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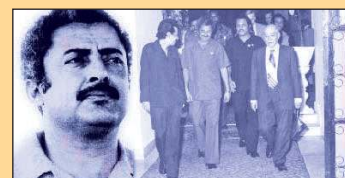
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Most Yemeni smokers start smoking at early school ages, said researchers



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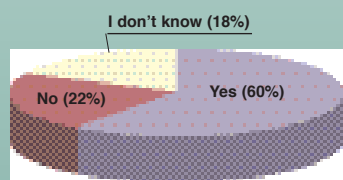


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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Do you think that Yemen is on its way to becoming Al-Qaeda's new regional stronghold?



This edition's question:

Do you think the increasing rage and protest around the republic would become uncontrollable and would cause the government to take up sever security measures?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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15 arrested on Al-Qaeda links allegations

Among conflicting reports, Yemeni security tightens its investigation of the Marib attack on tourists last week, which has had a substantial negative impact on tourism and security.

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf

MARIB, July 8 — As part of an Al-Qaeda hunt down, police forces killed an Egyptian citizen Ahmed Basyouni last Friday who was allegedly a member of Al-Qaeda and had links to the terrorist attack in Yemen which killed seven Spaniards last week. Eyewitness accounts indicate that Basyouni refused to surrender himself and started firing at the squad who were demanding his surrender. The exchange of fire lasted over two hours and resulted in the injury of two soldiers and the killing of Basyouni, ruining security forces' chances of extracting any information from him.

Another fifteen men were detained for interrogation. Authorities commented that they are getting important information from the preliminary investigation. Former president Saleh has offered a reward of approximately \$76,000 for any information related to the attack.

Security issues

The attack on the Spaniards has brought

a number of security issues into focus, such as regulating the trade and ownership of weapons and providing genuine solutions to the problems of extremism. A number of political analysts have specified the enrollment of extremists within security agencies following 1994 as the most undermining issue, which facilitates the work of terrorism. This connection was made during an investigation into the escape of 24 Al-Qaeda members from a political security prison last year. The assassination of Marib's chief inspector two months ago has been linked to last week's terrorism attack, indicating the possibility that the killed chief inspector knew about Al-Qaeda's resurgence and preparations for such an attack.

Reports from local media stated that the security personnel in Marib had received a report from the citizens claiming that they saw a suspicious vehicle similar to the type used in the recent attack. Apparently the vehicle, a pick-up truck, was carrying rotten hay. The eyewitness said the car was parked



Ahmed Basyouni

that had three passengers who left after a brief talk with the pick-up driver.

A survivors' tale

A survivor of the suicide car bombing told Spanish Radio Onda Cero that the scene of the attack was one of absolute terror. Maria Begona Larrabeiti who was a passenger in the third vehicle of the convoy said: "I saw that the first car was burning, in the second one the people looked pretty bad, and in mine everyone was shouting..." She also added: "Then I couldn't see what was happening in the fourth as I ducked because they were shooting... it was an absolute nightmare."

Larrabeiti was one of the 13 Spaniards who had come to Yemen as

in close proximity to the accident. He also commented that the truck was moving in slow motion as if carrying very heavy load and was met with another car



Spanish foreign minister congratulates one of the Spanish tourists on her survival.

tourists on June 30. Many European tourists had been visiting the country recently, however the incident will make many of them think twice before venturing to Yemen.

The bodies of the dead tourists accompanied by the survivors were flown back home last week on a Spanish Armed Forces plane. As a con-

sequence of this attack, the Yemeni security has heightened security measures around foreign embassies and government buildings. Tight security is also noticed in the airports and city-to-city entry points, which might explain the presence of 15 Spanish tourists in Yemen just a couple of days ago, so close after the recent attack.

Sana'a residents demonstrate against terrorism

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, July 8 — Organized by the Yemeni Association for Travel and Tourism Agencies and the Yemeni Youth Union, thousands of people including Shoura and Parliament members and political activists demonstrated in protest against the terrorist operation that took place in Mareb, targeting Spanish tourists.

Raising slogans that denounced the crime, the demonstrators demanded that Yemeni security forces find out who was behind the terrorist acts in order that they may be put to trial and justly punished. The slogans, written in Arabic and English, read, "Terrorism has no religion or home" and "Islam is the religion of mercy and tolerance."

Tourism Minister Nabil Al-Faqih expressed his remorse over the terrorist attacks, which resulted in the death of seven Spanish tourists. Al-Faqih stressed the importance of solidarity between nations.

"What happened in Mareb happens in many countries across the globe and this is the bill Yemen should pay in return for its participation in the war on terror," pointed out Al-Faqih. He further



Terrorism is not about religion or nation, it has no home and belongs to no religion.



"No to Terrorism", shouted the demonstrators condemning the attack against tourists

expressed his concern that the recent events not affect the Yemeni-Spanish bilateral relations.

Mohammed Al-Jabri from the General Union for Yemeni Laborer's Syndicates denounced the terrorist act against the Spanish tourists, calling on Yemeni people to stand against those who defame the country and its people.

Al-Jabri warned that Yemeni citizens will not accept their country being a breeding ground for terrorists, nor will they accept the damaging effects that terrorism poses to their economy. He urged citizens to cooperate with security personnel in order to foil any future terrorist plots within the country.

Mohammed Haj'e from the Travel and Tourism Association noted that the heinous crime did not target the Spanish



Presenting flowers and roses to the Spanish embassy as a symbol of support and love. Yemenis endorse their image as peace loving people

alone but the Yemeni people as well.

"The one who researches the vile history of those terrorist will detect the extent of their gall on our people and country; they used to harm our economy and our

country's fame," said Haj'e.

Later, the demonstrator headed from Al-Tahrir Square to the Spanish Embassy headquarters in Hadda to offer condolences to the Spanish diplomatic mission.

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In brief

TAIZ

Seminar on drug addiction

July 7 — A discussion round on the dangers of drugs and how they affect the human system was conducted by the Human Rights Information and Training Center in Taiz. Special focus was given to the legal position against drugs and the implications of using or selling drugs legally. Medical information was given on the health damage on the nervous system because of using drugs. Also, the social aspects of why drugs are being used and how the community can fight them.

Hudeidah

Drinking water project

July 8 — The government of Japan has extended its grant amounting US\$83,550 to the water and environmental sanitation society in Hudeidah to implement the project for improving water supply system in Al-Dhawniah village. The grant will be used to construct a water tank, a protection room for water pump, water pipelines, and to make an overhaul for the existing water pump. The grant aims at providing clean water, reducing sufferings of women and children, and improving the health condition of the inhabitants on the area.

SANA'A

American foreign policy discussed

July 8 — The Democratic School in cooperation with the Middle East Studies College conducted a seminar Sunday on the American foreign policy. The seminar comes under the umbrella of the Yemeni – American youth dialogue in which 12 Yemeni youth from the youth Shoura Council and Political Parties youth network debate with 12 students of American universities who are currently studying Arabic at the Middle East College.

Hadrarnout

Al-Eman awareness assembly

July 7 — Over nine days, the annual Eman awareness forum will host a number of Yemeni and international scholars from around the world to participate in the awareness week. The sessions which started Thursday, will include education activities, intellectual and sport competitions. It will also include religious and cultural events in addition to activities especially for women and children.

ADEN

Immigration authority facilitate investment

July 8 — the Aden branch passport and immigration authority has granted tourists free entry visa for 72 hours in order to attract transit passengers and short term businessmen or workers coming through the sea to the Aden Free Zone. Until the end of June, the authority has given one thousand and 391 residence permit and 551 working entry visa. Aden immigration authority reported granting 645 exit with re-entry visa and 996 exit visas for foreigners who visited Aden.

Yafe'

Celebrating peace carnival

July 8 — Delegations from Aden, Abyan, Shabwa, Hadhramout, Lahej, and Al-Dhele'e are heading to Yafe'e to take part in the Yafe'e peace carnival which will take place tomorrow July 10th. The carnival aims at establishing peace between different tribes and includes cultural sessions and a poetry contest.

Dhamar

Anti-Malaria campaign

July 8 — The National Program for fighting Malaria in Dhamar and Raimah has started its campaign in the governorates. The campaign aims at protecting 111 thousand people living in more than 16 thousand homes in the various districts in the governorate. The campaign will last for 25 days in which 13 field teams working on 21 equipped vehicles will participate with a total of 200-spray specialist, 50 supervisors, and 24 task managers. Fighting malaria in these two governorates is of special importance due to the lack of infrastructure, which leads to creating puddles after the rain, and thus, providing mosquitoes with a suitable environment to breed during the summer.

Trial against Al-Shuabi's abusers, chaos in the courtroom

By: Nisreen Shadad

SANA'A, July 8 — Two men stood before the judge in a Sana'a court room filled with security officers and anticipating audience. They were accused of raping Anisa Al-Shuaibi while in detention in 2003.

The two defendants; Rizq Al-Jawfi; the head of the Criminal Investigation Unit, in Sana'a, and Saleh Al-Salihi; the head of the unit's investigations department simply denied all charges.

Abdul Aziz al-Samawi, the defendants' lawyers said "Let's not view the case partially, but as a whole. The victim said that the one who arrested her is Al-Ja'adabi, and the one who interrogated her is another officer, namely, Ismael al-Kibsi. None of whom are the defendants." He added that "It is known as well that the one who put someone in prison is the interrogator. Therefore, the prosecution has arraigned my clients because of their high rank and influence."

The defendants' lawyer offered a criminal statement against Al-Shuaibi suggesting that she killed her former husband. The judge, however, refused any statements that may disperse the case and direct it to a very different issue.

Another Anisa?

When reading the indictment, the defendant, who is the head of the investigation's unit, denied that he ordered the officers to arrest her illegally and put her in the prison. However, when confronted with his previous confession, the defendant said, "She was another Anisa. The one whom I admit to arrest her is Anisa Abdullah, not Anisa al-Shuaibi. This mistake was because of my wrong perception of her middle name; Abdullah."

The General prosecution representative said, "For the first defendant; al-Jawfi, when saying he hasn't ordered the officers to arrest her and put her in the prison of the Criminal Investigation Unit is not true. He also claimed that he didn't know of her existence in the Unit and that is also unreasonable. What we know is al-Jawfi is the head of this Unit and responsible of all the issues related

to it. Adding to that, all the cases and the prisoners' names seized in his Unit presented to him daily. His claim that he has just got to know of her existence in the Unit detainment in the second or the third day is a big fabrication."

On the other hand, the defendants' lawyer said "If al-Jawfi and al-Salihi are here because of the responsibility, I demand interrogating the General Prosecutor, the Deputy Prosecutor, and the prosecutions' members since all those are responsible of this Unit."

According to the prosecution representative, through looking at the arrest warrant, Al-Shuaibi is arrested according to the head of investigation Unit; Al-Salihi. He was also the one who referred her to the felony department, and suddenly, she moved to another disciplinary department.

The other side of the story

Khalid Al-Anisi, Al-Shuaibi's lawyer and the executive director of HOOD organization for defending human rights, demanded the judge to put the two defendants behind bars as it is a serious crime, according to the constitution, for the defendants to utilize their positions to control the other security personnel as well as other people for their interest.

"Being in their positions affect the case procedures, particularly they began to gather the officers of the security personnel for their interest," al-Anisi added.

"We don't have any personal controversy with any person or unit. We quarrel with those who violated the Law and the Constitution," he continued.

Moreover, he indicated that the defendants' positions mean that all the evidences of al-Suaibi's innocence is under their power and that for sure will create obstacles to reach the truth.

The last demand of his was to investigate the security officers who leave their work and attend the trial as supporters to the defendants, a phenomenon which is a threat directed to those who defend al-Suaibi's rights.

After finishing these sentences, the attendees in the courtroom cried to protest Al-Anisi's demand. One of the officers calm down people and the



Anisa's daughter . Anisa covered her nine year old daughter's face in fear that she might be recognized and hurt.

noise saying, this is a trick played upon us to prove that the security officers left their work and attended the court.

The defendants' lawyer said it is enough to refute Al-Anisi's claim against his clients based on the lack of evidences against them. He demanded the General prosecution to refer the crime of slander, to the judge, committed against him and his clients by Al-Anisi and Abdul Rahman Barman; another volunteer lawyer.

He ended his words with, "Since the trial is leading against me; I will reverse it to my enemies."

To be continued

By the end of the session, the judge decided neither to put the two defendants in prison, nor to suspend them for their positions. The next session will be in August 12.

Al-Shuaibi claims that the Criminal Investigation Unit arrested her illegally and treated her cruelly, adding that she was raped at the Central Jail in Sana'a. The accused, Al-Jawfi, has denied her accusations and refused to appear before the General Prosecution for several times. When he finally attended, Al-Shuaibi's attorneys weren't informed to attend two sessions of the proceedings and Al-Jawfi continued to avoid the court. But later, the court ordered the military police to force them attend the trial.



The protesters at the parades square eyes towards the president's picture hoping their voice would be heard.

the Military Pensioners Associations Brig. Nasser Al-Noubah pointed out that they gathered in order to express their demands in a peaceful way.

He further pointed out that the security personnel took him to the Southern Area's headquarters where they asked him many questions and, in return, Al-Noubah asked for reinstatement of all military pensioners as well as improving their life standards.

A statement issued by the coordinating council hailed the positive response of pensioners and stressed the importance of this demonstration, hailing the demonstration aims to draw the attention of people to the problems of pensioners following the dismissal from their units.

An official source at the Prime Minister's office expressed its surprise over the escalations of pensioners' issues despite the fact that the government has taken positive steps to resolve

the issue, hinting that the recent escalation aims to disturb security and stability of the society.

The source added that the government promised in its meeting held last week to set comprehensive solutions to the issue of civic and military pensioners in implementation of President Saleh's directives which dictate resolving the issue of pensioners as well as promoting 493 officers and reinstating 637 officers to their military units.

He also demanded those with complaints to act according to the law and present their complaints to the concerned authorities in Defense and Interior ministries.

Moreover, the source denounced the slogans raised by the demonstrators that call for sectarianism and incite sedition among people, hinting that such acts affect and defame the country's unity and disturb the national security.

Sabafon organizes the 3rd annual mass marriage

SANA'A, July 8 — Yemeni Company for Mobile Phones, Sabafon, organizes next Thursday the third annual mass marriage for 120 brides and bridegrooms of its employees.

Chairman of Sabafon's Board of Directors Hamid Al-Ahmer congratulated the bridegrooms, wishing them a happy and successful marriage. He also expressed his happiness over the success of Sabafon in organizing such mass

marriages that facilitate marriage before youth and minimize its expenses.

Al-Ahmer added that the mass marriages help activate the social solidarity and enhance the harmony among the company's employees, calling on public and private sectors in supporting and encouraging mass marriages in order to alleviate the burden of marriages and to safeguard youth against temptations.

Sabafon organized similar mass mar-

riages in the past. The first mass marriage was made by the end of August 2005 and involved 21 employees. The success of that event prompted the company to make another one on July 2006 and involved 56 bridegrooms. Since then, the mass marriage has been a social and annual tradition. The company also supports all organizations and charitable societies that sponsor the organization of mass marriages.

Yemeni citizen alleges abuse in U.S prison

SANA'A, July 8 — A Yemeni citizen in U.S detonation revealed, in a letter, that he is exposed to mistreatment and abuse by U.S military.

Mohammad Zayed, who is facing terrorism charges, had complained in a letter sent to his family last month, that he is experiencing inhumane treatments by the prison's guards, explaining in the letter that he was deprived form leaving for sports like his fellow prisoners and that he had been forced to undress in front of other prisoners. He also added that he is banned from telephone contacts, purchases anything from the shop for a period of forty-five days, and eating in the dishes.

He appealed to the Yemeni President, the Speaker of the Parliament, and the government to intensify their efforts in order to release him and end his experiences.

Zayed, 33, was always described as the assistant of Sheikh Mohammad Ali Hassan Al Moayad, 77, a leading Islah party member, and both were arrested January 2003 in Germany.

They were turned over to the U.S. after the German government approved extradition under approval by the German Federal Constitutional Court on November 13, 2003.

The U.S., which accused them of having a connection with members of Al-Qaeda organization and the Islamic resistance movement Hamas.

On July 28, 2005, a Brooklyn, N.Y., court sentenced Al-Moayed to 75 years in prison and fined him \$1.25 million, whereas Zayed faces more than 30 years for his role in the conspiracy according to the court.

Since that time, Zayed and Al-Moayad sending letters complaining the mistreatment inside U.S custody,

urging official pressure by Yemen's government to secure their release.

Khalid Al-Anesi, executive director of the National Organization for Rights and Freedoms known as (HOOD), has demanded an official intervention to U.S. in order to end abuses practiced by a U.S. administration's prison staff against al-Moayad and Zayed.

The Human rights activist Al-Anesi went to say that such abuse is an evidence of discriminated treatments against Muslims,

He further emphasized that such violations contracts the human rights conventions which prisoners must enjoy.

Fort its part, the National Committee for Defending al-Moayad and Zayed has condemned what it labeled inhumane practices against al-Moayad and Zayed in the U.S. prison.

It also strongly denounced the prison administration atrocious acts, affirming that such behaves expose the U.S falsified claims of respecting human rights.

The committee also claimed the German Government to immediately intervene as it was involved in this crime and that it had demanded the U.S. administration not to mistreat them as it had handed them over to the U.S. administration.

It also appealed all international human rights organizations and activists to oppose these inhumane treatments against al-Moayad and Zayed and demand the U.S administration to stop those lawless and irresponsible acts, appealing at the same time reporters and editors to vividly refuse "insults" that Zayed is suffering in his prison and hold those perpetrators accountable.

Yemen to sell Oil at a premium

SANA'A, July 8 — Minister of Oil and Natural resources Mr. Khalid Bahah has stated that Yemen will start selling its Al-Masela light oil and Marib light oil at a premium, selling Al-Masela light at US\$ 77.49 per barrel and Marib light at US\$ 79.24 per barrel. His Excellency added that these prices are the highest ever since Yemen started producing and exporting oil. Yemeni oil is priced in accordance to the Brent Crude, ranging from Brent – 3 to Brent + 3 depending on the buyers of Oil and the international demand and supply got Oil.

This increase in price is a consequence of the Brent crude hitting over

US\$ 76 per barrel, because of the continuous growth in demand for Oil and the prospected shortage in supply due to the violence in Nigeria and high risks of instability in the Middle East.

A Government report indicated that the Government's income from Oil sales has dropped to one billion and fifteen million dollars during the first half of 2007, compared to over 1.86 billion dollars in the first half of 2006, with a decline in income of 45.59 percent.

Yemen's Oil production has also dropped in 2007 to 16.86 million barrels in the first half of 2007, compared to 29.36 million barrels in the first half of 2006.

Taxes hinder investment in Yemen

SANA'A, July 8 — A modern scientific paper considers the increase of tax averages one of the most important obstacles of investment in Yemen. Also, the tax laws, which are a burden on the private sector, encourage tax payment negligence which in turn explains that the high taxes cause the spread of corruption.

There are taxes on the works classes and non-official taxes such as presents and payments for Government employees with the existence of corporations working out of the law framework. The paper, prepared by the researcher and economist, Dr. Ali Alfakyh who indicated that a number of obstacles which hinder the investment attraction to Yemen are the backwardness of corporational building and infrastructure; lack of the modern courts specialized in investment and investors' issues, in addition to the security organization which is unable to protect investment and investors properly.

The paper says "a lot of experiments in many countries, to which big investments go, confirm that factors of investments attraction lie in security guarantees and stabilization, steadiness and suitability of Government policy, and the existence of strong infrastructure in addition to the access to many foreign markets; participating in international exhibitions; following up exportation process, and following the modern methods of international trading.

The paper shows that Yemen among the countries which are distinguished by the rareness and weakness of local and foreign investments as a result of some discouraging factors of investments.... indicating that the sum of money

deposited abroad that is owned by Yemenis is approximately \$135 billion and its alms reaches only \$4 billion which equals Yrs 868 billion.

The paper confirms that a great increase in the total investments from YRs 447.8 in 2003 to YRs 596 in 2005, however the ratio importance of the total investment to the local product backwards from 20.7% to 18.6% during the same period, this happened under the influence of the highly weak development of the private investments which reached in annual average 9.8%.

This paper was presented in the First National Economic Meeting held in Sana'a and organized by the Yemeni Industrial Association attended by a number of public and private sectors representatives. It insists on the necessity of promoting the private sector to invest in the different economic sectors rather than developing and improving performance levels that are supporting and enhancing the private sector by the Government Corporations and the official frameworks of the private sector itself.

The paper entitled "Investment.....Obstacles & Encouraging Factors" asked for enhancing the development possibilities in Yemen Economy, reforming the Judicial System and the corporations authorized to promote investment in order to find proper atmosphere for investment...indicating that stability of exchange prices, stopping deterioration in the currency price, following all possible ways to decrease inflation rate, and finding reserve stock of foreign currencies in reasonable ratios are all necessary requirements to bring and attract investment to the country.

Sa'ada residents fear renewal of clashes

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SA'ADA, July 8 — Tribal and media sources reveal a relative calm is predominates in Sa'ada; however, this calmness is associated with worry and fear among citizens that the clashes between Houthi loyalists and the army will commence in some districts.

Some observers believe such fear is attributed mainly to the non-evacuation of army from the villages and houses belonging to Houthis, together with the arrests targeting youth who supported Houthi made by the army in Razih district and some nearby areas, something considered as a breach of the agreement signed between Houthis and the state.

Similarly, a lot of residents' houses are still seized by pro-army tribes and these tribal forces destroy these houses along with the content of attached farmland. Moreover, the government has not addressed the issue of those displaced by the conflict and this is considered a one-sided implementation of the ceasefire agreement that may lead to the failure of the agreement.

Informed sources hinted that Houthis demanded the authorities to notify them about the arms to be handed over and promised to hand over medium-sized weapons and military vehicles they seized in their battles with the army.

Such developments come after wide campaigns by government and pro-government media speaking of further conditions set by Houthis, in addition to the ten conditions included in the ceasefire agreement.

The sources mention Houthi leaders are adamant in demanding compliance with specified conditions and they want the mediation committee to force the authorities to implement them before handing over their arms, including immediate assessment of damages, compensation of those affected by the war as well as allocating monthly salaries to their affiliates killed since Sa'ada's first war.

Media sources reveal some of these conditions were presented to the Qatari mediation during the war. In turn, the Qatari mediation presented them to the Yemeni government,

which accepted some of them, however, it conditioned these demands not to be leaked to media outlets as the implementation of some demands will affect the state's dignity and sovereignty as well as the feelings of soldiers who participated in the Sa'ada war.

The sources indicated that Abdulmalik Al-Houthi set certain conditions dictating the evacuation of the army and their prohibition from entering areas deserted by the Houthis, as well as compensating Houthi members via membership on committees. He also demanded uncovering the fate of those missing or abducted, delaying the hand-over of arms until these conditions are implemented.

However, the Qatari mediation rejected any condition set outside the ceasefire agreement and local sources speak of Houthi demands asking for non-interference of the Sa'ada governor in the committee's work. Another demand by Houthis dictates that Naq'ah area should be left under the control of Houthis and their families as well as allocating 3,000 jobs for Houthi affiliates; however, such information was not confirmed by sources close to Houthis.

Over the last 20 days, the committee has been trying to implement the clauses of the ceasefire agreement's, however, it has been unable so far to make Houthis hand over their medium-sized arms. Now, sources speak of another compromise with the Houthis regarding the second clause, stating the evacuation of Houthis from all areas currently seized by them and their dispersment to Al-Naqah area, located to the north of Sa'ada on the Yemeni Saudi border, where they will amass and hand over their arms.

Nowadays, the committee holds continuous meetings in an effort to reduce the tension and convince Houthi loyalists to respond and implement the agreement's articles.

Despite the fact that the committee gave Houthi a three-day deadline starting as of Friday to descend the mountains and hand over their arms, the two warring parties exchanged fire during night hours in their sites located in Al-Mudawar Mountain and the nearby mountains, but with no casualties.

Tribal sources mentioned the Houthis and pro-government tribesmen are still exchanging fire in Ghamer district, wherein the clashes are non-stop since the announcement of the ceasefire.

Breaching the ceasefire has extended to Hajjah following the infiltration of some Houthi elements into the governorate by the start of the last week. The clashes between tribesmen and Houthis left behind several victims and official sources point out the residents have managed to dispel Houthis from three out of four areas that they [Houthis] seized earlier.

Political activists expressed their sorrow over the statement of the committee supervising the implementation of the Sa'ada ceasefire agreement.

"The statement is imbalanced and bears a number of threats in relation to resuming the war and this weakens the impartiality of the committee and affects the execution of its tasks," said Al-Ishtiraki.net quoting the political activists.

Media reports

Government media sources published what they called a statement by the committee, giving three days as a deadline to the Houthis in order to hand over their arms and further holding them accountable for any potential breaching of the ceasefire agreement.

Meanwhile, the issues statement overlooked the achievements thus far, including the handing over of Houthi checkpoints located in six different districts, together with the opening roads. The statement also warned of consequences resulting from the Houthi persistence in breaching the agreement.

Abdulmalik Al-Houthi considered the statement issued by the committee to be biased and unjust as it overlooked the misgivings of the army and the human issue of the displaced Sa'ada locals. Al-Houthi however assured his commitment to the agreement, demanding a greater role to be played by the Joint Meeting Parties for the sake of achieving peace in Sa'ada and hinting to the announcement of the parties to form a national committee to addresses the consequences of the Sa'ada war.

In his statement published by Al-Ishtiraki.net, Al-Houthi asked the committee to be just and fair and deal with them in a brotherly spirit. He also asked them to prioritize the country's stability and security over any other objectives.

Informed sources in Sa'ada pointed out the mediation committee received a letter from Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, asking them for an extended two-day deadline to descend the mountains and hand over their arms as well as ceasing control over Al-Naq'ah and Matarah. The committee, however, declined his demands.

Some sources have attributed the delay of implementing the agreement to the Houthi proposal demanding separate handing over of areas seized by Houthis starting with Bani Mauth and timed with the return of the displaced people to their houses and the disbursement of monetary compensation, while the committee insists on implementing the agreement according to its articles.

When the government accuses Houthis of attacking military personnel, Houthis accuse the government of continuing its media campaign against them as well as abducting many of their supporters in Qataber. In addition, UNICEF recently revealed the existence of anemia among children in some camps as well leg swelling, adding an urgency to the settling of this prolonged conflict.

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New wonders of the world revealed

Al-Jazeera — A modern-day compilation of seven new wonders of the world has been announced in a ceremony in Lisbon.

Brazil's statue of Christ the Redeemer, Peru's Machu Picchu and Mexico's Chichen Itza pyramid were chosen alongside the Great Wall of China, Jordan's Petra, the Colosseum in Rome and India's Taj Mahal.

The sites were selected from a tally of around 100 million votes cast by people around the world over the internet and by mobile phone text messages.

Hilary Swank, the US actress who attended the ceremony, said: "Never before in history have so many people participated in a global decision."

Among the notable places left out were the Acropolis in Athens, Greece; the statues of Easter Island in Chile; Cambodia's temples of Angkor; Turkey's Hagia Sophia; and the Kremlin and St Basil's cathedral in Russia.

Campaign

The Great Pyramids of Giza, the only surviving structures from the original seven wonders of the ancient world, kept their status in addition to the new



Jordan's Petra is among the new wonders.

seven.

The campaign to pick the seven new wonders was started in 1999 by Swiss adventurer, Bernard Weber.

His privately-funded organisation, the New 7 Wonders Foundation, received almost 200 nominations from around the world.

The list of candidates was narrowed down to 21 by early last year.

Voting has taken place over the past six years, but only gathered pace in recent months.

The organisers said there was no foolproof way to prevent people from voting more than once for their favourite.

Original list

Unesco, the United Nations cultural agency, keeps updating its own list of world heritage sites, which now totals 851 places.

However, the organisation distanced itself from the seven wonders ballot, saying it reflected only the opinion of those who

voted.

The original list of seven architectural marvels was collated by a variety of observers of the ancient Mediterranean and the Middle East.

The hanging gardens of Babylon, the statue of Zeus at Olympia, the temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the mausoleum of Halicarnassus, the colossus of Rhodes and the Pharos lighthouse off Alexandria in Egypt have all been destroyed.



IMMEDIATE JOB OPENINGS

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بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم بأحر التعازي والمواساة إلى

الأخ/ جمال سالم بحاح

والأخ/ خالد محفوظ بحاح وزير النفط والمعادن

في وفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى الوالد

سالم عبدالله بحاح

الذي وافته المنية يوم الأحد الموافق ٨ يوليو ٢٠٠٧.

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته ورضوانه ويدخله فسيح جناته وأن يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان. (إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون)

الأسيفون: علي السحيقي، أحمد عبد القادر شايع، محمد ناصر الحسني



برعاية معالي وزير الثقافة

د. محمد أبوبكر المفلحي

2007/7/22-18

أمتع اللحظات مع ليالي الإنشاد العربي



محمد العزاوي - العراق



أحمد الهاجري - الكويت



عبدالقادر فوزع - اليمن



محمد الجبالي - السعودية



عبدالله عوينات - الأردن



أمين حامي - اليمن



يحيى حوى - سوريا



عبدالعزیز عبدالغني - اليمن



حمود الخضري - الكويت



أشرف يوسف - الأردن



موسى مصطفى - سوريا

المنظمون

تعز ٢٥٨٣٣٣ ٠٤



للحجز ٧١١٤٣٣٣٥٣ ٧٣٣٥٣٤٦٤٧ ٢٠٥٥٧٥

الذاكرة متوفرة في جميع التسجيلات الإسلامية والمراكز التجارية للإستفسار (تسجيلات الإيمان)



رعاية مميزون



رعاية مشاركون



رعاية إعلانيون



Most Yemeni smokers start smoking at early school ages, said researchers

By: Anwar Mughram
For The Yemen Times

Despite warning ads, smoking has increased over the past few years among Yemeni youths and children, both boys and girls, but more so among male youths. While every cigarette pack contains warnings such as, "Smoking affects health and causes cancer," youth and children of both genders care little about such warnings due to a total absence of control and guidance by the Yemeni family, schools and mass media.

A paper titled 'Influence of Islam on smoking among Muslims' in the latest BMJ issue by Aziz Sheikh and other researchers from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, said that the highest smoking rates in Yemen to date. About 86 percent of adult Yemeni males are smokers, field researchers found. There are 3.4 million total smokers in Yemen, 29 percent of whom are between 17 and 24 years old. According to the new study, Yemen has one of the highest smoking rates in the world. In 1999, Yemen spent about YR 21.3 billion on tobacco, and that number is likely much higher now.

According to a study, carried out by Prof. Abdulla Salim Bin Ghouth and

Additional insight to the smoking epidemic can be obtained from studying specific sub-groups of interest within the population, such as adolescents.

Prof. Ahmed Ali Bahaj in Hadramout University, that Many risky behaviors including cigarette smoking begin during adolescence

"Studying the spread of smoking among the general population is crucial for the proper design of health policy and strategy in any country. Additional insight to the smoking epidemic can be obtained from studying specific subgroups of interest within the population, such as adolescents." Said the study which was conducted in all the ten secondary schools in Hadramout coastal districts during October 2004 – April 2005 and a total of 317 teachers were enrolled in the study (182 male, 135 female teachers). The findings revealed that about 8% of the teachers were smokers; all smokers were males (prevalence 14%). Only 10% of teachers had received training to limit smoking among students, and 27% had educational materials about harmful effects of smoking. The study concluded that low smoking prevalence, good knowledge and attitudes of teachers, especially female teachers, toward smoking may offer a chance for smoking prevention strategies in secondary schools.

The study revealed that student smokers who saw teachers smoking in school were less likely to favor smoking ban in schools. It also said that smoking by teachers during school hours is associated with adolescent smoking. Therefore, teachers can be credible role models with regard to smoking prevention and they should be encouraged to be more active in school preventive strategies, especially since many researchers have reported that most of smokers start smoking at early school ages.

Studies about smoking among

Yemeni children were scarce, especially among "street children"

Ahmed Saleh, a child working on Hayel Street, said his friends gave him cigarettes until he became used to them, telling him that smoking is sweet. "Now, I'm addicted and I smoke 10-12 cigarettes a day," Saleh said, adding that he can't give it up because he lives with smoking-addicted friends.

most youth and children imitate movie stars.

Eighth-grader Mohammed Mahmoud says many school students smoke, but secretly in the bathroom.

Child B. M. revealed that many girls smoke without their families' or teachers' knowledge. She said some of her friends got her into smoking, but her family soon discovered her and beat her bitterly, which made her feel the risks of smoking, so she gave up her smoking friends.

A. M., 35, claims that her husband caused her to like smoking because he chewed qat and smoked with her. She started smoking 12 years ago and now smokes 15-20 cigarettes a day, adding that she knows many women who smoke heavily. She says tried to stop many times, but in vain.

She went on to say that smoking no longer is confined to cigarettes, as some women have begun smoking shisha (the water pipe).

Regarding the percentage of youth and child cigarette customers, Happy Land accountant Abdullah Al-Saqqaf said that mostly male youths are the highest, adding that the percentage of children isn't very high.

As Al-Saqqaf spoke, 24-year-old

Adham Al-Kumaim requested a pack of Kamarans, but when told the price, he protested the increased cigarette price. He said he started smoking two years ago and now smokes a pack a day.

In front of Al-Wahdah district's local council headquarters was Qassim Al-Salmi, who revealed that he started smoking 13 years ago at his friends' influence, now smoking one or two packs a day. He admits that he can't give it up, although he's tried many times to do so.

Central security officer Salah Al-Sanabani noted that he started smoking 11 years ago when he was just 16 years old due to the influence of his school friends and those in his neighborhood. He smokes around two packs a day, but admits that smoking is economically destructive, as well as destructive to the health. He further criticized families for their negligence and lack of observance over their children.

Al-Sanabani added that he used to run away from school to smoke, thinking that smoking would earn him manhood. He further demanded civil society organizations play their role and work to spread awareness among youth and children about the risks of smoking.

Sociologist Abdullah Al-Mikhlaifi believes smoking among children begins by imitating adults and that such conduct is assisted by lack of a proper upbringing, as well as the

Smoking addiction could lead children to borrow money from their friends or steal from their own families or others.



There are 3.4 million total smokers in Yemen, 29 percent of whom are between 17 and 24 years old.

deterioration of education and lack of awareness in media outlets.

He went on to say that satellite television channels could have something to do with children's addiction because most youth and children imitate movie stars.

As for giving up smoking, Al-Mikhlaifi stresses the importance of being decisive because quitting smoking depends on a strong will. He further maintained that cigarette addiction can lead to other addictions, such as alcohol and drugs.

He added that Smoking addiction could lead children to borrow money

from their friends or steal from their own families or others. They also are subjected to psychological problems for fear that their families will discover them.

As for the best way to eradicate smoking among children, Al-Mikhlaifi pointed out that everyone – beginning with school teachers, sport clubs and mass media and ending with families – should join together to spread awareness and warn about the risks of smoking, which include health, economic and social risks. He added that schools should provide awareness programs for their students.

مهرجان صيف ٢٠٠٧

باناسونيك أفكار للحياة

إشتري واربح

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جهاز تلفاز بلازما من باناسونيك ٤٢ بوصة

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Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR
OPINIONMarib, the way
out of the crisis

In the last few days, three friends of mine complained about how the recent attack against tourists in Marib has affected their businesses negatively. The first one was more of a national disaster rather than a personal loss. The director of the Desert Locust Monitoring and Control Center complained that because of the attack, the insurance on planes to be used in the locust aerial control has doubled 200 percent. "I am afraid most of the funding will be spent on insurance rather than on the chemicals and the equipment needed to clean the infested areas," he said.

Another friend working in real estate complained that a good deal he was about to earn, was ruined because the international company, that was scheduled to come to Yemen for business, changed its plans.

The third was a director of an Arabic language teaching institute, some of the students who usually come in hundreds every summer cancelled their trips. Others who already arrived had a tough time at the airport because of the frenzied security concerned with the additional responsibility, until the institute management insured their responsibility for the safety of the foreign students while in Yemen.

What I want to say is that because of the terrorist attack so many people in Yemen in various sectors were affected negatively. The criminals did not only harm the state as per say, their wrong doing has hurt many people and disturbed their businesses.

Now the state is standing beside itself in confusion as to what to do with its five-year development plan which depended mainly on tourism. It will have to work much harder to erase the negative image caused by the attack.

All that being said, there is another side of the story. The attackers in their warning claimed to be Al-Qaeda in Yemen and sent out a few demands. One of which was the release of prisoners detained without just charges or trial. Actually, it is not an unreasonable demand if it is looked at in isolation from the current circumstances. But the fact is that most, if not all, the prisoners in Yemeni prisons have been dumped there without adequate or just procedures. If the attackers' demand is to be met, all the prisoners must be released.

Another issue is that looking at Marib, the town where the tourists were attacked is one of Yemen's oldest and best tourist attractions. Yet, the development and the infrastructure of the place (Marib) is in terrible conditions i.e. there are no paved roads, not enough schools, no adequate health care...etc. No wonder the locals dig out the historical antiques and sell them to tourists for almost nothing.

I am not justifying what the terrorists did, for there is no excuse for killing innocent people. What I am saying is that we must look at the big picture and understand why such things happen. The question is what can be done in order to prevent or at least reduce the likelihood of such a terrible incident to happen again.

In fact, the crisis of Sa'ada is still existent despite the on-going promises of tackling it, and there are chances some similar issues may erupt in other places in the Republic. The point is that you can't fight faith or thought with force.

This is why the state should be careful how to deal with the Marib issue and not repeat its mistakes. If the state wants to make the people in Marib loyal to it and concerned about the national stability, it needs to make sure their basic needs are fulfilled and the people are happy. For, only this way, even if there are a few radical Al-Qaeda people there or whatsoever, will enable the rest of the community to make sure that the extreme minorities understand they are not welcomed and their acts will not be tolerated.

If the state wants to save Yemen, it must make Yemenis appreciate their government, and hence, their country.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

By: Ahmad Al-Harbi

No two persons give the same viewpoints on the same issue in event one of them dealt with the case in a way concerning him/her. The issue is that the economic situations experienced at the local level and regionally and faced by our children and grandchildren are totally different from the situations we saw three decades ago. In this context, there is no need for giving different viewpoints with regard to these situations while the difference may originate in our vision and image of the necessities we need to face such a challenge. This challenge worsens our lives.

Some of us went to say that "We are in an urgent need for a good education system and other priorities should be rearranged and re-speci-

fied." In the meantime, others suggest that "We don't need this while the top priority is that of increasing production, improving performance, and developing education." Both suggestions have more or less the same meaning. The vision may differ but it doesn't constitute a mistake on the face of the other.

The situation requires us to resort to the real-life situation and the nature of economic conditions with the aim of demonstrating mutual understanding of our need for a good education system and other priorities because we are unable to confront the Third Millennium challenges via the principles and the education goals used during the Second Millennium. Our contemporary time sees shocking facts, thanks to the scientific and technological revolution and the change of lifestyle. We have no different viewpoints about this

and, therefore, are ready to cope with such scientific changes experienced by the world of today.

We need to have an equal access to education in order to be useful and creative. If we learn that efforts are exerted with the aim of updating education and increasing the number of schools, colleges, institutes and universities, as well as multiplying the number of these institutions' graduates and improving performance of the educational institutions, it will be good for us to learn more about the update efforts and goals of the central institutions that gave permissions for constructing schools, colleges and so on. All these things are indispensable for supporting the education system.

The current educational system has negative impacts on all the types of knowledge and the broader social desire for education. In addition, the

method of updating education, be it the Basic Education Development Strategy, which started to be implemented in 2005 or other mechanisms, did nothing for education. The product is not a strange system. Rather it is a mixture of various useful and useless ingredients. Instead, the education authorities are advised to offer reliable knowledge in a good environment that provokes strong desire for education. Then it is time for drawing the educational goal, which is based on enforcing the realm of knowledge and not to make this a means for developing the reading and writing skills. The current educational system failed to achieve or sponsor such elements.

On the contrary, the current educational system doesn't focus on sponsoring the capacity for acquisition, continuing education, and raising the enrollment rates. Instead, it tends to

be extravagant in the process of teaching and learning, thereby killing any strong desire for education. The system neither searches for nor concentrates on the kind of people and school syllabuses as a solution to improve the performance of educational institutions and make individuals and families more responsible for their cognitive and educational needs. Individuals and families have discovered that the primary goal of education is to meet the economic needs, and this goal is not contained in a formal education that is primarily concerned with giving certificates to individuals regardless of their performance and acquisition. What we need is an educational system based on creativity and production that help meet demands of the time.

Source: Al-Thawrah State-run Daily

A tribute to my great teacher

By: Abduljabbar Sa'ad

My esteemed teacher, Abdullah Sallam Al-Hakimi, I have gone through the essays you wrote after ten months of absence. In your essays, I have seen exciting information about the daily situations and changes of living style. I am fond of your writing and if I have something to comment on the writing of my great teacher, it will be due to my absolute belief that the famous writer is always deceived by fortune and luck.

I recollect what happened two years ago when Al-Jazeera correspondent Hamoud Monassar interviewed my respected teacher who concluded the interview in the same manner as he did when concluding his two most recent interviews. The great teacher concluded that there is something going wrong inside Yemen and warned of unprecedented catastrophe. But, what happened was less than what was predicted and the great teacher returned to Yemen in a calm way thwarting all the expectations, which indicated that Al-Hikima will face penalty and harassment from Mr. President. But, something of this hasn't happened too.

Today, we see our teacher in an attempt to bring people together, intimidate others, use his judgment and in the same manner highlight the sufferings of inhabitants of Shabwa and Al-Dhale' and those who were dismissed from the army. He skillfully discussed the injustice and discriminations in a way making the reader bear in mind that a harm is being paid to Mr. President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his regime.

More than one year ago, I remember when my respected teacher was preparing himself to run for president. We were hopeful about his bid for presidency and I began weighing between voting for Saleh and voting for the great teacher as I believed that he would be the top rival who is closer to the mind, heart, and emotions. Later on, I was shocked at his decision not to run for presidency without any clear reason(s), however I thought he was deceived by the scoundrels as they always

did against him.

We both went through several stages when indicators were signifying that something will happen to the political situation or the regime in particular. But by the Will of Allah, the matters have gone differently since President Ali Abdullah Saleh resumed power as the best selection for the Yemeni people. The country's situation has remained calm since my great teacher Abdullah Sallam Al-Hakimi took part in coup against President Saleh as well as his cousin Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar and lasted with the same calmness until the most recent Sa'ada events.

My respected teacher! The matter has nothing to do with preferences or sentiments, nor are force, conspiracy, and seeking the help of the bordering countries, the west, or Iran are useful for the regime to remain in power. The President of the Republic has to bear in mind that the role he is playing is delegated to him not by the bordering kingdom, the world's superpower, his ruling party, the General People Congress, Parliament, Hashid Tribe, or the Army. Allah is the One who delegated to Mr. President the role and power he is exercising. It is Allah who gave him power, wisdom, and reason, as well as the ability to run the country's affairs, but not the army or the security forces. Allah is the only omnipotent having the potency to protect Mr. President from harm, as well as to ensure his stay in power.

To my great teacher, what I said, what you explained, and what the honest people said about malpractices of the regime, its corrupt officials, and the phenomenon of rampant corruption are not remarked or perceived by people of the country. In addition, the media, particularly the opposition harshly criticizes the rampant corruption in the country.

As you once said, my respected teacher, Mr. President is the only official having the ability to eradicate corruption and eliminate corrupt officials if he has the will to do so. But, as it seems, the statesman needs some wise experts to help him in order to take little of his time to fight corruption. Who is the eligible person to help Mr. President in doing so? Consequently, the waste of

time and effort exercised by the opposition is useless and I was of the hope that the opposition may avoid such waste, particularly as they are nowadays adopting the crisis of Sa'ada rebellion. Exploiting the government's failure to put a stop to Sa'ada rebellion, the opposition parties launch campaigns and publish critical stories as well as reports on their newspapers and websites. They are trying to make Sa'ada rebellion the issue of issues and exploit it as a weakness they may help end the current regime.

The real-life situation tells us that neither the rebels adopted options of the nation nor is the regime preventing them (rebels) from exercising their legal rights. But the foreign forces interested in creating chaos in the Middle East want the sedition to remain inflaming.

Sir, the Muslims have no objection to the Twelfth Sect but the sedition is caused by the moves of the Persian state and its gang in Iraq, as well as the relations between rebellion and the Persian state. Mr. Abdullah, do you observe what is happening in Iraq. Have you ever heard that once a gang had been naming itself a state receiving support of the Zionist occupiers and its behavior implies animosity toward the Iraqi people? This gang is utilizing the state facilities to displace millions of Iraqis from their homeland.

My respected teacher, have you ever heard that a gang, which gives itself the name of a state, assaults the educational and health installations, beat, arrest, rape, and kill any Iraqis who violate its instructions? This gang tortures any imprison Iraqis, behead them and throw their corpses in the streets under the pretext that they don't obey its orders. This happens everyday while the gangster appears whenever his gang commit illegal and immoral practices in order to award the key perpetrators.

Every time, the media tell us in a strange but compliant manner that armed men in Iraqi police uniforms and on board police vehicles attacked installations and killed innocent people or kidnapped foreign diplomats or nationals. Why didn't they say that the Iraqi police do so? Mr. Abdullah, have you ever heard that individuals

face repeated torture for being named Abu Bakr and Omar? Have you heard that twins, one is named Omar and other Ali, have studied together since their early years until the state of Safawi gangsters comes to prevent Omar from going to school with his brother Ali and confines him inside his home in order to allegedly escape torture, however, he has not yet celebrated his 15th birthday? Have you ever heard that up to 21 people face severe torture on a daily basis for being named Omar, Ali, or Abu Bakr.

Innocent people with such names suffer merciless torture and right abuses in the Interior Ministry of the Safawi state. The ministry officials torture them with electric wires until they die and then throw their corpses in streets for dogs to eat them. Those are the people standing behind Sa'ada events and who are fuelling the sedition. I want you to bear in mind that the regime responded to the demands listed by rebels but they refused to surrender. In addition, the opposition is not eligible to mediate between the conflicting parties, but its leaders seem to put more oil on the fire.

Dear Sir, with regard to the topic of bequeathing power from the father to his son, I think that the President has no interest in this matter, nor are other top officials holding key positions in the government interested in preparing their sons to rule Yemen. I suggest that both of us adopt a good project to help Yemen get rid of sedition, conflicts, and pessimism.

Source: Al-Wasat Weekly.

SILVER LINING

Fighting Terror...Fighting
Hatred Ideology

The terrorist attack against the Spanish tourists last week has shown that the cozy marriage between the regime and al-Qaeda has failed to bring about a sort of peace in the country. The political regime in Yemen adopted a different novel approach in its dealing with al-Qaeda operatives in which the second party commits itself to abiding by law and order, be faithful to the rulers, and then are free to promote their ideology of hatred and killing. So many people even



By: Mohammed
Al-Qadhi

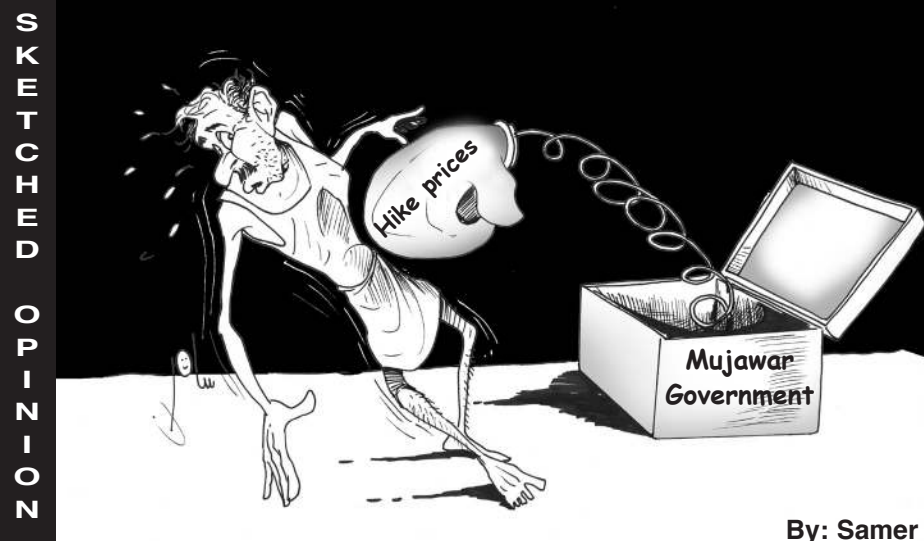
Westerners were impressed by and willing to hear about the dialogue anecdote between the government and al-Qaeda members through some clerics. Yemen's government shrugged its shoulders in pride that it could even send experts to other countries to promote its experience in countering terrorism via theological and intellectual debate.

I am not personally against the principle of dialogue as a means of sorting out disputes and differences. However, it is really difficult to ask jailed people to be your equal partners in such kinds of exercises. Of course, such people in jails are forced to show commitment so as to get free. The result is that some of them were found fighting in Iraq or Lebanon. The agreement with the authorities entailed that they commit themselves to law and obey the rulers, no more. There is no provision in the agreement that says they should denounce terrorism acts and the killing of people whosever. The political regime should stop using such militants as a fuel in its dispute either with the opposition parties or other fanatic religious groups like al-Houthis. Using religion in such kinds of political fights is really devastating and what is happening in Sa'ada is a clear example.

The government mobilized efforts to condemn and protest this hateful act. This is fine. But, it is not enough to condemn or denounce. Some went to argue this was meant to damage or tarnish the image of Islam and Muslims. The image is already damaged and all people, mainly the government, should have the guts to say they are partially responsible for such crimes. Such mentalities having such extremist ideologies are operating freely and are running educational institutions and breeding such suicide bombers. These schools are getting more support and facilities than the public universities or schools. They do keep doing all this and then question the roots of terrorism.

To drive the point home, fighting terrorism should really start with cracking down such kind of curriculum and teachings that promote religious fanaticism and the outcome is such terrorist operations that hit the interests of all Yemenis without exclusion. This time I noticed that the reaction of the public was completely different; people were very angry with the heinous crime of killing people in Marib for the terrorist act has not got any justifications at all.

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



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Yemen Press Review



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, July 5

Main Headlines

- Yemeni Socialist Party Leadership in Aden calls on members and loyalists to support army pensioners
- Al-Mekhlafi: Transferring Shoura Chief Editor to Central Prison is a violation of press freedom
- Information Minister defends his ministry's procedure blocking news message services
- Committee of party dialogue forms work team to crystalize its previous agreements
- Specialized Penal Court starts trying Al-Khaiwani, postpones his release
- Aden Prosecution investigates burial of unidentified corpses last week
- Abyan journalists stands in solidarity with Al-Khaiwani
- 3 people killed, 26 others injured in Hajja traffic accidents

The weekly quoted security sources in Hajja governorate as saying that at least three people have been killed and 26 others injured in six sporadic road accidents on Tuesday, July 3. It added that there is a woman among the deaths and the traffic accidents included turnovers, run overs and collisions in several districts such as Kashr, Aflah Al-Yemen, Najrah, Abs and the provincial capital.

According to the sources, the increasing traffic accidents in Yemen constitute a catastrophe and a great risk to citizens and the issue requires everyone to drive carefully and abide

by the traffic laws and regulations. The sources attributed the repeated traffic accidents in different Yemeni governorates to indifference of drivers, poor car maintenance and break-neck speed.



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, July 5

Main Headlines

- Several military and police officers promoted to higher ranks under republican decree
- Lebanese government condemn terrorist attacks in Balqis Temple in Marib
- Government heightens security in tourist sites and important installations to confront any terrorist attacks
- Yemen to host meeting of the Somali Committee for Constitution Formulation
- Members of National Anti-Corruption Authority sworn in before President

Members of the National Anti-corruption Authority were sworn in on Wednesday before President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Yemeni Army's organ reported. It added that the president then chaired the first meeting of the authority that consists of eleven members, expressing his happiness to chair the meeting. "I am happy to chair the first meeting of the authority and congratulate all members of the authority for the confidence they got from parliament and personally from me to combat corruption."

Saleh gave the authority all the powers to conduct field visits and

obtain reports from all the state's institutions. "We are confident of all the state's institutions but corruption could be found in any office. The phenomenon of the rampant corruption necessitates high responsibility and total commitment in order to be eradicated," he went on to say.



Al-Wasat Comprehensive Politica Weekly
Wednesday, July 4

Main Headlines

- National consensus condemns terrorist operations in Marib ancient sites
- Members of parliament lash out at security authorities, Spain cancels its flights to Yemen
- Government exerts hard efforts to contain Al-Kabda rebellion in Abyan
- Sa'a da rebels and official media exchange accusations over the truce terms that gave Houthis a 48-hour deadline to descend mountains and lay down their arms
- Army pensioners plan to resume massive protests, adhere to their demands
- Crimes on the rise due to the spread of fire arms
- Al-Khaiwani appears before court while journalistic community protests his detention

As the detained journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, who was arrested by national security at his home, appears before the Specialized Penal Court for being accused of publishing Houthi thoughts, hundreds of Yemeni journalists and human rights activists vent their anger at the

government over the continued detention of the journalist, the weekly newspaper reported in a front page article. The journalistic community is insisting on the government to release Al-Khaiwan, who is the Editor-in-Chief of the Shoura Weekly that was suspended and shot down many times. Also, the authorities charged Al-Khaiwani of having links with the Sana'a terrorist cell. Prominent pressmen and representatives of civil community organizations demanded the judicial authorities to punish the perpetrators who kidnapped Al-Houthi from his home.

Human right activists criticized the government for not penalizing the perpetrators, who assaulted and beat the resigned member of parliament Ahmad Saif Hashed. Hashid's assailants, who are police officers working for the Immigration and Passports Authority, threatened to kill him and detained him for many hours.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)
Tuesday, July 3

Main Headlines

- Joint Meeting Parties condemn terrorist operations that killed innocent people in Marib's historic site
- A Shabwa local killed after he shot dead three victims and injured three others
- Houthis shift clashes into Hajja governorate while at least 50 people reportedly killed or injured
- Ibb University prevents 90 students from doing their exams for not participating in Reunification 17th

Anniversary celebrations

- Interior Ministry declares Sa'ada situation still bad, safety of any visiting aid campaigns at risk
- Seven Spanish tourists killed along with two Yemeni citizens while another 8 injured in Marib blast

At least seven Spanish tourists and two Yemeni citizens have been reportedly killed and another 8 injured in a terrorist attack near the archeological Balqis Temple in the eastern governorate of Marib on Monday, the weekly reported. The newspaper quoted an official source in the Yemeni Interior Ministry as saying that "Four vehicles, which were transporting 13 tourists holding Spanish citizenships, were assaulted by a suicide car bomb. The car was driven by a terrorist." He added the tourists were exiting from the temple at 5:30 p.m. when a vehicle-bomb explosive device detonated near the temple.

According to the same source, the Yemeni victims, who were shot dead, were driving the European tourists around the historic sites in Marib. The Interior Ministry accused Al-Qaeda Organization in Yemen of standing behind the attack. The source lashed out at those who launched such terrorist offensives, saying that the security authorities will never be lenient toward the assailants.



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress (ruling party)
Monday, July 2

Main Headlines

- Enabling people of disabilities to have job opportunities is a national

duty, says Prime Minister

- Government demands concerned bodies and officials to provide it with blacklisted contractors
- First hearing for trying the Sana'a Second Terrorist Cell scheduled for Wednesday, June 4
- Minister of Telecommunication and Information Technology: Yemen to participate in the Arab's telecoms meeting with a vision to improve post services
- Sana'a hosts international meeting of life makers
- Yemeni Human Rights Minister asks U.S. authorities to allow her to visit Guantanamo Jail
- Government denies reports that it will grant Yemeni passports to Israelis of Yemeni origin

The ruling party's weekly reported in a front page article that an official government source denied the authenticity of reports published by an Israeli newspaper alleging that Israeli Jews of Yemeni origin will be granted Yemeni passports. It quoted the source as saying that reports published by the Israeli paper are incorrect and baseless. The source added that only the Yemeni Jews residing in the country have the right to obtain Yemeni passports because they are Yemeni citizens and their rights are ensured by the law.

The Israeli newspaper, however, reported that the Yemeni government is studying the issue of granting thousands of Israelis of Yemeni origin Yemeni citizenships. The newspaper stated that the Yemeni Jews in Yemen number 300 people after large numbers of them immigrated to other countries over years. At the time of the establishment of the Israeli state in 1948, there were over 60 thousand Jews in Yemen. According to the newspaper, the Yemeni Jews receive kind treatment from the government and exercise all their legal rights.

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USAID renovation suffers setbacks

Al-Qafla Rural Hospital: Well equipped, badly staffed

By Jamal Al-Najjar

Over \$250,000 was provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to offset renovation and equipment costs for Al-Qafla rural hospital, located in Amran governorate, around 150 km north of Sana'a. Despite this generous allocation of funds, the hospital suffers a lack of health care specialists who can take advantage of the recent facility improvements and offer proper health services to the residents of the area. In addition, the hospital's operational budget is insufficient to cover the health care needs of area patients and improve citizen health services, particularly in the reproductive health unit.

The renovation and equipment enhancement in Al-Qafla District is part of the USAID's Basic Health Services Project (BHS), serving five Yemeni Governorates- Sa'ada, Marib Al-Jawf, Shabwa and Amran. With proper staffing and financing, the



USAID provided the hospital with all the basic diagnostic and surgical devices particularly in the obstetric and surgery units.

hospital in Al-Qafla will be able to offer better services to the citizen population thanks to the recent contribution by USAID.

Dr. Yahya Al-Babili, BHS Project Deputy Director, maintained that BHS is concerned with training doctors and midwives, as well as equipping and renovating health facilities in the five governorates in order to improve available health services in those areas. He further added that all assistance from the BHS projects is provided in collaboration with Yemen's Ministry of Public Health and Population, whose function is to staff facilities and provide the operational budget.

In the past, the hospital in Al-Qafla contained only fifteen rooms wherein residents got simple health services including immunization. Then,

USAID built a two-storey building, which contained within it a doctor's residence, delivery room, surgery room, and two additional rooms, one of which is for the hospital and the other for the generator. This building also contained within it most of the medical equipment needed to diagnose and conduct common surgical procedures, especially in the gynecology and obstetric units.

"The hospital now is able to conduct almost all the common surgical operations such as an appendectomy, herniorrhaphy, tonsillectomy, cesarean section and others. But unfortunately, there is not even one specialized doctor in the hospital," said Mansoor Khameera, Manager of Al-Qafla Hospital, adding, "We are in need of specialized doctors and enough finances in order to run the hospital and offer the required services to people. The hospital's current budget is YR 90,000, which is not enough even to cover water expenses. So, unless we are provided with specialized staff, the hospital can not meet its potential."

Khameera maintained that the hospital serves more than 42,000 residents in Al-Qafla district in addition to residents from three other neighboring districts (Al-Esha, Al-Madan and Shihara), revealing that due to the hospital's poor services, patients who are in need of any surgical procedures are transferred to Khamir district hospital, around 65 km from Al-Qafla.

He further added that more attention should be paid to reproductive health service, stressing the hospital's need for female staff, including a surgeon in the obstetric unit and midwives. He noted that lack of female doctors is a disservice to residents who need to bring women into the hospital, due to traditions followed in the area.

The hospital now contains only two nurses, two lab technicians and four administrators including the manager who is still GP (General Practitioner). In addition, the hospital lacks a pediatric department.

Al-Qafla Health Office Head, Rajeh Saleh Al-Qudaimi, said that the hospital lacks specialists, especially in the gynecological and obstetric units. According to Al-Qudaimi, ten midwives were trained by the Social Development Fund and six others were trained by USAID (during past health projects of the agency). This trained staff has not been employed despite completion of their training a year ago. In addition, nine nurses were trained by the government to work in the hospital and they have been waiting for two years to be employed but to no avail.

Residents express their hope that they will benefit from the development the hospital recently underwent. However, they don't hide their concerns that the government may not make use of the improvements, as the hospital hasn't been provided with specialists and the

required operational budget.

"We are grateful to the USAID for its efforts to support health facilities in the area and we want the agency to follow up with the work in the hospital because we are afraid that it may be subject to negligence," said Abdulla Saleh Abu Mulook, Head of the district agriculture and irrigation office and an Al-Qafla resident.

Abu Mulook maintained that immunization services are very weak and that the hospital's pharmacy lacks most of the essential medicine needed to fill resident prescriptions. "If the government doesn't provide the hospital with the necessary staff, finances, and medicine, then the agency's efforts to renovate and equip the hospital will not be fruitful," he commented.

For his part, Dr. Abdulghani Al-Ghuzzi, Head of Amran Health Office, maintained that the Ministry of Public Health and Population is due to employ midwives and increase the hospital's budget. "The Ministry promised that nine midwives will be employed within a month (during

"If the government doesn't provide the hospital with the necessary staff, finances, and medicine, then the agency's efforts to renovate and equip the hospital will not be fruitful,"

July) and that the hospital personnel will be given incentives," he said, adding, "With regard to the hospital's finances, the Ministry promised to increase the operational budget beginning from July."

The local district authority received the same promises from both the governorate authority and the Ministry of Public Health, according to Ali Mohammed, head of Al-Qafla district. "When the governor visited the hospital, he told us that he was following up the with the Ministry of Public Health concerning provision of staff. Now, we are still waiting for the Ministry to fulfill its promises."

The hospital serves more than 42,000 residents in Al-Qafla district in addition to residents from three other neighboring districts (Al-Esha, Al-Madan and Shihara). Due to the hospital's poor services, patients who are in need of any surgical procedures are transferred to Khamir district hospital, around 65 km from Al-Qafla.

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شركة الشرق الأوسط للتجارة

BaMajboor: Uniting a nation through poetry

By: Nisreen Shadad

outed as the "Poet of Unification" by Abdul Aziz al-Maqaleh, Advisor to the President and Director of the Yemen Center for Studies and Research, Ahmed Abdul Rahman Bamajboor is well known for his patriotic poems. "The poem that gained me recognition in Yemen is one which I performed in Mukalla for President Ali Abdullah Saleh at Ihqaf University, entitled Bilqeas tafkhar bekum (Bilqeas is proud of you)."

Bamajboor's fascination with poetry was sparked during childhood reading sessions, however, it wasn't until 1979 that Bamajboor penned his first poem, Huroof al-Ghazal (Erotic Letters). He enrolled in Law School but was unable to complete his studies. Bamajboor regrettably



Bamajboor; a poet and writer.

commented, "I wish I could continue [my studies] now."

Despite discontinuation of his legal studies, Bamajboor was able to acquire knowledge and experience in administration, accounting and financing, expertise which undoubtedly assisted in the development of his debut poetry website.

Bamajboor wrote the first elegiac poetry about deceased Saudi King Fahd, highlighting the King's accomplishments and most prominent achievements for his country and the Islamic world at large. After a week, he was invited to Saudi Arabia to deliver a poem about the country's newly-crowned King Abdullah during the King's pledge of allegiance. The poem was entitled Sena'at al-Majd (Glory Maker). These two poetic contributions, according to Bamajboor, made a good impression



Salim Salimean; a former president of the south of Yemen known as toiling people lover.

on Saudis and strengthened Yemen's relationship with the Kingdom.

Bamajboor is able to write poetry in a number of Arabic dialects. "What distinguishes my poems, as many people have described, are their simplicity as well as the clarity of my language. I write the poems from the heart, so that anyone, from any country can relate to them," he said.

Bamajboor's first collection of poetry was entitled Wejdan Wahdawi (The Affection of Man is Fond of Union) and was financed by the Yemen Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Bamajboor commented, "The unification of Yemen occupied my heart and my mind before it actually took place."

Bamajboor's sensitivity and loyalty towards his country as well as his eagerness to unify the north of the country with the south inspired him to write a poem about Yemen's unification ten years before the country's actual union in 22 May 1991. The poem was called Hurqa wa Hanean (Yearning and Longing) and reflected the universal pain and suffering felt by all people living in countries ravaged by war and disunity.

Bamajboor's writing talent expanded beyond poetry. He also contributed pieces to numerous magazines and newspapers. One of his opinion articles was about Salim Salimean, a president of the south of Yemen who was killed during an alleged coup on 26 June 1978. There are different accounts as to the cause of Salimean's death, however, according to Bamajboor's article, Salimean's death was the result of rockets directed towards his palace. Other accounts claim the former president was captured and sentenced to death.

Despite discrepancies about the

cause of his death, Salimean was recognized during his life for his simplicity and humbleness. He used to visit people in hospitals and assist those who were unaware of his position and status, making rounds at the city vegetable and fish souks. Many writers spotlighted his simplicity and commitment to assisting the poor, qualities that inspired Bamajboor to refer to him as the "toiling people lover."

A number of Bamajboor's poems are being converted into songs, an indication yet again of the universality of Bamajboor's message and his resolve not to be confined to one literary genre. Many of his poems have been set to music by Khaleeji and Yemeni musicians with the hope that they will reach a wider audience.

His poem Hadhramout al-Alya (Hadhramout: A Lofty Country), won sixth place at the For the Unification We Sing poetry contest on 22 May 2005. Bamajboor also participated in the first poetry festival in al-Mukalla as well as fawasil al-Kubra (Big partings or separators) contest.

Now he is working with Muhammad al-Kibsi, Deputy of the Shabwa district, to establish a branch of the Yemeni Artists and Writers Union (YAWU). His second collection of poems in both dialect and standard Arabic is almost complete and ready for publication.

Reflecting on the struggles of being a Yemeni poet, Bamajboor commented, "I am so hurt...I am oppressed. I am attempting to do the best for my country however I am still neglected in my home. I hope I can complete my studies, but numerous obstacles still stand in the way. Even the efforts I have done thus far to bring my country into the spotlight are taken in vain."

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Terms of Reference Job Title: Project Manager

BirdLife International (BLI) is a global partnership of national organizations in more than 100 countries. Yemen Society for the Protection of Wildlife (YSPW) is the national partner in Yemen. BLI Middle East Division (MED) (executing agency) and YSPW (implementing organization jointly with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) received funding in the framework of the UNEP/GEF project "Wings Over Wetlands" (WOW) to create a site management planning for the conservation of Aden Wetlands as demonstration site under the African Eurasian Water birds Agreement (AEWA). YSPW seeks to recruit a fulltime Yemeni project manager based in Aden with the following TOR:

- Provide technical and administrative expertise to undertake project activities aimed at enhancing conservation status of Aden Wetlands.
- Coordinate activities between project partners (YSPW and EPA) and liaise with stakeholders in Aden Wetlands.
- Assist in local capacity building and awareness raising program aimed at enhancing conservation status in Aden wetlands.
- Develop work plan based on project logical framework and ensure its timely implementation and delivery of outputs.
- Assist YSPW establishing the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
- Ensure that YSPW and BLI conservation objectives, norms and standards are met.
- Attend as appropriate national, regional and international events.

Qualifications

The project Manager will have the following qualifications or be able to demonstrate:

- Advanced university degree (MSc or PH.D) in wetlands management, biodiversity conservation or any discipline related to the natural sciences and Environment with at least 6 years experience in similar project implementation.
- Team leadership and ability to work with government officials, international and national NGOs, local stakeholders and consultants.
- Proven knowledge of the environmental sector in Yemen.
- Excellent communication, coordination, organization and inter disciplinary skills.
- Proven track record in fundraising.
- Fluency in written and spoken English and computer skills.

Duration: The project is for the duration of three years.

Application closing date:

Interested applicant should submit a written application together with his/his CV by email to: wildlife.yemen@y.net.ye within two weeks of the announcement.

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- Filing of documents according to GTZ procedures
- Maintenance of an overall good flow of communication, specially to and from the branch offices of the project
- Compiles and organises information materials for the team leader and the senior consultants of the project and/or for meetings
- Attends internal team meetings/workshops and write minutes of them
- Prepares the logistics for project events, meetings and consultant missions including reservations, travel schedules, etc.
- Conducts oral and written translations from Arabic to English and vice versa
- Types letters, communications and other basic project correspondence in both Arabic and English
- Gives visitors a friendly welcome, provides refreshments etc.
- Assists in and/or carries out other project activities and tasks, as assigned

Interested applicants must have proven records of having carried out similar duties with similar projects and/or organizations.

If you have the above requirements kindly forward your CV both in English and Arabic with 2 recommendation letters to:

**The Human Resources Officer
GTZ Office Sana'a for the Position of: Executive Assistant (HCY)
P.O. Box 692
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen**

**Only short listed candidates will be contacted.
The deadline for the submission of applications is 15th July 2007.**



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Literary Corner

By: Abu Al-Kalima Al-Tayybah

The Zeidi Sect (II)

Subject Book: The Zeidi Sect/Zeidis

Author: Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud Subhi

Part I of Volume II in the Science of Theology Series

Publisher: Arab Writer's Press

Year Published: 1991 AD

No. of Pages: 768

As the author rightfully suggests the issues that separate Sunnis from Shafe'i center around the succession to the rulership of the Islamic Nation. An important thing to remember is that when the Prophet Mohammed rose to lead the Arabs to world leadership, most of the Arabian Peninsula did not fall under an established regime of formal stature. In fact most of the Peninsula was enmeshed in petty tribal wars some of which lasted for decades. Yemen had of course experienced statehood but even Yemen then (Sixth Century AD) was left to be the battleground for the Persian and Byzantine vie for influence in the region and often one would find Yemen divided into vassal states for the archivals of the Post Christian era and early Middle Ages. With Islam having settled down as the absolute dogma of the Peninsula by the time the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH) had become buried, Islam faced its first crucial crisis, which was the rise of false prophets and insurrections that rose to dispute the authority of the newly founded City-State of Medina. Also, immediately after the Prophet's death the issue of succession of the head of the embryonic state became a paramount issue that was to beset Islam to the present time. With a highly sensitive and emotional tribal society such as existed in the Arabian Peninsula, it was obvious that the cult of the personality was to continue to play a dominant role in the social ads well as the political arena, which still prevalent to these modern times.

The leading personalities in the State that had formed in Medina was spear-headed by a handful of men, known for their great fealty to the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH) and their sacrifice and contribution to the rise of Islam and the battle against the infidels and polygamists. These men all had their stature and respect among the newly found constituency: Ali, Abu Bakr, Omar, Uthman and Al-Zubair, Talha etc. Of all, the first was the youngest and most controversial and astutely puritanical, especially in terms of adherence to the social elements that were in essence the cause d'être that brought about the rise of Islam, especially in an aura that hardly had any social order to speak of.

Most of the leaders of the leading followers of the Prophet met right after his death met in Al-Saquifah near Medina. Except for Ali Bin Abu Talib, the Prophet's cousin and son in law, most of those mentioned met there along with the prominent leaders of Medina (the Ansars, or supporters of the Prophet, who welcomed the Prophet and most of his early followers after all of them have undergone and many years of persecution in his own hometown in Mecca. Arguments raged as to who should lead the new Nation after the Prophet. The Emigrants or Muhajiroon all said the leader should be from amongst them or should hail from the tribe of the Prophet Mohammed, Quraish. The Ansars said that the leader should come from them since they were the ones who saved the religion from being exterminated by the Infidels of Mecca just when they were about to assassinate the Prophet. Finally by a twist of astute political maneuvering by Omar and Abu Bakr and the leadership of Quraish, it was decided that Abu Bakr would take over the new state. Obviously, Ali did not out rightly approve the new decision, as it took place without his participation and did not rest on sound legislative or legal grounds. The Ansars or the people of Medina supported the argument of the Banu Hashim Clan of Quraish, who said that if the leaders of Quraish are insisting that Banu Hashim are the natural source of this leadership since they are the spiritual and accepted leaders of Quraish accepted by all the Arabs since time immemorial. Ali hails from the Banu Hashim Clan. There are of course many who argue that on more than one occasion, the Prophet Mohammed did make nominal indications that Ali should indeed be entrusted with the leadership of the nation after he passes away. But, the fact is that for reasons that only God knows, there is no explicit ruling as to how the leaders of the Moslem Nation should be chosen after he passes away.

In any case, as Islam was already beset by many challenges in its early days, Ali did not make a serious challenge to the decision made at Al-Saquifah, although he never relented from declaring that the meeting in Al-Saquifah was a conspiracy against his right to the leadership.

The followers of Ali, or the Shiva argue that Ali's right to the leadership was based on the following:

- His closeness to the Prophet and the personal reeling enjoyed by the latter in the house of the Prophet.
- The undisputed heroic deeds of the young and brave Ali, and his role in the battlefield as the greatest single fighter for cause of Islam.
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The Tomb of Prophet Hood Seeking historical secrets

Fatima Al-Ajel
fatimafnfr@yahoo.com
Fatima Awad

First-time visitors to Yemen find themselves confronted with an unknown culture filled with new and exciting traditions. However, what may appear strange to a foreigner is quite normal in the everyday life of many Yemenis. There are many ancient traditions and customs that Yemenis have upheld to the present-day.

Visiting the graves of the prophets and righteous people is a thousand-year-old tradition in Yemen. Visiting the tomb of Prophet Hood is a special tradition amongst the sufi (mystical) inhabitants of Hadramout, as well as that of many Muslims from different countries. In the Islamic month of

Every year, delegations from different countries of the world, especially Muslims from Asia and East Africa, set out on a journey to visit the alleged tomb of Prophet Hood. In September 2004, the number of the visitors was said to have reached 22,000.

There are different views about such pilgrimages to gravesites. Some view these annual visits as an important tradition that should be maintained, while many Muslim scholars recognize these visits to the graves as an act of worship not sanctioned in Islam and thus a major form of heresy.

The predominate practitioners of the aforementioned tomb visitations are old men and youth, while you will find that women are completely invisible from such customs. However, the youth don't take the visits seriously, but only tag along due to curiosity.



Visitors start their journey with a rally, marching on foot to the entrances of the tombs of the dead righteous.

Visits to the tomb take place for three to four days, usually on the eighth, ninth and tenth days of Sha'ban. Sufis pack their luggage and proceed on their journey, chanting:

"Those who visit the prophet are winners and not losers."

"A stupid mind would prevent the visiting."

There is a debate among some historiographers and scholars about the reality of such a visit. Many historiographers state that the grave of Prophet Hood is in Hadramout "Al-Haqaf" and that the visitation of Prophet Hood's Al-Sha'ab Village was a tradition in place both before and after the advent of Islam. Other religious scholars say that proof for such a visit is fabricated and baseless and they call the people to abandon such innovations.

"The Hood Visit and Its Abominable Actions and Abhorrence," a study conducted by the religious sheikh (scholar) and chief of Al-Hakma committee in Hadramout, Ahmad Al-Moalem, critiques visiting the gravesite of Prophet Hood. Al-Moalem highlights some of the more blatant acts of heresy performed during these visits, such as the slaughtering of sheep for the dead righteous.

Every year the inhabitants of the village erect small markets, which contain goods to serve the needs of the visitors. Recitation of poetry and other forms of expression are used to remind the locals of the upcoming pilgrimage and encourage them to attend. The ancient village remains as it was in the past, untouched by modern hands, sustaining its uniqueness and authenticity.

The night of the 27th of the Islamic month of Rajab is when an official announcement is made regarding the upcoming visit to the grave. A team of local villagers arrange houses, called "al khadour," to greet newly-arrived visitors.

Visitors who wish to maintain the customs of their ancestors make the

trek to Al-Sha'ab on the backs of camels. In preparation for this special trip, the camels are adorned with henna and phrases inciting the remembrance of Allah are written on their sides. Riders race their camels before entering the village.

There is also a river, which all of the visitors take care to wash in before commencing their visitation rites. After bathing in the river, all the visitors pray two units of prayer in front of the stone known as the "Omer stone" because of its connection to Omer Almoahdhar who was the boss of Al Aloween.

When the visitors return home, they bring with them gifts for their families, relatives, and neighbors. Gifts range from sweets, to clothes, to games and serve as a reminder of journey's past.



Visit program divided into four stages and at each stage, the competition for camels, games, and songs are performing until they reach Alsha'ab.



Visitors compete to drink water from the river out of their Sheikh's hand, as a symbol of drinking from "Al-Kawthar" on the Day of Judgment.

Sha'ban, the streets of Hadramout Al-Wadi are unusually crowded with travelers and their camels, drawing the attention of foreign visitors who are unaware of the traditions of the region.

"Such a visit is only a tradition and I imitate what the old men do but I don't believe in such events," Shukri Al-Saqqaf, 29 years old, from Hadramout noted.

TOSHIBA

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