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# YEMEN TIMES

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## In response to Al-Houthi sources allegations on Saudi fighters raids

# Saudi Arabia refutes claims of involvement

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a statement to Yemen Times Tuesday, a Saudi diplomatic source at the embassy of Saudi Arabia in Sana'a categorically denied any involvement of his country in the ongoing events in the governorate of Saada near the Yemeni-Saudi borders, between Sheik Al-Houthi and the Yemeni government forces. The source also described as groundless the allegations that Saudi warplanes bombed Yemeni villages in the area of Mran and areas nearby to it.

The Saudi diplomat said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would not accept interference in others' internal affairs, adding that was one of the pillars of the Saudi foreign policy and said, "We wish that peace and stability would prevail in Yemen."

A source close to Sheik Al-Houthi had earlier claimed that two Saudi air

force planes had on Monday 19 July bombed the villages and mountains of Mran, alleging that the Saudi flag painted on the attacking planes was clearly seen.

According to the Houthi source, the joint Yemeni-Saudi bombings of "Melha" village on Monday afternoon had caused the destruction of 80 homes over the heads of their inhabitants. And at Mran Mountains and Plateaus, 95 homes were leveled down over mostly children and women and three mosques were shelled during noon's prayers, resulting in the death or wounding of 20 worshipers. The source added that because the bombings were very indiscriminate, the citizens in the area were not able to reach a more precise count in the destruction and the number of the killed or wounded citizens.

The source concluded his statement that Al-Houthi followers were able to

regain control of "Al-Thabit" area and that the number of casualties on both sides were very high.

Other political sources stated that Sheikh Al-Houthi receives large financial support from Shiites in United Arab Emirates and Kuwait and that an Arab prince is implicated in offering intelligence information, military and logistic support to Al-Houthi followers through some influential Yemenis.

Yemeni forces killed around 90 armed supporters of the rebel Muslim cleric in north Yemen last weekend, military sources said. The recent clashes brought the official death toll up to around 300 as fighting between government soldiers and followers of Hussein Al-Houthi has lasted for a little over a month.

"Almost 90 supporters of Houthi have been killed in violent battles with army forces over the past three days,"

said a military source last Sunday.

"Dozens were killed and wounded among the armed forces, who, since Thursday have launched an offensive to take control of the last hideouts of Houthi, whose supporters continue to put up a tough resistance."

President Ali Abdullah Saleh declared that Yemeni forces will stay the course until the militant group is defeated.

"We will never give up, whatever our sacrifices were," Saleh accused "foreign intelligence" of backing Al-Houthi while addressing veterans of Majlisul Shaab Al-Taaseesi, the body that elected him to power in 1978, during the 26th anniversary of his presidency.

"What is happening in a patch between 3-4 kilometers in Saada is but a collaboration, and not incited by sectarian thought," said Saleh. "It is the work of foreign intelligence."

The president did not identify which foreign intelligence, but added that "the signs have started to become clear and they will be made public."

France Press quoted military sources on Sunday July 18 as saying that Al-Houthi was hiding behind his last protected areas and that the armed forces had tightened their grip around the valley he and his followers were bunkering inside.

Regarding mediation to contain the situation, sources stated that an Arab leader had offered to host Al-Houthi, but the Yemeni authority said that it was too late. As well, tribal dignitaries and politicians had tried to mediate to settle the crisis peacefully and the Yemeni authority preferred to militarily end it.

Al-Houthi, in an interview with BBC, accused President Saleh of lying and that President Saleh receives orders from the United States of

America to demolish whomever is an enemy against Israel and US policy in the region. Al-Houthi said that President Saleh was using force instead of dialogue to settle a dispute that was mainly a political one.

Some are expressing concern over the climbing number of casualties and how long the struggle would last. "Yemenis did not expect clashes to escalate as far as they did," said a Yemeni political analyst.

"They also feel that peaceful methods before resorting to the use of force should have been utilized."

Amnesty International asked the Yemeni government last week to investigate the possible killing of civilians caught up in clashes. In a letter to the Minister of Interior, the organization states that innocent Yemenis are said to have been killed resulting from heavy artillery fire and missile attacks.

## Criticism of US accusations against al-Zindani

# Islah warns of Sa'ada events consequences

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni Islah Party has warned against the consequences of the ongoing fighting between the supporters of the renegade cleric Hussein al-Hawthi and government troops for the social peace of the country.

A press release issued by the Islah Central Committee, headed by cleric Abdulmajeed al-Zindani, stated that the events in Sa'ada are "a threat to the internal social peace", demanding that "the authorities, political parties and clerics take swift steps to stop the fighting." The statement called for

abiding by the law and constitution which "define the peaceful ways and means of expression." It called for the rejection of violence in propagating views or settling differences. It demanded that the parliament should play an active role in finding the truth and reporting it to the public. The statement criticized the performance of the state-run media, which it said should convey the truth to the people so that they can take a stand with regard to these events. The Islah statement re-emphasised that the government should deal with security issues in a more transparent way, without politicization.

The Islah Central Committee demanded the immediate release of cleric Mohammed al-Mouyad and his companion Mohammed Zaid who

were arrested last year in Germany and were turned over to US on charges of fund-raising for al-Qaeda and Osama Bin Laden. The statement stated that they were kidnapped on false charges and information and in a way that violated international law and human rights.

The statement also hailed the stand of President Ali Abdullah Saleh who rejected the US accusations against cleric Abdulmajeed al-Zindani. US accused al-Zindani for collecting money for terrorist activities and Bin Laden. It called on the US to stop casting accusations against "the clerics of the nation". It also demanded the release of those people who were put in jail without legal warrants and holding the perpetrators of such acts accountable.

The Islah statement further called for an end to the government's control over NGOs and harassment of party and independent newspapers. The statement warned against the "serious consequences of extremism and all forms of fanaticism, which are the major reason behind the civilizational decline and backwardness of the Muslim nation. It calls on the Yemeni people to stand united and firm against extremist ideas or attempts to instigate intolerance. It urged the people "responsible for mosques, education and guidance to act according to their responsibilities in producing youngsters who are brought up in line with

Islam and moderate principles, protecting them against the thought invasion that targets the nation, its religion and ethics."

With regards to the economic situation, the statement criticized the deteriorating economic situation, warning of a real economic and social disaster due to the prevalence of corruption and inflation. It demanded that the government take "serious steps to stop the waste of public money." It also criticized "the irresponsible and indifferent response of the authorities towards the statements issued by political parties", indicating that this position leads to "further complication of the situation."

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# Population high growth rate diminishes resources

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Economic development is considered an important factor in improving living conditions and in developing resources for the future. There is a complex and inter-connected relationship between population growth and the economic development on one hand, and between economic development and population characteristics.

In Yemen, the problem of low-levels of natural resources and falling economic capabilities, are worsened by the population growth, which devours a large proportion of available resources.

Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Asbahi, in a working paper explained that Yemen ranks 64th amongst 94 developing countries in the human poverty guide.

42% of the Yemeni population live beneath the poverty line, which means that almost one out of two citizens lives under the poverty line (which is an expenditure rate averaging one US dollar per day). Despite this situation, Gross National Product, dropped from US\$8,953 million in 1990 to US\$5,494 million in 1995, although it had been expected to increase to US\$9,222 million. This change was not significant, as it is connected mainly to oil prices which constitute 30% of local GNP, with 4.6% from foreign assistants. It does however mean a drop in the average income per capita from the GNP.

There is an uneven distribution of income and consumption. The 1998 family budget survey indicates that the poorest 20% of the population consumed only 7.4% of national income, while the richest 20% of the population, consumed 41.2%. The 2003 United

Nations Human Resources Report indicates that the investment flow in Yemen is recorded at -2.2%.

In the light of these conditions, the effect of a high population growth rate would very highly tax the already limited economic growth and further stretch the provision of primary services such electricity, water and sanitation, education and health.

The flagrant unemployment rate, which currently constitutes about 11.5% of the labor force, represents another face of the relationship between population growth and economic growth. The size of the labor force will continue to change in accordance with the population growth that in Yemen, is heading towards a record level. Unemployment would consequently increase if development opportunities do not increase in line the population increase.

# Self-evaluation seminar and Academic Sufficiency

YT TAZI BUREAU

Under the auspices of H.E. Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Education and Academic Training and Development Center organized a seminar on self-evaluation and academic sufficiency. The seminar was held during the period 3rd -5th July at the Faculty of Literature in Taiz University.

The aims and the objectives of the seminar, as reflected by several working papers presented and discussed at the seminar, were to shed more details on the definition of self-evaluation and academic sufficiency in terms of principles, strategies, measures and standards, based on the practical experiments of some Arab countries in these fields. And to determine the required skills, measures and methods used to achieve self-evaluation, and to come out from the seminar with a vision for future implementation.

The seminar was chaired by Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Sofi, President of Taiz University and Chairman of the Center, coordinated by Dr. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Dhaifany, Director of the Center and Dr. Najah Abdulrahem, Director of self-evaluation and academic sufficiency unit, was the rapporteur of the seminar.

The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Deans of faculties at Taiz University and a number of intellectuals and academics attended sessions during the three-day seminar.

# National Seminar on Intellectual Property concludes

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The National Seminar on Intellectual Property, organized by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism with the cooperation of World Intellectual Property Protection Organization (WIPO) was held during 10-13 July.

The seminar was concluded with the issuance of a number of recommendations confirming the importance of reaching a legal formula to confront the challenges imposed by information technology and the information revolution.

The participants recommended conducting a serious discussion by the related authorities on WIPO treaties regarding author's rights and verbal recording towards developing legislation that would take into consideration modes of transmission, such as through the internet and digital equipment, available today. They urged accession to the Bern and Paris agreements concerning the protection of art and literature works and industrial property respectively, and to benefit from the advantages the two agreements facilitate and from the technical and technological assistance WIPO presents.

The participants emphasized the roles of the judicial, security and customs authorities in confronting imitated and fake works through enacting strict meas-



Panel of the seminar

ures that would protect authors' rights and industrial property. They recommended encouraging the private sector to invest in research in order to develop the national economy.

The participants also recommended supporting national industries and inventions and to always take into consideration at the time of enacting legislation the protection of plant life, folklore and traditions with the objective of developing the agriculture sector and to protect national heritage. They also recommended including intellectual property in the Yemeni university curriculum, updating the related departments at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and

the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and continuing disseminating intellectual property awareness and education at the related authorities. This would take place at specialized courts, the public prosecution, judicial police and customs.

The participants confirmed the need to formulate a national strategy to be concerned with intellectual property

Mr. Iqbal Bhader, undersecretary at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Mr. Hisham Ali Bin Ali, undersecretary at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and Dr. Samr Al-Trawneh, Economic Division counselor at WIPO's Arab office attended the closing ceremony of the seminar.

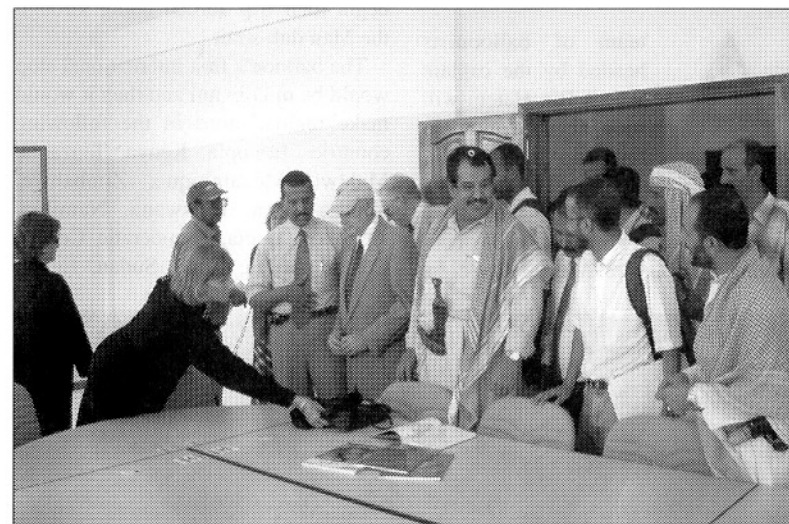
# U.S. Ambassador lays the foundation stone to the Yemen Civilization Museum in Marib

By Yemen Times Staff

The Ambassador of the United States of America H.E. Edmund Hull, with the accompaniment of Deputy of Marib Governor, laid the foundation stone to the Yemen Civilization Museum, which will be built and equipped with the assistant of the US government. The estimated cost of the museum is US\$3 million.

The Ambassador presented Dr. Abdul Majeed Al-Khaledi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health for technical and planning affairs, with the first batch of equipment for "The President" Hospital worth US\$5.7 million.

The US Ambassador also presented the sum of US\$40,000 to 36 farmers in Marib who are working in the plantation and growing of fruits and vegetables with the aim of improving the irrigation methods and extending pipes



Deputy governor of Marib and a host of guests attending ceremony of laying the museum's foundation stone

from water wells to arable lands.

The US Ambassador with the accompaniment of Undersecretary of Marib Governorate Mr. Ali Mohamed Al-Fatemi and Dr. Abdul Majeed Al-

Khaledi, held a press conference at "Belguis Hotel" to reply to the questions of some journalists.

In replying to Yemen Times' question about what has been circulating about the interference of the US and other parties at Sadaah Governorate and the rebellion of Al-Hothi, the Ambassador said, "I think that Al-Hothi case is a Yemeni internal matter and we do not have any specific information about foreign interference or about Al-Hothi's relations with foreign parties. But I think it is very important that the Yemeni government control all parts of Yemen and protect the unity of Yemen".

Dr. Abdul Majeed Al-Khaledi, on his part reaffirmed commitments to equip the hospital with the modern equipment and to operate it with either Yemeni qualified cadre or to hire foreign medical staff until a Yemeni medical cadre can take their place. He also confirmed that the Ministry of Health bore the responsibility to take care and to provide maintenance to the medical equipment received from the US Government.



US Ambassador at ceremony of laying foundation stone of the museum






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# Local Open Tender to supply Office Equipment

Ref: PMU-WTO/04

The Project Management Unit of Communication and Coordination with World Trade Organization Office intends to award a supply contract for Office Equipment "Server, Workstations, Photocopiers machines etc..." in Sana'a with financial assistance from the ALA program of the European Communities. The tender dossier is available from Ministry of Industry and Trade, Sana'a Al-Hassabah, 2nd Floor CCO-WTO office. The deadline for submission of tenders is August 24th 2004, at 3:00 pm Sana'a Local Time.

# Bohemian Trio at The Taj Sheba

The Taj Sheba Hotel's fine dining restaurant - The Golden Oasis - has steadily evolved in concept over the years and in its new form promises to make any evening memorable.

The Bulgarian trio of Kamlen Kulev, Ivelina Staykova and Iva Ivanova who together comprise Bohemian Trio have performed in Norway, Turkey and in India and now will be playing for you at the Golden Oasis every night (except Monday's).

The trio are professional musicians with a vast repertoire that covers country, rock 'n' roll, latino, pop and topped up with some jazz as well!!! On account of their vast exposure to people from all over the world, the band in addition to performing in English also sings in six other languages namely Italian, French, Turkish, Arabic, Russian and Spanish!

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# Yemeni journey around three continents

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A team of balloonists headed by the captain Wagas Bin Hatem will soon begin a momentous trip in a hot air balloon. The balloon will launch from Sana'a and arrive at Taiz, where they would stop for two days, before continuing their trip to Aden. After eight

days of rest in Aden, the team will begin their trip abroad going through the Man dub strait.

The balloon's first international stop would be in Djibouti and then it would make regular stops in the following countries Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Angola, Zambia, Democratic Congo, Central Africa, Chad, Sudan, Egypt.



Captain Wagas Bin Hatem

Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The balloon would then cross the African continent to Europe. The first stop in Europe would be Madrid, Spain, then the team would make stops at Paris, Geneva, Vienna, Berlin, Warsaw, Slovak, Czech, Bucharest, Budapest, Ankara, Iran, Dubai, Masqat, Riyadh, Doha, Kuwait, Jordan, back to Saudi before returning to Yemen.

In many of the countries and cities visited by the team, exhibitions would be held promoting tourism in Yemen. The team's main objectives are:

- 1- to promote investment in Yemen
- 2- to encourage sports in Yemen particularly ballooning
- 3- to establish a route for the trip, which could be traced as to the benefit of the major destination points.
- 4- to conduct study and research during the journey to be given to Yemeni universities, and research centers in Yemen and abroad.
- 5- to study the climate and weather conditions from different dimensions above sea level.
- 6- recording any developing phenomenon the team may encounter during this long journey.





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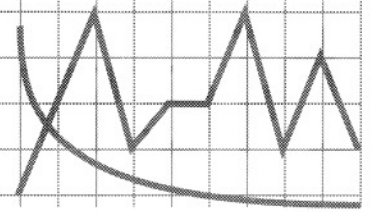








# YT Business



*After parliamentarians failure to curb it,*

# Would junior MPs succeed in combating child labour?

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The children parliament has placed the child labour phenomenon, which spreads among children of ages ranging 6-14 year old and is growing at an annual rate of 6.4%, at the top of its priority issues agenda for the coming period.

The parliament has formed four committees, including a committee for discussion of the child labour phenomenon and following it up with the concerned parties, in its bid for working out a strategy curbing the leaking of schoolchildren from school and go to labour market.

The question, however, is whether the junior parliamentarians could succeed in resolving a problem the adults have so far failed to resolve, especially under data of official figures confirming that the expansion of the phenomenon of poverty and its acuteness is aggravating the problem of child labour. It is because of the need of their families for financial resources coming through employing their children in the labour market and in jobs exposing them to dangers and acts of violence.

These parliamentarians say their parliamentary committee, set up for dealing with combating this phenomenon, has discusses with representatives from the ministries of social affairs and labour and human rights as well as the higher council for motherhood and childhood, the causes motivating the child labour. They also added that the committee would prepare its recommendations and decisions and place them before the officials of the state so that to guarantee their being put into force as part of intensive efforts meant for solving the problem in a radical

way.

The committee's plans are concentrated on attracting the attention of the concerned parties in the effort for dealing with and tackling the causes of child labour, mainly the encouragement of families for urging females to attend the basic education stage. Figures in this regard mention that 51.4% of females under the banner of child labour have never before attended education institutes. The task of the committee seems complicated in the face of an issue involving working children totaling about 500 thousand, 95% of them working in the countryside with their families in agriculture and without getting wages. This matter necessarily means there must be a driving of government efforts towards enrollment of children in basic education stage.

The national strategy for combating poverty had diagnosed reasons behind child labour phenomenon as ascribed to assisting the family by a rate of 71%. The cause of family poverty and the father unemployment or death forms 15.3%. Among other reasons of child labour is the children's abstention from joining schools and their non-desire to do so and their failure in schools at a rate of 19.4%. Other reasons occupy a percentage of 3.3%.

Academics say the formation of committee concerned with the effort of fighting child labour by the children parliament actually comes as part of a media campaign reminding the concerned sides about the importance of following up the phenomenon and curbing it because the problem needs continuous government efforts.

According to the report issued by the higher council for motherhood and childhood, families of street children are known of the large number of their members amounting to 7 to 9. In addition,



Curbing child labor phenomenon, adopted as top priority by junior parliamentarians in Yemen

while 63.5% of mothers of those children do not work and 13.6% works in agriculture and 9.3% at cleaning work field. Despite of those complications,

members of children parliament members stress they would devote all their efforts towards fighting child labour through discussions and dialogues the juvenile committee would hold with

the concerned sides in an attempt to reach a clear-cut mechanism limiting the phenomenon in future and help protect children against dangers of work at labour market, at an early age.

## The role of media in development

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

All media instruments have a remarkable role in engaging the society in development process and implementation of plans and programs at both national and local levels. But this role would be complete with content of the constructive media messages and credibility of their harmony with requirements and needs of the society.

Realization of media message requires professional and technical skills and the use and direction of media tools to various segments of the society in order to attain the goal of actively engaging them in the implementation of development and services projects. It is therefore the media messages require taking care of the targeted people and development of their potentials for execution of the development objectives. The matter needs upgrading the condition of those working in information field to enable them convey clear and undistorted messages as well as stable which would not get influenced by psycholo-

gy and circumstances of information messages makers.

Here lies the significance of qualification of media cadre the parliament has recently recommended in a manner commensurate to the big volume of the role shouldered on the media people especially those holding the responsibility of engaging the society in implementation of development projects.

According to the relationship between media message makers and their recipients the developmental information does connect between the central plans of the state and their execution at the national level and the local development plans pertaining to the governorates and districts taking into consideration clarification of the aspirated for integration in the general performance of the administrative units.

The programmed media message can elucidate to the people the volume of the benefit they would get by building a road or the installation of dams, barriers or power generators in their areas. This would urge them to interact and positive cooperation in the imple-

mentation of those projects and participate in funding them and also bear any burdens necessitating from them to contribute to meeting them. This can be achieved through media awareness campaign according to their various specialties.

Contrary to that the absence of media message may push some people to obstruct the building of roads across their territories or could harm their properties. It is not enough to take a decision without informing the citizens about the nature of its development and services goals, and this is a role to be played by the media in this field.

The role of the media is not confined to awareness about dimensions of economic and development plans and projects but rather engagement of the society in finding mechanisms convenient to their execution.

In this respect paying attention and taking care of the media cadre and improvement of their living situation is very significant as well as working for their psychological stability to perform their required role in the process of entire development in the country.

## Increase in total amount of investment, improvement in sources of funding

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Official efforts are heading for increasing the proportion of total investment within the current prices by a big average estimated at a rate of about 11.5% until the end of the year 2005. This is expected to result in the increase of the proportion of gross domestic product to 26%.

The strategic plans in this area aim at rising and improving the infrastructure of the economy and services as well as increasing productive capacity for providing new job opportunities and activating the role of the private sector in investment. The goal is to raise that role to about 69% out of the total amount of investment and an 18% of the volume of the gross domestic product.

According to the strategic plans, it is expected that the proportion of government would drop by 4.3% at

the end of next year against a simple increase for funding the non-governmental sector including the public institutions by 19%.

The end of next year is a date fixed by the governments strategy for alleviation of poverty and implementation of investment projects along with evaluation of its findings with regard to providing job opportunities and the resulting problematic, if any.

The government had defined the total cost of investment projects to be executed during the period 2003-2005 by around YR413.4 billion, of which YR18.9 billion the cost of new projects against YR394.7 billion for projects and programs under construction. The government also mentions that its effort for achieving goals of the human development millennium, it has worked for providing support by donors of the new investment projects but says its efforts have not met with full success. The private sector, on its part, complains of sluggishness of proce-

dures necessary for the investment process due to some prevalent administrative complications in managing work and granting investment licenses.

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.6900	184.8700
Sterling Pound	345.8400	346.1800
Euro	229.9900	230.2200
Saudi Rial	49.2500	49.2900
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.4700	629.0800
UAE Dirhem	50.2800	50.3300
Egyptian Pound	29.8400	29.8700
Bahraini Dinar	489.8900	490.3600
Qatari Rial	50.7400	50.7900
Jordanian Dinar	260.4900	260.7500
Omani Rial	479.7300	480.2000
Swiss Franc	150.5600	150.7100
Swedish Crown	2499.0000	25.0100
Japanese Yen	1.6983	1.7000

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

# Newborns in Yemen

By RANIA ABDULLAH AL-SHARABI  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Each country probably has its set of unique traditions and customs for various social occasions. Yemen has a variety of very distinctive traditions, customs and rituals. In particular, Yemen has unique practices or rituals on the occasion of celebrating a newborn baby. Celebrations differ totally or slightly from one geographical area to another.

#### In the Sana'a area:

From the first day of childbirth to the fifteenth day, the newborn's mother stays and sits in the same room, where she receives intermittent visits from relatives and close friends, especially in the afternoon. During these first two weeks, she does not expect too many visits from relatives, friends, acquaintances or first-time congratulators. The first two weeks are considered recuperation time for the mother who has just delivered a baby. Each first-time congratulator normally presents a gift for the baby or juice or some money. The amount of money varies from one well-wisher to another. It is primarily a symbolic gesture.

Anyway, the mother of the newborn baby stays alone during the first three days after delivery before the visitors are permitted to sit in her room. The guests are escorted to another room where they would socialize with each other until it is time to leave. The third day, when guests can stay in the mother's room is marked by the distribution of candy and tea or coffee. The seventh day, Benan Day, is marked by drinking tea and eating cake.

After two weeks have elapsed, the mother moves to another larger room because more guests are expected to attend frequently. The mother's sitting, with her newborn baby, is elevated higher than the rest of the room and is wider so she can lie down. The sitting is normally decorated with a dis-

tinctive-smelling, plant "Shadhab", and the mother is dressed up in traditional dress.

On the fortieth day, the final ceremonial day, the mother has special decorating drawings, "Nagsh", drawn on her hands and legs. Almost all of the relatives, close friends and acquaintances who frequently paid courtesy visits are invited to attend this party, "Al-Arbaeen". Tea, coffee, juices and cakes are distributed to guests. A traditional singer has to be hired to perform songs. Qat, packs of cigarettes, drinks have to be furnished by the family of the newborn baby.

As for the celebrations by the men's side of the family, they are usually marked only if the newborn baby is a boy. On the day the newborn baby gets circumcised, male relatives and friends are invited to a feast, and a qat chewing session follows the lunch.

#### In the Al-Mahweet area:

The mother of the newborn baby stays in one room where she receives the guests and their gifts. After one week, a peacock is slaughtered and its blood is buried to cast away envy and demons. This action is repeated after another week.

#### In the Hodiedah area:

The celebrations begin after one week has elapsed. On the morning of the eighth day, a sheep is slaughtered, especially when the newborn is a boy. Relatives and close friends are invited to lunch and a qat chewing session, which begins after four o'clock in the afternoon.

The female congratulators begin visiting the newborn's mother and present "Rafid" to the mother, an amount of money between 100-1000 Riyals. Giving money is considered a reciprocal treatment, therefore, the amount of money is expected to be returned when the guest delivers a baby.

Tea, "Sheesha", "Mada'ah" and edible seeds are provided to guests during the remaining days until the

fortieth day when the celebrations end. Celebrations in Hodeidah usually last until midnight and sometimes later.

The above are just examples of the various traditions and customs in Yemen. It must be noted that they vary from one governorate to another and from one village to another within the same governorate, and they differ from having a newborn girl to having a newborn boy.

However, it must be noted also that the celebrations in Yemen include some rituals and practices of no apparent meaning, but are followed as traditions and customs that must not be breached.

Also, due to the high illiteracy rate among Yemenis, especially in rural areas, many mothers are not fully aware on how to react properly to meet the demands and needs of the newborn baby. This is particularly true of first-time mothers. They may inadvertently harm their newborns by feeding them inappropriate food, in addition to breast-feeding milk, and in giving them or using on them drops of oils and honey in their ears, noses and throats. Some women who want to go with the trend introduce "Shesha" smoking in rooms where infants are also present.

#### Religion and receiving newborn:

Religious Sheikh Abdulrahman Qahtan, with reference to some conceptions that accompany the celebration on the occasion of having a newborn baby, said that they are merely the creation of people and are not implemented because there is a religious stipulation requiring them. Islam enacted the donation of money or gold that is equivalent to the weight of the newborn's hair when it is first cut to be donated to the poor and the needy, and to slaughter two heads of sheep and a head of sheep on the seventh day to commemorate the newborn boy or girl, respectively. It is preferred for the father to recite the call to prayer quietly in the left ear of the

newborn baby immediately after the baby is born.

Of course, we did not ignore the scientific view towards some of the nasty habits associated with caring for newborns. Dr. Najeebah Al-Mahdi, a pediatrician, said that cutting the umbilical cord with an unsterilized tool could lead to the infection of the newborn with tetanus, and probably to death. Giving the baby sugary water during the first three days reduces the effectiveness of the baby's immune system, therefore making him susceptible to infections. Adding "Kohl" (a preparation of pulverized antimony used for darkening the edges of the eyelids) to the baby umbilicus (belly button) in order to stop bleeding may lead to inflammation, tetanus or poisoning the baby.

A strange habit is sticking one's finger, usually the grandmother's, inside the baby's throat to moisten the baby's throat or to put drops of oil, honey or ghee inside the baby's throat. This could lead to indigestion, diarrhea or infecting of the baby with acute pulmonary inflammation and subsequently to death.

Dr. Al-Mahdi said that the best methods to care for the newborn baby are first to cut the umbilical cord with something sterilized, to feed the baby from the mother after birth so that the baby gain immunity from his mother's milk, to avoid kissing the baby too much during the first three months to prevent the baby from getting a contagious disease, and to clean the baby and direct him to sunlight at sunrise to assist his bones to grow properly, to reduce the risk of paralysis. The newborn should sleep on his left or right side or on his stomach and the parents should check that the baby is still breathing.

Dr. Shdha Odai, on her part, said that the baby commence living outside his mother womb by a scream that must take place during the first minute. Otherwise, the baby could encounter a permanent disability due to damage to brain.

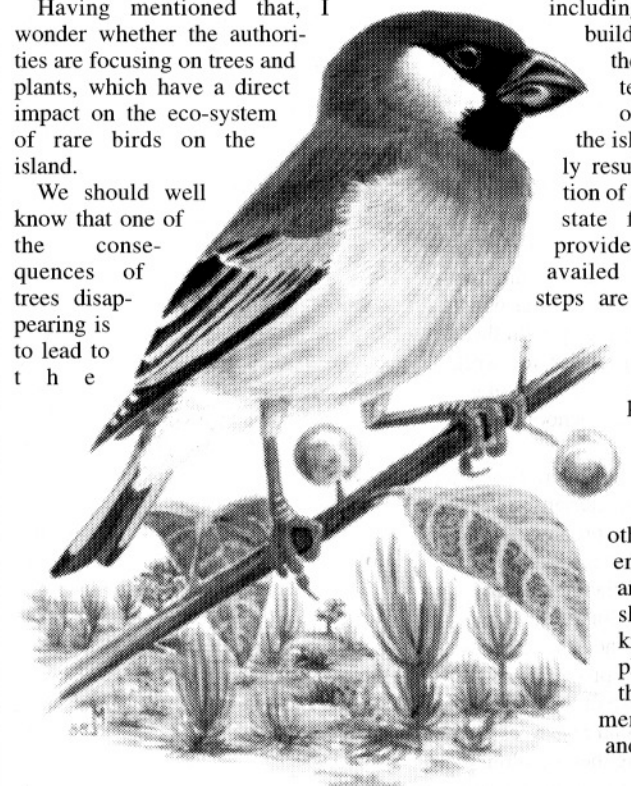
# Protection of the birds of Socotra Island

By ALI AL-SHARIF  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

My heart moved at seeing the incredible vegetation of Socotra Island, and I only wished that tree choppers would not be tempted to axe more of those unique plants, than is absolutely necessary to supply fire for domestic consumption and house roofing. However, in the wake of the remarkably fast development in many sectors of the Island following unification, coupled with the population growth which is on a dramatic rise, increasingly large quantities of fire wood as source of energy, are needed to meet the demands of the populace.

Having mentioned that, I wonder whether the authorities are focusing on trees and plants, which have a direct impact on the eco-system of rare birds on the island.

We should well know that one of the consequences of trees disappearing is to lead to the



extinction of some types of bird. Therefore the environmental protection authorities should put its weight more heavily on this particular issue. Readers, 'environment' is a vast field, my emphasis in this context is to have this particular sector attended to urgently, objectively and seriously. Rare birds play an important part in attracting tourists to the spot and we are obligated to act now and not to wait for the future to protect them. It would most probably be impossible to restore the damaged part of this fascinating and precious environment unless the concerned authorities act now! But then how? Let me put the following proposal to the decision makers: make available butane gas to all corners of the Island at a subsidized price

including the necessary building materials. In the long term, protecting the welfare of the people of the island will evidently result in the generation of an income for the state from tourism - provided energy is available soon. If these steps are taken, environmental protection can be meaningful, possible and practical.

In the mean time, the technique of using other sources of energy: Bio Gas and Solar Energy, should be made known to the people of Socotra, as they are environmentally friendly and cost effective.

## RE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER FOR THE SECOND TIME

The Maritime affairs authority announce the general tender No. 1/2004 for the construction of its Hudeida Branch building (Government funding).

Contractors, categorized as class 1 and class 2, who are interested in participating in this tender may apply to the head office of the Authority of Hada street, nearby the Yemeni - German Hospital, Sana'a, to procure a copy of the conditions and specifications against a nonrefundable amount of US\$ 500.

For submission of bids, the following conditions should be observed:

1. Enclosing a bid bond in favor of the authority at 2.5%. at least, of the total bid price in accordance with a payable check or an unconditional bank guarantee letter issued by an accredited bank in the Republic of Yemen, valid for 90 days as of date of opening the envelopes.
2. Enclosing a copy of the tax card, renewed for the year 2004, and presenting the original for tally-up purposes.
3. Enclosing a copy of the classification certificate, Renewed for the year 2004, and presenting the original for tally-up purposes.
4. Enclosing a copy of insurance card.
5. Enclosing a copy of the profession Exercising License.
6. submitting the bid in an envelop sealed with red wax.
7. no bid that violates any of the conditions above shall be entertained.
8. the authority is not obliged to accept the least price.

Closing date for purchasing the tender documents shall be at the end of official work time on Saturday 21/8/2004 and the deadline for the submission of bids shall be 10.00 A.M of the Saturday, 28/8/2004.

Envelopes shall be opened at 11.0 A.M of the same day in the head office of the authority in Sana'a.

## اعادة اعلان مناقصة للمرة الثانية

### تعلم الهيئة العامة للشؤون البحرية

عن رغبتها في انزال المناقصة العامة رقم 1 / 2004 م

لإنشاء مبنى فرع الهيئة بالحليدية (تمويل حكومي)

فعلى الأخوة المقاولين المصنفين من الدرجة الأولى والثانية الراغبين في دخول المناقصة التقدم بطلباتهم الى المركز الرئيسي للهيئة بشارع حدة جوار المستشفى اليمني الألماني - صنعاء والحصول على نسخة من الشروط والمواصفات مقابل مبلغ وقدرة (500) دولار خمسمائة دولار أمريكي لاترد. ويشترط لتقديم العطاءات مايلي:

1. ارفاق تأمين ابتدائي لصالح الهيئة لا يقل عن نسبة (2,5%) من إجمالي قيمة العطاء بموجب شيك مقبول الدفع أو خطاب ضمان بنكي غير مشروط صادر من أحد البنوك المعتمدة في الجمهورية صالح لمدة (90) يوما من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.
2. ارفاق صورة من البطاقة الضريبية مجددة للعام 2004 واحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
3. ارفاق صورة من شهادة التصنيف مجددة للعام 2004 واحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
4. ارفاق صورة من البطاقة التأمينية.
5. ارفاق صورة من ترخيص مزاولة المهنة.
6. تقديم العطاء داخل مظروف مختوم بالشمع الأحمر.
7. لن ينظر في أي عطاء لم يلتزم بالشروط المحددة أعلاه.
8. الهيئة غير ملزمة بقبول أقل الأسعار.

علما بأن آخر موعد لشراء وثائق المناقصة سيكون نهاية دوام يوم السبت الموافق 21/8/2004 وسيكون آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات في الساعة العاشرة من صباح يوم السبت الموافق 28/8/2004 وسيتم فتح المظاريف في تمام الساعة الحادية عشر من صباح نفس اليوم في المركز الرئيسي بصنعاء.

# Opium threatens Afghanistan's security

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

This month Afghanistan's interim government made a decision that should bring democracy to the war-torn country. Even though the elections have been delayed, the presidential election is scheduled to be held in October, followed by parliamentary elections next spring. Many Afghans see the elections as a positive sign for their future after going through 25 years of warfare and three decades of having no power to vote.

But there is a menace growing in Afghanistan that will be difficult for the new government to handle and might continue to be a threat to the country's stability. Opium production has flourished since the Taliban regime was ousted in late 2001. In 2003, over 80,000 hectares were used for poppy cultivation and the country produced 3,600 tons of opium - up from 185 tons in 2001 - taking up 75% of the world market. It is estimated that the drug trade accounted for half of the country's gross domestic product.

According to the United Nations, opium production has jumped even higher this year.

"Our assessment of poppy cultivation is not been completed, but indicators show that cultivation continued to rise in 2004," said Alexandre Schmidt, Crime Prevention Expert of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The Afghan government took initial steps to fight the drug business this year by implementing an eradication program. Syed Alamudin Atheer, Deputy Director of Counter Narcotics Directorate, said that the government has destroyed 25,000 hectares of poppy fields in over a half-dozen provinces. But critics say that the government was late starting the eradication program.

"The government went and destroyed what was left late spring and early summer after the poppies had been cultivated," said an Afghan government official. "I think it was just a show to make it look like they had done something."

The government will have problems getting farmers to follow the eradication program in the future. To convince farmers to stop growing poppies, what is needed is a profitable alternative crop. Up until now, no program has been implemented to help the farmers find a substitute.

"There has been an immediate focus on eradication with little focus on what happens after eradication," said Schmidt. "September is the time to plant poppies again. If nothing happens by September, what are people going to

do while they need to earn a living? There is no other choice but to plant poppies."

Many farmers say they are not against changing to another crop but are angry that they are left with no assistance after losing their best source of income.

"The government destroyed what we can cultivate and did not bring us anything," said Abdul Samad, a farmer in the Herat province where poppy fields were destroyed last month. "If we do not have an alternative, I will not be able to do anything but grow poppies."

Rebuilding Afghanistan is also vital for the farmers to be able to move away from cultivating poppies. After years of ongoing warfare, roads have been left in shambles which has made it difficult for farmers to ship produce to a market. Irrigation facilities have been destroyed, so farmers rely on poppies that require less water than most other crops.

But reconstructing Afghanistan has been slow. President Hamid Karzai requested \$27.5 billion over a seven-year period to rebuild the country soon after he took office in 2001, but money coming in from donor countries has not kept up with the amount needed each year. The Bush administration has diverted military and financial resources from Afghanistan to the war in Iraq. To rebuild the two countries, the United States has come up with \$2.2 billion for Afghanistan and \$18.6 billion to go to Iraq. A large part of funding for Afghanistan will be for military projects and emergency relief, not long-term development.

Drug trafficking in Afghanistan now supports a number of factions struggling for power. The remnants of the Taliban fighting US forces in the south use opium to finance their insurgency. Over a dozen warlords, who filled the power vacuum since the interim government was put into place, exploit the drug trade to pull in money and help build their power base.

"Some groups have their own armies and need money to support them," said Atheer. "Warlords, druglords and religious militants have become involved in the drug business because they cannot get money through legal forms of business. We can also say that these groups are responsible for the increase in violence with an aim to destabilize the country."

To help stabilize the country, the Afghan government started to disarm the mujahedin, soldiers who fought against the Soviet Union and the Taliban and their loyal warlords. The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration program aimed to collect

40,000 weapons by mid-summer, but only a few thousand have been seized. Powerful warlords, who control vast areas outside Kabul, the capital, have refused cooperating to handover weapons.

While the US soldiers have concentrated on the Taliban in the south, NATO has headed the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to provide security throughout the country. The ISAF has had only 6,500 troops stationed in Afghanistan, mostly patrolling the streets of the capital. Last month, NATO promised to send another 1,500 and expand its operations outside Kabul to help stabilize the country during elections.

The government also has plans to expand on the Afghan National Army (ANA), which has only 8,300 troops. According to Umer Daudzai, Chief of Staff for President Karzai, the government aims to double the amount of soldiers this year. The US goal is to train 10,000-12,000 each year to help create an Afghan army of 70,000 soldiers by 2011.

Azizullah Lodin, President of General Administration of Anti-Bribery and Corruption, argues that if the two governments had done this sooner, Afghanistan could have kept the emergence of warlords and the drug trade in check.

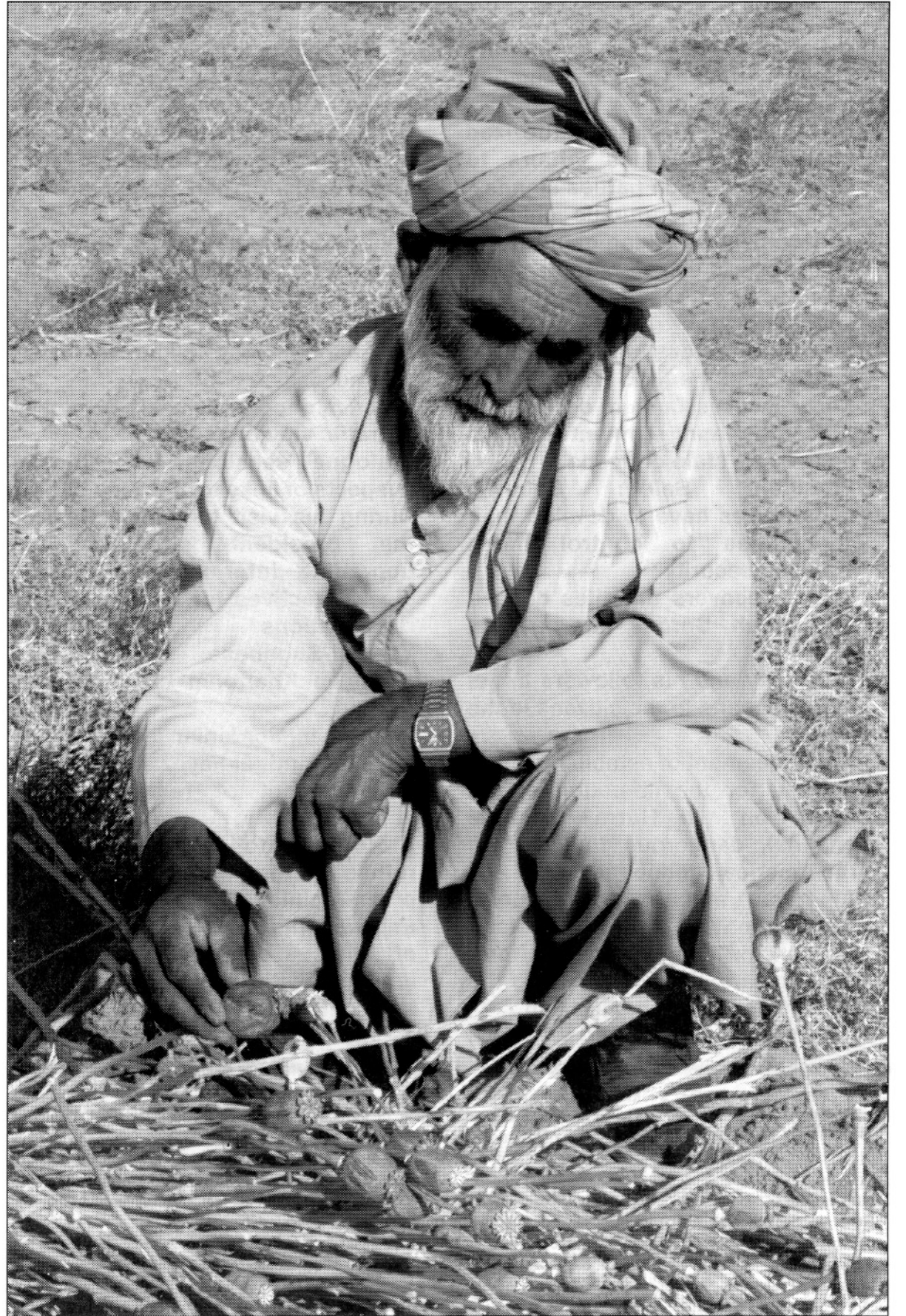
"They should have strengthened the national army from the beginning because if the power had been with the central government, warlords and druglords wouldn't have filled the vacuum," Lodin said.

Until recently, Afghanistan was a supplier of opium as a raw material that was exported to neighboring countries. Now sophisticated labs to produce the lucrative end product, heroin, have emerged. Organized crime groups have also set up shop which will make fighting drug trafficking more difficult.

"With more organized crime groups, drug trafficking more complex and heroin being exported instead of raw material, dealing with the drug business is going to be difficult," said Atheer.

This month it was reported that the surge in poppy cultivation has flooded the market which has pushed the price of opium down. In the last few months, prices dropped by around 65%. Some say that it might force farmers to seek alternative crops next year. But others argue that the glut in the market will not last forever and will only be a short-term fix.

"For the long haul, Afghanistan needs to implement a comprehensive program to control the production of opium," said Atheer. "Without it, we will not be able to tackle the drug business."



An Afghan farmer in his poppy field in north Afghanistan (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)



Soldiers of the Afghan National Army responsible for securing the unstable country (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Employer:** Elcome International LLC, Aden branch office  
**Post:** Assistant Service Engineer  
**Qualifications:** Degree/Diploma in Electronics & Communications  
**Experience:** 2 to 3 years in CCTV and security system  
**Language:** Fluent in English and Arabic both  
**Computer knowledge:** Will be preferred

Should be creative and take initiative to complete the Job.

Candidate meeting the above requirements send their resume and contact immediately to:

**Elcome International LLC,**  
**P.O. Box No. 9, Crater, Aden, Yemen**  
**Tel/Fax:389332**  
**Tel. 383383 Ext. 3219**  
**Mobile: 71160648 - Attn: Mr. N.P. YADAV**

# Yemeni Press, A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

## Main headlines

- Opposition arbitrates to the constitution and the law
- Observers warn against serious consequences of deepening vengeance and conflicts among tribes
- Al-Atwani: Who has authorized chairman of parties' affairs to assess opposition parties stands?
- Parliamentarians pursue children and women trafficking gangs
- India exports disasters to Yemen
- 43 Iraqi ambassadors to be appointed soon
- Beirut Declaration criticizes condition of the Arab woman
- Kerry accuses Bush of deceit
- Al-Houthy and remnants of his gang live a state of despair
- President Saleh: Security apparatuses have to develop their capabilities to control those violating security
- Yemen recovers the sites defined in Jeddah Border International Treaty
- Al-Houthy and his followers target their weapons to the citizens in the area
- Announcement of establishment of a party for the liberation of the south on "Al Hurra" satellite channel, dangerous indicator of the American conspiracy
- American ambassador Edmond Hull confirms the American support for the government efforts to terminate al-Houthy, calling the citizens for exterminating him
- Political Security arrest Mr Yahya Salem Azan, founder of the "Believing Youth" on his return from Beirut
- In Iraq: American recognition of escalation of confrontations
- Fierce battles in Saadah
- Saudi Arabia denies termination of confrontations with terrorists
- The president: There is no place in the homeland for seditionists and abhorred racism
- In reply to Amnesty International on Saadah events: Yemeni government asserts its keenness on sparing blood, taking to force was necessary
- America deports Yemenis because of traffic violations
- Dialogue sessions with those suspects of links to al-Qaeda begin
- During his visit to Sana'a Radio, the president stresses on upgrading information address, gives directives for building local radio stations
- Yemeni-Sudanese Commission meets in Khartoum beginning of August
- In a Yemeni-Jordanian meeting: PM Bajamal and al-Fayez emphasize enhancement of relations and cooperation
- Al-Houthy followers fanatics, refuse getting convinced with others opinions
- Endowments minister: rectification of religious schools statuses, no leniency with teaching methods and curricula inconsistent with constants

**Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 13 July 2004.**

- Main headlines**
- Battle in Saadah not in favour of government forces
  - 5 people killed, 7 houses demolished in Radda'a
  - NUO Secretary-General: Saving the country would be realized by dialogue only
  - Al-Houthy inflicts rising human losses on government forces, forcing them change their plans
  - Plundered properties under free disposal of security director, Citizens in Hajjah hold interior minister responsible for destruction inflicted on them

Writer Aness Sinnan says in an article that the obstacle of domination and control on trade unionist work remains a problem that is hindering unions' performance and rendered them into weak entities. This is the situation of most unions in our country, but it is rather the major problem that malfunctioned most of civil society organisations.

What happens in the students union of Sana'a University is not far from what is mentioned above, it is part of the series of domination and the policy of containment that has hindered its action and changed it into a partisan propaganda voice or an official cover for policies that exhausted strength of the students.

Since its foundation in the eighties of the last century, the General Union of Students in Yemen remained under the control of two certain sides that took turn in controlling it and sharing its leading bodies. The state continued even after the Yemeni unification. The

students remained without a union representing them and failed in unification of the students' movement through founding an entity representing all Yemen's students. Due to the importance of what the students sector represents of vitality and importance as one of the active segments of the society, it has represented an axis of conflict and competition among various political forces in an attempt to influence it and polarize it among their circles.

Many factors, mainly the policy of containment and control, have impeded the establishment of a unified student entity and resulted in the formation of several student entities. All of them failed to offer services to the student or to defend his interests and develop his skills.

**RAY weekly, organ of the Sons of Yemen Party, 13 July 2004.**

- Main headlines**
- Human Rights minister al-Sousawa remarks on official comments on human rights in Yemen
  - Information ministry issues a new newspaper bearing the name of "Al-Shoura"
  - Official reports mention about 3500 children smuggled to neighbouring countries

Columnist Faisal Sultan al-Soufi says in his article the talk on human rights in Islam is going on strongly but there are well-reputed intellectuals refusing categorically to recognize the human rights mentioned in international agreements and also in the name of Islam. One of them Mr Mahmoud Sultan says the Islamic stance from the world declaration of human rights does not tolerate hesitation because the reference of the declaration is the western

culture, claiming that the Islamic thinkers trying to find concord between principles of human rights in the international law and the Islamic texts in this regard are playing a role more dangerous on Islam than the secularists.

As for the Islamic thinkers, the source of their danger stems from their role in speaking in the name of Islam. One of them recorded in one of his books a condemnation of all that is related to human rights and refusal of the principle of the people as the source of human rights and named elections and parliaments as blasphemous councils.

The writer adds that organisations working in the area of human rights in the Arab and Islamic countries are secular and intelligence organisations funded by foreign ministries in Europe and America and supported by churches. Human rights are secular and the evidence is that those organisations sum up the human rights to those of the leftists, communists, seculars and non-Muslim minorities in the Islamic countries, utilizing thought and art for promoting blasphemy, and permissiveness. Women and human rights are security embodiment of western secular thought.

**Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the People's General Congress, 12 July 2004.**

- Main headlines**
- 7th of July opened for our people spacious horizons of progress and development, our people capable of aborting all conspiracies
  - Dr Al-Asbahi: Hoisting the Yemeni flag on the Empty Quarter, significant step for excavating wealth of this area for its development

- Workshop for improvement of Social Welfare Fund's performance
- Because they contradict the law, violate the president's directives,
- Bajamal cancels information minister decisions on appointments in the television

Columnist Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says in an article that every day passes after the catastrophe of Iraq occupation confirms a new cause of those the aggressors aimed to achieve. Among the main reasons that have been revealed and made clearer in the passage of time is that the occupation of Iraq has preoccupied the Arab and world public opinions with what is going on in Iraq of events and aggressions to cover up what happens in the rest of the remainder of Palestine. What happens there is no less in ferocity than what is happening in Iraq.

By Samer A. There are a daily killings and public liquidations of active Palestinian leaders as well as demolition of houses and indiscriminate shelling. It can be said that the assassination of the two martyrs Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Dr Abdulaziz al-Rantissi would not have taken place had not Iraq had become an open arena and all Arab attention was directed to Iraq, following up what is going on its land in panic of the developments taking place in that great country that had fallen in the hands of occupation. Since the occupation of Iraq Palestine has lost more than it has lost over tens of years.

**26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 15 July 2004.**

- Main headlines**
- President Saleh receives a letter from king Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the crown prince
  - The special criminal court holds the second trial sitting for the suspects of Cole blast
  - Transport ministry begins naval inspection of foreign ships
  - Archaeological discoveries in Nashan al-Jawf
  - 52 infiltrators arrested in Hadramout and 60 Somali infiltrators in Sana'a

Columnist Faisal Jalool writes saying away from fathoming the past and its complications and the circumstances surrounding the Yemeni-Saudi relations it can be said that the Yemeni territories regained by virtue of several factors.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has categorized the issue of borders among his urgent priorities especially after the 1994 war and more particularly following the Yemeni unity. The unity declaration was accompanied by statements by unity officials announcing Sana'a wishes of solving issues of borders with neighbors by dialogue, peaceful ways and direct bilateral dialogue without external mediations. The rule in Yemen has reached to formulation of large-scale international relations and used those relations in pressing for resolving the issues of borders with the neighbours whether through international arbitration, as was the case with Eritrea or by direct dialogue as what happened with other Yemen's neighbours. Yemen has depended on reference to international law for settling disputes without squandering the historical rights as what happened in Taif Agreement. Former Yemeni regimes had insisted on adhering to the historical right alone. Yemen, on the other hand managed to make the issue of borders as part of international betting in the region. Previous eras had confined the questions to issues concerning Yemen and the related states. The former Yemeni eras were suffering from instability and intestine wars, depriving them of orienting efforts to resolve major national issues.

In other word president, Ali Abdullah Saleh could block the way to external interference in the country's

internal affairs utilizing the question of borders, narrowed before them the margin of maneuvering, and forced them to sign border agreements based on compromise and exchanged interests.

**Al-Balagh weekly, 13 July 2004.**

- Main headlines**
- American ambassador to Sana'a realized danger of al-Houthy stands against the American policy in the region
  - Military units break through a Salafi group hideout in Al-Kaidah town
  - In an attempt to damage the fish wealth, Poisonous material discovered on Aden beach
  - Hassan Nassrallah: All American politicians and military commanders support Israel
  - After scandals of Abu Ghraib prison, Guantanamo scandals anew

The editor in chief of the newspaper says in his article that the president Ali Abdullah Saleh is known by taking his courageous decisions always. It is known that the decision to go to war needs a big courage and the decision of stopping the war needs a bigger courage. We have always known the president as courageous in defending the national unity and courageous in preserving the unity. Had it not been for his bravery and insistence on the war in 1994, the decision of secessionism would have been his tragedy and Yemen would have returned divided. Thus, the president was courageous in insisting on continuation of the battle until the unity had been preserved.

Nowadays continue the sounds of projectiles, tanks and airplanes in the events in Saadah and continues the bleeding of the Yemeni blood of our military and civilian sons. These bloods are very dear and expensive for the president and we are certain he feels sorry and pained of shedding it.

The president has always been courageous in his war and peace decisions, courageous in his pardon and taking the decision of his pardon for the group of 16. Thus, we hope he would stop the bleeding of blood in Saadah and he would always be courageous by this decision.

**Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, Yemen regional leadership, 14 July 2004.**

- Main headlines**
- Pitched battles in Saadah
  - Political Security organisation violates the law
  - Teachers Union condemns sacking some educationists
  - Lawyers Union, Sana'a branch holds its conference
  - An appeal to Social Welfare Fund
  - UNICEF holds training course for mothers in Lahj governorate

Dr Abdulhaidh Nouman says in his article that the Baath Party issued a statement on the events in Saadah governorate calling the Yemeni government to bear its constitutional and legal responsibilities for ending the rebel-

lion and extinguishes the sedition as well as restoring security and stability to the areas of events. The national parties have to shoulder their historic responsibilities in abandoning their differences, proceeding from the keenness on safety and security of the Yemeni society.

The writer maintains that the force alone is not enough for producing an alternative achieving social cooperation guaranteeing and preserving social stability and security unless it is associated with dialogue capabilities stemming from a great sense of responsibility towards what are going on on the Yemeni arena. The attempt to visualize what's happening as a product isolated conspiratorial act being not related to the reality is something reflecting a state of ignorance of this reality. The present events in Yemen are not instantaneous product but rather a generation of a long series of economic, and marginalization policies of certain Yemeni areas and far from the care and supervision of the state. Some of them came to believe they are affiliate of another state or another world.

**Al-Wahda weekly, 14 July 2004.**

- Main headlines**
- Siege tightened against al-Houthy
  - Customs retains properties of expatriates back from Saudi Arabia
  - Eight residential schemes to tackle cases of nationalized houses in Aden
  - 5 water and sewage tenders in Taiz
  - Strategy for environment protection, prepared
  - The second session for trying Cole blasting suspects
  - Italian experts to prepare a plan for Sana'a preservation
  - At the symposium on intellectual property, Call for effecting legislations keeping pace with information revolution

Columnist Mohammed al-Zubaidi says in his article no day passes without large numbers of Palestinian martyrs and demolition of tens of houses, a number ranging between 3 to six martyrs every day despite of the presence of the four-party committee in occupied Palestine at the hands of the notorious terrorist Sharon.

The Jewish state was always using as an excuse that the Arabs wanted to destroy its existence, and continued to allege so even after the Palestinian authority signed with it the Oslo accords and after the convening of Madrid conference. Sharon had then came to abrogate every thing and outflanked even the road map produced by the American president Bush. It is quite certain that Sharon would not withdraw from the Zionist settlements in Gaza Strip and some areas of the West Bank until achieving his goal of destroying the Palestinian people. The regrettable thing is that his allies and protectors react to all those practices with silence on such crimes though they might not realize that such a stance means taking part in the responsibility for every drop of blood shed from the Palestinian body.

**ضيضان جديدان في بيت يعيش**  
**أجل التهاني والتبريكات مع باقات من الورود والياسمين نهدبها للأخوين**  
**وليد أحمد يعيش وجلال أحمد يعيش**  
**بمناسبة إرتزاقهما المولودين الجديدين والذي أسمياهما**  
**أحمد وليد، وعهد جلال**  
**الف الف مبروك يا أبا أحمد ويا أبا عهد**  
**«جعلهما الله قررة عين والديهما وأنبتهما نباتاً حسناً وبارك فيهما»**  
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**أ. رياض الذرحاني، رضوان عبدالحق، عبدالله قاسم الرماح، ماجد الصريبي،**  
**أ. فضل حمود حسام وعبدالحكيم الطويل.**

# Unemployment

BY AZZADEEN AL-AMERY  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**T**alking about unemployment means talking about an administrative cancer which increases crime rate and gives rise to the slogans: "Hunger is an infidel", and "Free time kills".

Economists define unemployment as a group of individuals who - due to an equilibrium deficiency between demand and supply - lost their job opportunities. The following reconnaissance sheds some light on the effects of unemployment on society.

#### Types of unemployment:

Zeyad Tawfeq, a student at the National Administrative Sciences Institute, defines the types of unemployment as follows:

1- Disguised: is connected to gradual drop of productivity of an employee

until it reaches point zero.

2- Seasonal: describes the effect of seasonal fluctuations of agricultural production on the labor market. This is particularly apparent in developing countries where arable land is limited comparable to the high number of labor force.

3- Structural: is caused by introducing technology in a productive process to replace man power.

4- Temporary: until individuals gain required expertise and experience.

5- Emerging unemployment due to economic changes and market's swings: this type of unemployment usually takes place in industrial nations.

6- Flagrant unemployment: it usually happens when supply exceeds demand

7- Voluntary: when qualified individuals do not want to seek job opportunities. However, this kind of unemployment rarely occurs in Yemen.

#### Causes of unemployment:

There are many sociological symptoms associated with unemployment such as the drop of demand; low capital; meager wages (which forces many to prefer being unemployed); the increased proportion of graduates in comparison to available job opportunities; corruption (in that available jobs are granted to certain individuals, relatives and acquaintants and to those who have special connections and liaisons to state and private officials); governmental policies which only exacerbate the situation; the absence of effective measures towards 'Yemenization' of jobs at several state's and private sector's corporations; the arrogance to obtain foreign assistance and practical consultations on how to better create job opportunities; and the monopolization, by some, of some occupations and vocational jobs that could, otherwise, assist in

reducing the number of the unemployed.

Mr. Nabil Abdulhaleem Thabit, also a student at the Institute, said the term "unemployed" is commonly used to refer to the status of a male or a female who does not have a job. But, to be labeled as a person suffering from flagrant unemployment, he or she has to meet the following conditions:

1- The person has to not have had a job for a period of time.

2- The person must be ready and able to work when he or she finds a job, or when a job is afford to him or her.

3- The person is willing to accept to work at the current market wage rate, even if it were lower than normal standards, but he or she were able to sustain a basic living condition.

A countries unemployment rate depends largely on its economic situation, however, the phenomenon of

unemployment represents a social and economic condition that all countries of the world suffer from to varying degrees, despite all the exerted efforts and policies to ease or to eradicate it. International reports, including that by ISCW, indicate that the world's unemployment rate is rapidly growing, in parallel with population growth rates that in some countries have reached very high levels. Yemen is one of those countries that suffers from unemployment and rapid population growth, with their negative and seriously dangerous impact on society. The population growth rate is expected to remain at 4% during the period 1995-2025.

The unemployment rate reached 9.1% according to population census implemented in 1994, and it was 7.7% based on the household survey in 1998.

"New policies and measures must be taken towards education particular-

ly in vocational and technical education in order to meet market demands", said Sami Abdulwasa, a student at the Institute.

Unemployment is a problem that all countries of the world have to deal with from time to time, said Mr. Mohamed Abdulhabeeb, another student at the Institute, whether rich or poor countries.

"I graduated from the National Administrative Sciences Institute in 1994 and until now, I have not found a job", said Mr. Mohamed Najeeb Ghalib. "I am so desperate that I have begun to talk to myself and I would not mind working at a bakery store or a restaurant. Ironically, I did not learn or acquire the experience to work at those places, if any opportunity existed". Really unemployment must be re-examined attentively in order to create job opportunities, otherwise, through desperation, Yemenis youths could turn into criminals.

## تهانينا آل درهم

تتألق اليوم ربي الأعبوس فرحاً  
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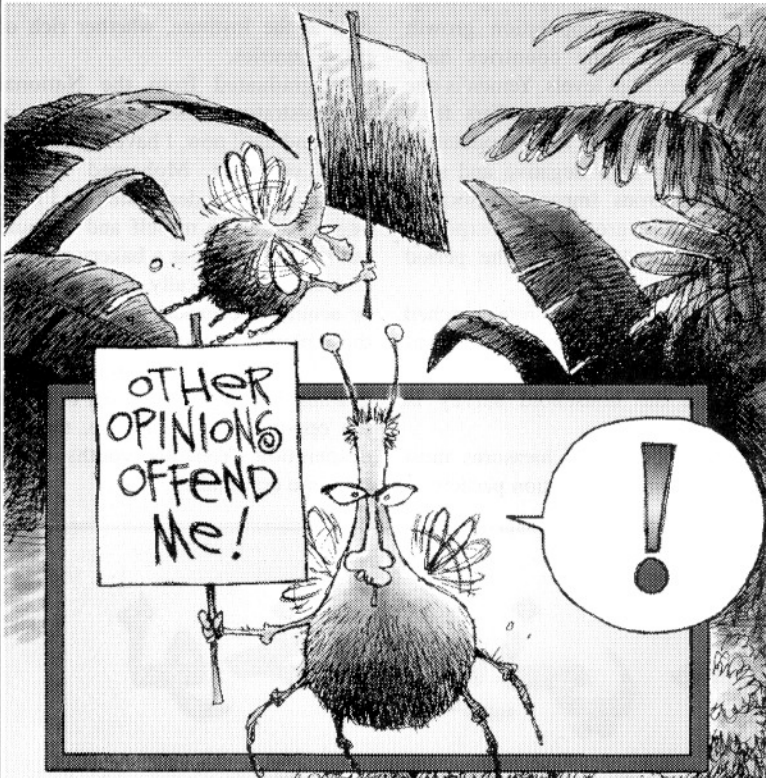
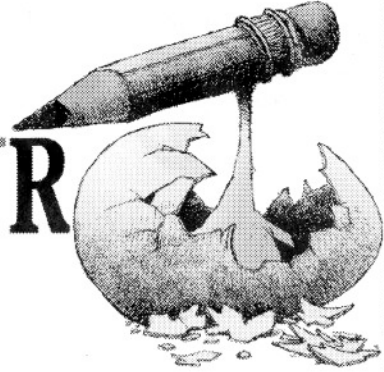
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٥. نوال علي سيف ثابت  
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Spacetel YEMEN

Fill in the gaps

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P.....(Attractive)  
A.....(Book of maps)  
C.....(Large black bird)  
E.....(Way out)  
T.....(Place of worship)  
E.....or west home is the best  
L.....(Head of a country)

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المدنية: .....  
رقم التلفون: .....

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## THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



BY Eugenia

- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**  
Take advantage of what's being offered today and do your best to get ahead. Money can be made if you are quick to make a career move.
- Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**  
Shopping should be on your list of things to do — bargain hunting for special items. A chance meeting with someone you haven't seen in a long time is likely.
- Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**  
Hold off on any changes you've been thinking about making, especially if they will affect other people as well. Don't be surprised when opposition surfaces.
- Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**  
This is the perfect day to mull over the past and look to the future. You are likely to come up with a pretty decent idea for your next vacation or even a prosperous venture.
- Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**  
Everything will be connected to what you do and how well you do it today. You can make moves that will help you earn more money and bring you greater prestige.
- Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**  
You will find it hard to keep your feelings to yourself. Your comments could very easily change the dynamics of any relationship you are in. Choose your words wisely.
- Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)**  
Make all the changes you've been talking about for so long. Someone is going to accuse you of never following through. An opportunity to make a move must be taken advantage of.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
Partnerships will be in a high cycle, so if you are having problems with either a business or personal partner, now is the time to clear the air. Let your talent lead to your success.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
Don't take offense at comments made by colleagues today. You will probably overreact. Plan to accomplish alone what you can.
- Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
The more information you pick up, the more it will help you do the best job possible. Social gatherings will bring you in touch with someone who will influence your future.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**  
This is a good day to sign contracts and formulate deals. Property deals will prove to be beneficial. Take responsibility for yourself and the ones you love.
- Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**  
You will be up and down like a yo-yo today. Be careful not to jump to conclusions. Someone you've known a long time may be able to help you understand your personal situation a little better.

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## Important find or a manipulation?

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A friend of the YT sent the above photo, stating that this was a discovery in the Rubia Al-Khali (Empty Quarter) Desert (Saudi Arabia). While YT is unable at present to confirm or deny the authenticity of the photo, one would

be inclined to believe that such a find, if true, would have made world headlines. To avoid any possible misrepresentations, in the event that the photo is ifixed, we hope the Saudi Oil Company, Aramco will enlighten the public of the facts behind the picture, which could be used erroneously if it is a manipulation. Aramco is undergoing

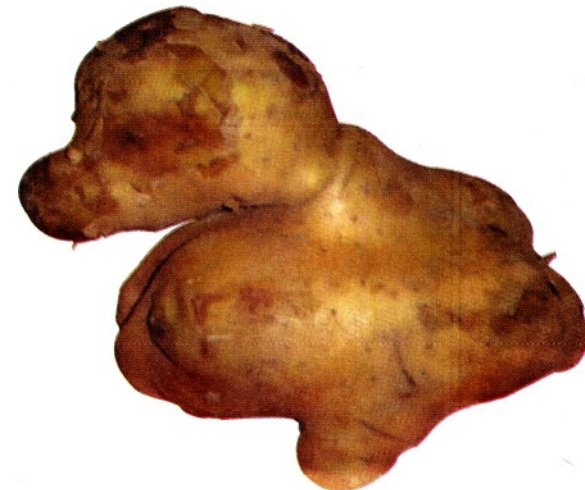
exploratory work for gas in the area (to the east and north of Yemen). There are assertions that the photo is of a giant corpse of one of the Aad people, an ancient powerful tribal nation, believed to have lived in Southern Arabia. While the Quran does not state categorically that the people were of large physiques, traditional inherited tales has it that

they were giants. They were sent a messenger (the Prophet Hud (Blessings of Allah be upon him), who has a tomb in Hadhramaut Governorate), but were not responsive to his calls for abandoning polygamy and for believing in the One True God, Al-Mighty. They were annihilated, except for Hud (P) and his few followers).



**No comment:**

## Dog-shaped potato



A dog-shaped potato photographed by Aejaz Suhail, the Chef at Sunrise Restaurant, Haddah St.- Sanaa.

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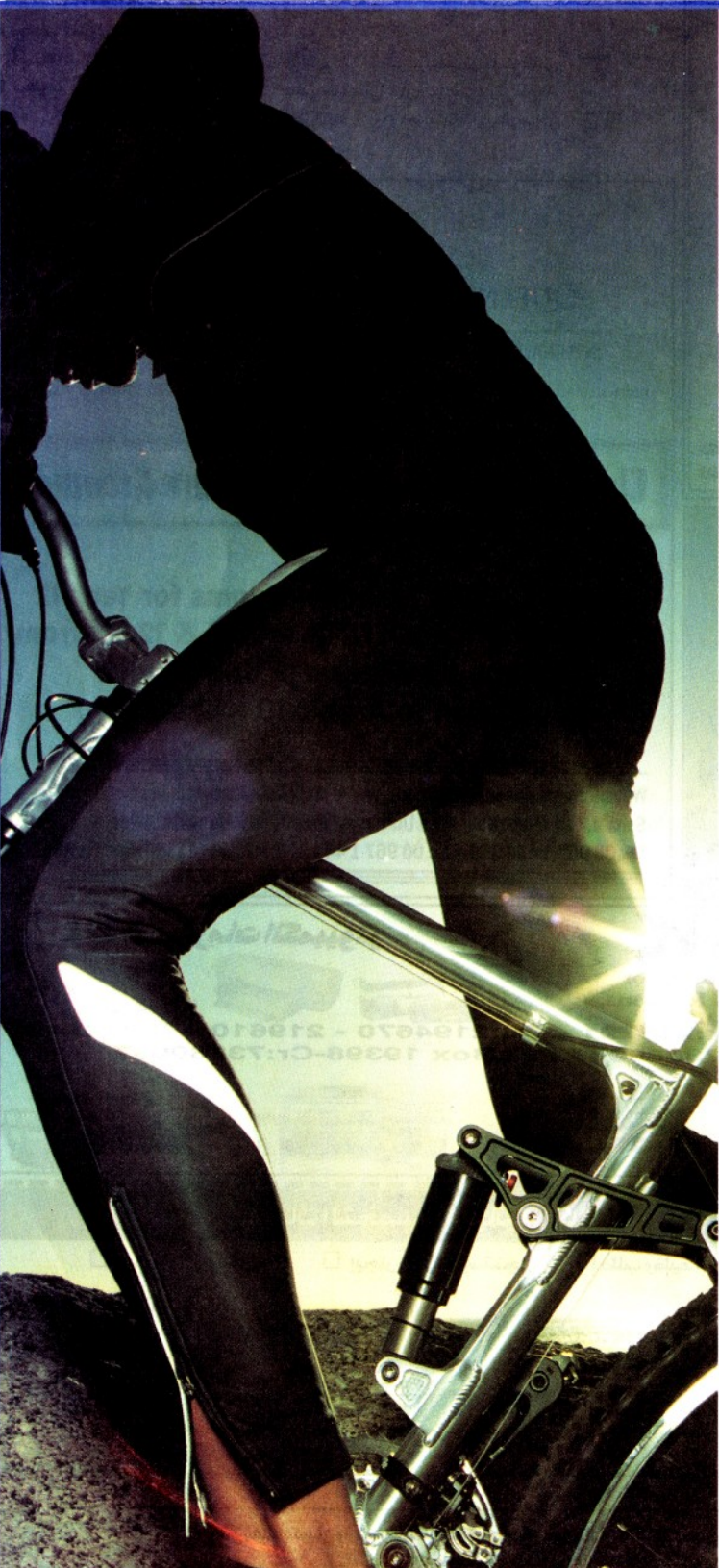
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tilal.co@y.net.ye  
info@tilal-co.com

الجمهورية اليمنية - صنعاء - تلفون ٤٣/٤٤ / ٦٧٤٩٤٥ - ٩٦٧ - فاكس ٦٧٤٩٤٢ - ٩٦٧ - ١  
P.O.Box 2563, SANAA, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN, TEL.:967-1-674945/44/43, FAX: 967-1-674942