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Inside: Tourism crisis management is worth attention **P4** Between price anarchy and merchant's greediness **P10** The sinking city **P12**

Gvt & Marib tribes make deal

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
MARIB
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Marib- After intensive meetings, a deal was reached between the government and the Marib tribes, to solve the problem of the blockage of the cooking gas caravans route, to the capital and other parts of the Republic in the wake of the last riots. The negotiations resulted in the lift of the armed tribal check points. An agreement was reached, that there should be no assault on the tankers that carry the cooking gas from Mareb to the different governorates.



Gas containers lining up on their way from Marib to Sana'a.

YT PHOTO BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI

The president met with a number of the tribal chiefs, after which a grant of diesel for the farmers of Marib was declared. The diesel price was reduced from Yr. 900 to 700. Fierce fighting broke out last week between the tribesmen and the government forces when the government tried to force its way through the tribal barricades. These conflicts resulted in killing some of the drivers of the petrol tankers. A government soldier was also reported dead, in addition to a number of casualties. The blockage of the high way between Sana'a and Marib led to a

sharp cooking gas crisis in the capital and the other Yemeni cities. There is still a careful caution that a conflict could be renewed because of the refusal of some of the tribes of the deal. The tankers are still subjected to night attacks especially between Saffir and Marib. This made the government adopt the method of convoying the tankers. This is a method of moving

the tanks in a big caravan of about two hundred petrol tankers at a time. They are being escorted by military units. The tankers are prevented from moving at night. The convoying method had hampered the traffic between Sana'a, Marib and other four eastern governorates. The military tanks are still deployed in a state of alert in the streets of Marib. Groups of citizens in Marib were

seen carrying their weapons wandering in the streets of Marib down town. The government had banned carrying weapons inside the towns, during the few last months, but this habit is resumed after the late incidents. The government is cautious in declaring a curfew, for fear of the renewal of the clashes, as it happened three months ago between the tribesmen and the army.

Danger at Yemen Times!

NADIA AL SAKKAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The technician Mr. Ameen al-Kamil was the first one to know about the fire "we had been using the power generator

since the morning as it was printing day. At about five thirty I started hearing a funny sound from the generator followed by a huge spark from the outlet. I realized there was an electric short especially when I heard a muffled explosion



within the generator and the smoke started to rise. Obviously the power went off and smoke was getting heavier." Ameen went to call for help, at the press there were three more employees and they used the fire extinguisher to try and get rid of the smoke. One of them sent an alarm call to Mr. Khair aldin deputy chair person who rushed to the press and

ordered to evacuate the 30 people in the building. In less than five minutes Mr. Fatih al-Din Mohammed Ali of the cucor police was in the scene. "I saw the fire from the main street and I rushed to the scene. We are trained to rescue and in emergencies." His officer lieutenant Nafie Ahmed al-Khateeb confirmed to this. *Continued on page 3*

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No Justice in US
Al-Moayyed sentenced to 75 years in jail
By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
SANA'A- Yemenis and non-Yemenis were stunned at the U.S. Brooklyn Court's verdict, under which Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayyed was sentenced on Thursday July 28, to 75 years in prison and was also fined a sum of \$ 1.25 million. The victim was accused of funneling money to al-Qaida Network, and supporting the Palestinian Muslim Resistance Movement, Hamas. The verdict, called "unfair" was strongly denounced by Yemenis, westerners and U.S. human rights activists. *Continued on page 3*

Al-Moayyed

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Two centers launched for treating AIDS sufferers

SANA'A- Concerned government parties on Saturday July 30 started the necessary arrangements for launching two centers for AIDS treatment in Sana'a and Aden.

The program, which is funded by the World Fund for Combating AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, aims to offer medicine for HIV sufferers and follow up their health conditions.

Officials at the Ministry of Health and Population said the program will provide training for physicians and medical workers due to work at the two centers on how to dispatch drugs for AIDS sufferers that entered Yemen

for the first time and specify the convenient doses.

The program, they added, has prepared an entire plan for purchasing and selecting drugs for AIDS treatment, as well as ensuring their quality. The program is due to issue a manual for HIV sufferers on how to take these drugs that are very expensive.

It is worth mentioning the Ministry of Health and Population signed last March an agreement with the World Fund for Combating AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for supporting anti-AIDS precautions and fighting the epidemic in Yemen.

Summer Exhibition and Electrix Festival to be staged at Expo Sana'a

SANA'A- As part of its annual exhibitions and festivals organized by Expo Company for International Exhibitions, arrangements have been made for staging the Summer Exhibition and the Electrix Festival. The event is to involve wings from Iran, Egypt, Syria and China, in addition to other world companies in the field of electricity, electronic devices and housing furniture.

Omar al-Nihmi, Apollo Marketing Officer said the exhibition is staged every year within the summer activities to meet all the needs of the consumer.

He added participants compete during the exhibition to offer the best commodities and services for the Yemeni consumer. The exhibition covers three wards of Iranian, Egyptian, Yemeni and Chinese products; the ward of clothes and furniture, the ward of electricity and electronic devices, and the ward of Child First Festival.

The exhibition will involve a number of societies at the capital city of Sana'a showing handicrafts and other articles, in addition to the entertainment program for children and families, planned to be displayed during the exhibition.

For the first time Training Course for Babysitters

SANA'A-The Early Childhood Development Resources Center at the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood (HMC) organizes in its headquarter the first training courses for babysitters who work in the kindergartens from 23 July till 16 August 2005.

The project is funded by Childhood Development project along with cooperation of the head of the kindergartens in Sana'a and UNICEF.

The training course will last for 24 days and around 60 participants will be

trained on different fields on the early childhood development. The training course aims at raising the awareness about the importance of the early childhood and the traits and qualities that the babysitters should have to deal accurately with the children as well as rehabilitate those babysitters to understand the concepts of the early childhood and encourage the talent skills of the children and provide them with appropriate educational environment in the kindergartens and nurseries.

US to Free 7 Yemenis From Guantanamo

Yemen will soon receive seven detainees to be released from the Guantanamo Bay prison camp by the US Army, Foreign Minister Abu-Bakr Al-Qerbi said in remarks published here on Thursday.

"The US authorities have decided to free seven Yemenis from the Guantanamo base and hand them over to Yemen," the minister told the Defense Ministry's newspaper "26 September".

The minister said that "Yemen has received an official note" from Washington confirming the intention to transfer the men to their country. An ad hoc Yemeni commission was set up by the government to follow up arrange-

ments for the handover, said Al-Qerbi. The seven Yemenis are among 25 men cleared by a US military Administrative Review Board, which considered them no longer posing a threat to the United States or its allies.

Al-Qerbi did not say whether the men would face prosecution in Yemen or be freed. Around 500 detainees are held at the US naval base detention facility, most of them were captured during the 2001 US-led military attack on Afghanistan that toppled the Taliban hard-line regime.

Yemeni authorities are still checking the nationality of 110 Guantanamo captives who are thought possibly to be Yemenis.

Yemeni lady nominated for Nobel Prize

By ISMAIL AL-GABAREE
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- A Swiss organization nominated Yemeni Lawyer Raqyah Hamdan on the list of 1000 ladies from different countries all over the world racing for 2005's Nobel Prize.

Lawyer Raqyah Hamdan said she took pride on herself for hearing her name included on the 1000-lady list nominated for 2005's Nobel Prize and noted such is a pride for all Yemeni ladies.

The Swiss organization, supported by the UNESCO and two other international organizations, chose

Raqyah Hamdan as a praiseworthy nominee for 2005's Nobel Prize.

It is worth mentioning that Lawyer Raqyah Hamdan was born in 1947. She obtained her bachelor degree in law at London University in 1971, then the master degree at London University for Economic and Political Sciences. Currently, this leading woman works as a lawyers and is interested in human rights.

The committee of Nobel Prize for Peace announced last June in the Swiss capital of Bern the list of the nominees selected to race for this year's Nobel Prize including 53 Arab ladies.

France writes off 2.6 million Euro of Yemen's debts

SANA'A- An agreement was reached last Wednesday between Yemen and France, under which the latter cut 2.6 million Euro of the debts on Yemen and retained the other 5 million Euro according to Napoli conditions and Paris Club's

minute signed by Yemen and France and the debiting countries to Yemen.

The agreement was signed in Sana'a by Yemeni Deputy PM and Minister of Finance Alawi Saleh al-Salami and the French Ambassador to Yemen.

COCA reveals unbelievable corruption in different ministries

SANA'A- A report prepared by the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) and discussed by al-Shura Council last week revealed that the State's general treasury lost around YR 2.5 billion and over one million dollars in 68 corruption cases this year.

The COCA's report confirmed that what has been spent without any completion of the required documents comes at 6.5 billion rials and 7.3 million dollars; this is pondered upon as a flagrant violation against the financial law.

100% of the spending was wasted at the Ministry of Oil and Minerals, the Ministry of Public Health and

Population and the Ministry of Vocational Training and Technical Education.

The report mentioned that 96% of an amount of 1.6 billion rials and half a million dollars has been wasted by the higher education and local administration ministries. The total amount of pledges that have never been reconsidered in the interior, education and electricity ministries reached YR 34 billion and 2.5 million dollars.

Loans estimated at 120 billion rials was taken by oil and minerals, electricity, public works and agriculture and irrigation ministries.

Public works and highways and

health ministries violated the tender law by the embezzlement of 19.5 billion. Besides, additional works worth over 1.5 billion rials and 500 million dollars were endorsed in the health and agriculture ministries.

The report revealed that the amount delivered to contractors in oil and minerals and electricity ministries reached 349 million rials and 4 million dollars.

According to the report, 15 billion rials was the cost of the projects that could not be completed in different government parties, mainly the local administration and oil and minerals ministries.

Qualification of Historical Yemeni cities for World heritage list

By ISMEEL AL-GABAREE

The General Organization for Preservation of Historic Cities (GOPHCY),

is preparing to carry out plans, aiming at preserving historical Yemeni cities. It has been working on many cities like Old Sana'a, Shibam, Hadramout and Zabied. Dr. Abulla Zaid Ayssa, head of the organization, said in a release, "The organization is

preparing to carry out a number of programs to preserve the old architectural appearance of Yemeni historical cities in Sa'ada, Tareem, Amran, Hajarain Shibm Kokaban and Shahrarah. Dr. Ayssa added that the organization will open branches in these cities to supervise executing water projects, sues and infra structures. It will also remove from them the damages and deformations, to preserve them as national cultural

wealth. He pointed out that the cities, in which the preservation of old cultural appearance is a success, will be introduced to the UNESCO to be preserved.

The Manager of the General Organization for Preservation of Historic Cities confirmed the importance of spreading the great value of the historical cities among the citizens of these cities and all the concerned parties.

Rehabilitation of Historical Yemeni cities for World Heritage list

By ISMEEL AL-GABAREE

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Supporting Reproductive Health, Population and Development in Yemen



صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان

The UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the posts of

1-National Programme Officer - Advocacy

Under the supervision of the Country Office Representative or Deputy Representative, the NPO substantively contributes to the effective management of UNFPA activities in the area of population and development, reproductive health and gender. He/She analyzes and assesses relevant political, social, and economic trends and provides substantive inputs to programme/projects formulation management, and evaluation, joint programming initiatives and national development frameworks.

1- The National Programme Officer:

- In collaboration with Government counterparts, UNFPA/CST technical advisors, NGOs and other partners contributes substantively to the formulation and design of the country programme and its component projects in advocacy cases in line with Government priorities and according to UNFPA programme policies and procedures. Ensures quality of programme/project design incorporating lessons learned, newly developed policies and best practices and establishing appropriate execution and monitoring mechanisms and systems.
- Analyzes and interprets the political, social and economic environment relevant to population and development, reproductive health and gender and identifies opportunities for UNFPA assistance and intervention. Keeps abreast of new policy developments and strategies analyzing policy papers, strategy documents, national plans and development frameworks and prepares briefs and inputs for policy dialogue, technical assistance coordination and development frameworks.
- Analyzes and reports on programme and project progress in terms of achieving results, using existing monitoring and evaluation tools and introducing new mechanisms and systems; identifies constraints and resource deficiencies and recommends corrective action. Monitors project expenditures and disbursements to ensure delivery is in line with project budgets and to realize targeted delivery levels.
- Expedites and coordinates project implementation establishing collaborative relationships with executing agencies, experts, government counterparts and other UN agencies facilitating timely and efficient delivery of project inputs and addressing training needs of project personnel.
- Helps create and document knowledge about current and emerging population development and RH and gender issues, by analyzing programmes, projects, strategies approaches and ongoing experience for lessons learned.

best practices, and shares with management for use in knowledge sharing and planning future strategies.

- Assists advocacy and resource mobilization efforts of the Country Office by preparing relevant documentation, i.e. project summaries, conference papers, speeches, donors profiles and participating in donor meetings and public information events.
- Leads the preparation and conduct of the events serving as an advocacy tools for promoting ICPD and MDG Agencies.

We are looking for candidates who have:

- The ability for advocacy and advancing a policy oriented agenda.
- A track record in innovation and marketing of new approaches.
- Integrity, commitment, and respect for diversity.
- Skills to manage relationships communicate and develop people.
- An ability for analytical and strategic thinking and results orientation.
- Willingness for in country travel

Other Requirements:

Successful candidates must have a master's degree in public health and/or other health related or social science field. We expect professional experience of 3 to 5 years, preferably in programme/project management in the public or private sector. Language requirements are: fluency in English and Arabic. Candidates are expected to be proficient in current office software applications.

2-Information/Communication officer

Information/Communications Officer is responsible for the promotion of UNFPA visibility, management of information content, participation in advocacy initiatives, and provision of advisory services to UNFPA CO and Projects. The Information/Communications Officer also provides strategic guidance to management and projects on communications-related issues and considerations.

The Information/Communications Officer :

- Supervise the production of public information materials on the work of UNFPA and assist projects in maintaining effective communications plans and media relations:
 - Prepare press releases and other information materials aimed at sensitizing the public opinion at large to UNFPA priorities and highlighting the work of the CO and projects in the different programme areas;
 - Ensure visibility of interventions in UNFPA publications at national and international levels;
- Coordinate the designing of the Country Office Website and ensure regular updates of its content in close cooperation with

Programme Officers and the IT team.

2. Maintain effective media relations and ensure proper and timely dissemination of information:

- Ensure improved dissemination of information on UNFPA's activities in Yemen; prepare information and advocacy materials on UNFPA mandate and the MDG; develop regular reports and documentation with a publicity value capturing UNFPA Yemen results; prepare briefs and ensure its dissemination through most relevant means of communication, i.e. press kits on launches, press conferences, seminars, etc.;
- Make media arrangement for UNFPA's activities and provide guidance to projects on ways to approach the media on their work and activities;
- Establish and maintain frequent contact with media leaders in the country to enhance their understanding of what UNFPA is working towards in Yemen and globally;
- Provide programme information/stories to RBAS SURF as well as UNFPA Headquarters, the UN Department of Public Information in New York; and the network of UNFPA Communications officers in the Arab region.

3. Engage in advocacy initiatives necessary to stir dialogue with target audiences on key development issues:

- Make media arrangements and organizing public campaigns to promote and increase the visibility of UNFPA's work, with particular focus on the promotion of major UNFPA reports.
- Assist programmes and projects in developing communications work plans within their respective areas of specialization to ensure the visibility of UNFPA's efforts.

4. Ensures provision of strategic advice to senior management, programme analysts and projects on means to enhance their communications plans and provision of feedback on key news/articles that require action or future review:

We are looking for candidates who have:

- University Degree or equivalent in Communications, Journalism, Business Administration, or social/economic related field.
- 2 to 3 years of relevant experience at the national or international level in providing communications services, hands-on experience in launching and implementing awareness campaigns. Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages, experience in handling of web based and electronic management systems, including the website and internet.
- Fluency in both English and Arabic languages.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This edition's question:

Will the sentence of al-Mouyed's case impact Yemeni-US relations?

Yes, negatively
Yes, positively
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Do you think the government's decision to modify fuel prices will gratify the public and lessen their anger vented at the government?

No 48%
Yes 41%
I don't know 11%

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Yemeni Security Official Escapes Attempt on Life

SANA'A, 30 July 2005 - A Yemeni Interior Ministry official escaped a bid on life when an explosive device blew up under his car in Sanaa yesterday, police said.

They said the device went off minutes after Col. Abdullah Arab, interior minister's deputy assistant, left the vehicle outside his home in the northern Sanaa suburb of Jiraf.

No one was injured in the explosion that left the vehicle severely damaged. The blast blew out windows of Arab's house and adjacent houses. Security forces cordoned off the area and police experts began an investigation.

Continued from page 1

Al-Moayyed sentenced to 75 years in jail

Hearing the sentence, al-Moayyed yelled at the court, "What have I done to receive all these years of imprisonment? I did nothing wrong to the U.S. people. I have no intention to harm them. The U.S. people are the pioneers of liberty. I swear by God I never gave support to terrorists, as you allege." Aren't such effective words produced by al-Moayyed enough to modify this tough ruling?

Al-Moayyed's defense team confirmed after the ruling that they didn't expect the ruling to be so harsh. They said they were shocked at the ruling and expected it to be light as the jury cleared al-Moayyed and his companion Mohammad Zaid of the charges attributed to them in previous sessions.

He was also cleared of funneling support to Hamas, which the USA considered to be a terrorist movement.

Al-Moayyed's defense team claimed that the court had committed many violations while trying al-Moayyed and his companion, and said the ruling deforms the image of the U.S. justice system. They said they have begun to appeal against the verdict demanding the court to look into the case of al-Moayyed and his companion once again. The court has adjourned the case of Mohammad Zaid, until the end of September.

The Yemen Times conducted several interviews with some of al-Moayyed's relatives and also with those interested in the case, to detect the reactions of the Yemeni people to the verdict.

Official sources at Yemen's Foreign Ministry have shown their concern over the verdict and said it was unfair. Yemen is not expected to continue their diplomatic efforts to secure the release of Sheikh al-Moayyed and his companion, said the sources.

Yemeni Foreign Minister, Dr Abu bakr al-Qirbi, confirmed in a press release that al-Moayyed's defense-advocate gave a precise description of the verdict, saying it is unfair.

Yemen has shown a good stand since the beginning and objected to the handover of Sheikh al-Moayyed and his companion to the U.S. authorities, said Yemen's Foreign Minister, emphasizing that political efforts will be exerted to take case-related procedures to the right track.

The Islah's Shura Council of which Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayyed is a member confirmed in a statement that all its members were astonished by the verdict issued against an old man.

According to the statement, the verdict is unfair and does not convey a good impression of the U.S. judiciary, which has been famous for its integrity.

The statement urged Yemen's President to take action to secure the release of Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayyed and this companion Mohammad Zaid, as both are innocent Yemeni citizens who were betrayed in an illegal way, contrary to the international conventions.

HOOD, a human rights organization stressed in a press release that it was astonished at Brooklyn Court's verdict sentencing the 75-year-old man to 75 years in jail and said it would harm the image of the U.S. judiciary.

The organization expressed concern over trying al-Moayyed on charges that he didn't commit, and unfairly linking his case with 9/11 events. It was stunned that al-Moayyed was convicted of supporting al-Qaida Network even though the jury had cleared him.

Hood demanded the U.S. authorities to abstain from playing the role of an international policeman on behalf of Israel by indicting al-Moayyed and his companion with charges of channeling material support to Hamas. In a statement, HOOD called on the international community to oppose the U.S. illegal actions and bar their extension abroad.

In a telephone call al-Moayyed's son, Zakaria, shouted that the verdict was harsh and unfair. He added the verdict was not based on evidence to convict his father and emphasized that his father hates terrorism and has been confirming that terrorism contradicts the teachings of Islam. His charitable works for the poor aim to fight terrorism since, according to him terrorism is the main cause of terror.

Zakaria claimed that his father should receive humanitarian treatment because he is an aging man and suffers from several diseases, and that the U.S. Government should allow him to contact with his father.

He hoped the impending verdict of appeal on the case should be looked into

with justice and mercy, particularly as his father is not a terrorist and never encourages or supports terror; and requested the Yemeni Government to take action to secure the release of his old father.

Sheikh Mohammad Ali al-Moayyed was born in 1948, in the village of Bihran, Khawlan District, to the east of Sana'a. At the age of six he moved to Sana'a, joined the Orphans School and obtained the preparatory school certificate. He got his high school certificate at Jamal Abdunnasser School and then joined the Department of Islamic Education at Sana'a University.

After his graduation, Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayyed worked at the Ministry of Endowments and Guidance and occupied several posts: a general manager for preaching and guidance and an adviser to the Ministry of Endowments and Guidance.

Sheikh al-Moayyed pursued charitable work, established a mosque, a school and a hostel for the orphans in al-Asbahi Area, south of the capital. His center carries the name of "al-Ehsan Charitable Center, which proved to be a success in helping the poor and the orphans. Around 800 families have been benefiting from al-Moayyed's charitable works.

Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayyed founded several bakeries, which distribute bread for free to the needy and poor, and he also helped the Yemeni youth to get married through staging massive wedding parties. One of the wedding parties sponsored by Sheikh Mohammad was alleged to support the Palestinian resistance and the U.S. judiciary showed this wedding party footage as an evidence for al-Moayyed's support of terrorism.

Sheikh al-Moayyed was detained when Mohammad al-Ansi, a businessman who lost his business and money, deceived him. Mohammad al-Ansi is a staunch agent for the U.S. Intelligence. Al-Ansi suggested that Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayyed could travel to receive treatment abroad at his expense. When he refused to take this advice, cunning al-Ansi deceived him by saying there was a famous Muslim benevolent who would support his center with \$25million, adding that the benevolent wanted to meet him.

Both agreed to meet this alleged Muslim benevolent in the German city of Frankfurt.

In January 2003, Sheikh al-Moayyed traveled to Frankfurt to be detained by the German security authorities. He was first investigated in Germany and the U.S. Authorities demanded that he should be tried at their court for supporting terrorism.

The German Government accused Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayyed and his companion Mohammad Zaid of supporting the Palestinian Muslim Resistance Movement, Hamas, and funneling \$20 million to Bin Laden to launch terrorist attacks.

In March 2003, the German court started to look into the case of al-Moayyed and his companion after the U.S. handed them an indictment against al-Moayyed.

The U.S. authorities exerted pressure on Germany to hand them Sheikh al-Moayyed to be tried there while the Yemeni Governorate demanded Germany to extradite him to Yemen, being a Yemeni national who should be tried according to the Yemeni law.

After a series of negotiations between Germany and the U.S. over his extradition, Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayyed was then transferred along with his companion to the U.S. to be investigated and tried there. Last Thursday, a verdict was issued by a U.S. court sentencing al-Moayyed to 75 years in jail.

Observers hold the view such a verdict will not boost ties between Yemen and the U.S.A., particularly in the joint cooperation for fighting terror. They were of the view that the U.S.A. was supposed to respect Yemen and hand them the two victims to be tried in compliance with the Yemeni constitution. The U.S. was supposed to present any evidence convicting al-Moayyed of supporting terror to the Yemeni authorities, mainly as Yemen is considered one of the leading Arab countries in the fight against terror and has tried many suspects on terrorism charges.

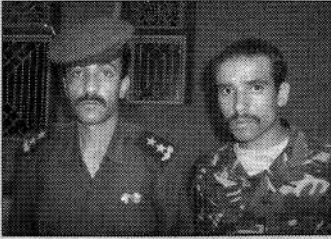
Yemeni people bear in mind that the verdict against Sheikh al-Moayyed left a bad impression because it violated the Yemeni constitution. They hold the view that Yemen offered numerous concessions to the U.S. in the area of combating terror, and moreover the latter never showed any respect to the former by extraditing the victims to their country.

Danger at Yemen Times!

The firemen were present at about 15 minutes from the call, and the smoke was getting too dark and spreading from the press. The Yemen Times staff along with the firemen



Ameen Al-Kamel



Nafie and Fateh



Yasser Al-Mayasi



Mohammed Ali



Khair Al-Din investigating the ashes from the generator

used more than five fire extinguishers and opened doors for fresh air and gradually the smoke subsided. After a couple of minutes the scene became quite and the firemen were doing their job. The police was still investigating the cause of the fire in the generator

while the rest of Yemen Times staff went to back to work. Yasser al-Mayasi known journalist of the Yemen Times confirmed that even though this happened, it is just a technical problem and we will issue on time!

Mohammed Ali, translator at the

Yemen Times comments on me taking this story: "Where can a man entertain his guests other than his fireside?" referring to an English man who was telling jokes while his house was burning.

Anyway the investigation is still going

on and we will tell you what happened in the next issue.



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AP correspondent receives threats

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The correspondent of the Associated Press and APIN TV appealed to the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) to take an action towards the threats he has been receiving during the last few weeks. In a letter addressed to the YJS chairman and board members, Ahmed al-Haj said that he has received threats from people who told him through his relatives to "stop politics business and opposition". He pointed out that the following days, security men wearing folk dress kidnapped one of his assistants working in his office located at Zubairi street and took him Tuesday, July 26th to the 22 May police station where he was interrogated for three and a half hours at night. "He was beaten up and tortured and questioned about my movements, the people who come to the office from the US embassy and foreigners as if my work as a journalist has become so suspicious. After they failed to force him to spy on me in the office, he was released and came back to the office only 4 am," the letter explained. He further said that his landline phone service in the office was cut in addition to the monitoring of his movement, email address and the office. "Such kind of practices and threats are a danger to me

and a violation to my constitutional, humanitarian rights as a citizen and a journalist," the letter said. Al-Haj urged the YJS to take the responsibility and address the authorities concerned to stop such practices which are against the law.

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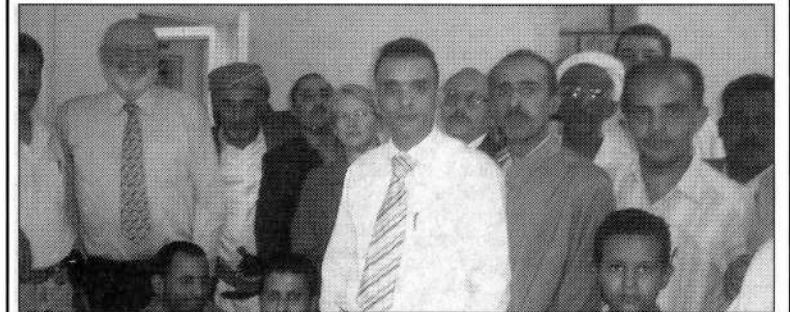
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Training on "Business Arbitration" at the Chamber of Commerce Taiz



The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Taiz (CCI) is conducting a five days training (30 July to 3 August 2005) on legal aspects of business arbitration (funded by CPAS-GTZ). Participants are business arbitrators from 12 Yemeni CCI from different provinces of the country (Aden, Al Dalee, Al Baydha, Al Jawf, Dhamar, Mahweet, Mareb, Mukalla, Sadaa, Sana'a, Shebwa, Taiz). The training was opened by Mufid A. Saif, General Manager, Adnan Abdullah Saleh and Gabriele Herrmann, both Advisors, CCI Taiz.

The trainer is Dr. Moellering, a lawyer and managing director of the legal department of the German Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Berlin. The aim of the training is to finalize "Business Arbitration and Mediation Rules" as well as statutes for the "Center of Business Arbitration and Mediation" which is going to be opened in September 2005 at the Chamber of Commerce in Taiz. The center will be part of the chamber as a joint achievement of the above mentioned Yemeni Chambers.

VACANCY

Short-term consultancy

Care Yemen is seeking to appoint a short-term consultant for a mid-term evaluation for its Yemen Adult Life-Skills and Literacy Education Project (YALLE) in the Amran Governorate. This is a \$ 2 Million USAID-funded project running until 2007. The project aims to form and establish around 80 village-level, self-financing women's literacy associations and to contribute to the construction of their premises. Through these associations, the project provides literacy training by using Reflect methodology. It will also develop life-skills materials for use in local schools and train teachers and literacy facilitators on how to provide such training. The evaluator will assess project activities and their qualities based on project objectives. At the end of his/her consultancy, the evaluator will submit a final report on their assessment including recommendations to improve the project's performance.

For detailed Terms of Reference, please send an email to valle@y.net.ye Deadline for submissions is August 15th, 2005 to the Care Yemen office in Sana'a at 68 Arwa School Street. For additional information, please contact the project direct at 07-606-909 or E-mail: valle@y.net.ye.



Tourism crisis management is worth attention

Tourism is an industry without smoke. Many peoples around the world depend on it heavily because it is lucrative, and does not require large capitals. Our country, which enjoys a large number of tourist advantages such as its cultural heritage and natural attractions, should focus on this key sector that can generate numerous job opportunities and beef up the public treasury.

One important recently introduced concept in tourism is crisis management. In this interview, Mr. Khaled al-Duais, of the Ministry of Tourism, is going to shed light on crisis management, its significance and how it can contribute to the prosperity of the national tourism.

Q: What made you particularly interested in crisis management?

A: In today's world, tourism crises are becoming more frequent and more visible. At the current time, tourism in Yemen is in crisis. Through my experience in the tourism field in Yemen I felt that an immediate action is required to save the industry from collapse. I thought that the starting point to start with was this research. Another motive for writing this research was to help fill some of many gaps, which exist in the Yemeni tourism literature. This lack motivated me to conduct my research focusing on the crisis management theories and its applications in tourism sector. It is a hope that the thesis may provide some contribution to identify the present lack and to propose some possible improvements and solutions in the field.

Q: Who are the partners in crisis management? Is the State solely responsible for it?

A: In such a crisis time, it is the responsibility of everyone, not only the government but also all other relevant authorities and organizations (communications; promotion; safety and security, and market research). Due to the limited time in which to respond, crisis management requires a decisive and quick action. From this point, a crisis management team should be formed from all relevant authorities and organization including the public and private sectors. It is also important to have a kind of integration and understanding among those people who will act as a crisis team.

Q: What does crisis management in tourism mean?

A: Tourism as any other activity could be affected by any crisis at any time. Today, Crisis Management is a common term in the tourism industry and has become particularly important for those countries heavily dependent on tourism as a source of income. Crisis management strategies and plans are needed to help retain the confidence of the travellers and to minimize the impacts of a crisis on the tourist destination.

Crisis affect the tourism sector on different levels, internationally, regionally, or nationally and sometimes the affect is only restricted in local area. In most cases, a tourism crisis will affect an entire country. The tourism sector could be affected by two main types of crises. Crisis that arises from inside the tourism sector itself, and crisis that, resulted from other crises in other sectors. The inside crises could happen as a result of one of the following:

- Lack of a clear policy for the tourism sector;
 - Absence of marketing strategies which create a balance between the supply and the targeted demand;
 - Slow tourism development that could not go in parallel with the increased demand;
 - Tourism development with out enough demand;
 - Lack of cadres and skilled employees;
- The other type of crises that arises from outside the tourism sector could be summarized in the following:



Mr. Khaled al-Duais

- Political crises and conflicts especially when they lead to international wars, a good example for that are the gulf wars.
- Internal conflicts and national wars.
- Ethnic conflicts and clashes.
- Criminal act or crime wave, especially when tourist are targeted.
- Health concerns related to epidemics and diseases, which impact on human directly or diseases affecting animals, which limit access to the tourist destinations.
- Acts of terrorism, especially those directed at or affecting the tourists.
- Natural disasters, which have impacts on the tourism infrastructure.

Q: What are the crises that happened in Yemen and how were they addressed? Were they properly tackled? If not, what other procedures that should have been taken?

A: Yemeni tourism industry has experienced numerous cases of crises. International, regional, and local crises have led to a decline in the growth of tourism over the past 15 years in Yemen. The country has experienced two main kinds of crises: internal to Yemen civil strife in 1994, the unfortunate death of a number of kidnapped tourists 1998 and the attack on USS Cole 2000 and external that have been outside the control of the government like the Gulf War 1990, September 11th and its aftermath, the continued Palestinian/Israeli conflict, AL Qaeda issue, and currently the War on Iraq.

The most serious effect of these tensions especially the September 11th events was the damage done to Yemen's international image. This negative image was reflected on the flow of international arrivals to Yemen. Yemen became perceived as a dangerous place where tourists could be targeted any time. The subsequent war on terrorism and the tension resulting from the last intervention in Iraq prolonged this uncertainty even more. The September 11th event caused a decline in investment flows, and a sharp decrease of tourism in Yemen. According to the Ministry of Tourism and Environment statistics 2002, Yemen experienced a sudden 32% drop in the international tourists after this event and as a consequence Yemen's tourism sector has lost more than USD 250 million due to those incidents. Many tour operators have closed their business and laid-off staff, and numbers of hotels are offering low prices. Concerning the other part of your question, both the public and private sectors have faced some obstacles and financial constraints in formulating an effective marketing communication strategy to address this challenge. The research outlines the strategy of the Yemeni public & private sectors as they have attempted to minimize the loss of tourism experienced in Yemen since the September 11th. It carries a discussion of the approaches taken by the Yemen

Tourism Promotion Board as a responsible agency on representing Yemen out and inside.

In my thesis I have listed some procedures that should have been taken; I will mention them here briefly:

• A crisis management plan should be prepared and merged with the general tourism policy of the government in order to be a framework for the whole relevant organizations in the state. It is recommended also that the government should establish a crisis management centre within the structure of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

• Various policy components are necessary to help government cope with tourism decline. For the Yemen Tourism Promotion Board, a starting point could be preparing a tourism crisis management plan that maintain and prevent the current tourist flow from declining. This could be coupled with an affirmative action to educate officials and private sector on the issue of crisis management in tourism industry. In the absence of Tourism Crisis Management Plan in the very short term, some crisis guidelines are suggested to help the tourism authorities as a starting point for maintaining and preventing the existing tourist flow from declining.

• The government represented by the Tourism Higher Council and Ministry of Tourism and Culture should guarantee the funding for appropriately marketing and promotional campaigns. The method of funding the Tourism Board needs to be reviewed and redesigned to provide guaranteed funds. Tourism authorities are also asked to enforce the role of the Tourism Promotion Fund. Yemen Tourism Promotion Board should be equipped with appropriate resources including: financial and human to liaise with the country's tourism private sector to establish a number of marketing and promotional measures.

• Marketing and promotion activities should focus in the short term on the intra-regional markets especially for the Gulf States countries. On the mid-term tourism authorities should focus on maintaining the presence in the major markets in Europe. And on long term should focus on finding alternative markets and segments like Japan, Singapore, and Malaysia. A special attention should be paid to develop the domestic tourism that can be a good alternative during the crisis time.

• The high level of cooperation and coordination between the Yemeni tourism industry's public and private sectors will play as a key element of success to manage and recover from any potential crisis. Therefore, a complete partnership between public and private sectors is requested. Supporting the private sector by adopting two kinds of measures: first, the short-term measure which refers to the temporary cessation of taxes, rentals on state properties, and reducing entrance fees of the tourist sites and places. Second, the long-term measure by enforcing the role of the existing Tourism Promotion Fund. The Fund will be able to assist financially those tour operators and other private sector agencies.

• Overseas Yemeni communities represent a good potential influx of visitors, because their perceptions are not so clouded in negativity. For this reason developing the "Diaspora tourism" is highly recommended. The Tourism authorities are requested to design special programs selected communities overseas.

• Countering the current negative image of Yemen will require a well targeted and effective public relations campaign directed at the travel industry from major source markets should be implemented.

• Yemen is one of the most fascinating countries, rich in ancient history, unique architecture, rugged mountains, vast plateaux, and expansive desert. This variation is offering abroad tourism product base. The in charge tourism agencies are requested to diversify the Yemeni tourism product through targeting new form(s) of tourism product such as: Bird watching,

trekking, ecotourism, and educational tourism. In promoting the new product(s), special programs should be designed to meet the target market(s) and group(s) needs.

Q: What are the crises which Yemen tends to be susceptible to?

A: International, and regional political crises and conflicts, especially when they lead to wars. Difficult operating environment for tourism sector represented by the instability of its organizing structure. Poor institutional structure

Q: How do you think a crisis management plan would contribute to Yemen's tourism development?

A: Preparing a tourism crisis management plan will help in maintaining and preventing the current tourist flow from declining. Crisis management through a specialized unit will help uplift the lost image and rebuild the confidence in potential tourism markets.

Q: Do you think Yemen's tourism is

more in need for a crisis management plan than for improving other aspects of the tourist industry? Could you prioritize the tasks of the tourism sector?

A: Yemen's tourism industry is still in its first stage of development. A clear policy for the tourism sector should be formulated. In the mean time a crisis management plan should be prepared and merged with the general tourism policy of the government in order to be a framework for the whole relevant organizations in the state. I recommend also that the government should establish a crisis management unit within the structure of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. The Yemeni government should encourage the investments in the infrastructure and especially in the tourism accommodations. In view of the particular crises associated with tourism, some modifications may be required in order to attract investment into the sector. Tourism awareness program should be introduced into school curricula and among the mass of the population not directly involved in tourism. Furthermore, a priority need to include the tourism sector

in the government agenda as a priority sector is highly recommended. If tourism well developed with a special care and planned steps, tourism sector in Yemen would have a greater contribution to economic growth and social development through: employment creation, increased net foreign exchange generation, improve inter-sector linkage, improve community participation, and attracting more investments.

The Yemeni tourism industry is losing its competitive strength, at a time when the competition is getting tough. The government should seriously address the issue of crisis management in the tourism industry. Another important issue, tourism will not grow without strong air accessibility and adequate infrastructure; the priorities should shift to strengthen these sectors as well. Our embassies abroad can play a vital role in changing the perception and rebuilding the image. Our efforts should also guarantee the quality service and win the confidence of the large tour operators abroad. This is possible only if relevant authorities are bonded together.

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شركات عملاقة

في مجال الإلكترونيات

والكهربائيات والأجهزة المنزلية

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منتجات سورية

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منتجات يمنية

على قاعة

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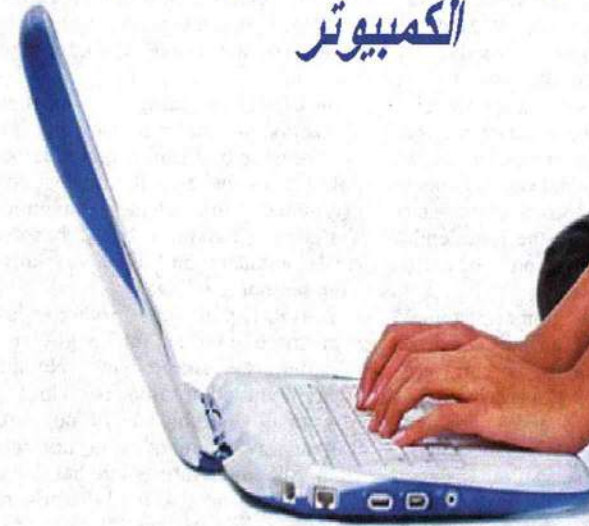
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Afghan women put lives on line to run for office

By N.C. AIZENMAN
WASHINGTON POST

CHARKH, Afghanistan, July 29, — The note slipped under Mahmoud Shah's front gate was written in a tidy, graceful hand. But the message brimmed with venom: "If you don't stop campaigning for Noorzia Charkhi, your life will be in danger. Also tell Noorzia Charkhi that she should give up her candidacy. Aren't you ashamed to put up posters of your family's women in the bazaar?"

Charkhi, 36, is a journalist based in the capital, Kabul, who is campaigning for a seat in Afghanistan's new parliament. But in this mud-walled village in Logar, the home province she hopes to represent, Charkhi's candidacy is such a challenge to tradition that she and her relatives, including her cousin Shah, have faced repeated threats.

"I'm not going to quit, because I want to show people that a woman should be able to do these things. But definitely I fear for my life. . . . The people who did this already have blood on their hands," Charkhi said during a visit to Shah's home, 50 miles south of Kabul. "I'm even more afraid that they will smear my reputation," she added. "That would be worse than death."

Charkhi's situation underscores both the difficulties facing female candidates running for office in the Sept. 18 parliamentary elections and the determination many have expressed as they embark on an unprecedented bid for political power.

Even though many Afghan families still prohibit wives and daughters from showing their faces in public, 328 women are running for the lower house of parliament, where 68 of 249 seats have been set aside for female representatives. An additional 237 are running for seats on provincial councils that will in turn appoint a third of the upper house.

Despite the traditional restrictions on women, the guaranteed quota of legislative seats for them has given political parties, tribal leaders and powerful families an incentive to promote female candidates whom they might otherwise have ignored — or even banned from running.

"There is quite a bit of support for women running in the parliamentary elections — much more than we expected," noted Rina Amiri, a U.N. political affairs officer who is monitoring the elections.

Yet female candidates in provinces across the country have complained of receiving phone calls and letters threatening them with death if they don't withdraw.

In southern Helmand province, U.N. officials are investigating reports of letters circulating that offer a \$4,000 reward for killing female candidates.

In southeastern Zabol province, unknown gunmen tried to hijack a car belonging to Zamina Pathan, a candidate and employee of a local aid organization. Afghan and U.N. officials said they are investigating whether the attack was a routine crime or an attempt to intimidate her.

In Logar, Charkhi is not the only female candidate to face threats. Zobaïda Stanekzai, 52, a school supervisor running for parliament, said she has little doubt about the motives of whoever set fire to the door of her mud-walled home several weeks ago.

"They were trying to scare me into dropping out," said Stanekzai, whose home was also attacked with a grenade last year when she took a job registering women to vote in the presidential election. "But my decision to be a candidate is unshakable."

Despite the large number of female candidates, women are still seriously underrepresented in the coming elections. They make up 12 percent of candidates for parliament and 8 percent of candidates for the provincial councils.

In remote, conservative Uruzgan province, not a single woman signed up to run. And in the past several weeks, 50 female candidates have dropped out.

In Paktika province, a desolate tribal area without a single girls' secondary school, an election monitor told of a village teacher who traveled to the provincial capital to register as a candidate — and made a second arduous trip there just four days later to resign her candidacy.

The monitor, Peter Murphy of Britain, said the teacher recounted that a group of religious leaders "had seen her sign up and had gone to her village

to tell the elders that it would be wrong for her to run. I tried to talk her out of withdrawing, but she was really terrified. She said people in the market were already saying bad things to her husband, and she was convinced that they would be totally ostracized."

Much of the animosity toward female candidates appears to reflect a traditional discomfort with women in public roles, a view that was further entrenched during the 1990s, when the country was controlled first by warring Islamic militias and then by the extremist Islamic Taliban movement.

Officials from the election management commission, which is composed of both Afghans and foreign nationals, said the complaints they receive about female candidates frequently assert that the woman in question should be disqualified because she has loose morals or a "notorious character."

Still, observers said, it is not always clear whether female candidates are being targeted because of their gender or whether that issue is being used by adversaries who oppose them for other reasons.

In Charkhi's case, for instance, opposition to her candidacy may be tangled up in both family and religious politics. She believes the threats have originated with Shah Mohammed Yousafzai Charkhi, a burly, bearded rival candidate and distant relative from her home village.

Yousafzai Charkhi's brother-in-law is the fugitive former Taliban governor of eastern Nangahar province. Noorzia Charkhi and other villagers claim that Yousafzai Charkhi was a powerful Taliban subcommander in his own right. She said relatives told her that at a recent tribal gathering, Yousafzai Charkhi called her candidacy shameful and said someone should kill her.

"He's totally against women candidates," Noorzia Charkhi said. "During Taliban times, he would go after women with a whip in his hand. Now he's still going after us." However, she also acknowledged that her family had a long-running feud with Yousafzai Charkhi that predated her candidacy.

For his part, Yousafzai Charkhi said he had never been active in the Taliban movement. He charged that Noorzia Charkhi was simply trying to get attention by denouncing him.

Britain may face more bombers - police chief

LONDON (Reuters) - London's police arrested nine more people on Thursday in a massive manhunt for train and bus attackers, but warned a new wave of bombers could be poised to strike Britain again.

"This is a campaign we are facing, it is not a one-off event," Commissioner Ian Blair told Londoners already jittery after two attacks on the city's transport system.

Police are still hunting three of four men wanted for trying to detonate bombs in failed attacks on July 21, exactly two weeks after a team of suspected Islamist militant bombers killed themselves and 52 other people in the capital.

"It does remain possible that those at large will strike again. It does also remain possible that there are other cells that are capable and intent on striking again," Blair said.

"This is not the B-team, these weren't the amateurs," Blair said of the second group of attackers. "They made a mistake. They only made one mistake and we're very, very lucky."

Police arrested nine men in Tooting, south London, on Thursday morning, bringing to 20 the number of people being held in connection with the failed July 21 attacks.

Police said the nine did not include the three suspected bombers they are still hunting. They used a stun gun to arrest one of the prime suspects, Yasin Hassan Omar, in a dawn raid in the city of Birmingham on Wednesday.

Omar, 24, came to Britain from Somalia as a child refugee. He was wanted in connection with an attempted attack at London's Warren Street underground station on July 21.

Police were under pressure to exercise caution after they shot dead Brazilian Jean Charles de Menezes in London on Friday because they mistook him for a suicide bomber.

Interior Ministry officials revealed on Thursday that his student visa had run out two years ago. Police had said the Brazilian ran away when they challenged him.

Muslim groups said attacks on Asians and religious minorities in London have leapt more than 500 percent since the suicide bomb attacks on the capital three weeks ago.

Across Britain one man has been murdered, one mosque firebombed, a Sikh temple attacked and other buildings and individuals targeted, said the Muslim Safety Forum (MSF), an umbrella group of Muslim organizations which advises

the police. Commissioner Blair said police were determined to tackle racially and religiously motivated crimes, but that such offences remained at a very low level for a large city.

He described the hunt for the bombers and their backers as his force's biggest operational challenge since World War II. "I am looking at some very tired men and women," he said.

Police are reviewing 15,000 closed circuit television tapes, have taken 1,800 witness statements and received 5,000 calls on their anti-terrorism hotline.

Police swarmed across the city where residents have become used to the wail of sirens in recent weeks as members of the public report abandoned packages or people acting suspiciously.

As the public remains on edge, newspapers published front-page pictures of a ready-made nail bomb found in the boot of a car that had been rented by one of the July 7 attackers.

They showed a bottle studded with nails to act as shrapnel.

But a police spokeswoman denied a report there were 16 ready-made bombs in the car. Apart from the nail bomb, investigators found bits of explosives and other components.

U.S. Muslims issue anti-terrorism 'fatwa'

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Top U.S. Muslim scholars issued a "fatwa," or religious edict, against terrorism on Thursday and called on Muslims to help authorities fight the scourge of militant violence.

The fatwa was part of efforts by U.S. Muslims to counter perceived links between Islam and terrorism and avert any negative backlash after this month's bombings by suspected Islamic extremists in London and Egypt.

"Having our religious scholars side by side with our community leaders leaves no room for anybody to suggest that Islam and Muslims condone or support any forms or acts of terrorism," said Esam Omeish, president of the Muslim American Society, one of the groups which announced the fatwa.

Ibrahim Hooper, spokesperson for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said it was the first time Muslims in North America had issued an anti-terrorism edict, although they had repeatedly condemned such acts of violence. American Muslims this month launched a nationwide advertising campaign in which they declared that those who committed terrorism in the name of Islam were betraying the teachings of the Koran.

Muslim organizations say they have not so far detected any widespread reaction against their community after the most recent bombings.

Hooper said Thursday's religious ruling, issued by the Fiqh Council of North America, said: "We clearly and strongly state (that) all acts of terrorism targeting



A Muslim woman plays a public service announcement denouncing terrorism during a news conference held to issue a fatwa by the Fiqh Council of North America in Washington July 28. Reuters

civilians are 'haram' (forbidden) in Islam."

"It is 'haram' for a Muslim to cooperate with any individual or group that is involved in any act of terrorism or violence, and it is the civic and religious duty of Muslims to cooperate with law enforcement authorities to protect the lives of all civilians," he quoted the ruling as saying.

The Fiqh Council is an association of Islamic legal scholars that interprets Islamic religious law. Hooper said it was the only one of its kind in North America. Some 130 North American Muslim organizations and leaders have signed and endorsed the fatwa.

Similar anti-terrorism fatwas have been

issued by other Muslim communities. After the bombings in London religious leaders from about 500 British mosques issued such an edict and presented it to local politicians.

According to Islam, only responsible, religious authorities which are recognized by a Muslim community may issue fatwas. Many Muslims say extremists such as Osama bin Laden have given these edicts a bad name in the West because they have used them without authorization and to call for acts such as murder. Because Islam is not based on a worldwide hierarchical structure, the edicts are not globally binding, and only affect the community whose religious leaders have issued the rulings.

Egypt: First candidates for presidential race registered

Egyptian opposition leader Ayman Nur registered to challenge President Hosni Mubarak in September's presidential election. Nur said he was the first to register. "I showed up first at the commission and was the first to register because I want my name to appear first on the ballot papers," he told AFP.

Nur, who is currently on trial on what he says are trumped up fraud charges, dismissed claims from Mubarak's camp that the president registered first. "Such a lie does not bode well for the future of the campaign," said Nur.

Nur was among 12 candidates who

submitted their candidacies on the first day of registration for the September 7 vote.

The official MENA news agency said Nur registered as soon as the electoral commission opened its doors while a source at Mubarak's campaign headquarters said a delegate, Mohammed al-Dakruri, was the first to register the president.

Most of those who registered their candidacies at the commission on Friday are independents, MENA reported, including Sabri Khalil, Khaled Nur, Hamed Siddiq, Abdelmonem Nun and Abdelmajid al-Anani. The other candidates belong to

marginal parties.

The official campaign kicks off on August 17 and ends on September 4, three days before polling day.

قائمة المولود المبكر
أجمل العثماني والتبريكات مملكة باربع النل وبعين الطنار نعدبها الأستاذ
محمد أحمد السنبلي
بمناسبة إزفاته المولودة المبكر والتي أسماها
روان
تألفه الك مبروك بأبأ روان
المختبون /
مشفق العنقب - عادل مصن العنقبني - ناضل يحيى الحكيمي
محمد العمري - هياك عبدالرحمن السقاف وجميع أهل الأصدقاء
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Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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



OUR OPINION

La Venezia dello Yemen

In Venice you don't need a car because to start with the roads are too narrow and secondly you would be driving a boat instead of a car. People would park their "boats" outside their homes and "sail" to work everyday. Venice or as the Italians call it Venezia is one of the most beautiful cities on earth.

Unfortunately, Venezia is one of the places described as low earth in the sense they are gradually being eaten up from the edges by the seawater and there is great risk that someday they might sink completely. And since the Yemeni government is one of the most enthusiastic governments globally in preserving nature and taking care of natural reserves it has done its utmost to save Venezia from its doom. However, you can't fight nature at its peak, and so the Yemeni government is proud to announce that it has decided to compensate for the loss and to start working on the alternative: Sana'a!

We'd probably keep the name as Sana'a, but perhaps have a new nickname for Sana'a as "Venezia dello Yemen", or in English "Venice of Yemen". I assume this is also another way of encouraging sports in the city as the young people instead of chewing Qat they could easily jump from their windows into a public pool on the streets and enjoy the evening in a delightful sport. I suppose that the government is also planning this as means to fight unemployment through inventing a new sector all together. And instead of hailing a cab you would be hailing a boat. Not only that, this also is a great opportunity for encouraging tourism, and Sana'a would be enlisted as one of the world's natural wonders as magnificent description of a sea between mountains. We would have tourists coming from all around the world to see our wonders in Sana'a, and in addition to Bab al-Yaman and the old city thanks to the government we have two more tourist attractions: the President's Mosque and the Grand Canal on the Street 45, which is not very far from the President's Mosque. The grand canal is only a preparation to link the water streams in the various areas around the city especially the side lanes near Hadda road where people are starting to enjoy the water gush into the streets getting ready for their future roles as sailors. Another great aspect of this "Venezia dello Yemen" project is that actually the rain and water streams played a vital role in slowing the people's movement. They will be forced now to consider the beautiful sceneries around them and appreciate life better. Also this way any rash demonstrations will be slowed down if not hindered and the angry protestors will find themselves appreciating life better, contemplating on the future of "Venezia dello Yemen" and their angry cries would invariably be hushed down to a quite "mamma mia"!

The Editorial Board



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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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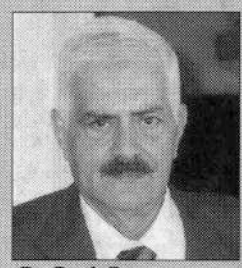
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Arab land waiting for reforms and investments



By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz al-Tarb

In addition to oil, there are other assets that qualify the Arab area to be a fertile land with great capacities to attract prospective investments and fulfilling commitments and pledges (expediting the formation of arbitration boards in which disputers are represented to settle pending commercial, economic and banking disputes.

The population of the Arab World is roughly the same as that of the USA (about 300 million) and the annual per capita averages \$3000 which makes it a great market. The growth rates in late 1990s resemble those of South Asia and Latin America (3%) and the saving rate from 1996-2000 is larger than many other regions except for East Asia and the Pacific (25%). Moreover, the Arab area is of regions with the least debts.

As it is known, the Arab World is at a crossroad. Sustaining the current condition is very perilous and would widen the divide of development separating it from the rest of the World.

Hence, it should adopt fast-paced measures to qualify its societies politically, economically and socially in order to achieve regional integration first and integration into the international economy then. Thus, we realize the importance of taking new initiatives aimed at increasing economic and educational opportunities across the Arab World supported by programs focused on:

- Reinforcing law and strengthening NGOs.
- Finding out active ways to encourage favorable and balanced economic reform.
- Setting up developmental programs in

order to improve educational opportunities and train workforce.

The economic reform process requires the development of governance systems in the Arab area through:

- Respecting the role of the law and improving the governmental performance by bettering the quality of public sector institutions.
- Improving the concept of partnership (partnership in public/private enterprises) and incorporating NGOs and businesses (private sector) in social development.

- Guaranteeing full protection of intellectual property rights.
- Improving the legal institutions and mechanisms to undertake arbitration and settle economic disputes so as to increase the confidence of investors and consumers.
- Developing the Arab judicial system; guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary; enhancing the efficiency of judicial departments by means legal and judicial training.
- Activating women's and youth's role in the society.

Of the economic openness and reform is the development of human resources which is a basic condition for accelerating regional competition and international integration as well as ensuring the stability of macroeconomics and the increase of trade and investment rates, especially the exports of the service sector and added-value products, poverty alleviation and employment fights. Local and foreign investment are two fundamental factors in the economic development process.

In this respect, a number of Arab countries have issued new laws and estab-

lished and developed investment institutions and effected favorable changes to the investment environment. Yet, that is not enough. There is still a bad need for generalizing transparency, indiscriminate, organization of local affairs, freeing trade, providing the conditions for the Arab area to be a competitor in terms of offered investment opportunities.

The Arab area needs of broaden its infrastructure and improve its services so as to boost the growth of public and private investments and keep them in place. US and European companies present in the Arab area are the biggest investors because of the significant opportunities provided for them earlier and the opportunities they anticipate to come as a result of the ongoing economic reform.

It is quite vivid that the US policy reflects the importance of the Arab area for the US national security. It is always looking for possible economic and commercial means to achieve stability and prosperity to serve ultimately its strategic interests borne in this area. therefore, we have to search for our national interests by encouraging other countries to compete with the US in trade and investment by improving custom institutions and procedures, trade finance mechanism, export services, etc.

Here, we realize that reform programs and services suggested and offered from abroad, amidst Arab oblivion, are essentially necessary capitalist techniques meant for laying the infrastructure necessary to contain the Arab markets, exploit their economic opportunities and dominate them. This, consequently, entails that we should prepare our precautionary measures, plans, and studies. The Arab land is rich in men, money and opportunities. When shall we ever understand that and proceed accordingly? A mere question.



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

For the love of Israel

The Trial of Sheikh Ali Hassan Al-Moayyad has proven once again that, on top of providing Israel with all the arsenal it demands, allowing Israel to carry out all violations of the international treaties and conventions and even the few resolutions that the UN Security Council managed to pass, without the US veto, etc., etc, the United States is now also the official lynch man for the Zionist state. Originally, starting out as a case of anti-terrorism in la 9/11, the case finally ended up no more than another gratuitous service to Israel, on relatively weak allegations of aiding Hamas. Furthermore the excessive sentence meted to a generally respected religious man in his own country certainly shows that the American courts are even more merciless against the opponents of Israel than it is against convicted spies working on behalf of Israel against the United States. So, in the final analysis, the "war on terror" is now turning out to be no more than a war for and on behalf of Israel. Sheikh Ali Hassan Al-Moayyad is a well known philanthropist and has many deeds that speak kindly of the man. He is not known in this country for ever speaking in support of any terrorism and extremism. If we can assume that he may have solicited support for Hamas or any other organization that is defending whatever is left of the dignity and rights of the Palestinian people, the American Court system would have a backlog of 100 years at best if it had to try all the cases against supporters of the Palestinian resistance against an illegal occupation, which followed the illegal rape of Palestine and the forced uprooting of its indigenous population in 1948. With the Palestinians still being subjected to the worst crimes of systematic ethnic cleansing, violations of human rights and defilement of their human dignity, the United States is the comfortable home of hundreds of pro-Zionist organizations that are working night and day to solicit donations and contributions to the Zionist state. Needless to say, these contributions enjoy all the facilities one can ever think of: They are made in the open and legal. They are tax deductible and they even work against the United States (AIPAC espionage cases ñ Jonathan Pollard and Larry Franklin). These donations, among other things fund the building of Israeli settlements on land that is not Israeli, uproot olive trees from Palestinian farms, destroy Moslem and Christian cemeteries, bulldoze Palestinian homes and American women, who advocate against injustice and inhumanity (lest we forget the cold blooded murder of Rachel Corrie, God have mercy on her soul, by American Caterpillar Tractors bought with American donations). Yet the solicitors for these donations are prominent social and cultural personalities and they will not be subject to any incriminating trials in Brooklyn or anywhere else in the United States or elsewhere. We shouldn't forget that there were also five Israelis arrested by the FBI right after 9/11, because someone caught them dancing in the street with joy across the Hudson River, just as the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the surrounding buildings were collapsing. This is not fiction, but fact and if you do not believe me check this link (<http://ww1.sundayherald.com/print37707>). The Zionist lobby in the US has worked diligently to cover this up with the generous tax deductible donations of American citizens.

Even criminals, who betrayed their country are accorded honor treatment by the United States. This week we heard that the United States is pursuing for pardons for the Lebanese mercenaries that were contracted by Israel to bring death and destruction in Southern Lebanon, after they have succeeded in the release of a killer of a former Lebanese leader. This is how the US wants to fight terrorism in the world. If its for Israel, so let it be. So, Al-Moayyad will get 75 years for doing nothing against the United States, but for "conspiracy to support Hamas", so the charges state. Most likely had Al-Moayyad been tried in Israel, chances are the sentence would not have been anywhere near that, even if the charges had some merit to them. But, then the pro-Israel lobby in the US pulled out its tax deductible donations supported muscle and maybe some persuasive arm-twisting tool and the judge was unable to hold back his love for the Israeli occupiers of land that was never their land, who are "performing miracles in the desert", according to the Zionist propaganda literature on Israel paid for by American donations.

So the big score on the "War on Terror" was no more than a gesture of kindness to the worst terrorists that the Middle East has seen, who continuously carry out their terror under the guise of national defense in the Holy Land to systematically remove its indigenous population.

It is really depressing to see the obvious paradox in the way the United States has come to view terrorism. Israeli terrorism is self defense according to Bush Administration, whereas Palestinian resistance against Israeli occupation and a systematic campaign of genocide is terrorism. Most probably the judge hasn't the faintest idea of where Palestine is located, or that even that Israel was non-existent some sixty years ago, with its territory inhabited by a people who had lived there undisturbed and unchallenged for their ownership of the land for millenniums. Nor does he know that the Israelis he is supposedly safeguarding by imprisoning a man, who would not hurt a fly, are actually building a "security wall" that gives them what they see as legitimacy to all the land they have stolen since 1967 in the West Bank. This security wall, someone should tell the judge has dislocated thousands of people and rendered them homeless. This security wall has divided even families and prevents them from ever coming together, even on holidays. This security wall has forced children to have to travel 3 to 5 hours to schools that used to take them minutes to reach from their homes. This security wall has ended the means of sustenance for thousands of Palestinians whose farms have been removed from the face of the earth with all their trees and groves.

So what did al-Moayyad actually do against the United States? Absolutely nothing as far as any person with the slightest intelligence can perceive from the so called evidence. Oh, they had suggestions that once upon a time, he may have had links to Al-Qaeda. Well, if anybody has forgotten, the CIA had links to Al-Qaeda and they were far more direct. No matter; the issue is not terrorism against the US, the issue is take on the job as lynch man for those who dare challenge the right of Israeli terror to prevail and accord it all due honors. That is what the mayhem we are seeing in this world is really all about.

Democracy, demonstrations and the W.T.O.

By DAVID WATT
pwatt83@hotmail.com

As a young student from Europe who has studied much of the modern history of the Middle East, a history often highlighted by instability and authoritarianism, coming to Yemen a year ago was a surprise, and a very much a refreshing one. Here tucked away in arguably the most unknown corner of the Middle East was a country where democracy was apparently alive and well with a free press and a people who were far from concerned about speaking publicly as to the short comings of their government and even, let it be said, their president. This is not to say that Yemen is the land of milk and honey, it lacks the belligerent wealth of its Northern neighbours and is endowed with a population larger than the rest of the Gulf region put together. The pressures are great but the also the outlook appears to be one of hope rather than the despair that afflicts many similar countries a short distance to the west in Horn of Africa.

Yemen with its' democracy and now the prospect, though perhaps I speak too soon, of a peaceful hand over of power from the presidency is exceptional in the Middle East and indeed the developing world.

Although endowed with oil reserves they are far from sufficient to be the single prop for development in such a populous state. This is perhaps a blessing, the skews and dangers of Dutch Disease' that have blighted Iran, (possibly the most similar oil state to Yemen) which were a direct result of the fabulous wealth that was on offer, swamped an otherwise diverse economy buoyed by a capable and determined people.

From this position though the natural path for Yemen to market itself in global trade.

The country has a massive capacity for tourism, despite the 'dangers of terrorism' (a betting man would currently avoid London before Marib), that is still very much undeveloped, but also is in prime place to compete for Europe's demand for cash crops like all year vegetables and flowers that have enriched other countries such as Kenya. This calls for a degree of vision in Agricultural policy, and perhaps a move away from simply growing more gart, towards one that responds to and exploits the demands of consumers. The fishing sector is one that Yemen is already forging ahead with, recording a 30-40% rise in exports successively over the last 3 years, an impressive feat and one that must

be sustained. But before voices cry that I am suggesting that the only way to get ahead is to become subservient to 'The Global Market' it must be remembered that although the customer is always right, he is also always paying you.

Looming over this debate, perhaps inevitably, is the ever contentious subject of the World Trade Organization. It is perhaps the most distrusted, and often most detested, organization in the world but is also more often than not the most misunderstood. Much to the ire of many anti-globalists of my own generation, a lack of knowledge is not an excuse for hoologanism.

Its explicit purpose is to facilitate global trade; in much the same way as phones and the internet have distributed knowledge like never before, the WTO seeks to allow the 'cyber-connections' between producers and consumers world-wide be realized through the removal of trade-tariffs and barriers. As suspicious and as furiously 'Free Trade' as this may sound the organization is primarily a talking shop for working through disputes between nations and putting in place wider agreements for multi-national cooperation on opening up trade. Seeing as the three biggest consumers in the world, the US, Japan and Europe, are also the three biggest subsidizers and tariff supporters in the world this organization would seem to support the poorer nations who are hard done by not being allowed to fairly compete in their markets. However it is not a one way process as its other demands, which are in truth only reasonable, are for the protection of corporate investments in their destination countries. So if we say that this is an organization which supports free trade and the removal of punitive measures that throttle the economies of developing nations such as India and Brazil what does it mean for Yemen? And why has Yemen been so interested in joining?

The economic moves that could bring new export earnings to Yemen have already been mentioned but for these to bear fruit integration with a trade forum like the WTO is vital. Hence why the Yemeni government applied for membership in 2000, it is a far sighted step to link into wider markets and trade agreements that will become increasingly important in the future development of the country's economy.

However a vigorous anti-globalist would say that last weeks fuel price hike can be attributed to the WTO and the World Bank. It is true to say that the World Bank loan stipulations and WTO entry have demanded that Yemen remove its

subsidies on fuel and certain other goods such as concrete, but there are other much larger factors at play in this sum. Fuel subsidies are expensive, particularly when designed to support prices at \$30 a barrel now that they are close to \$60. The Yemeni government has been running with a fiscal deficit as they have increased the scope of the state and as a result their spending, due in no small part to state subsidies. The example of Indonesia, in its current state of bankruptcy from pretending that oil is still cheap is not one to follow.

So if anything the cutting of subsidies is a frugal and responsible act by the government, though perhaps doing this in one night is a foolishly blunt solution.

I would however also applaud the reaction of the wider Yemeni public. An obviously unexpected and unwelcome move was met by protests which voiced the general opinion. Both Britain and France are famous for assertive civic action; French truckers and farmers regularly blockade the countries borders whilst British haulers paralyzed the country several times in 2000 & 2001 for days on end over fuel price rises. This is not the sign of weak government and despotic rule, as I hope the western media realizes, but a sign of a free society in rude health, perhaps a mechanism for registering protest marches would not go amiss but the fact that the people are unafraid to come out against the government is to be admired.

Merely hope that this civic responsibility, reminding the government that it can't do whatever it feels like, continues and blossoms in the future. President Ali Abdullah Saleh has said that he will not stand in the upcoming elections and that someone should come forward from the younger generations. Take him at his word; he has done great things for Yemen and it would be a great shame if a record which elevates him to one of the greatest leaders in the developing world is tarnished at the last hurdle. Take to the streets not merely when it becomes more expensive to fill up your cars, this is merely of material concern, but make sure that you come out in the thousands when you feel your political independence and freedom is threatened.

'Dutch Disease': The deindustrialization of a nation's economy that occurs when the discovery of a natural resource raises the value of that nation's currency, making manufactured goods less competitive with other nations, increasing imports and decreasing exports. The term originated in Holland after the discovery of North Sea gas.

Yemen Press Review

Review By Abdul-Slam Al-Korari



Al-Sahwah, July 28, 2005.

Main Headlines.

- A Govt. Brought About Starvation ..and the COCA Charges it with Looting Billions.
- Al-Eslah Demands Investigations to Find out Who Caused Bloodshed.
- Economists: Govt. Retreat Tactic to Defuse Wrath
- Yemenis Appeal to American Judiciary to Release Al-Moay'ad and Zayed.
- Joint Grouping Parties Suspend Dialogue with P.G.C in Protest Against Dose

Al-Sahwah published a detailed report about financial corruption and looting the public funds. The paper reported that the Central Organization for Auditing and Control COCA released a report revealed that the treasury had sustained huge losses last year estimated at 2,5 billion YR and more than one million dollar as a result of 86 of corruption cases. The COCA report which reviewed by the Shoura Council had confirmed that some 6,5 billion YR and \$7,3 million were spent even though the required documents were incomplete. Furthermore, about 1,6 billion YR and half a million dollar were spent without any legal warrant. The report stated that the two ministries of Roads and Public Works and Public Health and Population had breached the

law of tenders and spent more than 19,5 billion YR. Moreover, the retarded projects in a number of governmental bodies calculated some 15 billion YR.



Al-Nahar, July 28, 2005.

Main Headlines.

- Ba-Jammal Govt. Responsible for Missing 3 Billion YR Due to Corruption.
- Govt. Telling Lies and Decreasing Wages Scale to 15,000 YR.
- Military Camps Holds Dozens of Detainees over Hunger Demonstrations.

Al-Nahar came out with an interview with the Royal Netherlands Ambassador in Sana'a HE. Johan F.L. Blankenberg who confirmed that Yemen needs further economical activities and fighting corruption is a persisting process. He stated that the Netherlands assistance to Yemen reaches up to \$30 million dollar annually. Asked about democracy experience in Yemen Mr. Blankenberg said "Yemen has managed to make bold steps since its reunification toward building an open and democratic society so it has become a pioneer in this domain in the entire region, yet Yemen is still an emergence state in this field and it needs more time and support to achieve the democratic transformation and I do believe that Yemen ought to make greater effort so as to maintain its pioneering position, otherwise it might lag

behind, so the electoral process in the upcoming elections next year will be a practical tests to the country in this regard.



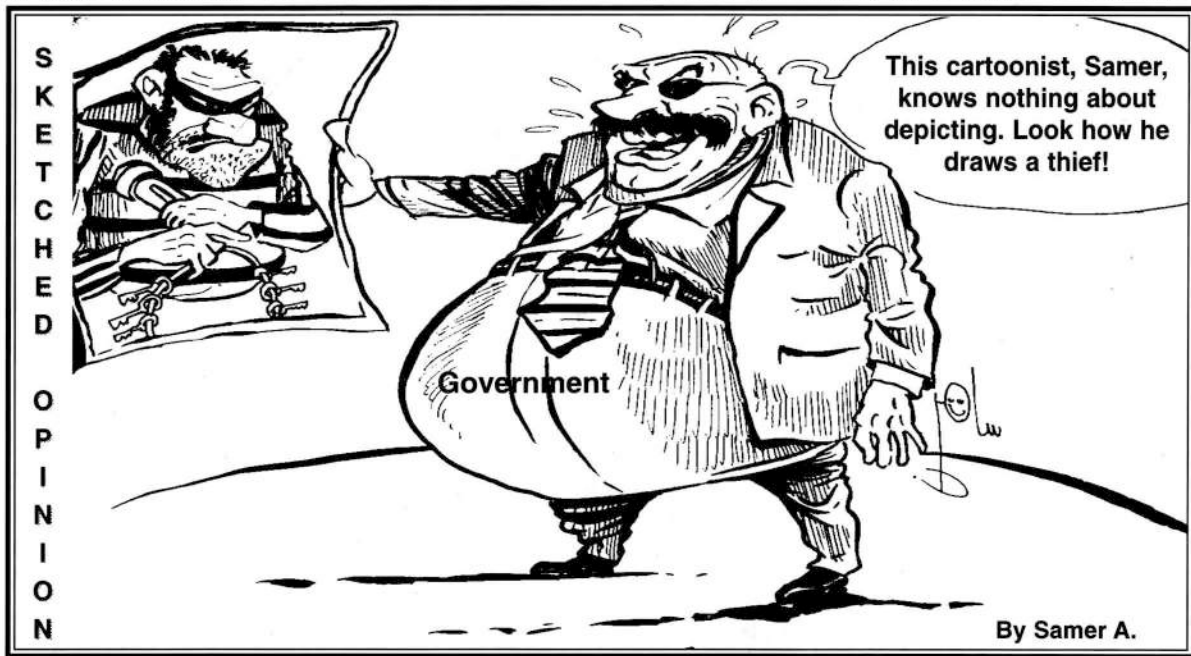
Al-Ommah, July 28, 2005.

Main Headlines.

- President No Tolerance with Manipulators of the citizens substantial commodities.
- Dr. Al-Kerbi: American Authorities Decided to Extradite 7 of Yemeni Detainees In Gwuantannou.
- France Foreign Ministry Reveals its Warning to French of Travel to Yemen
- Yemeni Indonesian Ministerial Committee to Convene on Aug.9.
- Central Bank of Yemen Provides Foreign Exchange Market with \$53 Million
- Fourth Group of Modern Boats Joins Coast Guard Service Soon.

The paper published a survey over the fuel prices adjustments in which officials and experts emphasized that prices adjustments were imperative to save the economy from an overall collapse.

Dr.Khalid Sheikh minister of Trade said "Unless the government carried out the recent measures, YR was due to lost its value". For his part Dr. Abdullah Al-Mekhlafi, deputy minister of finance ministry stated that "Subsidies didn't use to reach to the targeted people".



By Samer A.

Minister of Transport, Eng. Omar Al-Amoudi indicated that "Subsidies were factors conducive to smuggling".



Al-Ommah July 28, 2005.

Main Headlines.

- Crackdown on Demonstrators Against Killer Dose Going on.
- Slight Reduce in Fuel Prices After President Meeting With Tribesmen.
- Suspicions Over Dialogue with Al-Houthi Followers and Fairs of Fight Renewal.

Al-Ommah political editor wrote: the government had realized its plunder and retreated due the tribal intervention. The tribesmen have proven to be of quite strong influence more than the political parties NGOs.

Then, what's the next, would the government will think about the comprehensive political reform and take on corruption. The writer enquired.

The government had repeatedly promised to embark on genuine reforms and fight corruption ,however things have been going from bad to worst. So, what's there following the killer dose? Has the government already felt the danger so that it will initiate to adopt a comprehensive national political reform and take on corruption.. or it is too late to do so?



Al-Gamaheer, July 27, 2005.

Main Headlines.

- Al-Ba'ath Condemns Sabotage.. Puts Blames on Govt.. and Demands

Throwing it Down.

- Central Prison Turns down Judicial Verdict.
- Political Parties and NGOs Calling for Setting Al-Moay'ad Free.

Al-Gamaheer, published a statement issued by Arab Ba'ath Socialist party, over the demonstrations stormed through the streets of the capital secretariat and an umber of cities across the country last week. The statement expressed the party's stance toward the fuel prices adjustments and the masses protestations. It stated that the party reiterates its opposition to the fuel prices adjustments for their negative impacts upon the citizens living conditions. On the other hand the party strongly condemned the riot ,sabotage and violence acts occurred during the demonstrations. The party appeals to the president of the republic to immediately intervene and getting the government quit and bring it into accountability.

Experts in development

By FATIMA FOUAD
FATIMA@YEMENTIMES.COM

How safe it is to be in Yemen? Is it a democratic state? What are the main exports of this country? Can you give me a population estimate? These questions were asked to me by a governance advisor of one of the major international donor agencies. If for one second you think that most of the foreign experts who come to Yemen know what they are talking about, you ought to seriously reconsider.

I worked in a local Yemeni engineering company 5 years ago. Some of the work required inspection from foreign experts for a quality check. To do this, an expatriate had to fly to Yemen, check the equipment and go home the next day. Getting the expatriate was an expensive process, but it was imperative from a security perspective.

Simultaneously, a certain technical need had to develop in combating poverty. Expensive experts are being flown to Yemen on a regular basis to advise on several issues: Health, education, water and governance. While it is expected that these advisors have a considerable amount of knowledge in their domain, I can almost affirm that the majority of them had no clue what Yemen is.

I have lots of respect for some of the few scholars and development partners who were able to make a strong blue print in Yemen; they are known for their honesty and dedication and were able to shape contemporary Yemen. The majority however, had no significant impact before or after being in this country. A big part of this is caused by the low profile of Yemen in the Middle East and the low interest that development agencies have in Yemen in general.

It is often known that prior to experts arriving to this land, a familiarization visit would be instigated and a good amount of academic research would take place to increase understanding of the nature of this country; however, is that enough to be a sound basis of

formulating long term policy plans?

Gathering basic information about this country and knowing the location of its capital city is not the important factor in policy planning. Further understanding complicated events around Yemen and being able to communicate them to a wide audience is a stale move that doesn't do any good to the Yemeni public. Experts usually run to their ready made toolkit in fighting poverty, often articulating policy options they have used in other countries or in their education years.

What puzzles me is that most of these foreign ex-pats chuckle at the idea of having an independent Yemeni organization acting as a strategic center to formulate policy options. They do not believe that qualified Yemeni members of their community can actually organize themselves in a way that will enable them have a voice in the policy making of their country. If the foreign hand is not a part of the project, then they can not even envisage the idea being a success.

It is excruciating that the quality of experts that Yemen possesses are not at all checked by the main customer: the Yemeni government. The Yemeni environment has always been welcoming of these ex-pats regardless of their background and motives. Most of these experts are not even specialized in the domains they are advising on, you will often find civil engineers formulating policy options in health, environmentalists working in education and economists working on everything.

The absence of the quality check from the Yemeni side on the experts we are getting in the development field has encouraged more expatriates to look at Yemen as a perfect starting point of their careers. Yemen is now an arena for trial and error ideas instigated by an expensive process that is affecting the lives of millions of the poor.

Yemen is an abstract work of art. There is no shape or clarity in the features of this country that an outsider can understand. Only someone who lived in its soil can untie the mystic revelations of this city. It is basically time for the Yemeni government to start investing in their own people.

Jihad or murder?

By ABDU FILALI-ANSARY

It is remarkable that some of the most critical concepts of Muslim religious terminology have now become part of the international language of current affairs. Questions drawn from Islamic theology are discussed freely by the world public, engaging specialists and non-specialists, Muslims and non-Muslims. Theological disputation has moved far from Islam's religious academies.

For example, the term *jihad*, commonly translated as "holy war," has become nearly ubiquitous. Though conceived in early Muslim history as a means of spreading God's word, Muslim scholars today distinguish between two kinds of *jihad* – one being an internal struggle against temptation, and the other a physical conflict against an aggressor who threatens the survival or the fundamental rights of a Muslim community. In this context, there is widespread rejection of the fundamentalists' use of the term.

Numerous Muslim scholars have raised their voices to challenge the terrorists' defense of suicide bombings or attacks on civilians, offering long citations from centuries of religious jurisprudence. In itself, this approach represents a worthy expression of collective conscience in opposition to the terrorists.

But many among the public and in the media want more. Muslim intellectuals are being encouraged to press the religious argument against fundamentalist violence in order to deprive the terrorists of their most fearsome and potent arguments. If Muslim scholars can somehow disprove these arguments, it is thought, then the terrorists' ability to sustain their violent underground will be reduced.

Is this right? A quick survey of the history of religious conflict shows that theological controversies have never been resolved by theological arguments. Looking more closely, one finds that while these controversies were often framed in religious terms, they were not at all about religion. The range of opposing interpretations of religious texts is virtually unlimited, and disputes are seldom resolved by rational argument.

In earlier times, such controversies were decided by political authorities, which used military force to impose one particular point of view at the expense of all others. Muslim history is full of such cases. Recently, when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, he found scholars who raised theological arguments on his behalf. The coalition confronting him had no difficulty finding religious arguments that led to precisely the opposite conclusion.

Today, it is clear that fundamentalists and their supporters are completely closed off to even the most elaborate theological refutation of their views, even when produced by distinguished religious authorities. The first reflex of the fundamentalists

is to withdraw from the mainstream, to build around themselves a shell that is impervious to any logic other than their own.

The most essential questions that humans face today – those that engender the deepest conflicts – have nothing to do with theology. They concern disputes over territory, political power, definitions of rights, and distribution of wealth. The means of discussing these questions is known to all and is expressed in all religions and all languages. The evils most deeply resented – in all societies – are injustice, despotism, corruption, and poverty. We all understand what these mean, and how certain people must live with them on a daily basis.

Why, then, do we follow the fundamentalists to the very heart of their madness? Allowing them to frame these problems in religious terms legitimizes the perspective that they are attempting to impose, particularly in their own societies.

Repeatedly, the Muslim religious establishment has been urged to issue statements denying fundamentalists the right to use religious terms like *jihad*. But experience has proven that this approach leads nowhere. In fact, debates about the use of religious terms lend credibility to fundamentalist efforts to apply these ideas to conditions in the modern world. Such debates concede that these religious concepts are generally valid, even when, as in the fundamentalists' case, they simply do not apply.

As a result, the entire discussion could easily backfire. Invariably, fundamentalists dismiss religious critiques of their views as evidence that religious authorities have been corrupted by hostile influences. In this way, the terrorists oppose the "purity" and "authenticity" of their arguments to the compromises presumably forced upon religious establishments.

Speaking to Muslims exclusively in their own religious terms also excludes them from broad ethical frameworks that defend essential human values, most notably the protection of innocent civilians. These values are the foundation upon which all religious and cultural traditions rest.

To be sure, it is important to understand the discourse of those who are making war on societies – their own societies first and foremost. But adopting the terrorists' interpretation of events conceals the reality of this conflict. Instead of fighting on behalf of political and religious liberty, we risk engaging in a conflict with the false images that the terrorists have created. Worse still, we would bring this conflict into our own societies, where different religious and cultural traditions are now inextricably mingled.

Abdou Filali-Ansary is Director of the Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilizations at Aga Khan University. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2005.



Appeasing the Tribes or the Public anger ?!

The latest decision of president Ali Abdullah Saleh to lower fuel prices has clearly shown how powerful and influential the tribe is still in Yemen. The president and the government were heedless to the hungry protesters who took to the streets motivated by poverty. These poor people were faced with bullets, tanks, armored cars, artileries and other sorts of weapons. I have heard that those who have been detained are facing all sorts of intimidations and harassment. The angry masses have been considered lawless rioters who should be taken to jail and put on trail. I know that the damage that hit the public and private properties was big and shows uncivilized way of protesting. Yet, those rioters are a select few force drive is still unknown but the other thousands of protesters have been motivated by nothing but poverty and hunger. That is, not all the protesters are troublemakers and need to be prosecuted.

When it comes to deal with the fully armed tribes, the situation is completely different. Tribal chiefs have been given warm welcome at the presidential palace and dealt with in a lenient manner. These guys have been angry with the government's decision to increase fuel prices, angry with the president and even asked him in their own tribal discourse and norms to setback and reverse the decision. The other day, the president came out with the decision to reduce the price.

The reason, of course, was not to appease the enraged public but to appease the tribal figures who seemed more powerful than the public, the political parties and civil society organizations. Forget about the people in the capital Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb, Aden, and Hodiedah who do not exercise the techniques of the tribesmen in imposing a blockade on gas and oil flow.

The reverse of the government's decision also shows how weak is the role of the political parties and civil society organizations which has not been able to compete the tribes, let alone replace them.

The political regime in Yemen which is tribal based on nepotism has worked hard to weaken the role of civil society organizations, empowering the tribes to the extent of 'tribalizing' our life,

replacing their norms in place of the law. This has made the tribes' role more influential and powerful than the state and its institutions. That is, Tribesmen and Sheikhs are more powerful and influential than intellectuals and opinion makers. Educated people are even looked down upon. Tribal Sheikhs can get whatever they like from the government. Instead of downsizing their influence the political regime boosted the power of Sheikhs in their areas and provided them with military as well as financial support, a behavior which enhanced the power of the tribe in the community. This brought about a sort of what can be called "tribocracy" in the country and hampered efforts to establish a civilized state based on law and order.

This is why the ordinary citizens protesting the fuel price rise had been repressed with excessive aggression and use of power. On the other hand, the tribesmen challenged the president and the state; they blocked the gas flow and fired against the gas tankers. The outcome was the reverse of the government's decision, putting it in an embarrassing situation, and encouraging the tribes to be more and more aggressive with the state. The government will never question those who attacked the gas tankers and if it does, the issue will be sorted out in a tribal manner. But, for those ordinary protesters who have no tribes to back up, they will be put in jail and abused in various forms and might be president before court. I have heard that the aggressive policemen who lack basic knowledge of how to deal with citizens according to human rights principles, are now hunting down for the protesters, something which they can never do in Marib, al-Jawf or any other tribal areas. I am not here trying to defend the riots and rioters but I am trying to see how the influence of the tribes has weakened the state and created double standards in dealing the citizens.

To drive the point home, such a political regime which is still governed by the tribal norms will never be able to build a state based on law and order that should be applicable to and respected by all people regardless of the social categories. A civilized state needs civilized leaders who cherish the law more than anything else and work hard for its implementation.

YT Business

Between price anarchy and merchant's greediness

BY NABIL AL-OSAIDY
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The late sharp rise in prices compelled people to abstain from buying most necessary things or sometimes reduce them to minimum. The minister of Trade and industry, Khalid Rajih Shaikh confirmed that they are watching and controlling the market, through their field teams that they established in all the governorates.

This is in addition to their intention to re-establish the general price supervision administration. In spite of that prices are still very high, with variations in the percentage from one place to another. Many items disappeared with indicators that the merchants have stored them in the hope of selling them in the black market when their prices rise.

Unheeded Warnings

The minister who is often on air these days keeps warning the merchants of the consequences of raising prices. He threatens that severe measures would be taken against those who exploit the events of increase in fuel price increase, and the chaos that followed. He asserted that they have filed law suits against a number of merchants, because they have cheated in prices.

The minister has repeatedly declared that his ministry will announce a package of commodity prices, so that people can choose their alternatives, of prices that suit them.



This will cause a real competition on commodities and consequently a reduction in prices. The minister invited all citizens to report to the authorities on any disregard for the prices. The merchants argue that what is published in the media is incredible. They allege that the wholesale dealers control the real prices, while the government turns a deaf ear to them, then it blames small merchants.

Uncurbed greed

The last riots generated a random sky rocketing in prices, it was driven by greed and absence of supervision, taking the chance of the engagement of security authorities elsewhere.

Many merchants blame the rise of the petroleum increase for price hike. Some merchants have stored a large quantity of goods even before the announcement of the increase in fuel

prices, in the hope of raising their prices afterwards.

Mr. Salim Al-Ma'mary, manager of internal trade in the ministry of Trade and Industry, said that they have detained more than 95 merchants in each of Sa'ada, Hajaa, Dhamar and the Capital Secretariat, because they rose the prices of commodities. Mr. Alma'amary added that, the detained cases were a personal behavior in price rising.

Pm Abdul Gadir BaJamal said that the economy would of collapsed if these reforms were not applied. He added that his government wanted to deduct \$500million from the diesel subsidies every year, in a frame of an agreement reached with the World Bank. These reforms are meant to address the budget deficit and the growing, unemployment and the burucracy.

Buy from the newspaper

People depended on the media to follow the prices after the anarchy that prevailed in the markets. Most of the merchants refused to accept the declared prices. They mock the people by saying, "Go and buy from the newspaper," or "let the newspaper sell you with those price."

The newspapers confirm that the commodities are available in large amounts, with their same previous prices. The local markets contradict these facts as the prices have doubled, the hour that the increase in fuel prices was announced. The prices of sugar and rice have risen from Yr.3000, to Yr.6000 per sack.

It didn't stop there in this respect. On the day when riots started, all the market places closed down from the morning until the afternoon, where some of them half opened their doors and began selling things demanding high prices, exploiting the people's need for commodities, absence of supervision and the engagement of the authorities in the riots' incidents.

Destroy and sell

There is a phenomenon that should be considered, in the last anarchy that struck the Yemeni cities. As the demonstrators were destroying all that their hands could reach, there were others who were collecting what was destroyed, so as to sell it in other places. They have even taken destroyed car parts to sell them in second hand shops. This is what some demonstrators narrated about the anarchy of the last riots

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	192.0700	192.5000
Sterling Pound	334.7100	335.4600
Euro	231.4200	231.9300
Saudi Rial	51.2100	51.3300
Kuwaiti Dinar	657.7500	659.2200
UAE Dirhem	52.2900	52.4100
Egyptian Pound	33.2500	33.3300
Bahraini Dinar	509.4500	510.5900
Qatari Rial	52.7900	52.9000
Jordanian Dinar	271.1100	271.7200
Omani Rial	498.8800	499.9900
Swiss Franc	147.8800	148.2100
Swedish Crown	24.5600	24.6100
Japanese Yen	1.7037	1.7075

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

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ARMADA

The book of Himiarite vision, in the Arabic origin of the Greek culture

BY FADL AL-GATHAM

The book tackles very important matters as follows:

Is the Greek nation of an Arabic origin? Has the Greek language an Arabic origin?

The author penetrates the Greek history up to the fourth phase of the melting of snow in 14000B. c.

He then explores the desertification of the Arab peninsula, which led to the immigration of Arabic clans to other places, like:

*The emigration of the Azures (Azer) with his people to Egypt. This led to a farming revolution by inventing the irrigation channels. This is followed by the arrival of Horus with his people from Yemen to the delta in Idfo town. They invented the metal/copper weapons.

*The immigration of the Peleasians (sons Peleag who is the son of Yafith)—other historians return their origin to Sam, the son of Noah from their land in eastern Peninsula of Greece (they called their first settlement Morah) It is known as

Mora peninsula.

The author proved the Arabic origin of other Greek clans, who came a long time after the arrival of the Peleasians. These are:

- 1-The Ilians/ followers of Iel.
- 2-The Ikhioms, which come from Ah= Akh
- 3-The Dorions: there are still some of their remainders in Oman
- 4-The Phonicians / Himiarites: on top of them are the Dho Yagdom Ibn Al- sawar Ibn Abd-shams of the Hymirite dynasty, which the Greek myths spoke of him as (Kadma /kadmos), the Master, who invented the Alphabet. He came to Greece after his abducted sister Aurophah /Europe. His settlement there made advancement in city building (Kamdia + Thebes) with comprehensive building civilization.

The Greek language is of an Arabic origin

As the people who inhabited Greece were Arabs their language should necessarily be an Arabic language. It was a mixture of Eastern Serianic and western Phoenician.

The author has hence flavored his visions with over 200 scientific terms of Greek roots (and sometimes Latin). He presented his proof of the Arabic origin of the Greek language by giving equivalent Arabic roots.

The writer then speaks the rituals and ceremonies of poetry, love, health and beauty that are related to their famous god Apollo. He compares them with the annual bathing ceremonies and the famous BAL dance, in the Yemeni plateau, particularly in Saraw Himiar/Yafe'

The writer elaborates in describing the aspects of delight and cheerfulness, connected with reciting of poetry, especially in the festivals of the days of pilgrimage (sacrifice days of the Ismail escape of slaughter), in the towns and villages of the great plateau in Saraw Himiar (the site of the research).

The book is rich with its Arabic and English references. The author is famous for his Yemeni Far East history writings—Damascus 1999

The author graduated in 1989 in University of Aberyst Wythe in Wales

With honor degree in Economics & Politics

Rural woman human rights program launched

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Support for Woman Issues Organization and Democratization Support Organization held last Monday a training course involving 30 participants to mark the launch of the "Rural Woman's Human Rights and Economic Enabling" program.

The program is being implemented in seven districts from four provinces: Jawf, Amran, Sa'adah, and Dhamar.

The participants are woman societies' officers as well as secretary generals of local councils in the concerned districts.

The three-day training focused on certain themes such as secretarial assignments, filing, using computer and drafting projects.

Some sixty thousand dollars are funded by the French Social Fund, said Abdul-Majid al-Fahd.

Deputy French Ambassador had delivered a speech at the opening ceremony stressing that decentralization should be boosted.

"We should build local capacities because development can go from bottom upwards. The French Fund constantly tries to improve Yemeni women's education," he added.

Literary Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

The Structure of Dreams (in the Story of Joseph and His Brethren) 2 of 3

When Joseph (PAUH) realizes that he is going to be put in an awkward position of having to fight off the promiscuity of the ladies of Egyptian nobility or the establishment at the time, he could see could see that this would mean trouble for him and his conscience, so the best way to avoid what would become a highly controversial social.

As a God-fearing individual, he saw prison as putting him in safety from the possibility of being tempted to submit to their evil prodding, as he sees the moral implications of such an abomination.

Thus he indeed is sentenced to prison, after some of the ladies were ready to cut their hands for refusing their prodding, after which his master's wife demanded that he submit to her or he would go to jail for causing such sadism in the court. He spent sometime in jail (maybe seven years) and his opportunity came upon the pharaoh having a strange dream, which he needed to be interpreted.

In the prison he had met two fellow prison mates who had dreamed simultaneously, that one was to serve his master wine and the other was to have birds eat of the top of his head. The latter was executed (so the birds would eat of his head), while the former stayed a little while and then went out to serve in the court.

Meanwhile, Yusuf or Joseph (PAUH) continued to dwell in prison until the Pharaoh was telling his dream about seven fat cows eaten by seven lean cows and seven healthy or "green" stalks of wheat and another seven dry stalks. So the former prison mate of Joseph went to suggest to the pharaoh that he knows who can interpret this dream, after his experts and advisors had failed to come up with a discernible explanation.

When Joseph was able to interpret the dream (which will be explained later), the Pharaoh wanted to reward Joseph by releasing him from prison and assigning him a position close to him (personal advisor, minister, etc.) At first however, Joseph first requested that he clear him-

self from any implications in the charges for which he was imprisoned for made by his former master's wife. At that moment, the lady admitted her guilt and absolved Joseph of any suspicions, noting that it was her temptation that led to the dispute between them, when he refused to surrender to her seductive gestures.

At this stage Joseph's life has transformed from one of a lonely prisoner for seven years or so to one of the leading authorities in the land. He declined the offer of a senior position by the Pharaoh and opted to be assigned as Trustee over the state provisions, because he felt by his strong moral character, he can be of better service and ensure that no waste arises from the dispensing of the surplus grains. With the drought that was eminent in Pharaoh's dream coming into reality, people from all over the region came to Egypt to acquire grain supplies, since Egypt, thanks to Joseph had become prepared for the eminent drought.

It is at this juncture that Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to acquire grains for their stock. When they entered, Joseph immediately recognized them and kept this knowledge to himself. He asked that they present to him a brother (obviously asking for Benjamin, his younger brother), who apparently did not come with them on this journey. If they did not bring him over, they will not be provided with any provisions they wanted.

They said they will try to convince his father of this request. Joseph instructed his staff to return the goods they brought (to barter for the provisions), so that they only find them when they get back home, so that they can come back. When they reached Jacob, they told him that they have been given their merchandise back, and that means they can get more provisions, so why not send their brother with them on this round.

Jacob was not confident, but nevertheless he had no choice but to accede demanding that they give an undertaking to come back with him. After requesting

his children to only "enter from different doors" lest they appear like a mob, he acceded to their wish. When the brothers arrived, he confided to his younger brother, that he was his brother, so as not to react to what his brothers were undergoing.

When the goods, they came for were prepared, Joseph asked his staff to implant an expensive beaker in the pack. Then one of the staff shouted that the beaker has been stolen, and a reward will be given to its finder. They searched the packs, and found the cup in his brother's pack.

Thus Benjamin was now to be apprehended for stealing the King's beaker. The other brothers were conscious of the pledge they had given their father, so they tried in vain to convince the Trustee to release him, because of his father's old age and to even take one of them instead. But, Joseph insisted that we only take, who we found our stolen good with.

When they returned to Joseph, they tried to explain what happened to their brother and that they really had nothing to do with it. He can ask anyone who was there and this time they are really telling the truth. Nevertheless, Jacob turned away from them with his grief very compelling on him, upon which he said, "Oh what a pity for Yusuf" and his eyes turned blind from the despondency he was undergoing.

He then requested his sons to go and enquire about Joseph and his brother, maybe God will enlighten them to both of them, for they should not give hope on the mercy of Allah.

They went back to Egypt, hoping to seek their two brothers and release them from the anguish of their father, as a means of repentance. They pleaded with the trustee to release their brother explaining the terrible suffering he is undergoing.

At this juncture, Joseph turned them angrily, saying: "Have you forgotten, what you did to Joseph and his (full) brother?" reminding them of a secret that only Joseph, himself, and they knew!

Invitation for Bids -IFB#36/05 for the Construction of Maghrabat Al Hareesh Al Maghrabah DC Rural Road

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Public Works & Highway
Rural Access Program
IDA Credit No.3514 Yem

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 626 of Mar16, 2004.
2. The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of Yemen Rural Access Program and intends to apply part of the part of the proceeds of this Credit to payments under the Contract for the Construction of Maghrabat Al Hareesh Al Maghrabah DC Road-Section II. This contract will be jointly financed by the Government of Yemen.
3. The Ministry of Public Works and Highways Rural Access Project Central Management Office now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction of Maghrabat Al Hareesh Al Maghrabah DC RR (11 km) in Hajjah Governorate. The construction period is 12 months.
4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from:

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways
Rural Access Project, Central Management Office (RAPCMO)
Off Zubairi St., Masa'ab Bin Omair St.
Villa No.56
P.O.Box: 16472;
Fax: 00967-01-409626
Tel: 00967 01 465225
Email: rapcmu@y.net.ye
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM

6. Qualifications requirements include:
 - Average Annual Construction Turnover of twice the project cost
 - Substantial completion of 2 similar nature projects,
 - Availability of liquid assets and/or credit facilities US\$280,000.0.
 - Availability of the construction equipment,

A margin of preference for eligible national contractors/joint ventures shall be applied.

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of a non refundable fee US\$150 or the equivalent in any freely convertible currency, plus the cost of courier for overseas delivery of US\$50. The method of payment will be cashier's check, or direct deposit. The Bidding Documents will be sent by courier for overseas delivery.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address above at or before 11:00 AM, Sep 12, 2005. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically 11:00 AM, Sep 12, 2005 in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person.

9. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of US\$30,000.0 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

دعوة لتقديم عطاءات لإنشاء مشروع طريق مغربة الهريش مركز مديرية المغربة

الجمهورية اليمنية
وزارة الأشغال العامة والطرق
مشروع تنمية الطرق الريفية
قرض هيئة التنمية الدولية رقم 3514

- 1- تأتي هذه الدعوة الحافاً بالدعوة العامة لمشروع تنمية الطرق الريفية المنشورة في صحيفة "أعمال التنمية" العدد (٦٢٦) بتاريخ ١٦ مارس ٢٠٠٤م.
- 2- تحصلت الجمهورية اليمنية على قرض رقم (٣٥١٤-نظث) من هيئة التنمية الدولية كجزء من التمويل اللازم لمشروع تنمية الطرق الريفية (المرحلة الثانية) ، وتعتزم استخدام جزء من هذا القرض لتغطية المبالغ المستحقة طبقاً لعدد الأعمال الخاص بإنشاء مشروع طريق مغربة الهريش - مركز مديرية المغربة.
- 3- تدعو وزارة الأشغال العامة والطرق ممثلة بمشروع تنمية الطرق الريفية، كافة المقاولين المؤهلين من جميع الدول المؤهلة ، التقدم بعطاءاتهم لإنشاء وانجاز مشروع طريق مغربة الهريش مركز مديرية المغربة (١١كم) في محافظة حجة ، مدة تنفيذ المشروع ١٢ شهراً.
- 4- تخضع هذه المناقصة لإجراءات العطاءات التنافسية الدولية المنصوص عليها في الدليل الخاص بالبنك الدولي "المشتريات من مخصصات قروض البنك أو هيئة التنمية الدولية" والدعوة مفتوحة لجميع المقاولين المؤهلين من الدول المؤهلة كما هو محدد في وثائق المناقصة.
- 5- يمكن للمقاولين المؤهلين الحصول على معلومات إضافية من العنوان التالي:-

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مشروع تنمية الطرق الريفية
ش. مصعب بن عمير ، الموازي لشارع الزبيري فيلا رقم ٥٦
ص. ب. رقم (١٦٤٧٢)
تلفون :- ٤٦٥٢٢٥-٤٦٥٢٢٦ (٠١-٠٠٩٦٧)
تلفاكس : ٤٠٩-٠١-٠٠٩٦٧ ٦٢٦
البريد الإلكتروني: rapcmu@y.net.ye

صنعاء ، الجمهورية اليمنية

- 6- تشمل متطلبات التأهيل اللاحق على الآتي :-
 - معدل حجم الإيراد السنوي للمقاول يساوي ضعف قيمة المشروع الحالي .
 - تنفيذ اثنين مشاريع مشابهة خلال الخمس السنوات الماضية .
 - توفر السيولة النقدية / التسهيلات بمبلغ لا يقل عن ٢٨٠.٠٠٠ دولار أمريكي .
 - توفر الطاقم الفني والمعدات اللازمة للتنفيذ
- 7- وسيتم منح هامش تفضيل للمقاولين المحليين أو ائتلاف الشركات اليمنية الأجنبية .
- 8- يمكن للمقاولين المؤهلين شراء وثائق المناقصة باللغة الإنجليزية بتقديم طلب خطي إلى العنوان المبين أعلاه . ودفع مبلغ (غير قابل للرد) وقدره ١٥٠ دولار أمريكي أوي مبلغ مساو باي عملة أخرى قابل للتحويل بالإضافة إلى اجور الشحن للشركات خارج الجمهورية اليمنية بواقع ٥٠ دولار أمريكي.
- 9- تسلم العطاءات داخل مظاريف محكمة الإغلاق ومختومة بالشمع الأحمر عند أو قبل الساعة العاشرة من تاريخ ٢٠٠٥/٩/١٢ إلى العنوان المبين أعلاه ولن تقبل العطاءات المرسله بواسطة البريد الإلكتروني أو العطاءات المتأخرة وسيتم فتح المظاريف في تمام الساعة الحادية عشرة صباحاً من نفس التاريخ بحضور المقاولين أو مندوبيهم.
- 10- يرفق بالعطاء ضمان عطاء بواقع ٣٠.٠٠٠ دولار أوي مبلغ مساو باي عملة قابلة للتحويل .

The sinking city

BY NADIA AL SAKKAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Earlier this month it was mentioned in the news that Yemen is preparing to join the Convention on Wetlands signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, by that joining 146 countries around the world.† Yemen has completed all the procedures for endorsement and the case will soon come before parliament for debate and ratification.

Apparently, there are more than 15 wetlands, in addition to the western coast of the Red Sea that qualify for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of international importance.

Basically, wetlands are lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface (Cowardin, December 1979). In simpler words: Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year, or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.

Yemen is joining the Convention on Wetlands not only because of Soqatra



An example of wetlands

and the coastal areas. The government has wisely realised that there is a more urgent and obvious example of wetlands in the capital itself, Sana'a. Yemen has seasonal rain, supposedly in summer time in addition to the rain falls every time there is a change in season. It's a magnificent way of nature telling us, in Yemen, that say good bye to winter, spring is coming and so on. Eventually this leaves the streets and alleys of Sana'a covered with water.

Simultaneously, there is another natural classification for lands with water (other than islands) and this is

about sinking cities. Melting glaciers and rising waters are two of the major concerns of global warming, and their impacts are particularly unnerving for low-lying, coastal cities around the world. Cities like New Orleans are in a battle with nature that threatens to wash them away.

Italy's historic Venice is under siege by the surging Adriatic Sea much of the year, and they're not alone. In the United States, many cities will be facing the same fate. In fact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued a report estimating that a quarter of homes within 500 feet of the coastlines and along the Great Lakes will fall victim to erosion by 2060. FEMA's predictions are already starting to come true in many areas, including Smith Island in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay and in states along the Gulf Coast.

And now Sana'a is joining the list, why not? After it is being prepared to be categorized as a wetland (areas where water covers the soil) it is starting to become a sinking city. And guess what, for Yemen, this is actually not a problem; in fact it is an advantage. The advantages are many, think of the change in the city structure. Many Yemenis are bored with the way their city looks, so a change would do them good. Not only would it attract as much tourists as pests and parasites, it would

also create a new scope for job opportunities, let away the significant impact this has on health and recreation.

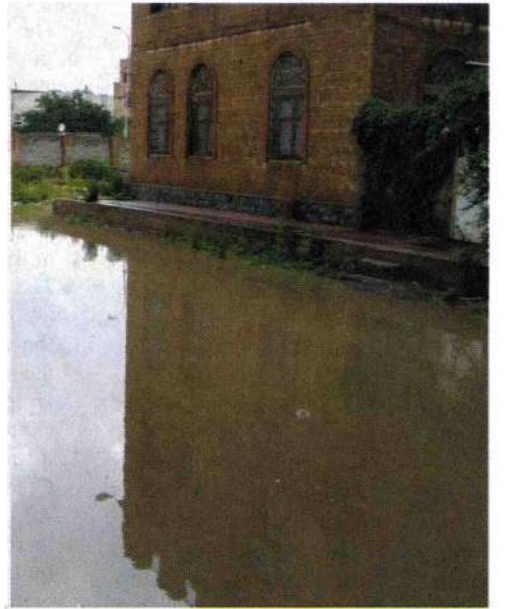
And so, there is a good chance Sana'a would be transformed into a new phenomenon such as the sinking city of Venice. You cannot move through Venice with the same mind set as you would in any other city. The difference is obvious even to those who have never visited Venice, that, in the words of Robert Benchley, "Streets filled with water. Please advise." But more than the 'streets' of water, the defining characteristic, what keeps Venice, is that the streets have no cars.

Venice is far from an orienteer's typical wilderness, but blazing a trail down these streets, through the forest of homes, grand and modest, can seem as daunting as any backwoods.

The only problem we would face to transform Sana'a into another Venice is what are we going to do with all those cars. But then again as the pictures show,



Side view of the grand canal in Venice (left) side view of a water accumulation in al-Awqaf buildings in Sana'a (right)



these cars are bound to sinking in the raising waters. So on the long run, nature will take care of man's problems as it always has. But this time, master mind is man and credit given to our government. But how Venice get that way?

Venice grew out of the water and into heaven. As the Ancient Roman Empire

disintegrated, the people fled the rampages of the roving northern tribes (Goths, Visigoths, Vandals and Huns, to name a few) to islands of the Lagoon. They came to an island, went down a small canal (rio, pl. rii), and around a field (campo, pl. campi) they set the focal points of their lives: church (chiesa) and home (casa or ca'). They placed a cistern/well (pozzo) in the middle which was filled by the rainwater from the roofs of the surrounding houses. From earth to heaven (in building of churches), they grew, and from heaven to earth (from the rains), they were sustained.

Considering this, Sana'a has a good chance in this process. After all, we do have many mosques and anyway many of the people living in Sana'a would want to go to heaven the sooner the better, one way or the other. Swimming their way to work would be a good idea to create a healthy energetic environment. And instead of these irritating and air polluting vehicles we would have nice elegant boats. If we can also plant some fish, it would be better.



People and cars getting ready by force for Sana'a new status



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I. What to Say

Situations and expressions (78):
Commercial consumer ads

The core purpose of commercial consumer ads is to emphasize certain aspects of the products until people are seduced into believing without a proper understanding of the focus. The ads use highly "loaded" language. Although sometimes they use blatant exaggerations, the main function of commercial consumer advertising is to change the will, opinions, or attitudes of its readers who are its targeted clientele.

- Better buy USHA. You can't buy better. (Electric fans)
- ONIDA: neighbor's envy, owner's pride. (TV ad)
- 365 ways to light up your lives. (Electric lamps)
- Shop a fortune for Rs. 500 (Gift vouchers on festive occasions)
- Breathe easy India. (Air coolers and Air conditioners)
- Too good to be bad.
- Fill it. Shut it. Forget it. (Fuel efficient two-wheeler motorbikes)
- Only a few things in life are worth waiting for. Cooling doesn't have to be one of them. (Cooling systems)
- In this festival it is customary for the husband to gift his wife something that is made in heaven. (Wemen's outfit)
- Shed the load-shed with... (Gen set)
- SONATA: The ultimate seduction. (Car)
- CANON CAMERA: Sees the moment.
- A unique concept, building excitement, desire aspiration through a sustained creative approach. (Home furniture and appliances)

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- When have you got here?
- Have you read a book called 'Culture Shock'? Who has written it?
- Mohammed is a gifted painter, but up to now he didn't get any award for it.
- We've seen Dr. Ismail in town the other day.
- Have you ever been to Al-Riyadi when you lived in Mahweet?

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- I'm calling to thank you for the present you sent.
- This large goat only lives in the mountains of the Himalayas.
- She resembles her mother.
- The rise in demand for timber is destroying large areas of rain forest.
- I have worked at Sana'a University for over six years now.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- A person who is sent with an official message, often secret or unpleasant.
- The quality of feeling or showing too much emotion.
- Which causes or may cause strong feelings.
- The power of imagining oneself to be another person, and so of sharing his ideas and feelings.
- People or methods guided only by practical experience.

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- Something which causes a blocking of a blood

- vessel: **embolism** (n)
- To cause an ornamental raised pattern to appear on metal, paper, etc.: **emboss** (vt)
 - To do ornamental needlework on cloth: **embroider** (vt & i)
 - The young of any creature in its first state before birth: **embryo** (n)
 - Professor who is no longer holding office but keeps his title: **emeritus** (adj)

(B) Words commonly confused
Bring out the difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

- dubious, devious
- amend, emend
- emergence, emergency
- begin, start, commence
- ablution, washing

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- site** (n) (place where something was, is, or is to be): The selected site is ideal for the new university campus.
sight (n) (power of seeing): The old man lost his sight in the accident.
- too** (adv) (also, as well, in addition): She is a singer and a dancer, too.
two (n) Please arrange yourselves in two's. (adj): Two heads are better than one. (prep) (in the direction of, towards): She walks to school everyday.
- corporal** (adj) (of the body): Corporal punishment should be abolished in schools.
corporeal (adj) (having a body or something relating to matter as opposed to spirit. It is used in a philosophical sense): Angels are not corporeal beings.
- satiated** (vt, usually passive) (to satisfy fully or sometimes too fully): His hunger was satiated by the big dinner.
satisfied (vt) (to be made happy, pleased): I am satisfied with your answer.
- embassy** (n) (a group of officials who are sent by a government to do its business with the government of another country): The Indian embassy in Yemen is making all-out efforts to protect the Indian nationals in the country.
residency (n) (the official house in a foreign country where a British political representative lives): The British government had set up residencies in some countries.

(C) Phrases and idioms
Use the following phrases in sentences

- at crack of dawn
- paint the town red
- hope against hope
- not to have a clue about
- take the plunge

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- to blow the cobwebs away** (to stop oneself from feeling tired and sluggish, often by going out in the fresh air): We are going out for walk in the high lands to blow the cobwebs away.
- be sitting pretty** (to be in a favorable situation): The ruling party candidate in the election is sitting pretty with a huge lead over his rivals.
- to be falling to bits** (to be in a very bad state of repair): The house is located in a posh area, but it is falling to bits due to lack of care and attention.
- on tenterhooks** (uncertain and extremely tense and nervous about what is going to happen): Students were on tenterhooks on the day of the announcement of exam results.
- with flying colors** (very easily and successfully)

She came out with flying colors in the exam.

IV. Grammar and Composition

Which of the following words means
gossip shout whisper scream sing
speak say tell

- to produce musical sounds?
- to make a quiet, secretive sound?
- to make a piercing sound?
- to express an opinion?
- to raise the voice?
- to produce words in an ordinary voice?
- to discuss other people's affairs?
- to give an account of, or relate

Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

- I really regret resigning. **If only I hadn't resigned.**
- Please don't make phone calls during the morning. **I wish you don't make phone calls during the morning.**
- You annoy me because you won't listen to what I say: **If only you listened to what I say.**
- I'm sorry you weren't at the concert. **If only you were at the concert.**
- I'm sorry you aren't here; the weather's lovely. **I wish you were here; the weather's lovely.**
- I'm upset because I know she's not going to phone me. **If only she phoned me.**
- I'm sorry we can't see you a bit more often. **I wish we could see you a bit more often.**
- I'm annoyed that it's not going to stop raining. **If only it stopped raining.**
- I really regret ever starting to smoke. **I wish I hadn't ever started to smoke.**
- What a pity that I am not twenty years younger. **If only I had been twenty years younger.**

(B) Composition
Expand the central idea contained in the maxim
97. POVERTY IS THE MOTHER OF ILL HEALTH

Answer to the previous week's topic
96. PENNY WISE, POUND FOOLISH

Some people are very close-fisted in incurring small expenditure even on useful occasions. Strangely, yet interestingly they don't hesitate to spend lavishly on trifling matters. In other words, they are in the habit of thinking a hundred times before investing for a charitable purpose, but unscrupulously and unhesitatingly open their treasure for wasteful ends involving fun and frolic. Such people betray a lack of sense of proportion, discretion or propriety. They fail to understand the gravity or seriousness of the occasion and what it merits. Consequently, a misplaced emphasis results in the frittering of resources and the consequent impoverishment, on the one hand, and opulence on the other. Error of judgment and thoughtless investment leads to imbalance in the proper and a well-balanced management of resources. So one should be judicious, considerate and frugal in his spendings.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Who doth more wrong than he who inventeth a lie against Allah. Or rejecteth His Signs? But verily the wrong-doers never shall prosper."
S6: A21

VI. Food for Thought
"Life, love, and laughter – what priceless gifts to give our children."
—Phyllis Dryden

A letter to the teachers of English: 92 Why students drop out of schools: a study (1)



Dr. M.N.K. Bose
(BOSE@y.net.ye)
Associate Professor
of English,
Faculty of Arts, Ibb.

Dear Fellow teachers,

Another serious problem has been put under microscope by one of our students, Khalid Yahia Al-Ghaithy, in his research exercise recently. The problem is serious but has not drawn the attention of people concerned. In these nine years of my stay here, I haven't heard of any useful attempts made to solve the problem. The study is a small-scale one but has useful information to those interested in finding a solution to this problem.

The study has collected information from teachers in a few schools in Ibb governorate, but the information collected is relevant to the whole country; that's why I am presenting the findings to you. Students who drop out increase not only the illiteracy rate but also unemployment rate; according to psychologists, they increase the crime rate in the country too. A large number of idle youth is a potential danger to the country and the dropouts join this group, if they are not taken care of.

The study has found three main categories of reasons for the dropout: student-related, teacher-related and society-related. Among the student-related reasons, the most prominent ones are the student's inability to understand the lessons, the psychological and economic problems of the student, his/her fear of failure, lack of time to do homework; among the teacher-related reasons the major ones are unsuitable teaching methods followed by the teachers, lack of counselling in schools, the frequent absence of teachers, the dictatorial attitude of teachers, huge amount of homework given to students, corrup-

tion prevalent in schools, lack of necessary equipments in schools, lack of motivating activities in schools; among the society-related reasons the prominent ones are illiteracy among parents, lack of cooperation between parents and schools, social problems such as divorce, scatter in the families, early marriage, the financial situation of the families of students, high cost of living, bad companionship of the students themselves, students joining schools either very young or very old and lack of educational programmes in the media.

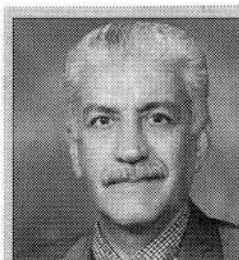
The study has made several recommendations to reduce the drop out rate in schools in Yemen; they are, revising the school curriculum to make learning interesting, providing each school with a counsellor to help solve the psychological problems of the learners, staffing the schools with qualified teachers, equipping the schools with necessary teaching aids, providing incentives to motivated teachers, curtailing corruption and favouritism in schools, updating the criteria for evaluation of students' performance, encouraging co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as sports, summer camps, educational tours in schools, encouraging parent-school contacts and improving the economic situation of the society so that parents are able to take care of the needs of their children. Some of these problems, especially the academic ones will be discussed in detail in the next letter.

"Think before doing to avoid failure"

Yours fraternally,
Dr.M.N.K.Bose.

Characteristics of a good principal in Secondary schools

Every educational supervisor or instructor should have certain characteristics to enable him/her to conduct his duties on a sound basis. For instance, asking a teacher to do something he considers unreasonable has its bad effect on his morale. Administrative experience, knowledge



DR. BASHAR GHAZI ASKAR
Basharaskar90@hotmail.com

teaching aids, laboratories, funds, well-trained staff, well-trained teachers contribute to the process of fruitful education.

The role of the principal is to work within certain prescribed codes. He/She sets objectives for using available resources, and formulates plans for achieving the objectives, identifying the activities to be performed, organizing the activities into groups, grouping the tasks into job and finally staffing the job with the available human resources.

and abilities have their role in achievement of directive instructions. ON the other hand, materials, equipment and other factors enable the teacher to carry out the instruction perfectly.

Coordination is also an important factor in the school systems. In fact, coordination refers to the process of bringing related activities together. Coordination entails arrangement of activities to obtain a smooth flow of work. The larger the school, the greater is the need for coordination.

A professionally experienced or skilled teacher is what we need in our schools to make the educational process successful. Human relations is also important in the educational process. The success of any school depends on many factors including existence of highly qualified principals, experienced skilled teachers and elements of coordination and cooperation.

Secondary Schools with such elements are regarded successful. Arwa Secondary School for girls in the capital Secretariat is a case in point. One can observe that the school has a highly qualified principal with a strong personality in Abba Lutfia Hamza.

Leadership is always influenced by the personality of the principal. Besides, infrastructure facilities,

the school principals also help in the interpretation and implementation of educational plans and policies at the state, local and school levels. They coordinate and monitor the services, the buildings, the equipment, the supplies, and any other item, necessary to the operation of a school system.

The final purpose of educational administration is to improve the teaching/learning process. The school master should collaborate with the classroom teachers, students and supervisors. The ideal principal ensures that every student is given adequate opportunity and motivation to learn. The principal should encourage extra-curricular activities such as games, sports, clubs, student's councils...etc.

Management and human resources are the core of the whole educational process in performance of the school community activities. The school is responsible for developing the program that is uniquely suited to school's success. All elements the principal, the teacher, supervisor, administrators, community, as well as other relevant elements contribute in a stabilized and successful management.

WONDERWORD by DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions — vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

- CLUES**
- | | | | | |
|---------------|---------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Acrobat | Crest | Great | Race | Started |
| Acts | Crop | Green | Result | Store |
| Admiration | Dance | Guinness | Revelation | Story |
| Arts | Daring | Hard | Risk | Stunning |
| Astonished | Deed | Height | Safe | Stunt |
| Athlete | Depth | Hero | Scene | Stupefied |
| Beauty | Dive | Home | Score | Task |
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I	C	I	R	C	U	S	R	F	D	E	P	T	H	S	Y	T	C	P	S
G	D	F	N	I	L	E	V	R	A	M	E	M	A	G	U	P	O	S	H
H	H	E	H	O	S	O	U	T	S	Y	S	I	N	G	E	R	A	C	
T	W	P	E	U	I	K	N	J	T	W	R	D	T	O	M	T	E	N	T
S	A	U	L	P	G	T	P	A	S	T	O	N	I	S	H	E	D	V	Y
F	V	T	O	A	S	E	R	S	C	R	T	H	E	C	E	L	T	I	T
A	E	S	L	T	L	T	E	O	P	L	S	C	S	E	R	H	A	E	I
S	T	A	E	N	L	D	C	T	A	O	T	L	N	O	T	S	W	R	
T	X	M	R	E	N	S	I	Z	E	N	C	V	U	E	S	A	K	S	B
Y	O	A	D	V	D	G	C	R	O	P	O	E	A	N	V	L	S	T	E
H	C	R	B	E	A	U	T	Y	H	O	A	C	T	S	N	E	L	N	L
E	A	D	E	M	N	G	E	O	S	T	R	A	H	S	N	I	R	A	E
H	S	D	S	S	C	N	D	K	R	O	W	N	G	N	T	M	N	I	C
S	P	O	T	E	E	I	T	W	B	N	A	B	I	R	T	H	S	G	B
F	O	O	D	E	D	R	F	A	O	M	A	U	E	A	R	G	G	F	U
N	R	E	V	E	L	A	T	I	O	N	G	D	H	D	I	V	E	I	I
E	T	O	U	R	S	D	R	W	R	B	S	C	O	F	C	O	L	S	L
T	S	E	R	E	V	E	N	G	R	E	E	N	T	E	K	A	M	H	D

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Dr. Faiza Mohammad to Yemen Times:

"Honey is an alternative medicine"

Honey has been known since the ancient times due to its nutritious and medicinal value in the civilization scriptures and the revealed books, mainly the Quran that confirms the reality that by honey people heal. Surat al-Nahl in the Quran gives an extension to what we know about honey.

In the modern era, many extensive researches and studies have been conducted so far in different Arab and western countries, highlighting the vitality of this miraculous substance in curing diseases. People profit from honey as an alternative medicine in treating several diseases that poses challenge to the chemical medicine. To know more about honey and its nutritious and medicinal value, we invited Dr. Faiza Mohammad, holding a doctoral degree in honeybee and forwarded to her the following questions:

Q: How do you enter the bee kingdom?
A: By chance, I played a great role. I



Dr. Faiza Mohammed YEMEN TIMES PHOTO BY TAZ BUREAU



YEMEN TIMES PHOTO BY MAJDI AL-SAGQAF

obtained a bachelor degree in zoology at one of the Libyan universities and did my master in rat's immunity science in Germany. In 1986, I moved to Bulgaria to prepare my PH.D. in the same specialization, but the only professor of zoology there had died. Then I conducted my thesis on bees, a study which forces man to contemplate deeply in god's creation. When read in Surat al-Nahl "Your Lord revealed to bees.... From their bellies, multi-color drink comes out containing medicine for people" until the end of the Surah, we feel there is a miracle embraced in this verse. The Chinese and Indian ancient books of medicine, as well as the holy books made a mention of honey, but the quran was revealed with a new style containing expressions signifying consecutive explorations until the day of resurrection.

Hereby, we understand that honey is not only the thing which comes out of the bellies of bees providing medicine for people and that diseases cure by this substance produced by bees.

Q. Do you mean there are other bee products?

A. Having a glance at the verse, we find out that medicine can be used as a medicine for different diseases. This product comes out from the bellies of bee workers which also give out different fluids, in addition to honey, the kingly nutrition and the

main food for small bees. From the kingly nutrition, these bees make their poisonous substance to defend themselves and the wax they sort out to adopt its hex-eyes in which it places its eggs and honey. The bee workers produce other substances containing enzymes to elevate its nutritious value.

The different experiments confirmed different benefits of such products. Prophet (peace be upon him) gave us a piece of heartfelt advice, saying to its people: "You should have the two medicines, Honey and the Quran", and his saying: "Any body having three licks a month will protect himself from any epidemic. All these examples give us clear-cut evidences about the importance of taking honey in a frequent manner to earn his body the required immunity against any diseases.

Q. How do treat patients?

A. While I was reading Surat al-Nahl, I set down and deeply thought there are many important points we ignore. I thought several times on the matter and then attended the conference of Arab beekeepers at the American University in Beirut in 1999 and presented a research on the longevity of the queen in egg production. I also attended the international symposium in Egypt on the medical uses of honey in 1997. This event was held in the presence of several ophthalmologists and surgeons

who presented papers revealing the medical benefits of honey.

In this respect, I revised different researches and studies and in the light of which I conducted many experiments. With honey, I have so far treated around one thousand cases from Yemen and the neighboring countries. With honey I provided treatment for sterile women helping them give birth after staying for nearly 20 years without pregnancy.

Q. What are the diseases you usually treat with the help of honey?

A. With the help of honey, I provided treatment for weak sexual instinct, irregular menstruation, ulcer, hepatitis, diabetes, eye diseases, losing eating appetite, and leanness.

Q. How do assess the trend of people to use honey for treatment?

A. In the western countries, people tended toward beehives in search for physiotherapy. Most of them feel skeptic of the chemical medicine and turn to the alternative medicine (honey) particularly as hospitals and clinics became interested in material gains at the expense of offering humanitarian services.

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شاشة شديدة النقاء ومقاومة للخدوش مشاهدة واضحة مذهلة
نغمات رنين تم تأليفها بعناية
غطاء ينزلق ليكشف عن كاميرا SVGA مخفية بدقة
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