal salary of YR20,000 (\$94) while my livelihood has become difficult."

Om Ismail learned how to weave and is now able to make dresses, scarves and other items of women's clothing. "My neighbor taught me how to weave and lent me some money needed to buy weaving supplies. Within a few weeks I paid her money back and started my own business," she said.



Mohammed Noman works as a painter while studying at university and holding an additional job as a security guard.

"I have six children and I had to find another source of income to raise them otherwise they would drop out of school. At first I was doubtful whether I would become successful... but finally I got it," Om Ismail added.

It is not only those on temporary or part-time contracts who

hold multiple jobs. Even those with highly sought after and relatively well paid jobs, such as doctors, professors, engineers, have taken on additional work.

Yahia Al-Qasimi, 42, works in the Ministry of Sport in the auditing department. He says he receives a salary of YR80,000 (\$372), a relatively

high salary in Yemen. Those performing similar work to Al-Qasimi but on temporary contracts receive only about YR50,000 (\$233).

"I have seven children and have to pay YR30,000 (\$150) a month in rent so I find that my salary is insufficient for my basic needs."

Al-Qasimi has opened a small

shop in Sana'a selling French fries and takeaway food. "My son runs the shop and its revenue makes life much better and easier than before," he said.

Radwan said that Yemenis have had to become more flexible as the economic crisis has worsened and shows no sign of abating.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
20 February, 1994

The Al-Mihdhar Mosque: An Architectural Masterpiece and a Religious Symbol

■ Ali Bin Talib

The History

Tarim is situated in the heart of Hadhramaut and it goes deep in history. During the early years of Islam, Tarim was famous as an Islamic center, particularly after the descendants of Prophet Muhammad through Ali Bin Talib resided there. Very quickly, Tarim became the focus of religious education, and the fountain all of Hadhramaut was drink-

ing from. Moreover, Tarim soon became a source of fatwa (Islamic explanation and interpretation). In medieval times, many mosques and centers of learnings were built in this city and the area surrounding it.

By one count, some 400 mosques were built during this time. People from all over the country and region traveled to Hadhramaut for religious learning and advice. Islamic theology peaked, with Tarim at its center.

Historians indicate that the arrival of the Sada (descendants of the Prophet) in the seventh century helped give the region its religious importance. With time, these pious people were able to create a spiritual center in Wadi Hadhramaut, and from there, their preaching was passed to all over the country, East Africa, South-East Asia, and other far-away places.

The people respected these pious people and referred to them as Al-Sharif and/or Al-Habeeb, as a sign of their noble origin and deep love among the people. They also acquired a social role in the life of the Yemeni people and helped resolve a lot of disputes and quarrels among the tribes. They acquired a strong moral power which made people listen to them, although they did not have power in the executive sense. Therefore, they became a reference point for the people as well as for the rulers of the region.

Sheikh Al-Mihdhar

One of the outstanding religious leaders of Hadhramaut was Omar Al-Mihdhar. He lived and died in Tarim, and the splendid mosque with its towering minaret is named after him.

Today, the people of Hadhramaut revere and respect the Maqam (residence) of Omar Al-Mihdhar in Tarim. The residence of this pious man has become a gathering point for all occasions.

His full name is Sheikh Omar Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Saqaf Bin Mohammad Mowla Aldwaila, but known by the surname Al-Mihdhar. He was born in Tarim in the eighth century Hegira calendar. Omar was educated in the Quranic schools where he learned the Quran by heart, as well as the interpretations. Key among his teachers was Sheikh Abu Bakir Bin Mohammad Bilhaj Ba-Fadhel.

During his youth he traveled to the city of Al-Shihre then to the North of Yemen. From there he traveled to Mecca. His life was devoted to worship and religious education.

He was a truly pious man by all sense of the word. Yet, an aspect of his life that has not been fully investigated is his life as a farmer. He used to urge people to till the land and seek God's bounties. He used to say, "what you have may run short, but what God has, is always bountiful."

The Mosque

The mosque was built in the beginning of the ninth century He-

gira calendar, some half a century ago. Some people say that the mosque was built during the later part of Sheikh Al-Mihdhar's life.

By this time, Indian and Indonesian influence on the Hadhramaut region was already visible. That is why the minaret exhibits this influence.

The extrovert nature of the architecture also contrasts visibly with the traditional Yemeni introvert system. The facades and

arcs all show the external influence on the mosque. The use of space is also another aspect of the splendor of this mosque.

Studies show that there have been many repairs, redesigns and expansions in the mosque, but without altering the original structure of the mosque.

Today, Al-Mihdhar mosque is an architectural masterpiece and one of the major religious symbols of Yemen.

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