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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
Do you expect the ongoing clashes in Sa'ada to cause more casualties compared to the 2004 clashes?

I don't know (15%)
No (13%)
Yes (72%)

This edition's question:
Do you think that Islah party is sincere about empowering women within the party?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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and have your voice heard

Islah re-elects Sheikh Al-Ahmar as party chairman

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Feb. 24 — Islah Party, Yemen's largest Islamic opposition force, re-elected Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar as the party chairman, Mohamed Al-Yadoumi his deputy and Sulaiman Al-Ahdal chairman of the party's judicial authority. As many as 130 Islah Party leaders were elected members of the party's Shoura Council. This came during the first day of Islah's Fourth General Conference, which kicked off Saturday in Sana'a with the participation of more than 4,000 members representing the opposition party in various Yemeni governorates.

The conference was held amid heightened security, as the party feared a reoccurrence of what happened four years ago when Yemeni Socialist Party Assistant Secretary-General Jarallah Omar was assassinated during the party's Third General Conference.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, chairman of Islah's Higher Authority, didn't attend the conference due to his unstable health. Instead, Al-Ahmar sent a letter to conference participants stressing the necessity of their unity to bring about peaceful solutions



Attendees were wary at the Islah Party's Fourth General Conference while exceptional security measures were enforced.

to the nation's problems. He recommended party leaders work with all political forces, mainly the Joint Meeting Parties, to improve the country's situation as well as strengthen freedom and democracy in political life.

Amatassalam Ali Raja, head of the

Islah Party's women's sector, acknowledged in her speech that Yemeni women have been engaged in political action. She urged party leaders to pay closer attention to women, children and youth, as this is key to social development.

Continued on page 3

Malaysian PM to visit Yemen

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

SANA'A, Feb. 24 — Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is due to visit Yemen on Tuesday to enhance bilateral cooperation in trade, tourism and education.

On Saturday, Shoura Council Chairman Abdulaziz Abdulghani met with Malaysia's Ambassador to Yemen, Abdul Samad Othman. They discussed Badawi's visit and bilateral relations between the two countries, especially focusing on Yemeni-Malaysian economic partnerships.

They affirmed that the prime minister's visit will enhance relations between Yemen and Malaysia.

Yemeni Ambassador to Malaysia Abdul Nasser Munibari said Badawi's visit could pave the way for more business opportunities between the two nations' private sectors.

Munibari noted that Yemen offers broad-based business opportunities, particularly in the infrastructure and construction sectors, as there are numerous opportunities to build hospitals, universities and hotels. "The Malaysian private sector enjoys a good reputation in Yemen and the Yemeni people admire Malaysians," he said, adding that Badawi's visit is a cornerstone in Yemeni-Malaysian relations.

According to Munibari, such relations actually began with trade links dating back more than 600 years ago. "However, it's only in the past nine years that the two nations have established diplomatic relations formally. Since then, two-way trade between Malaysia and Yemen has flourished," he added.

Ties between the two countries also have expanded into education, tourism



Datu Seri Abdullah Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia

and health. Munibari also noted that moderate Islamic teachings advocated by Malaysia and Yemen have enabled Kuala Lumpur and Sana'a to enhance cooperation in education.

"Many Malaysian students now are studying in Islamic schools in Yemen, while more than 2,000 Yemeni students have enrolled in various tertiary learning institutions in Malaysia," he pointed out.

Currently, Malaysian companies have ventured into Yemen's oil and gas sector, while several Yemeni firms have invested in Malaysia's palm oil, trade, freight and shipping services.

Munibari heralded the latest Yemeni investment in the new Islamic bank in Malaysia, wherein Yemeni investors hold a 20 percent share, as an example of future relations between the two states.

Sa'ada fighting fiercer as mediation is at an impasse

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Feb. 25 — Bloody clashes which broke out a month ago between the Yemeni army and Al-Houthi-led rebels in Sa'ada governorate, located 245 km. north of Sana'a, have grown fiercer. The fighting killed dozens on both sides, provoking controversy and an exchange of accusations between the opposition and the ruling party.

"Government forces used all kinds of land and air weapons in the fierce clashes that erupted last Monday and continued until Friday," Sa'ada sources reported, adding, "Hundreds on both sides were killed or injured in the fighting. Up to 71 soldiers were killed and 202 others injured, but Al-Houthi casualties haven't been reported because relatives can't transfer victims to the city hospital while the government is imposing a media blackout."

According to the same sources, the

Yemeni army has launched military operations against Al-Houthi supporters on the outskirts of Sa'ada and confrontations have shifted to the nearby mountains in Al-Talh, Al-Awairah, Al-Salem and Sahar.

Media sources reported that dozens of Al-Houthi loyalists donned military uniforms similar to those of military soldiers, assaulted a military site near the city of Sahar and clashed with government troops for hours, killing or injuring dozens on both sides. Government air forces carried out offensives in some villages and areas, thus paving the way for advancing troops toward Al-Houthi positions.

Two days ago, security authorities stopped a car loaded with military uniforms, similar to those of the Yemeni army, headed for Al-Houthi followers and confiscated them. However, authorities didn't mention who had sent the uniforms.

Local sources revealed that Al-Talh locals are enraged over the killing of prominent tribesman Jarallah Fardan and one of his daughters last Tuesday in a mortar attack by government troops positioned on the road connecting Sa'ada city to the market. Al-Talh tribal leaders met late last week to discuss the repeated army strikes which damaged 26 homes in one of Sa'ada's most important markets.

Several sheikhs warned that locals may begin supporting the rebels and engaging in the war against government troops if artillery strikes and mor-

tar attacks continue on the villages and homes of those who don't back Al-Houthi. They demanded authorities determine Al-Houthi positions exactly in order to limit the fight with the loyalists to specific areas in the restive governorate.

Member of Parliament Yahya Badraddin Al-Houthi, who currently resides in Germany, distributed a Feb. 24 statement, a copy of which the Yemen Times obtained, alleging, "Such confrontations are an aggressive war!" and further accusing Yemeni authorities of foiling all peaceful mediation efforts.

"The Yemeni army is striking villages in such a way that violates basic human rights and the authorities cut off all telecommunications in the governorate so that nobody can see what's happening," the statement added.

In a recent statement, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, leader of the rebellion, welcomed the Joint Meeting Parties' initiative to tackle the issue peacefully. He denied any relations with Iran or Libya, as authorities allege, confirming that he's ready for any peaceful solution to the crisis to ensure his tribesmen their constitutional rights to express themselves.

Al-Houthi's statement continued, "Government efforts in this regard are unacceptable behavior because it paves the way for foreign interference at the expense of Yemenis and their blood, as well as the nation's security and stability."

The statement, which was distributed

to the media, warned of the official media's addresses regarding sectarianism. "We reject the authorities' attempts to spark sectarian sedition between Zaidis and Shafis. We affirm that we are brothers who love each other without any difference between Zaidis and Shafis," the statement clarified.

Continued on page 3

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In brief

SANA'A
No bird flu in Yemen, ministry says
Feb. 23 — “There is no bird flu in Yemen. The country is free of the epidemic and no cases have been reported,” Deputy Minister of Public Health and Population for Primary Healthcare Sector Majid Al-Juneid told Yemen News Agency. He indicated that the government expended hard efforts to track the epidemic by establishing two operation rooms in the ministries of health and agriculture to watch the disease nationwide. According to Al-Juneid, the government equipped five lab centers in different Yemeni governorates to receive any bird flu cases, if found, and treat them.

Japan supports Yemeni women's sports
Feb. 22 — The Japanese government decided to extend a grant amounting up to \$86,400 to the Yemeni Women Sports Federation (YWSF). The grant will be used for buying two buses for the federation's branches in Sana'a and Aden with the aim of promoting women sports and educational activities. The agreement was signed by the Ambassador of Japan Masakazu Toshikage and YWSF Chairwoman Nadima Abdussalam Othman.

Yemen calls for halting Jerusalem excavation
Feb. 22 — Yemen urged Thursday the UN Security Council to take practical and active procedures to halt the process of excavation in the gate of Al-Maghariba said Deputy Minister of Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Mahi Al-Din Al-Dhabi in the Organization of Islamic Conference's emergency meeting in Jeddah. Yemen also asked for an urgent international diplomatic move by the members of the OIC, including Qatar and Indonesia, in addition to the head of Al-Quds Committee and the Palestinian president to pressure Israel in order to stop excavation works in the Gate of IAl-Maghariba area.

ABYAN
Education workers to stage strike
Feb. 24 — Teachers and Educational Careers Syndicate's branch in Abyan called on all the education workers in the governorate to stage an open strike this week until the government meets all their demands. “The branch of your syndicate in Abyan is claiming all your entitlements including the hardship allowance. The massive strike will reflect your awareness about your noble message,” the syndicate's branch said in a statement. The syndicate praised the efforts of the Education Office in the governorate with regard to preparing the hardship allowance payrolls and submitting them to the Ministry of Education earlier.

HODEIDA
Pistol smuggling attempt foiled
Feb. 24 — Search officers in the Hodeida Port Customs Office foiled an attempt to smuggle pistols inside a container filled with mangos. The officers found three boxes of pistols inside the mango container. Mohammed Al-Qadasi, Deputy Manager of Hodeida Port Customs Office, mentioned that a committee, made up of the customs and security authorities, is authorized to investigate the violation and punish those who break the law.

ADEN
Locals complain of injustice
Feb. 24 — Residents of Dar Sa'ad Area in Aden appealed to Aden Governor Mohamed Ahmad Al-Kuhlani and the Local Council Secretary-General Abdulkarim Shayef to cancel the fees levied on them to pay under the pretext of contributing to the sanitation project. Every household was asked to pay YR 150,000. The locals were shocked at the government policies levying on them large sums of money at a time they can hardly meet their basic needs.

AL-DHALE'
Students protest lack of teachers
Feb. 24 — Hundreds of primary school students in Juban District assembled at the government complex last Wednesday protesting the lack of science and mathematics teachers in their schools. The protestors handed letters to officials in the governorate claiming the authorities to return the teachers, who turned to work as inspectors at the expense of teaching. The students held the governorate leadership accountable for any poor learning progress due to the lack of teachers.

Municipality worker sentenced to death for killing a street vendor

SANA'A, Feb. 24 — The Capital's South-East Court sentenced a municipality worker to death after convicting him of killing a street vendor in March 2005.
On Saturday the court, headed by Judge Abdullah Al-Dailami, convicted Hussein Al-Masajedi for the murder of Mujahid Al-Samhi in Sana'a.
Jamal Al-Radaei, another municipality worker, was sentenced to three years in prison after the court convicted him of assisting Al-Masajedi in the killing.
The court acquitted the third suspect, Mukhtar Al-Wesabi, but did sentence him to five months in prison for carrying a weapon without a licence.
Al-Samhi's brother said the ruling was fair. Al-Samhi, 41, was the father of six children. Al-Samhi was beaten to death on Mar. 13, 2005, in a qat market as municipality workers launched a campaign to arrest unlicensed vendors.
About 43 percent of Yemen's 20 million inhabitants live below the poverty line and street vendors hawk their wares almost in every neighborhood as a source of income.
The municipality workers always launch campaigns to arrest those who are not licensed, justifying street vendors cause crowds in streets. Sometimes street vendors show resistance, while others run away, leaving their wares behind. The resistance can result in deaths, as was the case for Al-Samhi.
Human rights groups have already expressed their concern over the increase of street vendor deaths during municipality campaigns, following reports that some had been killed or beaten by municipality workers.
Many vendors have been taken to jails in Sana'a where they are extorted by municipal officers under the pretext of paying a fine for ruining the appearance of streets. Other officers say they receive complaints from shop owners that unlicensed vendors hinder customers from reaching their shops, thereby affecting their sales.
Early this month, the family of Mohammed Al-Shuaiby, a street vendor, accused a municipality worker of killing their son after sending him to prison during a campaign in a local market in Sana'a, while municipality officials said he committed suicide in the prison.
Last year the National Organization for Defending Freedoms and Rights registered three cases of street vendor deaths.

Early learning affects the life-long achievements of the child

By: Nisreen Shadad

SANA'A — Jan.20, A workshop held to discuss early childhood development and build the capacity of early care and education programs for children among media surroundings in Soul organization.
For promoting young children's health and development and building comprehensive early childhood systems, Soul made relationships with numerous organizations; both national and international for the purposes of coordinating, integrating and improving access to the quality of health, early education, and family support services for young children and their families.
The ability of the family environment and parenting to shape a child's early experiences may have the greatest impact on young children's development, school success as well as lifelong achievements according to Nouria Al-Khamisi, the coordinator Early Childhood program.
The Early Childhood program focus on children from birth to eight years old, early intervention for at-risk students, pre-Kindergarten programs, early literacy, and partnerships among schools, communities and service providers.
The importance of early care and education resides in its lifelong learning, “Brain development is an ongoing process and learning begins at birth, not at school entry as many believe,” Al-Khamisi said.
Early Learning includes more than building cognitive intelligence through skills in reading, writing, arithmetic, and logical reasoning. It also includes building “emotional intelligence”, “Children need more parent's compassion to be more stable and successful,” Al-Khamisi continued.
Add to that learning encompasses the experiences, conditions, and contexts that facilitate the development of cognitive and emotional intelligence.
Studies clearly show that the nature of a child's early learning environment influences long term academic abilities, interpersonal skills, social achievement, and health behaviors.
Abdullah Al-khamisi, the director of assessment and following up union at



Nouria Al-Karmisi speaking about the need to build the capacity of early care and education programs for children.
The High Council for Motherhood and Childhood, said he is working in the project of adjusting laws related to children. The most important aims of the project are to remove the deficiency and contradiction of the laws and enhance the children protecting programs.
Al-khamisi clarifies the types of the laws adjusted, “they are thirteen laws; children rights law, juvenile law and case laws. We need sever laws who put children in danger as well as interfere with them. Moreover, we want to integrate the age of children in all the laws to eighteen.”
At the end of this meeting, numerous journalists their strong will to carry out this project and enforce the awareness of Early Childhood culture.

Donors liaison needed to better serve community

By: Jamal Al-Najjar

SANA'A, Feb. 25- The International non-governmental Organizations Forum and Donors workshop held in Sana'a last Wednesday, the participants confirmed that cooperation between civil society organizations and donors is necessary to enhance the democratic initiative in Yemen and achieve the country's development goals including poverty reduction.
The workshop was attended by International Non-Governmental Organizations Forum members and donor representatives as well as the vice minister of planning and international cooperation, Yahya Al-Mutwakkil. The forum aimed at exploring ways to help NGOs and donors work together and help local civil society organizations take up their role in the development of the country and to become more involved in implementing government policy.
“We welcome this opportunity,” said Djoeke Adimi of the Netherlands Embassy. “It comes at a time when there's a lot of optimism after the November GCC meeting in London that Yemen can make real progress in tackling poverty and disadvantage.”
The progress is part of the optimism for NGOs currently in Yemen.
“Internation NGOs have been helping the development of Yemen since 1963 when Save the Children Sweden established its office in Yemen,” said Naji Khaleel, Chair of the International Non-Governmental Organizations Forum. "From education projects in Hadramout to drinking water systems in Mahweet we have been helping poor and marginalized communities to lift themselves out of poverty with support from donors across the world.”
Al-Mutwakkil said the government welcomes any steps that contribute to better collaboration between NGOs and donors. He also pointed out that NGOs coverage in the rural areas is weak although people there are in need of help in different fields.
On behalf of the donor community, Johan Blankenberg, Netherland's Ambassador to Yemen, said that NGOs in Yemen are still at an early stage of their growth. But coordination between groups, exchanging expertise and strategic partnership will help them contribute to development.
“Much experience is available in offering charitable services to communities. But playing a role in policy development, advocacy and monitoring require new skills and different ways of organisation,” said Blankenberg. “Civil society in Yemen is, to a large extent, still fragmented, often based on the huge efforts of individuals but without the proper mechanisms in place to mutually reinforce each other.”
Blankenberg affirmed that involvement of civil society organisations in

government policy is an indication that there is credibility along the road to democracy that Yemen has embarked on.
“As donors we think that increased participation of civil society in decision making, implementation, monitoring and advocacy, is crucial for the credibility of democratic and economic development of the country as a whole,” he maintained.
Concerning the relationship between donors and NGOs and also government he said, “Donors should better coordinate and harmonise their support to civil society. Through our support programs for the various government sectors, we should help them to better cooperate with civil society and to involve the people of Yemen in all stages of policy preparation, implementation, and monitoring. At the same time we feel a natural bond between donors and representatives of international NGOs in Yemen. They share our goals and aims for development.”
There are more than 40 International NGOs working in Yemen. They are working to develop the country and help improve Yemeni society's situation in education, economy and they discuss society problems related to human rights and women issues. Last year, over \$16.6 million was spent on projects and programs to the benefit of 4 million people in different areas of Yemen.

Nabil Khouri: Al-Houthi problem is an internal affair

Sana'a, Feb. 25 — In a live interview with Al-Jazeera television, Nabeel Khoury, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a, has stated that the Al-Houthi problem is an internal affair in which the United States does not interfere. He further explained that in 2004 at when the first war began, the American government advised the Yemeni regime to initiate a peaceful dialogue with the Al-Houthi group. He also added Yemeni authorities did its best to avoid an armed conflict with the Houthis, through presenting the Houthi group with different options including forming their own political party and presenting their requests legally.
Khouri also stated that there is external financial and moral support from selected countries to Al-Houthi group, however, he indicated that this support is minor and does not represent a threat to the regime in Yemen in any way.
He also indicated that there might be a risk of Human Rights violations in Saada as a result of the current clashes between Yemeni government forces and Al-Houthi group, however he also stated that Yemen has had an improving track with regards to human rights, and that although human rights in the world became victims of the war against terrorism, There is opposition between the nation's freedom and their safety, which contributed to limiting freedoms of many nations..." Khouri added.

Yemeni Universities to venture in Saudi Arabia

SANA'A, Feb. 25 — The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ali Mohammed Al-Sha'wour, held a press conference to discuss the preparations to establish the activities of Yemeni universities in Saudi Arabia.
Al-Sha'wour assured that the participation will be a qualitative one and four government universities together with eight private universities will participate along with about 140 professors taking part.
According to Al-Sha'wour, the scientific, artistic and medical participation aims to deepen the bilateral relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.
The participation will involve four different aspects. The first part will be seminars and symposiums on different fields. Further, two medical teams from Sana'a University will execute many surgical operations, cosmetic surgery and operations on urinary tracts.
The second part relates to students activities including poetry, literature, drama and other folkloric exhibitions.
Further, the program will include exhibiting artistic works especially from Hodeidah University. There will be also a book fair for Yemeni universities' publications.

Yemen and Saudia Arabia to fight terrorism jointly

SANA'A, Feb. 25 — Yemen and Saudi Arabia have future plans and programs to expand their cooperation on fighting drug smugglers, according to Brig. Khalid Al-Radhi, the general manager of Drugs Fighting Administration at the Interior Ministry.
Al-Radhi pointed out the earlier cooperation resulted in conducting extensive courses on how to fighting smugglers from which 50 Yemeni officials benefited. The courses were taught by experts from the Drugs Fighting Administration and King Faud University.
The Yemeni government also intends to endorse a new and united draft law to fight money laundering and terrorism financing as an alternative to the law on money laundering issued in 2003.
General Manager of Legal Affairs at the Yemeni Central Bank Mustafa Saif told Mayo News the unified draft law for fighting money laundering and terrorism financing will presented to the cabinet within the few coming days after finalizing its formulation in collaboration with United Nation Office on fighting Drugs and Crime.
The draft law comes in line with the law issued by the United Nation Office on Fighting Drugs and Crime and in a way that fits with the international standards.Yemen sought U.N. cooperation in this respect during the visit paid by the office's executive director Antonio Maria Costa to Yemen a month ago.
Costa assured that his office is keen to help Yemen on aspects relating to fighting organized crime and money laundering. The Money Laundering Committee submitted its report for the last six months to the cabinet during its session held on Saturday to discuss all accomplishments achieved by in this respect.
Saif also assured Yemen has achieved a lot in fighting money laundering and terrorism financing together with providing the required legislations. It also participated in many periodic meetings and organized many national symposiums and workshops to discuss these two issues and create awareness of their risks.

Handicraft exhibition's proceeds to help charities

Fatima Al-Ajel

The International Women's Association arranged the first exhibition for Yemeni and foreign handicrafts on Thursday at the Yemeni Education and Relief organization YERO, in an effort to help charitable associations in Yemen. Many Yemeni and foreign organizations, businesswomen, and children from theYERO participated in the exhibition.
Gillian Roberts, member of IWA, said it is the first time such an exhibition for handicrafts was arranged. The preparations for the exhibition took a month-and-a-half, for things such as inviting different organizations, embassies, schools and charitable foundations to participate in the show, Roberts added.
The exhibition's profits will be given to women's and children's charities and recreational foundations which are interested in educational activities, Roberts said.
Jamilah Othman, the sewing trainer in Al-Rahmah foundation for orphans said it is good chance to participate in such an exhibition.
Yemeni foundations also took part in the event to help Yemeni families. Eman Al-Anesi, the manager of Al-Adal Foundation stated that about 35 producers and more than 60 trainees work in the foundation, and its profits are used as private supporting for the foundation and the producers' families as well.
Nadia Sami, a Yemeni businesswoman, and Misun Baek, an American artist, said they came to participate in the exhibition as they are very interested in the event. They came to show and sell their prize-winning creations.
“This is the second time I'm participating as a private business. I had participated in the Japan festival in 2005 as the first woman from Yemen,” Sami said. Baek participated in exhibiting Yemeni paintings and heritage feature boards.
Nouri Naji, director of YERO, said she is glad to see different organizations and foundations gather in her center for charitable deeds. “It is the first time for us to have such activities in the center, and I hope to arrange more of such activities in the future.”
Children from YERO also took part by using cardboard to design traditional Yemeni tower houses. Piasher Al-Thabibei, 15 years a trainee at YERO participated in the exhibition in designing Yemeni buildings by using cartons. Hanan Al-Matari and Abdullah Al-Haimai worked together in painting and photographing arts. "We prepared for the exhibition three months ago, and we used candle colors in painting and digital cameras for taking photographs," said Al-Matari.
Most of the visitors enjoyed the exhibition, however, many local visitors believed the prices were high, Amani Al-Moiead, stated.
Ahlam Al-Shargabi said the children's paintings were the best exhibit, as they reflected Yemeni children's talents.

Hungarian Oil Company to be sued over environmental pollution

By: Saeed Al-Batati

Mikalla, Feb 24th — The Hadramout local council has decided to take legal action against Hungarian oil company MOL for polluting the area of Al-Dhaliha district, located 270 kilometers west of Mukalla. The local council decided to bring the issue to court after many reports and appeals from area residents alarmed the council of the grave consequences of polluting materials.

In a meeting in Mukalla last week, the council pointed fingers at MOL for causing environmental hazards that detrimentally affected citizens. It also promised to call for an international environmental think-tank to oversee oil firms and determine their compliance in terms of environmental safety.

The council didn't allude to the incidence of pollution in the area, whether it's high or low and how many were affected by the pollution. However, a reliable source in Hadramout revealed information to the Yemen Times about what happened to MOL's ill-fated venture. According to the source, MOL of Hungary began drilling an exploratory well for oil in 2001, but the chemical waste resulting from the drilling was left uncovered at the site. Bedouin residents of the village didn't realize the hazards of residing around or approaching waste until an unidentified disease soon began spreading among the Bedouin residents.

Some of the infected Bedouins needed medication even traveled to Jordan for treatment, where Jordanian doctors concluded that the highly-poisonous materials likely caused their

diseases. "For our part, we didn't disregard the case. We went to the company to demand compensation and treatment and we also called upon local influential people to step in. Unfortunately, the company didn't care and our appeals were trampled underfoot" the source said.

In the meantime, the number of cancer patients increased to eight, four of whom since have died. The source confirmed that all published media reports about environmental hazards causing blood cancer in Al-Dhaliha are true. "People here don't eat canned or artificial food. But suddenly, these people were struck with stomach cancer," the source explained. However, a committee from the Atomic Power Assembly and another committee from the Central Assembly from Sana'a visited the area and reported that all of the leftover materials were free of any toxic substances.

However, according to the unnamed source, some committee members told him the waste contained highly-toxic substances. "We're still determined to sue the company," the source noted.

The waste remains in the same location until now, and when it rains, the water washes part of it into nearby valleys, which poses a threat to animals and shepherds. "What aggravated the situation is when the company allowed its workers to sell and give away contaminated barrels to residents to use as containers for storing water and seeds," the source added.

The most outspoken non-partisan newspaper in Hadramout, Al-Muharer, published a bold report in May 2006

containing horrific information about the hazardous waste; the paper quoted Obead Salim Balahrak as saying, "We were happy when the oil company came to drill in our village. We thought our water shortage problem would come to an end and our sons would find jobs in the firm, but nothing of the sort happened. They drilled for oil near our houses. We didn't stand in the way of their work; rather, we helped them. We sent a message to the official in Hadramout to solve the water shortage and compensate us for our land," Balahrak said.

Although Hadramout Deputy Governor Awadh Hatem ordered MOL to supply the houses with pure drinking water, his orders went up in smoke. After finishing drilling the well, the company poured the waste over a mountain range and couldn't care less about the health and safety of residents; "We informed Hadramout officials about the company's ignorance and asked them to intervene to ask the company to bury the waste. We later learned that they had asked a contractor to bury the garbage, but he didn't," according to Balahrak.

Salim Bamasad is another cancer sufferer. "I'm exhausted by the treatment expenses. I suffer from blood carcinoma. I've heard that if government may compensate us, they'll pay less than \$10,000. In my case, I need \$35,000 to change my blood, which I can't afford." Bamasad says he's simply awaiting death at any time.

Omer Balahrak lost his son to cancer. "While I was with him at a Sana'a hospital, a doctor asked me if there was any oil drilling near where we live. She

said this is a crime and carelessness regarding people's lives and that we must sue the company," Balahrak said.

Yemen Times managed to obtain some documents relating to the case. The Hadramout governor sent a letter June 26, 2002 to the executive manager of MOL, informing him that the contractor who was asked to remove the waste hadn't taken it away. "Al-Dhaliha villagers lodged a complaint about your company drilling in the area and waste that was left uncovered. Such waste poses a threat to the people. You should make it incumbent upon your contractor to bury the waste," the letter said.

In another letter, former Minister of Oil Rasheed Baraba sent a letter to the Hadramout governor telling him that the ministry would bear the expenses of treating two of the cancer patients in Jordan. After a month, the governor replied to Baraba's letter, nominating two patients to travel to Jordan with two other companions. The minister's letter was dated July 2, 2005 – three years after residents reported the incident to the governor.

In a third letter, former Hadramout Secretary-General Salmeen Al-Mara'e addressed the manager of the Ministry of Oil office in Hadramout, telling him that Al-Dhaliha residents complained of the sudden spread of a disease caused by the waste from drilling in the area.

The Ministry of Oil and minerals has established a department for environmental oversight in 2006 by a decree from the current Oil Minister Khalid Bahah, however, when the YemenTimes contacted the department on the subject, we were asked to forward our queries to the local authority and the local council of Hadhramout, but refused to comment on the issue.

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Continued from page 1

Islah re-elects Sheikh Al-Ahmar as party chairman

"Women have two options: either develop or deteriorate," Raja noted. "In Yemen, women account for more than 50 percent of the population, but they still suffer illiteracy and poverty."

She called on Islah Party members to contribute to women's education and eradicate the high illiteracy rate among the nation's female population. Yemen's illiteracy rate stands at 29.8 percent for men and 62.1 percent for women.

Political leaders' participation

Leaders from other political parties also attended the Islah conference. General People's Congress Permanent Committee member Abdurrahman Al-Akwa'a spoke at the conference on the ruling party's behalf, affirming that Islah and the GPC stood in the same trench while defending national unity during the 1994 Civil War.

He added that the ruling party wants to establish contact, understand and dialogue with all opposition forces, particularly Islah. "The strong competition witnessed between the ruling party and the opposition in the most recent elections is normal. National parties should benefit from the event in order to develop the democratic experience," he noted.

Yemeni Socialist Party Secretary-General Yassin Sa'eed Noman affirmed that the opposition must play a greater role and that the government should respect the opposition. He

criticized the official media for repeatedly attacking the opposition when it presents its viewpoints on various national issues.

According to Noman, the government is responsible for the nation's growing issues, as well as criticism of the opposition without clear reasons. Yemen is in need of cooperation in order to develop and prosper.

Important conference

The general conference is considered Islah's most important event, as it involves numerous duties, such as electing the higher authority chairman and his deputy by a majority of attendees' votes or firing him with the approval of two-thirds of members. Additionally, the conference elects Shoura Council members and approves the party's platform and bylaws, as well as amends them.

During the conference, attendees evaluate the performance of the party's offices via a comprehensive report from the higher authority chairman. Participants also discuss and approve the party's plans and policies put into effect.

Islah's General Conference usually is held once every two years, but party members may hold an extraordinary meeting with the consent of the higher authority, two-thirds of the party's Shoura Council members or one-third of general conference members.

As Yemen's largest opposition force, Islah was established Sept. 13, 1991, four months after achieving national unity. It is viewed as a

political movement more than a party with an Islamic orientation.

Over the past 16 years, Islah has engaged in numerous experiences and political actions, thus making democratic work more interactive. The party also established relations with the ruling party and other opposition parties.

According to Sana'a University political science professor Abdullah Al-Faqih, Islah established relations with the GPC and these relations went through various stages, one of which was a strategic partnership during 1990-1997. During that stage, Islah allied with tribal sheikhs and businessmen to confront socialism coming from South Yemen. Islah and the GPC also waged a war against the Yemeni Socialist Party in 1994.

Following the 1997 parliamentary elections, Islah's relations with the GPC deteriorated as the latter exploited all of the state's facilities and resources in its favor. Between 1997 and 2001, Islah was on full alert, particularly after it was removed from the formation of the Yemeni Cabinet.

After 2001, Islah began to compete with the ruling party, as demonstrated in the 2006 presidential and local elections. Along with other opposition parties, Islah established a bloc under the name of the Joint Meeting Parties. Over the past few years, the party has faced various challenges, such as accusations against Sheikh Abdulmajid Al-Zindani, the party's Shoura Council chairman, regarding funnelling money to terrorism.

Sa'ada fighting fiercer as mediation is at an impasse

On behalf of Al-Houthis, the statement criticized official media for using language regarding blasphemy against Zaidis and other Islamic sects.

Regarding his attitude toward President Ali Abdullah Saleh's call for Al-Houthis to form a political party, abandon their mountain positions and surrender their heavy arms, the rebel leader responded, "We welcome any peaceful solution that ensures us citizenship rights and freedom of expression in conformity with the Yemeni Constitution. We accept the president's call for us to form a political party according to the Political Parties and Organizations Law."

The JMP renewed its rejection of any foreign interference in the Sa'ada rebellion, but it urged rebels to surrender their arms and continue the struggle in a peaceful manner. Deputy JMP spokesman Mohammed Al-Sabri told the Emirati Al-Bayaan newspaper, "The opposition emphasizes the necessity of suggesting solutions to all national issues."

He pointed out that the JMP opposed the Yemeni government's manner of dealing with the issue from the very beginning, but declared that they are ready to participate in any peaceful efforts to end the crisis.

The opposition parties affirmed that peaceful democratic options are the only means to express political and social demands, thoughts and opinions. They called upon all to continue the peaceful struggle in order to embody such an option in the nation's political life because it's the only correct way toward a new Yemen.

Yemeni authorities are hunting and arresting anyone suspected of links with Al-Houthi in several governorates, including Dhamar, where local sources reported that as many as

10 individuals were arrested last week. In the capital, authorities arrested five students enrolled at Badr Religious Center, which is run by Zaidi imam Al-Murtadha Zaid Al-Muhatawari.

Additionally, the arrest campaigns targeted those who studied at the Great Mosque in Sana'a, others who belong to Al-Haq and the Popular Forces Union Party, as well as several individuals suffering mental disorders, such as Amiraddin Badraddin Al-Houthi, who is psychologically ill.

Local Sa'ada authorities have announced that dialogue with Al-Houthi loyalists has reached an impasse. "Dialogue and negotiations with the terrorist elements have reached a deadlock. Al-Houthi supporters don't understand anything except force," September.net quoted a Sa'ada source as saying last Thursday, more than a week after mediation efforts were halted.

Other sources report that residents of Khawlan area in Sa'ada are experiencing harsh living conditions because they can't obtain foodstuffs. The same sources added that locals refuse to engage in clashes against Al-Houthi aides in order for them to get foodstuffs.

An official source threatened that tough measures are due to be taken against the Popular Forces Union Party-affiliated Shoura.net for publishing incorrect stories alleging that new jihadist groups have joined the rebellion to fight the Yemeni army.

The source described the story as a fabrication, noting that it's strange for Shoura.net to publish such news because it's known to back terrorism since the very beginning of the Sa'ada rebellion. He added that firm action

should be taken against the web site for fabricating facts and harming the reputation of the nation, its army and security forces.

"That threat represents a series of official conducts targeting press freedom," an official at Shoura.net reacted, pointing out that the official source can only deny the story's authenticity without using language of intimidation or terrorism against the press.

He claims Shoura.net depended upon more than a local source in Abyan governorate when publishing news about the jihadist groups, adding that the web site welcomes any military or civilian comment on the story after its publication. The staff member affirmed that official sources must provide information to members of the press.

U.S. Ambassador to Yemen Thomas C. Krajeski ascertained that his government would support Yemen in quelling the rebellion. "We are ready to hear and welcome Yemen's request for support," he declared in an interview with 26 September newspaper, "We neither back nor accept any armed rebellion against President Saleh's government. We hope the rebels surrender their arms and end the crisis."

Krajeski went on to say, "We've worked hard with the military and security forces in Yemen for about five years and I think this cooperation is due to last for some time," concluding, "The Sa'ada issue is very difficult for the Yemeni government, which we back."

It's the first time the U.S. officially has declared its support for the Yemeni government regarding the Sa'ada rebellion. U.S. State Department reports have criticized the fighting in Sa'ada, in addition to Zaidi thoughts.



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Kharaz Refugee Camp: Various stories and one plight

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

“I’ve been here since 1994. This camp has become my home and my children’s country,” says 55-year-old Abdullah Sharif Hussein, talking about Kharaz Refugee Camp, a former military base the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees rehabilitated to receive African asylum-seekers.

Hussein is like many Somalis who have migrated from their country since their government collapsed and armed conflicts broke out in 1991, arriving at the port of Bossaso to buy passage on a small vessel to Yemen, where they receive automatic asylum.

“My wife gave birth to four children in the camp. My oldest son and daughter got married in the camp and each have eight children. Because my son left the camp seeking a job in Aden and my daughter got divorced, I became head of a family consisting of more than 25 persons,” he explains.

A well-known trader in Somalia, Hussein was forced to flee with his wife and four children, leaving behind his house, his trade and his relatives. “I still remember that day when armed forces broke into my home, shot my arm, kicked me and my children out of our house and stole my money and property, forcing me to leave Somalia,” he recounted, noting that he paid \$300 for him and his family to leave Somalia for Yemen.

Hussein is one of few refugees to endure at Kharaz Camp, as most (particularly singles) leave within three months. The most recent 2006 statistics reveal that the camp houses 9,297, consisting of 8,562 Somalis and 735 Ethiopians. However, the high mobility of the refugee population is a constraint to obtaining accurate data.

Kharaz Camp is located in an isolated semi-arid area in Lahj governorate

2006. With 2,400 kilometers of Yemeni coastline, it’s likely that far more have arrived about whom UNHCR is unaware. Of those officially recorded, no fewer than 13,000 crossed the Gulf of Aden after Sept. 1 when the stormy summer season ended.

The number of new Ethiopian arrivals also was substantial, with at least 12,000 arriving on Yemeni shores last year. In total, an estimated 95,000 refugees were present in Yemen at the end of December 2006.

The main point of entry is the coastal village of Bir Ali, which lies opposite the Somali port of Bossaso and is the most important of 15 main entry points along Yemen’s coastline.

UNHCR operates a reception center at Mayfa’a near Bir Ali. “Refugees and asylum seekers are registered here and provided basic assistance, including accommodation, food and medical care,” explains UNHCR field specialist Aouad Baobid, adding that UNHCR also began providing transportation for all refugees wanting to reside in Kharaz Camp.

“Not all migrants make their way to the center because many are killed or drowned in the sea. Others choose to go straight to Sana’a, Aden or the northern border with Saudi Arabia,” he noted.

UNHCR says that some 80 percent of Somalis it interviewed upon arrival indicate that they plan to move on to Saudi Arabia or other Gulf states in search of employment.

Surviving in the camp

However, not everyone survives outside the camp. Shopta, 27, got a job as a housemaid in Aden for three years, while her husband worked as a car washer in the same city. “We couldn’t stay in Aden for long because I became sick. My husband also faced many difficult circumstances because it’s more expensive living in Aden,” she explained.

Although Shobta and her small



UNHCR’s Kharaz camp houses more than 9,000 refugees who live in tents, and brick cement shelters.

their stay in the reception area. Those who settle in the camp have shelters built of cement brick. Other refugees make their own tents using pieces of their clothing until UNHCR builds them a house or they leave the camp.

Two classes

Some refugees prefer to start their own business inside the camp. “There are two types of people inside the camp: those who are comfortable because their relatives outside of Yemen send them money whereby they can buy goats and chickens to feed their families or they can use the money to establish their own stores and run a business – in addition to the UNCHR assistance. The other refugees only subsist on the UNHCR aid,” 17-year-old Kalthum Basher explains, considering herself part of the latter class.

As a child, Basher joined the camp’s primary and secondary schools. The curriculum, which is the same taught in Yemeni schools, is available in both Arabic and Somali. Needy children receive school uniforms, books and supplies.

Because the camp has no high school, Basher and others have been going to a nearby village to complete their studies. Basher also attended programs at the camp’s Community Center, including English and computer courses.

Able to speak Arabic, English and Somali, Basher recalled, “After I finished high school, I wanted to enter college; however since my family is very poor and can’t cover the expenses of my studying, I decided to work as a housemaid in Aden and save money for me and my family while studying at the same time. But the house owner where I worked didn’t allow me to study, so I returned to the camp.

“I want to study at university. I want to get a respectable career and support my family. I want to get out of the camp and live with my family in a good comfortable house. I have many dreams and ambitions, but under these difficult conditions, I don’t know if my dreams can come true,” she concluded.

Difficult conditions, but good health

Despite the difficult conditions in which camp refugees live, the fatality rate – especially among mothers – isn’t high compared to the maternal mortality rate among Yemenis outside the camp, Buffoni notes. “I believe the camp clinic offers good medical services,” she adds.

The clinic is divided into three sections: a childbirth and women’s section, a children’s section and a chronic diseases section. “Besides medical services, the clinic offers awareness programs on HIV/AIDS, family planning and nutrition for vulnerable groups within the camp, such as women and children,” points out gynecologist Dr. Fawzia Abduh Naji, adding that such programs help camp residents avoid many diseases. “For example, many children were suffering from malnutrition, but now the clinic only sees a few malnutrition cases,” she noted.

Regarding family planning, Naji says the clinic arranges regular lectures and seminars in an attempt to attract refugees’ attention to the importance of the issue. “We distribute 350 condoms per month. We also provide camp women with IUDs, pills and injections and educate them on the importance of family planning. However, only 20 percent of those attending the clinic are practicing family planning methods,” she notes.

“The situation is better now. In the

past, we were handling approximately 42 deliveries per month, but now, there are only about 20 deliveries at the clinic,” Naji added.

Nadhifa, the clinic’s only midwife who is described as “the camp mother,” points out that the difficult environmental conditions camp residents live in cause them to be at high risk of infection by serious diseases. “In summer and due to the high temperatures, many pregnant women are exposed to miscarriage. Many pregnant women and children also arrive at the clinic suffering from malaria, anemia, high blood pressure and typhoid,” Nadhifa explained.

The clinic can’t treat serious cases, so the camp’s UNHCR office transports such cases to Aden hospitals for treatment.

Mental disease and disabilities

“My grandson refuses to leave the house. He’s naked all the time and the other camp children call him crazy,” says Hussein, describing the mental disease his 7-year-old grandson has suffered since he was four months old. “It

happened when the boat he was on sank. We thought he had drowned, but we later found him on the beach. Since that time, he’s never gotten better,” he added.

Hussein’s grandson can’t attend the camp school because he can’t learn like the other children and he can’t do anything himself. However, he isn’t the only camp child with a disability, as there are 76 children suffering various types of disabilities. “We’re now working with Save the Children to establish a program to help these children,” Buffoni said.

In the camp, refugees may not consider disability a big problem as much as their biggest challenge of surviving. “This month, three women got angry. They lost their tempers, shouting things we didn’t understand,” affirmed Basher, adding that the dramatic events most refugees experienced during the armed conflicts in their countries or on their hazardous sea crossing, besides the poverty they suffer inside the camp, all contribute to driving them to depression.

In an attempt to share their problems, refugee women are participating in a Women’s Committee, wherein they

discuss their problems and needs, according to Basher.

Still hungry

UNHCR cooperates with the World Food Program in Yemen to provide camp residents with monthly food rations. Still, some refugees say the share is insufficient. “Monthly, each individual only receives half a kilo of sugar, five kilos of rice, half a liter of oil, half a kilo of lentils and nine kilos of wheat flour, but that isn’t enough, especially for large families,” Hussein notes.

Enemies yesterday, friends today

Although there are approximately 43 security personnel in Kharaz Camp, it’s rare to see conflicts among camp residents, all of whom are fleeing the seemingly endless cycle of violent conflicts in their countries.

“So far, we haven’t seen or heard any serious incidents inside the camp. In fact, some of the new arrivals are the same ones who kicked us out of our houses in Somalia. Now we’re all refugees in the same camp and we’re all trying barely to survive,” Hussein concluded.



Children refugees joined camp’s school.



There were 120 African migrants on this boat before it capsized off Yemeni coast.


(approximately 100 miles west of Yemen’s commercial capital of Aden) with harsh climatic conditions and scarce job opportunities; therefore, a large number of refugees move between Kharaz and surrounding areas in Lahj and Aden governorates in search of work and better living conditions.

UNHCR community services officer Laura Buffoni says only five percent of refugees who pass through decide to remain at the camp.


According to 2006 UNHCR statistics, the refugee population permanently living in Kharaz Camp is composed mainly of vulnerable individuals dependant upon UNHCR assistance. The majority of refugees are women and children. More than 60 percent of the total population is under age 18 and women head up to 50 percent of families in the camp.


Way into and out of the camp

No one knows for sure how many Africans have made their way to Yemen. The final months of 2006 witnessed a significant increase in the number of new Somali arrivals. UNHCR registered 25,898 Somali migrants to Yemen in




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Words of Wisdom



The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge. This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play.

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

OUR
OPINION

Political commitment:

Time will tell

“Iradat Sha'ab” – People's Will – is a Yemeni NGO which carried out a two-day workshop last week to discuss the presidential campaign program of re-elected President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The spokesperson confirmed that the program was not created through ad-hoc thinking and in fact was based on well thought plans. It was mentioned that it included all aspects of the Yemeni citizen's life in order to improve living conditions and achieve prosperity for the Yemeni people.

The workshop's agenda included working papers from ministers and decision makers who displayed their plans on reforming Yemeni economy. The presentations included our “achievement” at the Donors' Conference in London.

The interesting fact is that the workshop included presentations from academics and NGO activists as well. And all focused on one theme: the importance of implementing Saleh's program.

Opposition political parties also attended the workshop and had only one concern: if the program is so good, how come prices are getting higher and life is becoming worse for the people? This is a valid question and the answer was never given during the two days.

It was mentioned that the prosperity of the country cannot be achieved by the ruling party alone and has to be done in collaboration with all stakeholders and even opposition political parties. The opposition political parties replied: “This is your mess, your clean it.”

In all cases, it is important that political will is more than just presenting plans and requesting further grants and loans from international donors. As it is, whether the program is successful or not, there is only one way to find out and time will tell. My only hope is to find out before it is too late.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

A big lie called the Shiite project

By: Ali Ahmed Al-Hadhiri

It is obvious that the American Administration's strategy in the region has taken a new dimension after Bush and his administration reached a dead in the control over the region and most of its oil reservoir as well as re-arrangement of the new map of the area.

That was not by virtue of the Arab governments or because of what they possess of projects and agendas. The Arab governments are illegitimate and devoid of political and economic projects because they are an instrument satellite to western administration under which Arab rulers feel safe about retaining their power seats to bequeath them to their sons.

The American administration failed to have a sway on Iraq and execute its project because of its policy in dealing with components of the Iraqi people with whom it did not deal well and was not sincere about its declared project of (democracy and human rights). Many power centers in the world have benefited from these mistakes of the American administration and no doubt they would be among the affected badly out of America's domination over the region and its oil. Also the Iranian republic will be afflicted of that control for it sees it will be the biggest of those damaged from the American sway.

European and Asian interests on the one hand and Iran on the other have formed an effective force against the American project in the region and the American administration found out itself, after years of the war and direct presence, unable to go ahead and that it is not the only power in the world. There are other countries having their interests and there is an Iranian project possessing a strategy and wants to have its role in the region. Also, the victory of Hezbollah in Lebanon over Israel is a categorical evidence of the Iranian project.

At this point the American admin-

istration has seen it is in need of changing its plans and to go back to its agents in the region so that to play the direct role instead of they have fought instead of America and implemented all the British, American and Israeli and the west intelligence plans in general over decades of time.

The Arab governments have managed the war instead of the west against their peoples and against the nationalist tide and the communist bugbear inside the Arab homeland and Afghanistan and Chechnya as well as the Iranian revolution, Kashmir and in everywhere it is wanted from them. At the end of these wars and supplying them from rights of these peoples and rather from their blood, and especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union which was the major supporter for liberation movement in the world especially the Arab peoples, the Arab money played the bigger role in that collapse. All of a sudden the Arab Muslim fighter found himself facing the charge of terror and he has to be killed or imprisoned in Guantanamo or prisons of the Arab governments. He also found himself the implementer under the threat of the American gallows, after he has been beaten and imprisoned, he and his people, his palaces were searched and destroyed his weapons by himself and even his teeth have been examined.

As for the agents they found themselves wanted by the Americans to pay what remains of their assets and money they have stolen from their peoples and deposited at the American banks and are rather threatened regarding their seats and partition of their states. They are forced to implement the worst and meanest roles that are dictated on them. Because the Arab street does not think by its mind that has been frozen intentionally and because the agents of war are not able to carry out what the American administration asks them to do at present due to popularity of Hezbollah and the state of Iran in the Arab street on the back-

ground of its stand towards Israel and America the American outlet must find a drama motivating the Arab citizen's unsound feelings and ideas in order to give the agents of war the justification and the people's, religious and sectarian support. Thus was the timing of Saddam hanging on the first day of Al-Adha Eid and what accompanied it of silly direction that forced the Iraqis to carry out to convince the Arab street (the Sunnis) that the act is a rancorous Safavite Shiite.

For more emphasis they prepared the cut of the head of Saddam's half brother during his execution. Those irrational measures are promoted by American administration and its tools in the region with all its sectarian and subservient sayings in order to create commotion, fighting and destruction of everything in the region under a slogan of confronting a lie called the Shiite project that threatens the Arabs and Muslims or more correctly the American-Zionist director to which one of the architects of the American policy pointed by saying that the solution most suitable in the region is the sectarian fighting between the Arabs and Muslims.

The interest of the Iranian republic in the issue of Palestine is not fabricated or new but it is an interest pertaining to the nature of the Iranian revolution that triumphed over the Shah, the strategic ally of America and Israel against the Arabs and the Muslims. The Arabs were supposed to have benefited from that change in Iran. But instead of that they faced Iran, the revolution and the republic with eight years war and they try at present to regrettfully continue he war under the name of the Iranian Persian danger.

The Arabs here are not facing the Iranian project with an Arab project but are merely instruments in the hands of the Americans and against the interests of the Arabs. This is how the title of the upcoming illusionary battle and its goals are revealed.

Source: www.aleshteraki.net

SILVER LINING

The groundless fight of Al-Houthis

The state has to act to protect the country from potential dogmatic fighting. There is no reason why the opposition takes action in criticizing what the insurgents are doing; the opposition statement concerning the fight in Sada'a criticized the so-called excessive use of force in the national and political issues of difference.

But what is the national cause for which the Al-Houthis are fighting? They are fighting for a nonsense excuse which is the right to chant anti-US and anti-Israeli slogans. It is really ridiculous that these people have to die for such meaningless reasons which we all do denounce.

Yes, we do agree with the opposition that the regime has made grave mistakes here and there and even in handling the issue of the Al-Houthi from the beginning but this does not mean they should not be held accountable for battling the state. In fact, the state has the right to crash any armed groups that are challenging law and order and embroiling the country into the turmoil of violence and in-fighting for stupid grounds. These people have the right to peacefully express their views just like any other parties but according to law.

It is the country and the citizens that are paying the bill of such confrontations; the cost of the first two rounds of the fight in 2004 and 2005 are over \$600 million; this is really too much for a fragile and weak economy like ours to bear. We could have channeled this amount of money for a number of development projects. Such kind of fighting is bringing severe damage to the country's security, stability and tourism and investment activities.

Yet, the state has to move with the same enthusiasm to protect the rights of the people and bring peace to them wherever they are and regardless of their regions. I mean if the government wants to maintain the respect and sovereignty of the state, it should deal with its people on an equal basis. The stand of the government towards the dilemma of the people of al-Ja'ashin in Ibb is really disgraceful. The people have been tenting in Sana'a in lookout for a solution to their problem caused by the influential Sheikh and member of the Shoura Council Mohammed Ahmed Mansur but to no avail.

Such practices from the state truly incite the public rage and make them feel happy when the government is in a fix. The regime has genuinely to realize the danger of people taking the law into their own hands, trying to defend themselves against any sort of oppression and injustice just by force.

This is really horrific. But this does not really justify the people fighting each other for fighting and such disorder will mean our catastrophic end. Constitutionally, the state has to fulfill its duties, preventing the country falling into violence.

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



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

A tourist's view of Yemen

By: Alan Rushworth

member@brentwfreese.co.uk

Every year The British Yemeni Society arranges a three week tour of the Yemen. This takes place in the autumn with a maximum of 16 participants split between four Land Cruisers. The itinerary is a circular

tour of the country and always includes Sana'a, Mahweet, Hodeida, Taiz, Aden, Mukalla, Seiyun, Ataq and Marib. There are variations each year, so now Upper Jawaf and Baraquis are included, which did not feature in earlier years.

I have made the tour three times, 1988, 2002, and 2006, and I would like to record some of the changes that I have observed during this period.

By far the most obvious change is the tremendous improvement in the quality and network of roads. This has resulted in shorter travel times (so fewer 5.00 a.m. starts!) and has given us the chance to see even more of a diverse and beautiful country. One aspect I rather miss though is seeing the sunrise over the sand dunes between Marib and Shabwa, travelling along the edge of the dunes later in the morning is not the same!

Building is everywhere indicating significant investment. Eight years ago, I noticed very few schools now they are everywhere even in the most remote locations. Many towns seem to be exploding outwards and in 8 years appear to have doubled or trebled in area. Mukalla for example is very much larger than I remembered. Coupled with the new roads, ribbon development is becoming very common and judging from the numerous plots identified by the roadside will be endemic. One attractive feature which is new are the promenades that have been along the sea at Hodeidah, Aden, and Mukalla. Street cleanliness has markedly improved (although Beit al Fakir is

a notable exception) and where rubbish bins are installed are well used. Inevitably all the new construction has resulted in many cement buildings, many of which have reinforcing rods sticking out of their roofs. In North Africa this also a common sight and I was told the reason is that tax is not fully payable until the building is completed, I wondered if the same principal applies to the Yemen?

I read in the Yemen Times some years ago that an edict had been issued that public workers should not chew qat whilst on duty, presumably the edict has been rescinded as the consumption of qat seems to have hugely increased amongst the police, army, and almost everybody else. In the past I never saw young boys chewing, or it being used in the morning or late at night, this is now a common sight. At the prices being quoted to tourists (even if doubled or trebled) I wonder how most of the population can afford qat and still adequately maintain a family. The increase in qat consumption is reflected in the countryside as it is often difficult to find where any food is grown. I suppose one aspect of the qat obsession is that Yemen has demonstrated how good it is at logistics as nowhere that I travelled were fresh supplies unavailable.

However despite the apparent increase in wealth (as demonstrated by new vehicles, roads, buildings etc.), begging has greatly increased, eight years ago, I was asked for money on four occasions, this last visit it was almost every time we stopped. In particular young women with babies were

especially persistent. The worst occasion was near Sheikh Othman when having a meal in a restaurant, three of the staff were kept busy keeping the beggars away from our table. It was noticeable that local people were not hassled in the same way.

The hijab appears to be worn far more now than previously, even in cities like Aden. I wonder whether this indicates an increased interest in religion by young ladies. Somewhat in contrast however, ladies are becoming more apparent to tourists, by working in museums, hotels and offices. It was thanks to ladies that my problems with the internet were sorted after numerous attempts by their male colleagues.

Security was more relaxed we were escorted less and visited locations that were unavailable before. The police or army (I have difficulty knowing which is which as the uniforms are similar) were also less demanding, there was only one occasion when the escort were unhappy to move until provision had been made, and this was at Marib when breakfast was required. In previous years we were often expected to provide both food and qat and sometimes money before we could start. I have never felt unsafe in the Yemen and I can well believe that crime levels are low. More recently I have been in South America, when half of our group were robbed at various times.

All of our party thoroughly enjoyed visiting the National Museum and we could have spent much longer time there, the building, layout and presentation were

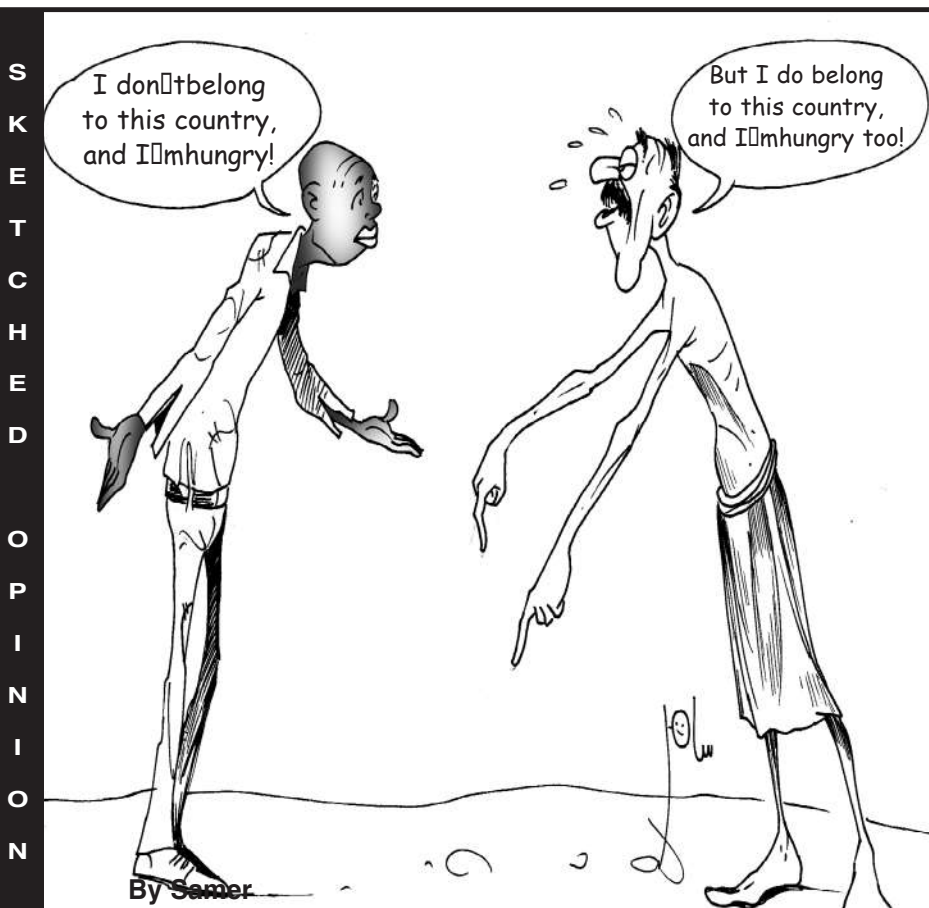
much improved from before. It was noticeable that in all the museums we visited there were always many local people, which is not always the case in Europe and to me indicates Yemeni interest in their own culture.

However some things have not changed. Hotels nearly always needed maintenance (especially plumbing) and often redecoration, standards had not changed much e.g. linen not changed or rooms uncleaned, although to be fair when this was pointed out to reception, corrective action was generally prompt. For me though one of the attractions of Yemen are the people, who were just as friendly and hospitable as on my first visit. As a visitor it is delightful and refreshing to be asked to share a meal with somebody you have just met. A really memorable occasion was a traditional banquet given to us as a mark of friendship when we visited Nisab.

The other things that do not change and which makes the Yemen such a great place to visit are the natural beauty and variety of the countryside, the unique architecture and of course the culture (music, dance, and poetry).

I thoroughly enjoyed my third tour of the country, and I look forward to my next visit, I am disappointed that more visitors from Britain do not make the journey.

Alan Rushworth is a British lecturer in Engineering Quality Improvement Methods. He was working in Yemen during the British occupation of Aden and is a regular visitor to Yemen.



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National Bank Of Yemen



البنك الوطني اليمني

Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2006

The Central Bank of Yemen has approved the financial statements of National Bank of Yemen (NBY) in its letter No. 13083 dated 17/2/2007

Dahman RSM

Accountants • Auditors • Consultants

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AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO H.E. THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
THE NATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the National Bank of Yemen (The Bank) which comprises the balance sheet as of 31 December 2006, the related statements of income and profit appropriation, cash flows and changes in owners' equity for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes for the financial statements.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and related Yemeni laws and regulations. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and related Yemeni laws and regulations. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

OPINION

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Bank as at 31 December 2006, and of its financial performance, its cash flows and changes in owners' equity for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and related Yemeni laws and regulations.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

We have obtained all the information and explanations which we required for the purpose of our audit. We also confirm that, in our opinion, proper accounting records have been kept by the Bank and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith. According to our knowledge and belief no violations to the provisions of the Banks Law no. 38 for 1998, Commercial Companies Law no. 22 of 1997 or guidelines of Central Bank of Yemen have occurred during the year ending 31 December 2006.

Dahman Awadh Dahman, FCCA
Registered Licensed Accountant No. 384
of DAHMAN RSM
Auditors and Consultants

25 January 2007,
Aden, Republic of Yemen
Dahman & Co. is a member firm of RSM International



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BALANCE SHEET
As of 31 December 2006

ASSETS	Note	2006 YR '000	2005 YR '000
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	5	10,112,819	10,661,214
Due from banks	6	24,013,103	15,545,162
Treasury bills, net	7	28,954,836	26,865,043
Certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen	8	9,200,000	5,480,000
Loans and advances to customers and banks, net of provision	9	7,092,222	3,841,047
Available for sale investments, net	10	140,485	77,993
Debit balances and other assets	11	476,730	332,112
Property, plant and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	12	1,871,837	1,776,959
TOTAL ASSETS		81,862,032	64,579,530
LIABILITIES AND OWNER'S EQUITY			
LIABILITIES			
Due to banks	13	99,598	97,914
Customers' deposits	14	71,666,203	56,709,029
Credit balances and other liabilities	15	1,682,854	1,191,630
Income tax payable	16	917,415	704,870
TOTAL LIABILITIES		74,366,070	58,703,443
OWNER'S EQUITY			
Capital	17	5,500,000	4,000,000
Surplus on revaluation of property reserve	17	639,762	639,762
Reserves	17	1,336,640	1,218,057
Cumulative changes in the fair value reserve	17	19,560	18,268
TOTAL OWNER'S EQUITY		7,495,962	5,876,087
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWNER'S EQUITY		81,862,032	64,579,530
CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, net	18	25,089,035	14,860,392

Auditor's report attached (pages 1 and 2).

The attached notes 1 to 37 form an integral part of these financial statements

Arwa Ali Suleiman Al-Koori
Manager Statistic & Research

Sami Abdul Hamid Mackawee
First Deputy General Manager

Abdul Rahman Mohammed Al - Kuali
Chairman and General Manager

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND PROFIT APPROPRIATION
For The Year Ended 31 December 2006

STATEMENT OF INCOME	Note	2006 YR '000	2005 YR '000
Interest on loans and advances and due from banks	19	1,920,572	1,375,608
Interest on treasury bills		4,353,372	3,680,899
Interest on certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen		945,975	779,848
		7,219,919	5,836,355
Cost of deposits	20	(3,749,932)	(3,182,867)
Net interest income		3,469,987	2,653,488
Commissions and fee income on banking services	21	522,663	419,930
Income on available for sale investments		884	716
Gain on foreign currency transactions	22	82,039	36,941
Other operating income	23	637,559	168,394
NET OPERATING INCOME		4,713,132	3,279,469
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Commissions and fee expenses on banking services		31,511	17,988
General and administration expenses	24	979,583	775,989
Provisions	25	1,030,853	427,577
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		2,041,947	1,221,554
NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR BEFORE ZAKAT AND INCOME TAX		2,671,185	2,057,915
Zakat	26	(50,000)	(44,000)
NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR AFTER ZAKAT AND BEFORE INCOME TAX		2,621,185	2,013,915
Provision for income tax	16	(917,415)	(704,870)
NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		1,703,770	1,309,045
Earnings per share	27	YR 426	YR 485
STATEMENT OF PROFIT APPROPRIATION			
Transfer to statutory reserve	17	(255,566)	(196,357)
Transfer to general reserve	17	(255,566)	(196,357)
Government's share in net profit for the year	15 (c)	(1,107,451)	(850,879)
Employees' share in net profit for the year	17	(85,187)	(65,452)
Balance at 31 December		-	-

The attached notes 1 to 37 form an integral part of these financial statements

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
For The Year Ended 31 December 2006

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW	2006 YR 000	2005 YR 000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net profit for the year before zakat and provision for income tax	2,671,185	2,057,915
Adjustments for:		
Provision for losses on loans and on contra accounts made during the year	968,051	403,823
Provision for losses on loans and contra accounts written back during the year	(607,799)	(151,940)
Amount utilized during the year from provision for losses on loans	(1,025)	(119)
Revaluation of balances of provision for losses on loans and on contra accounts	10,938	22,103
Income tax paid	(704,870)	(473,617)
Zakat paid	(50,000)	(44,000)
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	58,128	48,394
Net operating profit before changes in assets and liabilities related to operating activities (1)	2,344,608	1,862,559
CHANGES IN BANKING ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		
Reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	272,742	(3,099,959)
Due from banks maturing after three months	514,889	19,000
Loans and advances to customers and banks	(3,542,485)	(798,621)
Debit balances and other assets	(144,618)	(17,921)
Net (increase) in assets (2)	(2,899,472)	(3,897,501)
Due to banks	1,684	(19,188)
Customers' deposits	14,957,174	5,425,434
Credit balances and other liabilities	412,369	74,216
Net increase in liabilities (3)	15,371,227	5,480,462
CASH FLOWS (USED IN) INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(153,006)	(161,070)
Purchase of available for sale investments	(61,200)	(58,524)
Net cash flows (used in) investing activities (4)	(214,206)	(219,594)
CASH FLOWS FROM/(USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Government's share in the net profit for the year	(1,107,451)	(850,879)
Increase in the capital	1,107,451	850,879
Employees' share in the net profit for the year	(85,187)	(65,452)
Net cash flow from/ (used in) financing activities (5)	(85,187)	(65,452)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents (1+2+3+4+5)	14,516,970	3,160,474
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	47,369,509	44,209,035
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	61,886,479	47,369,509
Represented by:		
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	10,112,819	10,661,214
Due from banks	24,013,103	15,545,162
Treasury bills and certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen	38,154,836	32,345,043
Reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	(9,348,528)	(9,621,270)
Due from banks maturing after three months	(1,045,751)	(1,560,640)
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	61,886,479	47,369,509

The attached notes 1 to 37 form an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNER'S EQUITY
For the year ended 31 December 2006

	Capital YR '000	Revaluation Reserve YR '000	Statutory Reserve YR '000	General Reserve YR '000	Cumulative Changes in Fair Value Reserve YR '000	Net Profit for the Year YR '000	Total YR '000
At 31 December 2004	2,700,000	639,762	608,819	665,645	17,123	-	4,631,349
Net movement in fair value for the year	-	-	-	-	1,145	-	1,145
Net profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	1,309,045	1,309,045
Transfer to statutory reserve	-	-	196,357	-	-	(196,357)	-
Transfer to general reserve	-	-	-	196,357	-	(196,357)	-
Government's share in net profit transferred to capital	850,879	-	-	-	-	(850,879)	-
Transfer to capital	449,121	-	-	(449,121)	-	-	-
Employees' share in net profit	-	-	-	-	-	(65,452)	(65,452)
At 31 December 2005	4,000,000	639,762	805,176	412,881	18,268	-	5,876,087
Net movement in fair value for the year	-	-	-	-	1,292	-	1,292
Net profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	1,703,770	1,703,770
Transfer to statutory reserve	-	-	255,566	-	-	(255,566)	-
Transfer to general reserve	-	-	-	255,566	-	(255,566)	-
Government's share in net profit transferred to capital	1,107,451	-	-	-	-	(1,107,451)	-
Transfer to capital	392,549	-	-	(392,549)	-	-	-
Employees' share in net profit	-	-	-	-	-	(85,187)	(85,187)
At 31 December 2006	5,500,000	639,762	1,060,742	275,898	19,560	-	7,495,962

The Bank's Board of Directors, in its meeting held on 08 January 2005, resolved to comply with the instructions of Central Bank of Yemen in its circular no (12) dated 08 December 2004 to the banks licensed to operate in the Republic of Yemen to increase their capital to YR 6,000 million beginning from the year 2005 and by the end of 2009. H.E. the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, at that time, accepted the recommendation of the Bank management to start increasing the capital from the Government's share of profit at the end of each year beginning from 2004 as the Board will decide at each year end. As a result, the Bank Board of Directors has resolved in its meeting held on ... to increase the capital of the Bank by YR 1.5 million by the transfer of the Government share of net profit for the year 2006 amounting to YR 1,107,451 and the amount of the balance of YR 392,549 thousand from the general reserve.

The attached notes 1 to 37 form an integral part of these financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements, 31 December 2006

1 INCORPORATION AND ACTIVITIES

The National Bank of Yemen (The Bank), which was incorporated in Aden in 1969, is wholly owned by the Government of Yemen. The Head Office of the Bank is at Queen Arwa Street, P. O. Box no. 5, Crater, Aden, Republic of Yemen and is registered under Registration Number 1748. The Bank undertakes all banking activities through its head office and 27 branches spread all over the Southern and Eastern Governorates and through two branches in Sana'a, and one in Hodeidah.

The Bank had 629 employees as on 31 December 2006 (31 December 2005: 585 employees).

In its meeting held on 25 January 2006, the Bank's Board of Directors approved the financial statement of the Bank for the year 2006 and decided to submit them to the relevant authorities for approval to publish them.

2 PREPARATION BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards issued by the International Financial Reporting Standards Board (IASB) and the interpretations of the Standing Accounting Committee of the IASB, the current local prevailing laws and regulations and the rules and instructions issued by the Central Bank of Yemen.

There are no significant differences between International Financial Reporting Standards and those required by the Central Bank of Yemen except for the following:

- The adoption of minimum fixed percentages for losses on non performing loans and advances in accordance with the Central Bank of Yemen circular no. 6 of 1996 and circular no. 5 of 1998;
- The inclusion of the general provision for risk calculated on the performing loans in the general provision for loans and advances rather than including it within the Owner's equity.

The effect of these deviations is immaterial on the financial statements of the Bank as on 31 December 2006.

3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies applied on a consistent basis are as follows:

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified for their revaluation of land and buildings to market value and the measurement of available for sale investments to the fair value in accordance with the International Accounting Standard (39) - Financial Instruments - Recognition and Measurement applied by the bank from January 2002.

Foreign currencies

- The Bank maintains its records in Yemeni Riyals. Transactions in other currencies are recorded during the financial year at the prevailing exchange rates at the value dates of the transactions. Balances of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are re-valued at the prevailing exchange rates on that date. Gains or losses resulting from revaluation are taken to the statement of income.
 - The differences arising from the re-measurement of "available for sale investments" to fair value which relates to changes in foreign exchange rates are considered as part of the change in fair value. Accordingly, these differences are not taken to the statement of income, but are rather taken directly to the Owner's equity.
 - The Bank does not enter into forward exchange contracts.
- Revenue recognition**
- Revenues are recognized on the accrual basis. However, in order to comply with the Central Bank of Yemen Circular no. 6 of 1996, the Bank does not accrue interest on non-performing loans and credit facilities. When an account is treated as non-performing, all uncollected interest relating to the three months prior to categorizing the loan as non-performing is reversed from income and recorded as uncollected interest.
 - In accordance with the Central Bank of Yemen guideline no. 2 of 2002, any provisions written back are included under "other operating income".
 - Dividends on available for sale investments are recognized when declared.

البنك المركزي اليمني

National Bank Of Yemen

Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2006

The Central Bank of Yemen has approved the financial statements of National Bank of Yemen (NBV) in its letter No. 13083 dated 17/2/2007

3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Treasury bills and certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen

Treasury bills issued by the Central Bank of Yemen on behalf of the Ministry of Finance are stated at their nominal value, adjusted for any unamortized discount. Certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen are stated at their nominal value.

Valuation of investments

All investments are initially recognised at cost, being the fair value of the consideration given including acquisition charges associated with the investment. After initial recognition, investments which are classified as "available for sale" are measured at fair value. The gain or loss arising from a change in fair value of such investments is recognised directly in equity until the financial asset is sold, collected or otherwise disposed of, or until the financial asset is determined to be impaired, at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in equity is included in the statement of income for the year.

Provision for losses on loans and advances and contingent liabilities

In order to comply with the Central Bank of Yemen circulars no. 6 of 1996 and no. 5 of 1998, provision is made for specific loans, overdrafts and contingent liabilities, in addition to a percentage for general risks calculated on the total of other loans, overdrafts and contingent liabilities after deducting balances secured by deposits and banks' guarantees. The provision is determined based on periodic comprehensive reviews of the credit portfolio and contingent liabilities. Accordingly, the provision is made in accordance with the following rates:

• Performing loans including watch loans	2% (2005: 2%)
• Performing contingencies including watch accounts	1% (2005: 1%)
• Non-performing loans and contingencies:	
- Substandard debts	15%
- Doubtful debts	45%
- Bad debts	100%

Loans and advances are written off by debiting the provision, if procedures taken towards their collection prove useless, or if directed by the Central Bank of Yemen upon review of the portfolio. Proceeds from loans and advances previously written off in prior years are credited to the provision. Loans and advances to customers are presented, in the balance sheet, net of provision and uncollected interest.

Property, plant and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation

Property comprising land and buildings are recorded at their revealed amounts. Other plant and equipment are recorded at cost on the date of purchase. Cost includes the purchase price and related expenses.

Freehold land is not depreciated. Other property and equipment items are stated at cost or revealed amounts less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on all property, plant and equipment, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost or revealed amount, less estimated residual value based on prices prevailing at the date of acquisition, of each asset over its expected useful life using the straight line method at the rates shown below:

• Buildings on freehold land	2%
• Vehicles	20%
• Furniture and equipment	20%
• Computers and software programs	20%
• Security vaults	2%
• Improvements to leasehold property	Years of lease or estimated useful life whichever is lower.

Real estate properties acquired from customers

In accordance with the Banks Law no. 38 of 1998 and the instructions of the Central Bank of Yemen, real estate properties acquired from customers in settlement of loans are included in the balance sheet under "debit balances and other assets" using the value at which these properties were acquired less any decline in their value. Any decline is charged to the statement of income.

Contingent liabilities and commitments

Contingent liabilities and commitments, in which the Bank is a party, are presented off-balance sheet under "contingent liabilities and commitments" as they do not represent actual assets or liabilities of the Bank at the balance sheet date.

Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of preparing the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in hand, cash balances with the Central Bank of Yemen other than statutory reserve balances, demand deposits with other banks and investments in treasury bills which are due within three months from the issuance date and certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen.

Taxation

Taxation for the year is provided for in accordance with the Income Tax Law no. 31of 1991 and its amendments and the provision of article no. 85 of the Bank's Law no. 38 of 1998.

Zakat

The Bank pays zakat, in accordance with the relevant laws, to the government which decides on its allocation.

Related party transactions

Disclosures are made in the financial statements of loans and advances and contingent liabilities granted to related parties and in particular to members of the Board of Directors and companies in which they own more than 25% of the capital.

Fiduciary assets

Assets held in trust or in a fiduciary capacity are not treated as assets of the Bank and accordingly are not included in these financial statements.

Impairment of financial assets

At each balance sheet date an assessment is made of whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or portfolio of assets is impaired. If this evidence exists, the recoverable amounts of the assets or group of assets is determined and any impairment losses are recognised immediately in the statement of income based on the present value of the anticipated future cash flows.

Fair values

The estimated fair value of interest-bearing items is based on discounted cash flows using interest rates for items with similar remaining maturity. No fair values are estimated for deposits with no fixed maturity as their balances are payable on demand.

For investments where there is no quoted market price, a reasonable estimate of the fair value is determined by reference to the current market value of another instrument which is substantially the same, or is based on the expected cash flows or the underlying net asset base of the investment.

Trade and settlement date accounting

All regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on the trade date, i.e. the date that the entity commits to purchase the asset. Regular way purchases or sales are purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within the time frame generally established by regulation or convention in the market place.

4 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND MANAGING THEIR RELATED RISKS

4.1 Financial instruments

The Bank's financial instruments are represented in financial assets and liabilities. Financial assets include cash balances, current accounts and deposits with banks, treasury bills, certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen, investments, and loans and advances to customers and banks. Financial liabilities include customers' deposits and balances due to banks. Also, financial instruments include rights and obligations stated in contingent liabilities and commitments.

Fair value of financial instruments

Based on the valuation of the Bank's assets and liabilities stated in the notes to the financial statements, the fair value of the financial instruments do not differ fundamentally from their fair values at the balance sheet date.

Forward contracts

The Bank does not enter into forward foreign currency buy or sale contracts.

4.2 Managing related risks

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect the value of the financial instruments. The Bank performs a number of procedures to limit the effect of such risk to the minimum level by:

- correlating interest rates on borrowing with interest rates on lending,
- considering the discount rates for different currencies when determining interest rates,
- controlling the matching of maturity dates of financial assets and liabilities.

Credit risk

Loans and credit facilities to customers and banks, current accounts and deposits with banks and rights and obligations from others are considered as financial assets exposed to credit risk. Credit risk represents the inability of these parties to meet their obligations when they fall due. In order to comply with the Central Bank of Yemen circular no. 10 of 1997 pertaining to the management of credit risk exposure, the Bank adheres to certain minimum standards in order to properly manage its credit risk.

In addition to the standards stated in the mentioned circular, additional procedures applied by the Bank to minimize the credit risk exposure are:

- preparing credit studies on customers and banks before dealing with them and determining their related credit risk rates,
- obtaining sufficient collateral to minimize the credit risk exposure which may result from financial problems facing customers or banks,
- follow-up and periodical reviews of customers and banks in order to evaluate their financial positions, credit rating and the required provision for non-performing loans,
- distributing credit portfolio and balances with banks over diversified sectors to minimize concentration of credit risk.

Exchange rate risk

Due to the nature of the Bank's activity, the Bank deals in different foreign currencies; hence it is exposed to exchange rate risk. The Bank attempts to maintain a balanced foreign currencies position in compliance with the Central Bank of Yemen instructions and the requirements of Central Bank of Yemen circular no. 6 of 1998 which specifies that individual foreign currency positions shall not exceed 15% of the Bank's capital and reserves, and that the aggregate open position for all currencies shall not exceed 25% of the Bank's capital and reserves, (note-34).

5 CASH IN HAND AND RESERVE BALANCES WITH THE CENTRAL BANK OF YEMEN

	2006 YR 000	2005 YR 000
Cash in hand:		
In local currency	346,860	484,548
In foreign currencies	377,678	539,606
Cheques purchased, net	39,753	15,790
Total cash in hand	764,291	1,039,944
Reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen:		
In local currency	3,929,006	3,345,156
In foreign currencies	5,419,522	6,276,114
Total reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	9,348,528	9,621,270
Total cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	10,112,819	10,661,214

In accordance with the Yemeni Banks Law no. 38 of 1998, the Bank is required to maintain statutory deposits with the Central Bank of Yemen at 10% in local currency and 20 % on foreign currencies of its demand, time and other deposits. Deposits in local currency carry interest at rates determined by the Central Bank of Yemen.

6 DUE FROM BANKS

	2006 YR 000	2005 YR 000
Due from the Central Bank of Yemen and other local banks		
Current accounts with the Central Bank of Yemen:		
In local currency	1,400,300	2,488,747
In foreign currencies	351,246	222,092
Total current accounts with the Central Bank of Yemen	1,751,546	2,710,839
Provision for outstanding reconciling items	(-)	(29,507)
Net current account balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	1,751,546	2,681,332
Current account balances with local banks	1,974	1,974
Total due from the Central Bank of Yemen and other local banks	1,753,520	2,683,306
Due from foreign banks and other financial institutions		
Current and demand account balances	2,480,384	2,061,206
Provision for outstanding reconciling items	(24,602)	(25,200)
Time deposits	19,803,801	10,825,850
Total due from foreign banks and other financial institutions	22,259,583	12,861,856
Total due from banks	24,013,103	15,545,162

In accordance with the instructions of the Central Bank of Yemen, the Bank's management has during the year transferred the amount of YR 29,507 thousands which represented the outstanding reconciling items of Central Bank of Yemen, and had been fully provided for during the previous years, to "Debit balances and other assets" (Note 1).

Time deposits include

- An investment linked deposit made with a foreign bank for US \$ 1,000,000 (YR 198,510 thousand) to be held for five years and carries a fixed interest rate of 4.50% for year one, 5.00% for year two, 5.50% for remaining three years. However the interest rate is indexed to LIBOR and is calculated based on a predetermined formula which has an upper and lower barrier. The period of the deposit is from 25 April 2003 to 25 April 2008.
- An investment linked deposit made with a foreign bank for US \$2,000,000 (YR 397,020 thousand) to be held for five years and carries a fixed interest rate of 5.50 % for the period. However the interest rate is indexed to LIBOR and is calculated based on a predetermined formula which has an upper and lower barrier. The period of the deposit is from 29 April 2004 to 29 April 2009.
- An investment linked deposit made with a foreign bank for US \$2,000,000 (YR 397,020 thousand) to be held for four years and carries fixed interest rates of 2.50% for year one, 3.25% for year two, 4.00% for year three and 4.50% for year four. The period of the deposit is from 16 June 2004 to 16 June 2008.

7 TREASURY BILLS, net

	2006 YR 000	2005 YR 000
Treasury bills due within 90 days	29,439,881	27,317,015
Unamortized discount	(485,045)	(451,972)
Net book value of treasury bills	28,954,836	26,865,043

The treasury bills and repurchased treasury bills have maturity of three months and carry interest rates ranging from 15.30% to 15.80% (31 December 2005: 14.00% to 15.50%). In accordance with the instructions of the Central Bank of Yemen, treasury bills which mature within a period not exceeding three months are considered as part of cash and cash equivalent assets.

8 CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT WITH THE CENTRAL BANK OF YEMEN

	2006 YR 000	2005 YR 000
Certificates of deposit – 91 days	9,200,000	5,480,000

Certificates of deposits are amounts deposited with the Central Bank of Yemen having a maturity of three months and carry interest rates of 15.34% to 15.77% (31 December 2005: 15% to 15.5%). In accordance with the instructions with the Central Bank of Yemen, such certificates of deposit are considered as part of cash and cash equivalent assets.

9 LOANS AND ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS AND BANKS, net of provision

	2006 YR 000	2005 YR 000
Loans and advances to customers in private sector:		
Overdraft facilities	5,415,764	2,201,362
Short term loans	3,345,186	2,862,743
Commercial papers discounted	41,687	44,262
Total loans and advances to customers in private sector (i)	8,782,639	5,108,367
Loans and advances to Banks		
Subordinated loan to UBAF-US\$ 588,094 (note 9-a)	-	114,726
Total loans and advances to Banks (ii)	-	114,726
Total loans and advances to customers and banks (i+ii)	8,782,639	5,223,093
Provision for losses on non performing loans and advances (note 9-b)	(1,637,036)	(1,345,726)
Suspended interest (note 9-c)	(53,381)	(35,320)

Total provision for losses on non performing loans and advances and suspended interest

Gross non performing loans and advances at 31 December 2006 amounted to YR 2,040,318 thousand (31 December 2005: YR 1,908,933 thousand)

(a) Subordinated loan to UBAF

During the year the loan of US \$ 588,094 which represented the Bank's participation in a subordinated loan rated to UBAF (Paris) by its shareholders has been fully paid before its maturity date. The loan was repaid on 6 September 2006.

(b) Provision for losses on non performing loans and advances

In accordance with Article (85) of the Banks Law no. 38 of 1998, which came into effect on 27 December, 1998, and Article 9-j of the Income Tax Law no. 31 of 1991 as amended by Republican Decree Law no. 12 of 1999, any provision for losses on loans and advances made by a bank in compliance with the regulations of the Central Bank of Yemen in this respect, are not subject to the provisions of any income tax law and are allowable as a deduction in arriving at the taxable income.

Details of movements in the provision for possible losses on loans and advances during the year were as follows:

	31 December 2006			31 December 2005		
	Specific YR 000	General YR 000	Total YR 000	Specific YR 000	General YR 000	Total YR 000
Balance at 1 January	1,281,167	64,559	1,345,726	1,015,205	52,293	1,067,498
Revaluation of opening balance in foreign currencies	9,046	421	9,467	17,669	1,401	19,070
Amount utilized during the year.	(1,025)	-	(1,025)	(119)	-	(119)
Adjusted opening balance	1,289,188	64,980	1,354,168	1,032,755	53,694	1,086,449
Amounts recovered of loans previously written off (note 23)	(556,694)	(14,191)	(570,885)	(124,155)	(5,625)	(129,780)
Provision for the year (note 25)	840,685	13,068	853,753	372,567	16,490	389,057
Charged to the income statement	283,991	(1,123)	282,868	248,412	10,866	259,277
Balance at end of year	1,573,179	63,857	1,637,036	1,281,167	64,559	1,345,726

Management has decided to provide for the general provision for performing loans and contingencies including watch loans at the rate of 2% (2005: 2%).

(c) Suspended interest

This represents interest on non-performing loans and advances in accordance with the Central Bank of Yemen regulations and which is recognised as revenue only when collected.

	2006 YR 000	2005 YR 000
nce at 1 January	36,320	25,829
ange differences	1,287	54
ants written-off during the year	(307)	(1,862)
verred during the year	(842)	(41)
ended during the year	16,923	12,340
Balance at end of year	53,381	35,320

AVAILABLE FOR SALE INVESTMENTS, NET

ie comprise investments, available for sale, in the following Banks and financial institution:

	Ownership Percentage	No. of shares US\$ 1 each	2006 YR 000	2005 YR 000
oted investments in UBAF Group:				
AF – Curacao – A Shares of US \$ 1 each	0.788	1,497,200	17,982	17,982
AF – Curacao – B Shares of US \$ 1 each	0.783	234,650	2,818	2,818
AF – Curacao – C Shares of US \$ 1 each	1.371	528,252	6,244	6,244
Total investment in shares in UBAF Group		2,260,102	27,144	27,144

unquoted investments:

	2006 YR 000	2005 YR 000
ab Banking Group- Bahrain	2,067	2,067
ab Financial Services Company- Bahrain (note 10-a)	19,732	19,469
men Financial Services Company- Yemen (note 10-b)	59,533	58,224
men Mobile Company for Telecommunication- Yemen (ote 10-c)	61,209	-

Total other unquoted investments

Net book value of investments available for sale

	2006 YR 000	2005 YR 000
Arab Financial Services Company – Bahrain	140,485	77,993

fair value of the investment in Arab Financial Services Company – Bahrain is based on the book value of shares or the latest audited financial statement (i.e. for the year ended 31 December 2005) of the Company which united to US\$ 9.94 per share (2005: US\$ 9.98 per share).

Yemen Financial Services Company - Yemen

Bank has contributed a sum of USD 300,000 to Yemen Financial Services Company (Closed Shareholding ipany) (YFSC), which has been the share capital established in joint venture with a number of other local banks. share capital of YFSC is USD 3,000,000. The Board of Directors has in its meeting held on 22 July 2004 lved to invest in this Company to an extent of 25 % of the Company's share capital.

Yemen Mobile Company for Telecommunication

ing the year the Bank purchased 120,000 shares of YR 500 each for a sum of YR 60,000,000 of Yemen Mobile ipany for Telecommunication (Yemen Shareholding Company). The total share capital of this Company is YR 62 million. The Bank paid YR 1,200,000 as acquisition costs which has been added to cost in accordance with national Accounting Standard (59) – Financial Instrument - Recognition and Measurement.

Provision for impairment

e no dividends were received from the investments in UBAF – Curacao and Arab Banking Group – Bahrain ng the last few years and no dividends are expected to be received in the coming years, a full impairment ision was taken for the balances of those investments because their net present value is nil.

DEBIT BALANCES AND OTHER ASSETS

	2006 YR 000	2005 YR 000
said expenses and other debit balances		
rent receivable	4,224	4,133
ital costs of new branches under construction	341,859	231,462
estate properties acquired from customers, net of provision	29,234	29,234
mal Bank for Microfinance - Republic of Yemen	10,000	10,000
adhomon Microfinance Republic of Yemen	1,000	1,000
dry debit balances, net of provision	8,760	18,047
Total debit balances and other assets	476,730	332,112
balance of real estate properties acquired from customers is net of a provision of YR 480 thousand (2005: YR thousand). The valuation of these properties is in accordance with the instructions of the Central Bank of en. The shareholdings in Al Amal Bank for Microfinance - Yemen and Al Tadhamon Microfinance - Yemen e been included in the Debit Balance and Other Assets rather than available for sale investments as agement is of the opinion that these amounts would be fully refundable in the future.		

In accordance with the instructions of the Central Bank of Yemen, the Bank's management has during the year transferred the amount of YR 29,507 thousands which represented the outstanding reconciling items of Central Bank of Yemen, and had been fully provided for during the previous years, to "Debit balances and other assets" (Note 6).

12 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, net of accumulated depreciation

	Freehold Land and buildings YR'000	Leasehold Improvements YR'000	Furniture & Equipment YR'000	Motor Vehicles YR'000	Swift & Computers YR'000	Total YR'000
Cost or valuation:						
At 31 December	1,632,426	39,620	221,668	65,392	123,889	2,082,995
Additions during the year	50,887	11,871	26,011	4,813	18,724	153,006
Disposal during the year	-	-	-	(7,461)	-	(7,461)
At 31 December	1,683,313	51,491	247,679	103,444	142,613	2,228,540
Depreciation						
At 31 December	43,952	16,086	94,522	51,949	99,525	306,034
Charge for the year	10,102	4,039	19,870	10,808	13,309	58,128
Disposal during the year	-	-	-	(7,461)	-	(7,461)
At 31 December	54,054	20,125	114,394	55,296	112,834	336,603
Net book amount						
At 31 December	1,629,259	31,366	133,285	48,148	29,779	1,871,737
At 31 December	1,588,474	23,534	127,844	34,443	24,364	1,778,659

National Bank Of Yemen



البنك الأهلي اليمني

Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2006

The Central Bank of Yemen has approved the financial statements of National Bank of Yemen (NBY) in its letter No. 13083 dated 17/2/2007

25 PROVISIONS

	2006 YR '000	2005 YR '000
Provision for losses on loans and advances (note 9-b)	853,753	389,057
Provision for off-balance sheet items (note 15-b)	114,298	14,766
Provision for employees' leave pay	19,482	12,362
Provision for outstanding reconciling item between banks	-	11,392
Other provision	43,320	-
Total provisions	1,030,853	427,577

26 ZAKAT

	2006 YR '000	2005 YR '000
Zakat paid	50,000	44,000

27 EARNINGS PER SHARE

	2006 YR '000	2005 YR '000
Net profit for the year	1,703,770	1,309,045
Number of shares	4,000,000	2,700,000
Earnings per share	YR 426	YR 485

28 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

These represents transactions with certain related parties (directors and officers of the Bank, their families and companies of which they are principal owners) who were customers of the Bank during the year. The terms of these transactions are approved by the Bank's management.

	2006 YR '000	2005 YR '000
<i>Board members and parties related to them</i>		
Loans and advances, gross	4,914	3,803
Customers' deposits	6,192	3,756
Interest income for the year	230	533
Interest expense for the year	259	396

29 MATURITIES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

a) As at 31 December 2006

	Less than 3 months YR '000	From 3 to 6 months YR '000	From 6 months to 1 year YR '000	Over 1 year YR '000	Total YR '000
ASSETS					
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	10,112,819	-	-	-	10,112,819
Due from banks	22,967,352	-	-	1,045,751	24,013,103
Treasury bills, net	28,954,836	-	-	-	28,954,836
Certificates of deposit	9,200,000	-	-	-	9,200,000
Loans and advances to customers and banks, net of provision	1,696,691	482,742	1,956,461	2,956,328	7,092,222
Available for sale Investments	-	-	-	140,485	140,485
TOTAL ASSETS	72,931,698	482,742	1,956,461	4,142,564	79,513,465
LIABILITIES					
Due to banks	99,598	-	-	-	99,598
Customers' deposits	47,554,119	7,656,869	16,377,365	77,850	71,666,203
TOTAL LIABILITIES	47,653,717	7,656,869	16,377,365	77,850	71,765,801

b) As at 31 December 2005

	Less than 3 months YR '000	From 3 to 6 months YR '000	From 6 months to 1 year YR '000	Over 1 year YR '000	Total YR '000
ASSETS					
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	10,661,214	-	-	-	10,661,214
Due from banks	13,984,522	-	585,240	975,400	15,545,162
Treasury bills, net	26,865,043	-	-	-	26,865,043
Certificates of deposit	5,480,000	-	-	-	5,480,000
Loans and advances to customers and banks, net of provision	1,408,846	423,565	884,172	1,124,464	3,841,047
Available for sale Investments	-	-	-	77,993	77,993
TOTAL ASSETS	58,399,625	423,565	1,469,412	2,177,857	62,470,459
LIABILITIES					
Due to banks	97,914	-	-	-	97,914
Customers' deposits	33,708,805	7,075,092	15,806,227	118,905	56,709,029
TOTAL LIABILITIES	33,806,719	7,075,092	15,806,227	118,905	56,806,943

30 AVERAGE INTEREST RATES ON ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

a) The average interest rates on assets and liabilities applied during the year ended 31 December 2006 were as follows:

	Yemeni Riyal %	US Dollar %	Saudi Riyal %	Sterling Pound %	Euro %
Assets					
Reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	13.00	-	-	-	-
Due from banks:					
Current accounts	-	4.55	-	3.69	3.12
Time deposits	-	5.30	4.58	5.00	3.50
Treasury bills	15.69	-	-	-	-
Certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen	15.72	-	-	-	-
Loans to customers	18.00	8.00	-	8.00	8.00
Liabilities					
Customers' deposits	13.00	2.66	1.65	2.18	1.15

b) The average interest rates on assets and liabilities applied during the year ended 31 December 2005 were as follows:

	Yemeni Riyal %	US Dollar %	Saudi Riyal %	Sterling Pound %	Euro %
Assets					
Reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	13.00	-	-	-	-
Due from banks:					
Current accounts	-	2.08	-	2.39	2.15
Time deposits	-	3.85	4.30	4.40	2.37
Treasury bills	15.25	-	-	-	-
Certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen	15.25	-	-	-	-
Loans to customers	18.50	8.00	-	8.00	8.00
Liabilities					
Customers' deposits	13.00	2.00	2.00	2.19	1.15

31 DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS

a) As at 31 December 2006

	Manufacturing YR '000	Agriculture YR '000	Trade YR '000	Service YR '000	Finance YR '000	Personal YR '000	Total YR '000
ASSETS							
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	-	-	-	-	10,112,819	-	10,112,819
Due from banks	-	-	-	-	24,013,103	-	24,013,103
Treasury bills	-	-	-	-	28,954,836	-	28,954,836
Certificates of deposit	-	-	-	-	9,200,000	-	9,200,000
Loans to customers and banks, net of provision	48,125	-	5,072,914	20,800	102,051	1,848,332	7,092,222
Available for sale Investments, net	-	-	-	-	140,485	-	140,485
Total Assets	48,125	-	5,072,914	20,800	72,523,294	1,848,332	79,513,465
LIABILITIES							
Due to banks	-	-	-	-	99,598	-	99,598
Customers' deposits	2,276,554	473,913	7,278,416	1,818,972	862,077	58,956,271	71,666,203
Total Liabilities	2,276,554	473,913	7,278,416	1,818,972	961,675	58,956,271	71,765,801
Contra accounts and other commitments	646,205	-	22,219,734	531,570	2,389,703	2,695,713	28,482,925

b) As at 31 December 2005

	Manufacturing YR '000	Agriculture YR '000	Trade YR '000	Service YR '000	Finance YR '000	Personal YR '000	Total YR '000
ASSETS							
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	-	-	-	-	10,661,214	-	10,661,214
Due from banks	-	-	-	-	15,545,162	-	15,545,162
Treasury bills	-	-	-	-	26,865,043	-	26,865,043
Certificates of deposit	-	-	-	-	5,480,000	-	5,480,000
Loans to customers and banks, net of provision	403,948	-	1,836,460	8,678	71,467	1,520,494	3,841,047
Available for sale Investments, net	-	-	-	-	77,993	-	77,993
Total Assets	403,948	-	1,836,460	8,678	58,700,879	1,520,494	62,470,459
LIABILITIES							
Due to banks	-	-	-	-	97,914	-	97,914
Customers' deposits	2,737,805	555,140	2,698,473	1,861,114	585,513	48,270,984	56,709,029
Total Liabilities	2,737,805	555,140	2,698,473	1,861,114	683,427	48,270,984	56,806,943
Contra accounts and other commitments	566,442	-	8,947,903	341,660	2,538,404	4,571,291	16,965,700

32 TRUST ACTIVITIES

The Bank does not hold nor manages assets for or on behalf of other parties except for the housing project which is managed on behalf of the Government.

33 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The Bank has filed a number of legal cases with the Public Fund Court and the Commercial Preliminary Court against former employees and customers of the Bank relating to irregularities and default in settlements of amounts due respectively. Where there are legal cases filed against the Bank at the respective courts, management fully and/or partly provided for such cases in the financial statements. In some of the cases court decisions were made in favour of the Bank and the same are awaiting execution, whereas the other cases are still pending in the courts.

34 SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN CURRENCIES' POSITIONS

The Central Bank of Yemen circular no. 6 of 1998 establishes limits for positions in individual foreign currencies as well as an aggregate limitation for all currencies. These limits are 15% and 25% of capital and reserves. The Bank had the following significant net exposures denominated in foreign currencies:

	2006 December 31 %	YR '000	2005 December 31 %	YR '000
United States Dollar	11.80	882,972	6.90	407,522
Pound Sterling	3.00	228,426	2.50	149,753
Euro	2.00	150,858	1.80	107,100
Saudi Riyal	1.60	123,244	5.40	317,843
Swiss Franc	0.10	5,209	0.10	4,739
Japan Yen	0.10	1,350	0.10	3,449
United Arab Emirates Dirham	0.10	8,330	-	-
Other	0.00	13	0.10	4,102
Aggregate foreign currency positions	18.70	1,400,402	16.90	994,508

The dollar exchange rate at 31 December 2006 was 198.51 YR/US\$ (31 December 2005: 195.08 YR/US\$).

35 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Capital commitments at 31 December 2006 amounted to YR 65 million (31 December 2005: YR 114 million).

36 PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE BANK

The Bank has signed contract on 20 December 2006 with one of the international consulting firms for the development and improvement of the Bank. The program consists of two parts; the first is for the rendering of consulting services in administration, operations and banking fields and the second on the procurement, installation and running of advanced IT equipment and programs that would enhance the efficiency, competitiveness and maximize the profitability of the Bank. The total duration of the programme is 17 months. The Bank will finance the cost of both parts of this program from its own financial resources.

37 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain of the prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform to the presentation in the current year.



National Bank Of Yemen

البنك الأهلي اليمني

Trust & Experience

الخبرة والثقة



Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization (NUO), 2Feb.2007.

Min headlines

- Referred to victims of over use of force and possible executions outside judiciary, Amnesty International warns against danger of violations of human rights in Saafa
- Unsightly crime in the middle of the capital, A gang murders a young man and starts to kill the father
- Randomness in implementation of the president's platform
- Militias shell with mortars houses of the deported from Jaashin
- The NUO criticized ruling out students unions from agreement of principles
- Almotamar.net launches campaign against the national personality Bin Shamlan
- Unionist escalation at universities against the gOvernment
- Al-Mahthari, editor in chief of Al-Diyar independent weekly, sentenced to one year imprisonment in absentia

Writer Jamil al-Masaadi write in his article because of continuation of the fourth war on Saada and its people and shedding the blood of those from both sides, the soldiers of the country deceived by the authority and those followers of al-Houthi, the victims of the culture of weapons and despotism of the rule I will relate a story related after the death of Stalin in the last century and wars the only cure against the bloody characteristic of Stalin and his addiction on seeing blood shed every now and then.

Many Russian politicians resorted after the end of the World War and

beginning of the cold war to cut off heads of Russian chicken and leave them shake to death between the feet of Stalin or for sparing the lives of advocates of secessionism from the communist regime. At the same time it as meant to satisfy his desire for blood and the sound of his laughter would not stop but with order of slaughtering more chickens as a compromise solution for killing people. I think the idea of slaughtering chickens heads to spare he lives of those opponents to the Russian regime was a clever solution satisfying the desire of all.

The first war of Saada erupted on 20 June 2004 and now and now it has broken out again and many have intervened without avail except to postpone it for another time. Thwart claimed hundreds of lives.

Here I am contributing to solve the ongoing war in Saada for the sake of the Yemeni human. And I suggest to do the same as the entourage of Stalin did by bringing the Yemeni chicken and slaughter them in front of the republican palace as a sacrifice of our brothers the soldiers and the sons of Saada.



Al-Nidaa weekly, 21 Feb. 2007.

Main headlines

- Duty-free authority pays rewards worth hundreds of thousands to the governor of Aden and companions of Al-Raee and Al-Eryany
- The president confirms and the opposition denies the regional dimension of Saada events
- A shekh kills a boy while he was back home from school
- The body on defense of insolvent prisoners selects al-Wade as its chairman

- A fact-finding committee is formed regarding the issue of al-Jaashin

Writer Mohammed al-Ghubary says in an article within one week the speaker of the parliament and the deputy premier carried two messages from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the Saudi leadership. The content of the messages was not openly revealed but it seems clear that the ongoing events in Saada governorate were the topic.

It is obvious that there are extraordinary efforts are exerted by the authority in Yemen to convince the Saudi leadership on the danger of the group under leadership of Abdulmalik al-Houthi after the killing of his brother. It seems that Riyadh has not responded easily up until now to those endeavors especially that the short visit to Riyadh of the deputy premier, the minister of interior came a few days after the visit of Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein al-Hammer who is known of close relationship with the Saudi leadership.

The sensitivity of the Saudi kingdom concerning motivating the file of Shiite minorities inside its territories makes it deal with caution with Iran and concerning issues related to the sectarian conflict. Therefore, the successive visits by the advisor of the Iranian national security to Riyadh and likewise the advisor of the Saudi national security Prince Bandar bi sultan to Tehran have become a factor of anxiety with the Yemeni side, which bets a lot on a Saudi support in the confrontation and for considerations pertaining to the unity of objectives.

If it is confirmed of what is said about a project of Saudi-Iranian agreement according to which there will be a guarantee to the latter of no involvement in sectarian issues inside the kingdom and around it in return of the first contribution to normalization of the situations in Iraq and Lebanon, Yemen will be the Biggert of losers.

What the decision-makers in our country should not miss in their thinking is that internationalization of national problems makes them hostage to those parties that work for dealing with those problems in the manner compatible with their interests. Therefore we are in need of a national treatment and surely the force alone could not achieve that.



26 September weekly, organ of the Yemen Armed Forces, 22 Feb. 2007.

Min headlines

- During his reception of the delegation of the German Social Democratic Party, President Saleh praises Germany's support for democracy and development in Yemen
- A follow-up for decision of the millennium for the obtaining of funds
- Immunity lifted from the escapee terrorist Yahya al-Houthi
- Joint meeting for Yemen and the GCC states foreign ministers the beginning of March
- Being a world personality of the year 2006, President Saleh receives the Afro-Asian Organization Coat of Arms
- The GPC discusses dialogue with political parties
- In his lecture to family-businesses conference, PM Bajammal calls for giving opportunity large people participation in the capital
- Yemeni call for international conference on reconstruction of Somalia
- New Emirates visa-granting facilities and employment of Yemenis
- The American ambassador to Yemen: President Saleh's determination on confronting terror and corruption, an

Time to look East

Wasn't it the British politician, Benjamin Disraeli, who argued that there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies in the world of diplomacy, only permanent interests? The late British prime minister should know. For there is no other nation that has practised the mantra with greater success and panache than the British.

Watching Saudi Arabia roll out the red carpet for President Putin of Russia last week, I was reminded of England's first Jewish prime minister and his earthy wisdom. King Abdullah canonised the former KGB chief and martial art expert as a 'man of peace and justice.' Nothing wrong with that, of course. Except Saudi Arabia happens to be a staunch ally of the United States and this is the first ever visit by a Russian leader to the home of Islam.

Saudi Arabia refused to have diplomatic relations with Russia or the late Soviet Union for its treatment of the large Muslim population in the country and neighbouring Central Asian republics.

It was not long ago that Saudi Arabia had supported and encouraged the decade-long resistance against Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Without doubt, the Afghan jihad, actively supported by both Saudi Arabia and America, played a critical role in bringing down the Soviet empire.

But things are changing now. And how. Clearly both Saudi Arabia and Russia, two of the world's largest oil producing nations, are in a hurry to make up for the last time.

So it was no coincidence that just ahead of his visit to the Middle East, Putin unveiled a blistering attack on the US leadership accusing it of inflaming the Middle East and undermining world peace with its clumsy handling of Iraq.

Don't be surprised if Saudi Arabia, the leader of the Arab-Muslim world and oil producing nations, today is seeking defence cooperation with Russia. Moscow will also launch six telecommunication and remote sensing satellites for Saudi Arabia later this year. But what really takes the cake in this budding relationship is Putin's offer to help Saudi Arabia develop nuclear energy.

What is going on? The world is changing folks. That's what is going on. And about time too. The Arab and Muslim world has depended for far too long on its traditional allies in the West. And what has it got in return? Only contempt and wanton indifference to their concerns and problems.

In fact, most of those concerns and problems are a legacy of our Western friends who through their long association with and colonisation of the Middle East have transformed the cradle of the world civilisation into the battleground of big powers.

I hate going on and on about the Palestinian dispossession and how it makes the Middle East and greater Muslim world politically and psychologically volatile. It's an undeniable reality though that the continuing suffering of Palestinian people remains the single source of Muslim anger and growing extremism around the world.

The Arabs and Muslims find it hard to ignore the fact that colonial powers played a decisive role in driving the Palestinians out of their homeland to gift it to the Jews, a people historically persecuted across the Christian Europe.

Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, shockingly politically incorrect as he may sound, has really got a point when he demands to know why should the Palestinians and Muslim world pay for the wrongs committed by the West.

It's hardly a state secret how the victors of the World War I and II divided the greater Middle East among themselves over the last century. Winston Churchill of Britain is said to have drawn up the map of the new Middle East on a breakfast napkin at the Yalta summit of 1945 with FD Roosevelt of United States and Joseph Stalin of Soviet Union.

The Arab and Muslim world continues to pay a daily price for that mutilation at the crossroads of history on a daily basis. From the ever-festering Palestine-Israel conflict to Lebanon civil war to the current mess in Iraq, which one of our problems is not the legacy of the big powers?

The Arab and Muslims have got nothing but condescension and derision from the West for their genuine friendship and fawning admiration. The

least the Arabs could have got was a note of acknowledgement, if not gratitude, for the critical role their oil has played in the West's —indeed the world's —economic progress and development. Instead all they've got is relentless exploitation and old-fashioned conspiracies.

In fact, it was this mindset that originally forced the Saudis and Iranians to sever their economic ties with the manipulative British in the beginning of the last century and reach out to the new world power, America, in the first place. The two oil producing neighbours had got sick and tired of sheer dishonesty and the games played by British oil companies in their dealings with the simple and uninitiated leaders of the two countries.

Unfortunately, the Arabs' experience with Uncle Sam despite their uninhibited admiration for all that America stands for —or once did —has been equally disappointing. The Arab regimes' political, emotional and strategic dependence on the US over the past half a century or so has only made this relationship all the more complex and frustrating. This has encouraged and emboldened the US to take its Arab allies for granted while constantly appeasing their bete noire Israel.

Which is why the Arab and Muslim world needs to make some bold and strategic decisions and choices, and soon, to introduce a much-needed equilibrium in their relationship with the world powers. The Middle East has to gradually and decisively curtail its hopeless dependence on the West in general and US in particular. This is in their mutual interest and necessary for the long-term health of their relationship.

The world is undergoing dramatic changes. And as our friend Tom Friedman of the New York Times insists, it is not a flat world anymore. It will not forever remain a US-controlled and West-dominated world. The new Russia under comrade Putin with its new money to splurge has not only got its old, superpower confidence back, but it is keen to play a more assertive role on the world stage.

On the other hand, the emergence of new Asian players like China and India with their incredibly-fast booming economies and rich human resources has

forced the whole world to sit up and take notice.

The Arab and Muslim world would ignore these historic changes at its own cost. It has to break free of its American and Western fixation. The Arab countries must not only diversify their economies from oil and gas but also reach out to new and more dependable allies and friends in nations such as Russia, China and India.

It is time to look East. Saudi Arabia and some other Gulf countries have already taken some tentative steps in this direction. King Abdullah's very first foreign visit after taking over as the leader of the world's largest oil producing nation took him to China and India last

year. Saudi Arabia has already clinched some major energy cooperation deals with China and is planning to build a major storage-refinery facility in the country.

This is encouraging. But as the leader of the Arab-Islamic world, Saudi Arabia will have to do more to make its foreign policy less US-centric. And others in the neighbourhood must follow suit. They must evolve a foreign policy that is more nuanced and balanced, in tune with the phenomenal changes that are taking place around them. This is the least they can do to salvage their dignity and independence.

Never again must the Arabs and

for bringing them back to reason.

This stand by some leaderships of opposition is not the first one and it probably will not be the last. We have been accustomed to the leaderships of the JMP to rejoice whatever offends, deforms, harms and contradicts Yemen's interests whether the source was internal or external.

It is quite enough to indicate in this context to the stands used to be adopted by the opposition regarding whatever threatens the homeland's security, stability, development and progress. This has been very clear in their stance regarding the American decision of including Yemen into the countries benefiting from the millennium project and also with respect to the London donor conference and before that their rejoice towards the terrorist operations the country was exposed to at different periods.

This is only little of much more. Opposition leaderships stance versus the events of Saada and the sabotage acts those gangs are committing is not something new for their conduct in this respect is a wrong belief reflecting the fact that they do not differentiate between opposing the homeland and to be an opposition for the sake of the homeland. Here lies the miserableness in some JMP leaderships understanding of opposition with its implications and political contents of democracy.

This is disclosed in its latest statement in which it considered equal a group trying to ignite sedition in service of foreign agenda and raises arms in the face of the state as well as resorting to the use of violence in a bid to frighten the citizens and destabilize their safety and violating the constitution and the law and the state whose most sacred of its duties is to defending of the homeland, safeguarding its national unity, preserve its constitution and imposition of the sovereignty of law and order.

Aijaz Zaka Syed is Assistant Editor of Khaleej Times. Source: www.khaleejtimes.com



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التفضيل لمن لديه خبرة صحفية باللغة الإنكليزية

French architectural monuments exhibited in Sana'a

By: Moneer Al-Omari

Over the period Feb. 17 – 21, the French Cultural Center organized an exhibition of French Architectural Heritage in which different models of 20th century architectural design were displayed to the public.

The exhibition, prepared by the Heritage and Architectural Department at the French Culture Ministry, moves periodically between various countries via the cultural web of the French Foreign Ministry. In this instance, it aims to introduce French architectural art to the Yemeni people.

The exhibited works include a broad range of monuments from throughout the 20th century. These monuments range from villas, towers, public houses and gardens to industrial buildings, old hotels, theatres and war monuments. They were designed by famous French architects and contractors, either for

themselves or at the request of others.

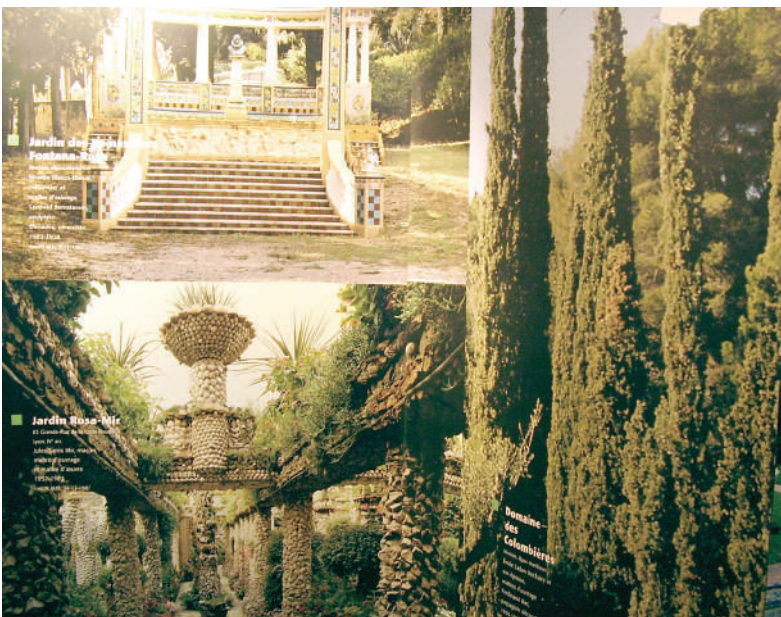
In addition to this, the exhibited samples include cathedrals standing side by side with temples and mosques as a sign of France's religious tolerance. Exhibits include both a Jewish temple and a Paris Mosque.

Cultural Activities Official Anne Clair Dupperner believes that keeping such monuments is important in maintaining a collective national memory and sense of identity for the sake of future generations. She further asserts that restoring and maintaining these monuments will allow them to remain this sense of identity unique from other nations, particularly now with the onslaught of globalization in which borders and cultural differences are rapidly disappearing.

Moreover, the exhibited works also comprise war monuments, particularly from those areas involved in the First and Second World Wars. Some of these areas were completely or partly demolished at that time. Thus, war monuments are restored in order to maintain a living memory for future generations. One of these monuments is a cenotaph for martyrs who fell in to Nazi hands during their occupation of France. The monument can serve to remind people of both the futility and the tragedy of war.

Many visitors were excited to see such French architectural works reflecting the genius of their creators, especially the private villas, swimming pools and gardens. They are built in such a way as to fit in with the nature of the country. Some visitors did however mention that the exhibition would have been even more satisfying if there had been specialists at hand to answer any questions people might have.

Some students from Sana'a University's Faculty of Engineering



A sight from Jardin Rosa-Mir in Lyon

were, however, not entirely satisfied with what was exhibited, noting that all exhibitions were included in their curriculum. They said that they had come with the hope of seeing new and innovative designs, not those which they had already studied.

The students nevertheless pointed out some outstanding works such as the Savoye Villa. Savoye, though uneducated, managed to produce and design world-famous works. The Savoye Villa is built on pillars such that the first storey is not used as part of the residence. This design results from the land on which the house is built having a high water content. This space can consequently be exploited as a garage area or suchlike.

They further asserted that all architectural works throughout the world do adhere to basic standards and principles.

They did, however, admit that French architecture is still very distinctive and this is why they study such designs in their syllabuses.

Abdurrahman Al-Kuhali, Level IV student at the Engineering Faculty, said he was disappointed with the exhibition because he expected to see a greater wealth of new designs. He further said that he thought that they would bring more famous and up-to-date architectural models, especially those works of world prize recipients.

The Sana'a-based French Cultural Center is affiliated with the French Embassy and it provides French language courses for those interested, together with preparation for seminars, symposiums and exhibitions on various subjects. It aims to enhance Yemeni-French cultural relations and introduce French culture and folklore to Yemenis.



Anne Clair Dupperner

Imagine Me: An exhibit depicting the perceptions of the veiled woman

By: Nisreen Shadad

“I came to Yemen two years ago. What astonished me most is the ability of people to recognize a veiled woman. There are men who can recognize their sisters and their wives so easily, indicating that they have a greater level of sensitivity than other people,” Angelika Böck, a German conceptual artist, said.

As a conceptual artist, Böck, who is interested in human perception, held an exhibition to consider perceptions of other cultures. Imagine Me is an exhibition held in the German House and is the fourth installment in a continuing series of works that question the power of imagination.



Most Yemenis describe me as a woman with self-esteem as well as courage. Maybe these are the characteristics all Yemeni women have, said Angelika Böck, a German artist.

“It is too hard to know others’ perceptions when you belong to another culture. Perceptions depend on the culture in which you grow up. Therefore, I wore the veil as they did, asking the Yemenis present to illustrate the person who they thought was behind the veil,” she added.

Böck is concerned with structures of dialogue and experimental layouts facing the human perception. She has completed works which shed light on how perception is culturally conditioned. She has worked in the Ivory Coast, in the Antarctic area, as well as in Central Australia.

Böck presented herself at first completely covered, and without communicating, to 31 Yemeni men and women in Sana'a.

The pattern of dialogue that all of these works have in common is the

artist's self-image, the prism in which the different cultural identities shatter and mirror themselves.

The participants were asked by a native speaker to imagine the woman (Böck), who was unknown to them and obscured behind her veil. Quotes from 16 of the interviews presented on the black fabric of the box.

“When Yemenis imagine how I look while I am covered, many of them correctly imagine some of my features. Maybe they are aspects that are common to all Yemenis,” Böck said.

At the beginning Böck found it difficult to take the women's pictures, especially those who weren't veiled, “The veiled women did however allow me to take their photos since no one knew them.” As for the Yemeni people, they are so open as well as helpful. I have no problem interacting with people or taking quotes from them.”

The idea of the exhibit is that a black box stands for a veiled woman and no one has access to or knows what is inside. The photos on the wall around the box (the veiled woman) stand for the surrounding people's points of view regarding her. The golden prints on the black fabric of the box represent the detailed decoration of the women's abaya (the black uniform that most Yemeni women wear to cover their bodies), she said.

Böck seeks to portray reality according to her vision. She tried to put all of the elements that people said about the veiled women during a five week period in to her exhibit. However, she still feels that the box is ambiguous and unexplored. “Even for me it is a barrier; I feel this person has privacy and she wants to keep it that way,” she said.

However, Böck also felt happy when she saw a woman taking off her veil in front of her. “What makes me extremely happy is when women take the veil off in front of me. I have a real curiosity as to what lies behind such a veil.”

The installation Imagine Me, consists of a 2, 00 x 2, 00 cube as well as 16 photo portraits. The cube is located in the middle of a room and is composed of 16 pieces of black fabric – four on each side. On the walls opposite these, the photos of people were arranged, four photos on each wall. The fabrics which match what can be considered average physical measurements are printed with text in golden colors, depicting the mental images of the Yemeni men and women while observing this entirely veiled woman, Anglika Böck. The projections of these people consequently



The box covered with black fabric represents the veiled woman and the surrounding photos represent her society

describe the imagined identity of the woman.

Visitors to the exhibit were, however, few, and comprised mostly of common visitors to the German House.

“It is not easy for a foreigner to interact with people particularly openly and get all of their photos in just five weeks. I think Böck really has an ability to develop relations with others very quickly,” said Maryam, a volunteer in the German House.

Böck is both the initiator of the project and at the same time the object of the various portraits, while the participants themselves are not only subjective portrayals, but also the object portrayed. The traditional roles of artist and model are questioned. The relationships between the partners of the dialogue

raise a multitude of issues. Both sides are creator and created.

The intercultural and interactive approach of her project, acting as a link between art and anthropology, involved almost thirty people in a unique novelty not just for the German House, but for Yemen in general. The German House highlights one of its policies as being cultural exchange between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Yemen. The project has been realized with the kind support of the German Institute for Foreign Cultural Exchange.

Böck was born in 1967 in Munich. She studied Interior Architecture and Sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. She received numerous grants, and she participated in several exhibits in different countries.



Literary Corner

By: Abu Al-Kalima Al-Tayybah

Yemeni Annals (Hawliat Yamaniyah) - (X)

Subject Book: Yemeni Annals (Hawliat Yamaniyah) [1224 – 1316 AH (1809 – 1898 AD)]
Author: Muhsin Bin Ahmed Al-Harazi et al
Checked and Edited by Abdullah Mohammed Al-Hibshi
Language: Arabic
Publisher: Ministry of Information and Culture
Year Published: 1400 AH/1980 AD
No. of Pages: 661

1291 AH (1874 – 1875 AD): From here onwards, the Turks solidify their hold on Sana'a and the surrounding area and try to make sure that this time their occupation holds good for the life of the Ottoman State. They impose their laws and levy their taxes and seek to penetrate north to some of the Zeidi strongholds in Kawkaban and even go North to Harib and Houth, trying to make good on the imposition of law and order in a country, long known for its defiance of authority and civil obedience. During this period up to 1306 AH, the Zeidi Imams continued to proclaim themselves Imams from different parts of the country. Ibn Rashid also rose from Najd to try to revive their previous domination of the Najd, which was previously taken by the Wahhabis and their allies of the clan of Saud and temporarily by the Turks. They were spreading fast and headed for the Hejaz, as the author says, "with a large force with many cavalrymen and cannons and he has reached the periphery of Yam and the province of Aseer. Ibn Rashid had written to the Imam of Sa'ada, Al-Hadi Sharaf Al-Din, offering to provide troops and assistance in the latter's efforts to enlarge his domain. Nothing materialized out of this correspondence.

1306 (1888 – 1889 AD) and 1307 AH (1889 – 1890): Ottoman rule begins to decay as corruption becomes prevalent and one Pasha is replaced by another in Sana'a. Pasha Uthman was replaced by Uthman Nouri. The author states that the new Pasha came and "ordered people and all the Turks to abide by the prayers and all of them became adherents to the prayer, whereas they had not known about prayers. In 1307, there were changes in the judicial bench with the termination of the Primary, Penjal and Appeals Court. In 1307, a leading Imam of the Al-Wazir clan died who is called Ahmed Ibn Abdullah Al-Wazir. In Jumad I of the same year, the Turks tried to recruit Arabs to the Porte's Army and the author states that many Yemenis accepted to be in the Sultan's Army. The author says, many people accepted the call, including people from Jadir. They were stationed in the Tehama area, but were taken first to Hodeida for processing and grooming, so they shaved their beards and they wore the uniforms of the regime. Then they sent their old books and clothing and their "asib" to the sea and disposed of them there. The author says, what screwy minds these people (i.e., the Turks) had by doing such things". That year also

saw the insurrection of the Hamdan Tribe. The Pasha tried to console the tribe. The author says, "God only knows that the Pasha took out some three thousand bushels of wheat and sent them to the grind mills and ordered the Jews to grind them in three days. The Jews had no recourse but to cry out with prayers of relief from this oppression, as this is the beginning of their Rosh Hashana holiday. Towards the end of the year, the Imam Al-Hadi of Sa'ada passed away and a new Imam Al-Hadi was proclaimed Imam (his name was Mohammed Ibn Qassim Al-Houthy and he declared a Jihad against the Turks. The Turks then set out to put this official proclamation of rebellion against their rule and their troops fanned out on the northern mountain territories to Amran and other major northern centers, trying to put out any thoughts of insurrections by force or by appeasement as much as possible. The resistance against the Ottomans had caught on because of the corruption and the poor knowledge of the Turks about Yemen. Eventually Yemen became known as "the graveyard of the Turks.

1308 AH (1890 – 1891 AD): The Pilgrims of Mecca face serious problem with "the Christians holding pilgrims coming by sea for 17 days under siege or arrest, especially those coming from the Northern regions. Those that were from Yemen returned to Hodeida "on their last breath", as the author states. On the lighter side, the author notes that a great phenomenon occurred with "a great Heavenly sign occurring at lunchtime, where we heard a great explosion in the air – high in the air, and no one could determine what the source was, for it was greater than cannon fire. It was heard by many people, each in their own place. The thunder of the sound remained for a minute after the sound of the explosion and the Sun was at High Noon. The sound brought on a big fright in the hearts of people. In that year, also the coffee crop did not yield a good harvest because of the severe cold, as the author says. In that year the insurrection against the Turks increase and people in the "Yemen" begin to grumble about the oppression of the Turks. In 1308. The author also states that the rivers of Yemen increased and each river rose by more than half of its normal fill, including the "river that flows to the South of Sana'a (Al-Safiyah) rose by three-fourths its normal capacity. In Rajab of that year, Pasha Ismael (the Ottoman Commander) was very ill and he recovered in Sha'ban. In Ramadan this Commander and he inflicted on Sana'a what is worse and more frightening than what was said about him and rumored before. The Imam Al-Mansour's Jihad against the Turks increases and the battles intensify with the Imam gaining ground to the point that the Turkish Commander had to send telegrams from all the major Ottoman garrisons to Istanbul and all other nearby Turkish commands screaming that Yemen was in high revolt.

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Traditional practices behind TB spread in Yemen

By: Almigdad Dahesh Mojali
Dahesh95@yahoo.com

Yemeni habits and customs are considered the main causes for the spread of the chronic and infectious disease, tuberculosis. TB is one of the infectious diseases that Yemeni habits contribute in its existence.

Bronchoscopy specialist and a professor at Sana'a University Dr. Ahmed Al-Hammami says, "Most Yemenis know that tuberculosis is an infectious disease; however, they deal with TB patients the same as they do with non-infected individuals. Our

social habits and customs, such as eating together from the same dish, drinking from the same cup and sitting with infected patients in the same room contribute to spreading the disease quickly. Sometimes a father, mother or other family member will take an infant and kiss it; consequently, he or she transmits the disease to the infant.

"Yemenis chew qat and smoke together in the same room, which also increases the chance of spreading the disease," he added.

As an infectious disease, TB can spread by many means, including via saliva, sneezing, coughing, drinking or eating with infected individuals.

Tuberculosis is widespread in Yemen due to a suitable environment



Taher Rasam, has been suffering T.B for three months.

characterized by lack of knowledge about the danger of the disease, poverty and many other causes, including nutritional shortage, dirtiness, lack of health consciousness among citizens and sitting with infected individuals, according to Al-Hammami.

"Poverty is another reason for the spread of tuberculosis, with the Tihama region considered one of the most infected areas in Yemen because residents there are unable to go to hospitals," Al-Hammami noted.

Although TB shares symptoms with other diseases, it's easy to diagnose the disease. Al-Hammami explains, "A TB patient may have caves in his lungs, which is considered the most dangerous phase of tuberculosis. He or she may have inflammation in the lungs, intestines or genital region. He or she also may experience fever or weak appetite."

Taher Rasam, 65, from Taiz notes, "I've been suffering from tuberculosis for three months. In the beginning, I had a tumor in my lower neck and the doctor eradicated it. Then, there was flatulence in my abdomen. I now experience inflammation in my lungs and a strong cough."

Tuberculosis targets all age groups, but most are youths. "Tuberculosis doesn't differentiate between children, youths, adults or the elderly, but most patients are youths due to their carelessness and malnutrition because

they always eat sandwiches and other simple things," Al-Hammami explained.

Khazna Saleh, 20, from Hadramout commented, "I've had tuberculosis for a year. I experience a strong cough, fever, vomiting and diarrhea."

Sixteen-year-old Sawsen Ahmed Ali, from Rada'a recalls, "In the beginning, I had coughing, fever and chest pain. I now experience complete weakness, weak appetite and strong coughing."

Ameena Abdulwahab, 22, from Sana'a says, "I contracted tuberculosis six months ago. My elder brother had the disease for approximately nine months and I think he infected me. I experience a strong cough, fever and total weakness and I vomit blood when I cough."

Al-Hammami emphasizes, "We can diagnose tuberculosis and treat patients easily until their complete recovery, but the problem is that some don't stick to taking medicine until the end. Most of the time, they take the medicine until they recover and then they give up taking it. This is wrong because if the patient doesn't take his medicine until the end, he'll become infected with the disease again and it'll be more difficult to treat him because the body's immunity gets weaker and has become accustomed to the medicine. Consequently, the medicine won't have its required effect."

"Additionally, doctors sometimes don't give patients the proper



Khazna has suffered T.B since a year.

medicine," he added.

Jameel Al-Ansi, 28, comments, "This is the second time I've had tuberculosis. I was infected approximately two years ago, so I took medicine for three or four months and then I recovered. This time, I contracted the disease three months ago and I have the same symptoms, such as a strong cough, fever and weak appetite."

Al-Hammami stressed that TB patients must take medicine for six months. He or she is given four types of medicine for the first two months and other medicine for the remaining four months.

According to a 1990-1991 survey, there are 43 TB patients for every 100,000 Yemeni people. A new Yemeni census began Feb. 17 under the auspices of the Ministry of Public Health Care and Environment and the Ministry of Education and in corporation with Global Fund against AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

The survey is targeting approximately 130 schools randomly selected nationwide and will involve 30,000 students between ages 7 and 12. It aims to specify the disease's causes and compare these survey results with those from 1990-1991.

The Politics of Psychiatry

By: John Z. Sadler

Worldwide, annual investments in scientific research to cure devastating mental pathologies such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and clinical depression are huge – comparable to spending on finding a cure for any other disease. But while mental disorders are indeed medical diseases, with their own culprit molecules and aberrant anatomies, they are also different from "physical" diseases in important ways. For no matter how thoroughly "medical" mental illnesses are, they are also thoroughly social. The reasons for this stem from the nature of mental disorders themselves.

There is no question that pathologies like heart disease, pneumonia, or diabetes have a large impact on a sufferer's sense of self and place in the community. But only in illnesses like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and depression do we find disease processes that directly and profoundly transform a person's self, identity, and place in the community.

A person with schizophrenia may

experience his self as another, may experience his identity as controlled by others, and may regard the entire community as suspect and threatening. A person in the manic phase of bipolar disorder has, in addition to serious, even life-threatening lapses in judgment, an extraordinary sense of well-being that the mentally well rarely, if ever, experience. The individual with obsessive-compulsive disorder both dreads and is ashamed by irrational obsessions and compulsions, yet finds engaging in these thoughts and actions irresistible. The person with clinical depression finds his or her entire being dark and vapid, devoid of ordinary human feelings like anticipation, pleasure, and meaningfulness.

Patients with mental pathologies commonly ask their doctors, "Is it me or my illness?" The manifestations of illness and the expression of self are not so easily distinguished, and psychiatric treatment often focuses on disentangling the two.

But this intermingling of the self with the manifestations of mental illness often leads patients to have mixed feelings about treatment. For example, treatment for a manic patient jeopardizes that

extraordinary feeling of well-being and risks plunging the person into the dreaded depressive phase of the illness. The idiosyncratic beliefs of the schizophrenic are the target of pharmacotherapy, but at the same time they may be a source of personal pride and form a distinct sense of self that the patient wants to preserve.

Because of this "self-illness" ambiguity, mental disorders are linked with personal values, belief systems, and interests in ways that are distinct from physical diseases. Physical symptoms are almost never positively valued, but some symptoms of mental disorders typically are. For example, almost everyone agrees that a broken leg or pneumonia are bad things to have. But many manifestations of mental disorders – such as the increased energy of mania, the euphoria of intoxication for the addict, or the smug satisfaction of the individual with a personality disorder – may not always be viewed that way.

As a result, while many would-be patients might recognize the benefits that psychiatric treatment has to offer, they also may be deterred by the threat to what few sources of self-affirmation they have. When one adds to this the

stigma and explicitly discriminatory practices against the mentally ill, it is a wonder that failure to keep appointments and take medications is not more common than it is.

While the "self-illness ambiguity" in mental illness may not be explicitly appreciated, many societies have made accommodations, such as considering a criminal offender's state of mind in assessing legal culpability. Societies also often provide ways to encourage, even compel, a mentally ill person into treatment, while recognizing that, because psychiatry can potentially invade and overwhelm personal beliefs and values, mental health practices must be regulated in order to preserve civil liberties.

As science unravels many of the puzzles concerning mental disorder, it may become tempting to argue that these problems with politics and diverse values will evaporate. According to this view, broad agreement about the causes of and cures for mental illness will make politics irrelevant, just as a broken leg or a heart attack are not really political in content today.

I am skeptical that this can happen. Consider a bit of science fiction. Let us say that, at some point in the future, neu-

robiology will explain not only major mental disorders, but also criminality. Indeed, we will have perfected a biology of morality that allows us to explain typical morality as well as deviant morality.

But even in such a science-fiction scenario, we are left with a serious political problem: on what moral terms can we base desirable and undesirable beliefs and behaviors? Who will define the norms of criminality and mental illness, conditions for which science provides the explanation? Will those norms be based upon my values, your values, prevailing scientific views, or perhaps the values of a political mastermind?

The politics of psychiatry are inescapable, which is why all societies must consider them with the greatest of seriousness.

John Z. Sadler is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and the author of Values and Psychiatric Diagnosis. He co-edits the journal Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology and the Oxford University Press book series International Perspectives in Philosophy and Psychiatry. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007.

Appeal for funding help



Ten-month-old Abdulsalam Shaya'a Al-Jabri has suffered from complex congenital heart disease since birth. According to a medical report issued by Al-Thawra Hospital in Sana'a, the child needs cardiac surgery. As there are no facilities for such treatment in Yemen, the report recommended treating the infant abroad.

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10 percent of Yemenis are affected by stroke every year, said doctors

By: Taiz Bureau

“A stroke occurs as a result of stoppage of blood to the brain or an insufficient amount of blood to the brain, which causes a defect in the blood vessels,” explains Dr. Nezar Al-Naser, a specialist in heart and blood vessels.

"Five to 10 percent of Yemenis age 45 and up are affected by stroke every year and 7 percent of those affected by stroke suffer from heart disease and diabetes," she added.

Dr. Abdullah Saif, head of the cardiac center at Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz, explains, "A stroke occurs as a result of brain arteriosclerosis, high blood pressure or emotional stress, in addition to chewing qat because of the herbicides it contains."

Dr. Sa'eed Al-Sharabi, specialist in heart and blood vessel diseases, clarified the risk factors for stroke, noting, "The main cause of stroke is the thyroid, which causes irregularity in blood flow to the heart, in addition to diabetes."

However, the causes of stroke in patients under 45 years old are different.

"Strokes occur in those under age 45 due to cerebral infraction as a result of the blockage of one of the cerebral arteries supplying blood to the brain," Al-Naser stated.

Stroke patients can be saved if they receive prompt treatment. "Every minute that passes without taking care of a stroke victim increases the possibility of damaging more parts of the brain," Al-Naser stressed.

The numerous stroke symptoms vary according to a patient's age. Patients age 45 and up "may suffer headache, vertigo, stupor or paralysis in one of the brain halves," Saif explained.

However, patients under age 45 may experience other symptoms. "In this case, blood doesn't go to the brain for several minutes, thus causing numbness, facial paralysis of the face, disorder in the sight of one of the eyes or difficulty walking, talking and understanding," Al-Naser described.

According to specialists, the most prominent risk factor is the progression of age wherein the possibility of infection doubles every 10 years and most of cerebral infections occur after age 70 for men and after age 74 for women.

"Internal blood loss occurs as a result

of the tearing of a small artery, thus causing slight paralysis, fainting, general or topical spasms, nausea and vomiting," Saif explained

Regarding the number of stroke patients Taiz's Al-Thawra Hospital

receives monthly, Saif notes, "The hospital averages five cases monthly consisting of more men than women."

He estimates the rate of recovery is 99 percent if the patient is taken to the hospital early.

إعلان قضائي

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Garden tools and qat leaves

By: Craig Anderson
For Yemen Times

As I stood in the immigration line at Sana'a airport that clear January morning, fresh from the excesses of a British Christmas and New Year, I nervously fingered my visa. Considering it from all angles, I tried to ascertain the words which could have been in Swahili for all that I could make of them and I wondered just what it was that I had let myself in for. However, unintelligible visa happily stamped, I took my first excited steps out in to what was going to be, I felt, something of a challenge. In said challenge, the first casualty was my somewhat pasty British complexion, unaccustomed as it is to such rare pleasures as a blazing sun and cloudless blue sky. And then my eyes, squinting in this exotic sunlight, trying to make out what appeared to be a group of men brandishing gleaming daggers, dancing in a circle in front of the airport terminal, something which in hindsight I can only assume was a welcoming party of sorts to herald my arrival in Yemen (I never did go close enough to actually ascertain this, however. Not that I was scared you understand.)

Perhaps at this point I should clarify just what it is that brought me to this rocky corner of the Arabian Peninsular. Well, having completed a degree in Arabic-International Relations some two years previously, I had somehow managed to graduate with the Arabic-speaking ability of a pre-born Finnish baby (not meaning of course to question the linguistic abilities of the future Finns of this world...) So I came to Yemen with a mind to rectifying this and improving my Arabic. To at least the level of a Finn living outside the womb.

So, laden with camel-loads of misplaced preconceptions, I set off for the land from whence the illustrious Queen of Sheba hailed. The first of said camel-load of misconceptions to be disproved was, in fact, the noticeable lack of camels – instantly shattering my romanticized notion of camel taxiing to my abode in Hadda, backpack strapped and camera in hand (it was probably for the best though – the current construction work and detours would no doubt have totally confused them). My first glimpses of Yemen from that modern day air-conditioned camel that is the Toyota Landcruiser did, however, not disappoint - the multitude of minarets standing proud against the backdrop of a city as yet unknown to me, and craggy mountains in which I had yet to hike



Alas, it wasn't only Arabic that appeared to be leaving my mouth, but also flecks of half-chewed qat leaves, as I fought conflicting urges to either spit out the growing mass, or swallow it.

(no doubt red-faced and out of breath...); wholly shrouded women tracing their paths through the urban bustle to the sound of seemingly recreational car horn tooting; and proud-looking men, grinning as they squatted roadside, hamster-like cheeks bulging, plastic bag brimming with qat leaves slung over the ornately decorated handles of their jambiyyas.

It was these qat leaves that I was soon to discover played so central a role in the lives of so many Yemenis. Working, then, under the auspices of cultural investigation, I accepted a most kind invitation to join a Sana'ani wedding and chew qat the next day. Accordingly, as the sun cast its last rays over the city and the piercing cacophony of apparently competing muezzin urged the faithful to prayer, I arrived at a wedding party for two grooms that I had never met before. Strange, you might think. Well worry not, for I thought exactly the same thing, but had hoped that the language barrier (remember my foetal Finnish Arabic...) would render their cries of 'Who are you?! Get out?!' somewhat defunct, and that I would be able to enjoy the festivities unimpeded. As it happened, the grooms were most hospitable and treated me like a friend with whom they had previously spent many a happy hour. Having offered them a few congratulatory words (fed in to my ear by my friend!), space was duly made for me to sit down amongst the hundred or so guests reclined in this capacious wedding tent, everyone enjoying a fine display of music and dancing (again including the jambiyyas which I had most certainly not been afraid of the day before at the

airport!). As I employed my rudimentary Arabic to converse with the people around me, I couldn't help but wonder if these men had picked the shortest straw in a draw completed just prior to my arrival, and were hence forced to sit next to me and reduce their register of Arabic to a level such as you might use with a toddler. That's a Finnish toddler too, not a Yemeni one.

Despite my best efforts at conversation, my mouth and mind were working subversively together to create something of a hybrid language – a hideous concoction of every language which has ever had the misfortune of counting me

among its students. So, add a healthy measure of Japanese, a heaped tablespoon of French and a sprinkling of schoolboy Latin and you have all of the ingredients for an interesting conversation! One word which I did have confidence in pronouncing, however, was my name. I was, sadly, soon to discover that in Sana'ani my name sounds rather similar to a word meaning shovel. Accordingly, I went in search of something more befitting than your average gardening implement. So I thought big, and Nasser was born. Whether as the reincarnation of an Egyptian reformist or the comic Nasreddin from my Arabic study books, I had been raised up from the depths of the garden shed, and was very glad for it too.

Overcoming my initial reservations at being the only slightly overwhelmed-looking foreigner in a space full of men, loading, hamster-like, leaves into their bulbous cheeks, my fears soon subsided, and, in no small measure thanks to the qat, I relaxed into a state in which I felt comfortable enough to spit out a few sentences of largely unintelligible Arabic. Alas, it wasn't only Arabic that appeared to be leaving my mouth, but also flecks of half-chewed qat leaves, as I fought conflicting urges to either spit out the growing mass, or swallow it. I can only imagine how I must have looked; a red face (something I possess whether hot, cold, embarrassed, not embarrassed, chewing qat, not chewing

qat – quite a skill I think you'll find!) bearing a slightly pained expression as I tried to concentrate on the task in hand, while, of course, all the while trying to maintain the semblance of a conversation. I am, however, relatively confident that I am the only person possessing photo evidence of such a comical scenario, and implore any one else with photos of said red face to destroy them immediately. Add to all of this the self-imposed pressure of trying to enlarge my leafy bulge to the size of my Yemeni companions (please bear in mind also that these guys make the pet hamsters of my childhood look like amateurs) and you may begin to understand my predicament. It is this hamster-like quality of seemingly all qat chewers that highlights what, for me, is the frustra-

trating irony of chewing qat – just as I begin to loosen up and want to fulfill that rising urge to engage in Arabic conversation, so everybody else, due to the veritable forest of greenery in their left cheek, becomes utterly unintelligible!

A few weeks have now passed since my enlightening first few days in Sana'a. However, while my foetal grasp of Arabic makes strides towards seeing the light of day outside its Scandinavian womb, and my qat-chewing face is gradually losing the initial pained expression in favour of something more like a smile, still Yemen presents me with new challenges each day of my life here. But neither Nasser, nor his garden shed alter ego, would have it any other way.



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