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Inside:

5
The woman who lives in fear of Political Security

14
Health: Be thin to cut cancer, study says

14
Zabid Heritage City at risk

Appeal court for Al-Moayed and Zayed

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Nov. 4 — U.S. authorities have set Nov. 26, 2007, as the first appeal session date for sheikh Mohammad al-Moayed and his companion Mohammad Zayed, who have been detained in a U.S. prison since 2004.

The Islah party website *alsahwa-yemen.net* quoted a source in the committee in charge of defending al-Moayed and Zayed as saying al-Moayed, 78 years old, and Zaid, 35, will not attend the court, but mentioned that American defense lawyers and Yemeni lawyer Mohammad Naji Alaw will attend for arguments.

Media sources stated that defense attorney Alaw, who has been in the U.S. for three months, will visit sheikh

Al-Moayed and Zayed.

According to lawyer Khaled Al-Ansi, executive director of the National Organization for Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) the defense committee will focus on refuting the judicial measures that were used in the first trial, such as evidence. It will also discuss the jurisdiction of the American Justice Authority handling the case. "The committee will work to cancel the previous verdict and demand their release," declared Al-Ansi.

Zayed, and Al Moayed, were both 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. accused them of having

connections with members of Al-Qaeda and the Islamic-Palestinian 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-Moayed have sent letters complaining of mistreatment while in U.S. custody, urging official pressure by Yemen's government to secure their release.

The two detainees have exposed in letters to their relatives in Yemen that they were subjected to mistreatment and abuse by the U.S. military.

They complained that they have experienced inhumane treatment by the prison's guards, adding in the letters

that they were deprived of leaving for sports like their fellow prisoners. They also confirmed that they were banned from using telephones, purchasing anything from the shop for a period of forty-five days, and using dishes for eating.

However, according to *alsahwa-yemen.net*, the U.S. lawyer confirmed that the U.S. military has canceled administrative procedures known as "Sam". The punishment of "Sam" is that prisoners' legs and arms are chained at all times, even when visitors are present. According to the punishment the prisoners are not allowed to associate with other prisoners, and unlike other prisoners, they are not permitted to hold meetings. Moreover, they aren't allowed newspapers and magazines of their choosing.



Mohammad Zayed



Sheikh Mohammad al-Moayed

Situations in Sa'ada unstable, locals fear resumption of war

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Nov. 4 — Tensions between government troops and Houthi supporters have resumed once again while situations in the restive governorate show signs that armed clashes between the conflicting parties may renew, said Sa'ada tribal sources.

Media sources, however, reported that the two parties are exchanging accusations over breaches in ceasefire agreements, most of which were shootouts killing some Houthi loyalists and army members. Ceasefire violations have increased recently and seem to be committed on a daily basis, particularly in Haidan District, where army units are positioned and their commanders impose an embargo on locals.

The most recent violations are reported to have been committed in

Haidan last Wednesday, where Houthi sources mentioned that the military forces used medium-scale weapons to strike Walad Nawar village, leaving a 12-year-old child injured.

It was also reported that a military unit killed four citizens, believed to support Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, in Ghamr District during the first week of last October while they parked their car at a gasoline station to refuel it. According to media reports, military troops killed the three men who were inside the car after they refused to remove posters carrying Houthi's slogan on their car denouncing behaviors of the United States and Israel. Houthi leader Abdulmalik Badraddin condemned the incident and considered it "a continuation of the series of killings, aggression, injustice and barbarism." He accused the army of killing innocent citizens instead of protecting them, saying that some soldiers at security checkpoints have turned to exercise highway activities.

Haidan District has been under heightened siege by paramilitary troops since the most recent war, despite the fact that the Doha Agreement, which ended the fighting between both parties, is in effect.

Observers attribute Haidan's siege and repeated attacks on citizens to the extremist behavior demonstrated by the district director, a military commander who believes that military operations are the best option to defeat Houthis.

Tribal sources commented that the army repeatedly strikes homes and small villages throughout the governorate randomly, including the areas of



UN agencies and other human rights organizations express concerns about deterioration of the human situation in the war-torn governorate of Sa'ada. Photo: WFP aids to Sa'ada displaced locals.

Jeza'a, Juma'a Bin Fadhel and Dhuab, adding that such behaviors are responsible for devastating property and terrifying women and children.

People living in the horror-stricken areas complain that the armed forces usually target their villages without justification. Other sources say that the army has been repeatedly striking Juma'a Bin Fadhel with mortar fire and heavy weaponry, terrifying its inhabitants since the ceasefire was signed.

On a related subject, the committee concerned with implementing the Doha Agreement announced a map of areas where it is claimed the army planted landmines. The committee went on to say that many citizens, including women and children, have died from landmines planted in Marran and Marashi.

Regarding the human situation, the

media reported on October 31 that Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mohammed Othman discussed with Sa'ada Governor Mutahhar Rashad Al-Masri the aid needed by civilians in the war-ravaged governorate, which has gone through bloody clashes for four years.

According to the media, the discussions held by Othman and Al-Masri were limited to identifying citizens' needs for humanitarian aid, which the UNHCR can offer in order to enhance the Yemeni government's efforts in compensating those whose property was damaged by the wars and extending aid coming from different countries to those who require it.

War broke out in Sa'ada for the first time on June 28, 2004 between government troops and supporters of the religious cleric Abdulmalik Al-Houthi

over ideological grounds. It ended last June after a Qatari mediation committee intervened and reconciled the conflicting parties.

The UNHCR Representative's visit to Yemen comes following reports by UN agencies and other human rights organizations expressing concerns about deterioration of the human situation in the war-torn governorate. The reports mentioned that the fighting forced around 90 thousand people to evacuate their homes and search for other safe areas.

The most recent confrontations between military forces and Houthi followers erupted on October 10 despite the ceasefire agreement reached last June, thanks to efforts by the Qatari mediation committee. Under the agreement, the government is committed to reconstruct any areas damaged by the wars after the rebels abandon their positions on the mountaintops and lay down their arms. The government is also committed to helping displaced families return home, restore damaged property and

release detainees jailed over alleged loyalty with Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, leader of the rebellion.

Houthis, however, complain that the government hasn't yet begun to implement terms of the agreement.

On October 12, Yahya Al-Houthi — Parliament member and brother of slain Hussein Badraddin Al-Houthi said in a statement that "The government planted landmines in several areas in Sa'ada, thus hindering farmers from collecting firewood and grass for their cattle, growing their crops, or exercising any other daily activities." He added that one of the landmines exploded, resulting in the loss of a woman's leg, while another landmine killed many cattle.

Recently, the Yemeni government has given out ambiguous reports concerning the bloody events in Sa'ada, 245 km north of Sana'a. The reports sometimes stated that there is a tribal rebellion led by Al-Houthi and his supporters, while at other times they claimed that Houthis are waging a war against the regime in order to return the Imamate to Yemen. Also, the reports alleged that the rebels are led by Iranian intelligence elements and they receive Shiite concepts from Iran saying that only Hashimis are eligible to rule the nation. Once, the Yemeni government accused Libya of backing the rebels via one of the Houthi's sons, who currently resides in Tripoli.

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Yemen calls for petrochemical complex

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A Nov. 3 — Yemen is considering plans for a multi-billion dollar oil refining and petrochemical complex, the oil minister said on Thursday.

Khalid Bahah, Minister of Oil and Minerals, stated at a symposium held in Dubai that Yemen was looking at schemes similar to a string of massive development plans being undertaken by its neighbors. "We are putting a plan together for a refining and petrochemical complex, as part of an industrial city," Bahah said. "We are looking for a huge investment, and I am confident that we can attract it."

The oil refinery for the complex would have a capacity of at least 200,000 barrels per day (bpd) and cost at least \$2.5 bil-

lion, he added. The government would take a lead role in the development, as it was unhappy with the length of time private companies had taken to develop smaller domestic refining projects, he said.

The minister defended Yemen concerning its commitment to agreements as well as its handling effects of the Jabal Al-Tair eruption.

"The open sectors of oil investments are far away from the surrounding volcano and there is nothing to worry about, affirming that there are not any side-effects of the volcano of Jabal Al-Tair island on the oil sectors located in the Red Sea," Khalid Bahah said, adding, "Yemen has so far signed around 83 agreements in the oil sector and not one has been cancelled. This indicates the credibility of the

Yemeni government in terms of respecting its commitments." He also stated that "the companies which invest first will benefit from existing opportunities."

Answering inquiries of the international companies participating in the symposium, Bahah reaffirmed that there are no troubles regarding sectors bordering Oman, Saudi Arabia or even the sea areas opposite the African coast. He also pointed out that demarcation between Yemen and the aforementioned countries contributed a lot to improve cooperation and expand mutual business opportunities.

Bahah invited all international companies to benefit from the opportunities available in the oil and mineral fields in Yemen, by entering into a positive partnership with the Yemeni government to enhance the oil sector.

Nasr Al-Humaidi, deputy of the authority of exploration and oil production, said that Yemen's oil reserves amount to 10.4 billion barrels, whereas the natural gas reserve is 18,2 trillion cubic feet.

He further explained that the number of exploratory and developmental wells in Yemen amounted to 1842, of which 142 wells are being drilled this year. Ten foreign companies are working in the oil field, 12 companies are working in the production area and 16 in 25 exploration sectors in addition to 40 companies working in the oil and contracting services, supervised by main companies.

Bahah previously stated that 92 percent of Yemen's exports are oil, which also forms 70 percent of the state's revenues.

40 African migrants found dead on Yemeni shores

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, 4 Nov. — Yemeni security authorities in the southern province of Abyan recovered the bodies of 40 Somalis, who had been forced overboard by traffickers onto Yemeni shores. The Somalis were part of 120 African migrants who made a perilous voyage across the Gulf of Aden in a boat operated by ruthless smugglers operating from the Somali port of Bossaso.

The Ministry of Defense's news website, www.26sep.net, said on Saturday that security authorities found 40 dead bodies, of which 7 are women, in Beir Meftah area of Abyan province.

Abyan security head Ahmed Ali Al-Maqdashi, mentioned that a further 78 African migrants, including 12 women, were rescued by military and security forces. Locals in the area also helped in rescuing the African migrants, he commented.

smugglers brought 120 African migrants and then forced them into the water about one and a half mile off the Yemeni shore. Locals buried the dead bodies after obtaining permission from the prosecution.

On 23 October, UNHCR said up to 66 people drowned in the Gulf of Aden after being forced overboard. The tragedy involved two smugglers' boats that left the Somali coastal town of Bossaso with 244 people aboard, mostly Somalis and Ethiopians, the UN organization noted, adding that a total of 28 bodies were buried on the beach, while 38 (29 Ethiopians and nine Somalis) remain missing.

The high season for smuggling across the Gulf usually runs from early September to May when the sea is less stormy than during summer.

This year, the UNHCR estimated that more than 20,000 African migrants, mostly Somalis, have arrived to Yemen by boat. At least 439 people have died this year and another 489 are missing and believed dead.

Many recently-arrived African immigrants say the conditions in their homeland are so bad that they have nothing left to lose and are willing to take the risk.

One week for the government to fulfill its promises to university teachers

By: Almgidad Dahesh Mojalli

SANA'A, Nov. 3 — The teaching staff of Sana'a University is giving the government one week to fulfill its commitments and promises to the teaching staff at the university. In addition, the Sana'a University Teachers Syndicate threatened to resume protests and to start striking in case the concerned authorities continue to procrastinate.

The extended meeting of university teachers and assistants, held in Yasser Arafat hall at the Faculty of Trading and Commerce on Thursday, Nov. 1st 2007, affirmed the necessity of putting an end to the government's delays after giving it excessive time to prove its credibility and seriousness.

The extended meeting called on prime minister Dr. Ali Mujawar to abide by the agreement issued between the government and the Sana'a University Teachers'

Syndicate on May 5th 2007. It additionally requested the prime minister to oblige the concerned authorities represented in the Ministry of Civil Services, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Finance and the Presidency of Sana'a University to execute his directives and the signed agreements, indicating that these authorities were not serious about reaching practical and real results.

The syndicate places the responsibility of renewed protests on the concerned authorities, pointing out that the protests will not stop with employee strikes, but will spread to the streets.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Azazzi, the person in charge of media at the syndicate, said, "Our only demand today is to execute the reports and agreements signed with the prime minister, the ministers of concerned ministries and the Sana'a University rector. We have no any new demands other than those agreed upon."

Al-Azazzi clarified that the signed reports and agreements involve legal demands, like financial and administrative independence of the universities, modification of declining situations, commitment to apply university laws, attention to scientific research, and mending corruption concerning new wages, issuing a system for teaching staff positions and wages which organizes rights and duties in addition to treating issues of bonuses and academic ranking. The reports and agreements also involve pensioners, death and health insurance.

Al-Azazzi affirmed that the syndicate has given concerned authorities sufficient time to prove their credibility and seriousness in carrying out the agreements. He indicated that it is time to go outside the university campus and hold sit-ins

and peaceful marches at the gates of the concerned authorities, Cabinet, Parliament and presidential palace.

Al-Azazzi stated that after their meeting with the prime minister in May 2007, he gave more than fifteen directives to the concerned authorities, but since that time none of the directed officials has responded except for the Sana'a University rector, who executed some of the prime minister's directives regarding payment of salaries in case of death, amending pensioners' cases and distributing about 400 computer devices for university teachers.

Al-Azazzi called on all NGOs as well as local and international media to stand with the university teachers to serve the educational system and amend the welfare of universities in Yemen.

Yemeni youth go to finals

Yemen Times Staff

Despite being defeated by Syria 4-2 on Friday's match in Qatar, the Yemeni youth team goes to the finals of the Asian Cup.

The Yemeni youth go to the final eliminations of the Asian Cup after defeating Qatar 5-1 in the final match last Tuesday in Qatar. They defeated other teams such as Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. They tied with Oman 1-1.

The Yemeni football national team athletes performed well in facing the Qatari team. They raised their score to ten, placing them at the top of their group as the finals approach. The match was decisive for our team, demanding that they win to get the qualification card for the next level.

The Yemeni team excelled over their opponents, displaying their experience and skillful tactics. They played well in the first half, defending their area and attempting to break Qatar's defense based on a smooth and well-built attack.

Smart athlete Ahmed Al-Baidhani succeeded in receiving a good football kick and heading it into the Qatari goal. Consequently, the latter launched several attacks where the Yemeni goalkeeper stood against them.

24 minutes into the first half, Qatari athlete Khalid Muftah scored a goal to tie the game.

However, in the second half, the Yemeni team excelled, with Waleed Al-Hubaishi scoring a second goal in the 72nd minute, followed by Saleh Al-Yamani in the 80th. Al-Hubaishi came again and added the fourth goal 83 minutes into the game.

The second half was ended with a fifth goal scored by Mohammed Guraif, ending the match at 5-1. As a result, Yemen goes to Asian Cup finals.

Yemen previously reached the finals in the 2002 Asian Youth Cup, which took place in the UAE, representing Arabs in Finland in 2003. The Yemeni Youth team was trained by Yemeni coach Ameen Al-Sunaini.



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SIPC E&P Yemen, Sana'a Office, invites Yemeni females only to apply for the position of

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following position with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Post Title: National UNV Protection Clerk (Two posts)
Location: Aden

Responsibilities:
Under the supervision of Protection Officer, the UNV volunteer will be responsible for the following:

- Assist the Head of Field Office and Protection Officer in the accomplishment of their responsibilities;
- Act as interpreter in the exchange of routine information, contributes to related liaison and responds directly to routine queries;
- Record Data and assists supervisor in the provision of evaluations and information on various developments in the camp;
- Translate documents and correspondence as and when necessary;
- provide support and assistance as needed and maintain contact with NGOs/relevant organizations and government coordinators;
- Assist IPs in matters pertaining to the well being for refugees
- Conduct profiling and registration to new arrivals in the camp;
- Perform other duties as required.

Qualifications:

- Completion of secondary education.
- Computer literacy
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills and ability to work in a multicultural environment.
- Flexibility in responding to additional requirements
- Working knowledge of the Microsoft Office package, in particular Word and Excel.
- Very good knowledge of Arabic and English. Knowledge of other languages (Ethiopian and Somali) will be considered as an asset.

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to mushtaq.al-saqqaf@undp.org.

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Deadline for receiving applications is **15 November 2007**



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following position with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Post Title: National UNV Protection Clerk
Location: Mayfa'a (Shabwa Governorate)

Responsibilities:
Under the supervision of Protection Officer, the UNV volunteer will be responsible for the following:

- Assist the Head of Field Office and Protection Officer in the accomplishment of their responsibilities;
- Act as interpreter in the exchange of routine information, contributes to related liaison and responds directly to routine queries;
- Record Data and assists supervisor in the provision of evaluations and information on various developments in the camp;
- Translate documents and correspondence as and when necessary;
- Provide support and assistance as needed and maintain contact with NGOs/relevant organizations and government coordinators;
- Assist IPs in matters pertaining to the well being for refugees
- Conduct profiling and registration to new arrivals in the camp;
- Perform other duties as required.

Qualifications:

- Completion of secondary education.
- Computer literacy
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills and ability to work in a multicultural environment.
- Flexibility in responding to additional requirements
- Working knowledge of the Microsoft Office package, in particular Word and Excel.
- Very good knowledge of Arabic and English. Knowledge of other languages (Ethiopian and Somali) will be considered as an asset.

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to mushtaq.al-saqqaf@undp.org.

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Deadline for receiving applications is **15 November 2007**



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following position with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Post Title: National United Nations Volunteer (NUNV) Protection Clerk (Two posts)
Location: Sa'ada

Responsibilities:
Under the supervision of a Protection Officer, the NUNV will be responsible for:

- Assisting protection staff in interviewing IDPs or returnees with the intention to understand her/his current situation.
- Identifying the most vulnerable IDPs in terms of access to legal, physical or material assistance and address these needs to the protection section.
- Participate in surveys taking place within the governorate of Sa'ada.
- Analyse all the claims received and make proposals for improving the situation for the IDPs.
- Draft and type correspondence to implementing partners regarding protection interventions;
- Cooperate with the concerned government authorities and other agencies to discuss solutions
- Coordinate her/his action with other actors on the field
- Performs other duties as required by the supervisor.

Qualifications:

- Completion of Secondary education, preferable graduate in law
- Computer literacy
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills and ability to work in a multicultural environment.
- Flexibility in responding to additional requirements
- Working knowledge of the Microsoft Office package, in particular Word and Excel.
- Very good knowledge of Arabic, knowledge in English..

Female candidates are especially encouraged to apply.
Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to mushtaq.al-saqqaf@undp.org.

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Deadline for receiving applications is **15 November 2007**

Clashes take place in a military camp in Sana'a, Ministry of Defense denies

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, Oct. 4 — M. Gen. Mohammed Nasser, Minister of Defense, denied information on news websites mentioning that protests took

place in the reception camp in Dhala' area northwest of the capital city of Sana'a by military retirees due to money taken from their pensions.

In a statement to the September 26 Ministry of Defense website, the minister stated that a small number of rein-

stated retirees had aroused chaos while in the reception camp in Dhala'. They came to receive their pensions from an assigned committee. The retirees threw stones at the committee building.

He also pinpointed that some soldiers who did not attend for sessions, as well as those who were reinstated but not pensioners, as stated by the websites, intended to cause riots by throwing stones at their colleagues as well as committee members.

He went on to say that information indicating the reduction of the pensions for the reinstated retirees was baseless. "They received full pensions, including the second phase increase of salaries, regardless of whether they returned to the camp recently or are new. This came as an execution of the president's directives. We treated the reinstated soldiers very well, like their colleagues working in the armed forces," the minister added.

The situation was completely contained and the process of paying pensions returned to normal on Saturday afternoon, he further maintained.

Some press sources exchanged news that a number of military retirees held a sit-in in front of the reception camp in Dhala' due to pension cuts.

The pensions paid to the pensioners range from YR 15,000 to 17,000, from which a thousand Yemeni riyals are deducted without any legal justification, according to the same sources.

The protesters demanded the return

of pension cuts, affirming that they will continue marching in protest until their demands are met.

Well-informed sources told Yemen Times that a number of soldiers blocked the road connecting Sana'a and Al-Mahwit after they refused to receive a two month salary from the reception military camp located in Hamdan.

One of the pensioners revealed that the pensioners were surprised to discover that unpaid pensions since 1994 amount to only five thousand YR. They refused to take this amount of money. However, the committee members negotiated with them to give them eight thousand and then later increased the amount to 20 thousand, but the pensioners refused, demanding the committee members to go by the president's directives.

Not reaching a solution, the pensioners blocked the road between Sana'a and Al-Mahwit where minor clashes took place, resulting in the injuring of two people, one of whom is a pensioner and the other an ordinary resident. This incident did not affect the sit-in. The same source also indicated that local residents living near the military camp showed their solidarity with military retirees expressing their willingness to go with them and hold sit-ins in front of the Ministry of Defense.

The pensioners are still demanding the government to work on the decree issued to reinstate the military pensioners as well as to pay them their rightful

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In brief

Yemen to support Comoros media

Nov. 4 — Yemen's Ministry of Information on Wednesday expressed its readiness to provide Comoros with all requisite expertise in the fields of radio, television and journalism, including offering training courses to qualify Comorian media personnel. Information Minister Hassan Al-Lawzi has directed Yemen's satellite channel and its public radio program to provide Comorian media corporations with social, cultural and historical broadcasts, in addition to others concerning the Qur'an and the rites of the Hajj.

Two Yemeni education and tourism channels to launch

Nov. 4 — Abdullah Al-Zalab, chairman of the Radio and Television Authority, has announced the launch of trial broadcasts for two new satellite channels, Saba and Al-Yamania, regarding youth, education and tourism beginning Thursday on Arabsat BADR-4 at frequency 12781.

Noting that effective broadcast will commence by the beginning of 2008, he affirmed the importance of these channels to promote Yemeni tourism and bridge the gap between Yemen and other nations.

New Yemeni historical sites are on World Heritage List

Nov. 4 — Yemeni Culture Minister Mohammed Abubakr Al-Maflahi says that new Yemeni historical sites will be included on the list of World Heritage sites, including Marib and Bura'a Nature Reserve, as well as the cities of Al-Hajrin in Hadramout governorate

and Thala in Amran governorate.

Meeting in Paris on Friday with the head of UNESCO, Al-Maflahi discussed the organization's projects funded in Yemen that seek to support international efforts in cultural and educational fields, as well as efforts to preserve its World Heritage listed city of Zabid.

IBB

Japan launches water supply project

Nov. 4 — Aiming to support small-scale community-based projects in areas of basic human needs, Japanese Ambassador to Yemen Masakazu Tonshikage has signed an agreement to launch a project in Ibb governorate to support constructing a water supply network in Fara'a district's Qiyas village so that locals will have better access to clean water.

MAHRAH

Precautions in encountering anticipated tropical cyclone

Nov. 4 — An extended meeting of concerned bodies in Al-Mahrah governorate last week drew up protective measures to manage the dangers from any possible tropical cyclone stemming from low pressure. Al-Mahrah Governor Mohammed Al-Harazi indicated that the meeting resulted in several procedures, such as putting the governorate's security and military apparatuses on full alert and notifying local residents and fishermen to keep away from shores, in addition to directing the Yemeni Economic Corporation to provide tents and blankets in the aftermath of a disaster due to a possible cyclone.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Violations in 100 projects in the Ministry of Health, says report

By: Almigdad Dahesh Mojalli

SANA'A, Nov. 4 — A recent report by the Center for Observation and Accountability revealed many violations in the health sector.

According to the report, such breaches restrict the development in this public sector.

The report mentioned that most of the violations are systematic, lawful and administrative.

The 2006 general state budget report affirmed that more than 100 projects haven't been carried out in the health care sector, although most agreements for the projects were signed in 2001. The report mentioned that most of the projects are the construction of health care units and a center for kidney disease, and furnishing many existing health care centers.

The report criticizes the reduction of planning in the Ministry of Health Care, which resulted in a poor distribution of health care utilities and incompetence in operating these utilities, either because of a lack of required finances or other resources, like electricity and specialized staff.

The report added that there is a reduction in the institutional structure that includes the incomplete legislative system concerned with health sector duties. The report also indicated that health insurance laws haven't been completed yet.

There was no official at the ministry –at the time of writing this news –authorized to comment on the

report.

Ex-health minister Dr. Najeeb Ghanem stated that the report showed a simplified picture of the tragic situation in the health sector. He added that though the report is good, it doesn't reflect the complete picture of the health sector, only the part

pension.

The minor clash coincided with the sit-ins and protests held by military

retirees in the southern governorates, who have demanded the increase of

their pensions for five months. The recently held protests resulted in the deaths and injury of some, along with some citizens who participated in the protests.

At the end of the statement, Ghanem called for the parliament to take a serious stand against the violations mentioned in the report.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is seeking energetic and skilled Yemeni nationals to join our core team. Following are the positions we seek candidates for:

I. Programme Associate (Environment)

Key Functions:

- Support the execution of the environment and energy components of the Country Programme;
- Administration and implementation of programme strategies, adaptation of processes and procedures;
- Support to the management of the CO programme;
- Administrative support to the environment and energy programmes;
- Support to development of strategic partnerships and implementation of resource mobilization strategy;
- Facilitation of knowledge building and knowledge sharing.

Required Qualifications:

- A Bachelors Degree in Environmental Management or Science, or another related field with relevant work experience;
- At least 3 years experience in environmental management, programming or work is required at the national or international level;
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages and advance knowledge of spreadsheet and database packages;
- Experience in handling of web based Enterprise Resource Planning is an asset;
- Fluency in English and Arabic Languages

II. Senior Secretary / Executive Assistant

Key Functions:

- Screening of all incoming communications, filter outgoing correspondence.
- Organization of regular and ad-hoc meetings; preparation of minutes and summaries of actions to be taken;
- Maintenance of the filing system ensuring safekeeping of confidential materials. Use of automated filing system;
- Coordination of the information flow in the office and dissemination of corporate and interoffice communication to staff as required;
- Draft routine correspondence, interoffice circulars, general briefing notes, documents, reports and minutes of meetings when requested, translation when required;

Required Qualifications:

- A Bachelors Degree or equivalent with specialized secretarial training or office management;
- 3 to 5 years progressively responsible secretarial / administrative experience is required ;
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages and experience in handling of web based management systems;
- Fluency in English and Arabic Languages

III. Finance Clerk

Key Functions:

- Processing of financial documentation (vouchers, supporting documents, invoices etc.,) and maintaining internal expenditures control system;
- Maintenance of the filing system for financial records and documentation,
- Extracting, inputting, copying and filing data from various sources;
- Follow up on information relating to payments;
- Preparation of routine correspondence, faxes, memorandums and reports;
- Prepare weekly records on sales tax payments;

Required Qualifications:

- Secondary education. Specialized training in finance desirable.
- 2 - 3 years of relevant accounting and financial experience;
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software packages and knowledge of spreadsheets and database packages;
- Experience in handling web based management systems;
- Fluency in English and Arabic Languages

To learn more about the above positions, please visit our website (www.undp.org.ye) and go to Vacancies(under about UNDP Yemen) for details and instructions on how to apply.

Only candidates with the specified education and years of experience as indicated in the Job Descriptions will be considered. We look forward to receiving your application. (only short-listed candidates will be contacted)

Deadline for receipt of applications is **16 November 2007**

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization, and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



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The woman who lives in fear of Political Security

Anisah Al-Shuaibi spent several weeks at the Criminal Investigation Bureau where security officials treated her harshly. She alleges she was raped at another large detention. Nisreen Shadad interviews her regarding life after her imprisonment.

Anisah Al-Shuaibi's only demand is justice. She was accused of killing her husband – who later was found to be alive all along – but she says security authorities still harass her and her two children. In 2006, she was fired from her job as a typist at the Ministry of Interior after working there for 15 years, her monthly salary of approximately YR 20,000 also suspended.

This happened after her ex-husband's mother accused her of killing him. Because of that, she, along with her 10-year-old son and her 9-year-old daughter, were jailed in 2003.

Al-Shuaibi received me in her simple

home in Sana'a. Her daughter Reem was well dressed and happy, as it seemed I was one of the few people who had visited them. She and her brother Harun came to me with smiles on their faces, carrying perfume to put on me. The perfume bottles were practically full, apparently not having been used since Eid Al-Fitr perhaps because their relatives hadn't visited them then.

Located in a deserted area, their home was small enough to hear noises at night. Harun began speaking about the ghosts he hears at night: "A week ago, my mother awoke stiffly at around 2 a.m. Subconsciously, she ran outside crying, 'Ya, iyah al-halal!' (Oh, good men!), but

no one was outside except the evil spirits."

Al-Shuaibi entered the room carrying local newspapers that have run stories about her case. While she was presenting the newspapers to me, Reem went to begin preparing a lunch of bread, bringing the flour and water into the sitting room in order to listen to the discussion between her mother and me. She's actually in charge of cleaning the house and preparing lunch because her mother suffers pain in her legs.

Before leaving the house to visit some of their neighbors, Al-Shuaibi noted, "Our neighbors are good; however, the ones whose house is nearest to us moved after numerous political security personnel visited them. They also began to annoy us. During Ramadan, our electricity went out every day and we were the only ones."

She now believes her neighbor was responsible for that, but fortunately, that neighbor moved on the seventh day of the eid and others rented the house. "They are so charming," she adds.

Al-Shuaibi and her new neighbor are in the same boat, as both are oppressed and demand justice. "My brother was imprisoned 18 months ago, but there's no evidence against him," the neighbor recounted, adding, "Man's freedom can be taken so simply, but we can only get it back through difficulty."

While passing by his house, another neighbor invited Al-Shuaibi and me for lunch. His face was furrowed and wrinkled, his dark brown skin hardened and his clothes were ragged. "There's a lot of food. Come join us," he beckoned.

Numerous hens ran in front of us as he spoke about their previous neighbor, who lived near Al-Shuaibi's house. "That guy was a magician. He tried to bewitch us."

"I don't want to be illiterate!"

Al-Shuaibi doesn't send her children to

school because she says political security watches them. "They might be kidnapped at anytime. Harun now should be in sixth grade, but because of our past circumstances, he's in third, as well as Reem," she explains as her daughter declares, "I don't want to be illiterate!"

Additionally, she continued, "During Ramadan, we went to one of the foundations seeking to provide orphans with food during that time. They promised to give to me, but when I went to collect it, they said they couldn't find our names."

Al-Shuaibi further notes that her friends stopped visiting her after the problems. "Even my stepmother has stopped visiting. I think security authorities are threatening them not to visit me."

Al-Shuaibi's father was a high-ranking military official and her brothers were officers. Of her four brothers, two died during the 1994 and the other two live abroad.

After her mother died when Al-Shuaibi was very young, her father married another woman. "She adopted me, so I consider her my mother. But now, after these problems, she has deserted me," she laments.

Married at age 12, Al-Shuaibi had her two children and then completed her education, graduating from high school. Due to her father's influence, she got a job at the Ministry of Interior.

Al-Shuaibi divorced 10 years ago after discovering that her husband and his family were involved in immoral works. Afterward, her former mother-in-law claimed that Al-Shuaibi had killed her ex-husband. "They arrested me at night – without any evidence – and I found myself accused of kidnapping and killing my ex-husband," she recalls.

She subsequently was imprisoned without a fair trial and endured harsh prison conditions before finally being released after 48 days in captivity. After



Harun likes to read and write, but his mother cannot send him to school because she says he might be kidnapped by members of political security.

several weeks, she was cleared due to lack of evidence against her. The whole time, her husband actually was alive in Jamal Jameel Prison of Sana'a city.

Attorneys from Allaw Bar group volunteered to defend Al-Shuaibi's rights. Several times, the accused didn't show up for court; when they finally did, they denied the accusations against them. Al-Shuaibi's lawyers requested

the judge suspend the defendants from their positions, maintaining that Al-Shuaibi is at their mercy, but the judge refused.

On Jan. 3 of this year, Amnesty International demanded Al-Shuaibi be protected from the Criminal Investigation Bureau, as her case relates to one of Yemen's influential security apparatuses.



Reem is in charge of cleaning the house and preparing lunch because her mother suffers pain in her legs.

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الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال Yemen LNG Company



Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquefied natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden which will export 6.7 million tons of LNG per annum. The project offices are based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

Job Title: Head of Logistics – Reference No. 147
Reports to: Logistics, Procurement and New Works Manager
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

This role manages multiple activities and the incumbent must be an extremely effective multi-skilled supervisor, available at all times to ensure the effective completion of all assigned tasks. The job holder will be responsible for the following activities:

General Services activities:

- Ensure that telephone, power and water supplies, all maintenance and repair works and the installation of safety equipment are carried out on all Company assets in Sana'a and that Safety Inductions are provided for all subcontractor personnel working on YLNG premises
- Ensure that regular inventories are carried out and that office / property rental processes and their expiry dates are monitored and acted upon promptly
- Manage local contractors which provide cleaning, maintenance, catering services etc. and monitor the relevant budgets
- Supervise the operation of the section Petty Cash ensuring that all funds disbursed are accurately recorded and fully auditable

Immigration activities:

- Ensure the efficient provision and renewal of Visas, Work and Residence Permits for all YLNG expatriate staff, visitors and guests and obtain visas for Yemeni and expatriate staff for overseas missions in an effective and timely manner
- Maintain and update accurate and auditable records of all transactions

Travel activities:

- Manage all issues related to staff / visitor travel, vehicle rental and travel service contracts
- Ensure that hotel bookings, airport reception, YLNG Charter aircraft bookings, manifests and local transportation are implemented effectively and with due regard to safety and security considerations
- Manage the effective operation of the subcontracted YLNG airport office and ensure the timely reception of visitors / staff at the airport, and immigration and customs clearance processes

Qualifications Required:

- University degree in Science, Engineering or Business Administration
- Over 5 years of logistics experience, ideally in the Oil and Gas industry and an international environment at senior supervisory level
- Computer literate, service-oriented and well acquainted with Yemeni Administration officials and procedures
- Strong attention to detail and ability to multi-task simultaneous priorities
- Excellent networking, communication, interpersonal and supervisory skills
- Fluent in spoken and written Arabic and English. Knowledge of French useful but not essential

Job Title: Security Officer – Reference No. 149
Reports to: Security Coordinator
Work Location: YLNG Pipeline Area - Marib to Shabwa Governorates
Work System: 28/28 Rotation
Contract Duration: Fixed-term 1 year Contract

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Liaise with local authorities and local population to ensure the maintenance of a positive and cordial working relationship
- Be aware of and notify management of any security issues through daily coordination with the military personnel responsible for site protection
- Report any developments that may create security problems
- Manage civilian security personnel and carry out random checks to ensure that constant vigilance is maintained
- Activate local radio coverage and maintain a direct link with the radio room in Sana'a

Qualifications Required:

- A minimum of 5 years' experience ideally gained within an army, police or security service
- Strong leadership and man-management skills with good exposure to work in an international environment
- Good communication skills both in English and Arabic languages
- Basic Computer skills – e.g. Microsoft Word, Outlook etc

Job Title: Manpower Planning & Training Coordinator – Reference No. 150
Reports to: Head of HR Development
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

Manpower Planning Activities

- Ensure the success of the YLNG Yemenisation Plan by developing and implementing the necessary Manpower and Succession Plans, in consultation with Senior Management
- Prepare and regularly update the company manpower forecasts with HR and Departmental managers and produce statistical reports and graphs for Management and Shareholders to measure the progress of the Yemenisation Plan
- Develop and implement the Individual Development Plans of identified staff for career progression, in coordination with individuals and management
- Develop, implement and manage undergraduate and graduate selection and training programmes to ensure a steady supply of high calibre personnel into the organization

Training Activities

- Under the guidance of the Head of HR Development, ensure the provision of high quality training and development courses and assignments for an organisation of 700 staff employees
- Prepare the annual Company Training Plan from annual appraisals and management recommendations, with cost and timing forecasts
- Implement training courses, with the assistance of the Junior Training Officer, updating plan as training is completed
- Monitor the effectiveness of the training provided from course evaluation forms and management reports
- Survey and maintain contacts with training organizations in and outside the Middle East, recommending suitable courses to line management, and suggesting new approaches as appropriate
- Identify suitable development and training assignments abroad for high-profile staff and implement these. Monitor staff progress, ensuring that the experience provided is appropriate and meets objectives
- Prepare and produce monthly/quarterly/annual training reports

Qualifications Required:

- University degree in Science, Engineering or Business Administration
- Minimum of 5 years' experience of manpower planning and/or training development, ideally within an HR environment. Exposure to international activities advantageous
- Strong ability to act on own initiative with very good interpersonal skills
- Excellent spoken and written Arabic and English with particular relevance to technical report writing skills
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Project, Access or similar and standard Office software (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, etc)

Job Title: Information Editor – Reference No. 148
Reports to: Head of Public Relations
Work Location: Sana'a
Type of Contract: Fixed-term 2 year contract

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Produce journalistic articles and stories for company Intranet and website (both English and Arabic), collect and follow up content of the information with other departments
- Assist Management with editing reports and presentations, preparing draft press releases and statements on public events, or any other information materials
- Produce the Company newsletter with the help of Webmaster/Graphic Designer
- Conduct live interviews during Company events, generate ideas and produce articles
- Provide assistance and hands-on training to Communications and PR personnel

Qualifications Required:

- University Degree in Communications, Journalism or other related studies
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in the production of information materials and journalistic writing in English and Arabic
- Excellent spoken and written English and Arabic with strong experience in journalistic writing, particularly related to the development of public information materials and press releases
- Good interpersonal skills with creativity, innovation, and a strong respect for confidentiality
- Good Computer skills – Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Visit Yemen LNG's website at (WWW.YEMENLNG.COM).
- Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply, mentioning the title and the reference number of the position you are applying for.

- Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
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Closing Date: 19 November 2007

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Words of Wisdom



It is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial. Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize some new values.

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

OUR
OPINIONGo to your
local council!

The Yemeni public has become used to complaining, as is apparent from opposition and government newspapers, thousands of qat chew sessions and the millions of conversations that take place throughout the country.

It's obvious that quality of life for many communities is deteriorating; economic hardship, unemployment and inflation are on the rise, while housing, quality education and healthcare services are becoming more scarce and expensive.

The realities of today's Yemen are progressively leading to a national emergency, a failed state and more civil unrest. Protests and organized social action in southern Yemen are a strong indicator of these realities.

Luckily, through its modest democratic development, Yemen has developed channels for communities to take matters into their own hands. Last year, Yemenis voted for candidates to represent them in their local councils at the district and governorate levels.

Yemen's legal and administrative system empowers local councils to take the lead in transforming their communities. It further spells out the means of financing council operations, as well as channeling local funds for reinvestment in the community.

As the nation's first example of self-government, local councils have the authority and responsibility to better their communities. Local councils in Sana'a, Hadramout and Taiz have adopted sound policies, while other such councils are a shameful extension of government corruption.

Unfortunately, the majority of local councils throughout the country have yet to rise to this level of responsibility. Instead, they either are stagnating and unaware of the tremendous responsibility they have toward their districts or they are unwilling to work hard enough to improve the quality of life and livelihoods of those who voted for them.

In these cases, it is citizens' role to contact their local councils and demand they renovate schools, equip health services, construct roads and establish water projects in their communities.

In turn, local councils then can contact the respective government agencies, raise funds and manage those projects required by their communities. Several local councils have done this successfully and their example is worth noting and duplicating nationwide.

Some gratitude goes to the donor community in Yemen, which has banded together to carry out a highly successful decentralization program under the administration of the United Nations Development Program in Yemen.

However, despite great success achieved thus far, the program is missing a publicity component, as Yemenis need to know where to direct their demands for better services. They must realize that local councils are responsible and accountable for the development – or underdevelopment – of their communities, and therefore should ensure that their local council does whatever it takes to improve their livelihood.

Local councils can play an important role in local development and they will play that role if their communities put pressure on them to do so.

The Editorial Board

The longest political
dialogue in Yemen

By: Mohammed Anam

A 17-year experience of political dialogue in the country is enough and worthy for any kind of diagnosis or evaluation. If dialogue between factions of the Yemeni Socialist Party in the 1970s was described as the longest of its kind in a very small country, this means that the General People Congress and other political parties and organizations should bear in mind that the dialogue with Joint Meeting Parties may be the longest.

We believe that dialogue is the safety boat for Yemen and Yemeni people while the Islah Party, YSP and other political organizations take out of the dialogue the same objective for the lifeboat theory and the intents of Maltose and LaSalle.

A 17-year experience of dialoguing with YSP and Islah Party hasn't helped resolve the election system problem, nor did it settle any of the urgent national issues. And, if GPC remained betting on resolving such problems with such parties, Yemen will have achieved nothing in other spheres.

Sophism is the summary of that experience while the thermometer of national responsibilities tells us of a terrible treason in the addresses of several JMP leaders. The dialoguer, whose goal is always achieving personal interests, works on extending the durations of

dialogue, creates multiple crises and violates any national principles and any teachings of Islam. This dialoguer considers everything permissible, even the calls for apostasy and fomenting sectarian conflicts, as well as other destructive conducts.

The GPC is responsible for the homeland, plus building the national economy and the Yemeni man. It also gives top priority to establishing the culture of dialogue in our political life and the emotions of citizens, particularly as dialogue is part of our ancient cultural structure. The ruling party always realizes that Allah (Subhanah Wa Ta'ala) dialogued the devil, but the other dialogue party (the devil) insisted on pursuing evil and ending the dialogue. This is a useful lesson to remind those concerned of the significance of dialogue.

If dialogue with YSP during the transitional stage could not help persuade the party's leadership not to fuel the 1994 Civil War, the current dialogue with JMP compelled GPC and the people to find themselves facing a critical situation. It is now that the ruling party and people understood that their national duty is confronting any conspiracy targeting, Yemen, its unity, security and stability.

Dialogue is actually a civilized conduct when it remains ideal, involving aware political forces that live up to their national, religious and moral responsibility and let no chance for wasting time and energy.

We have to admit that JMP damaged the dialogue-related experience while GPC should acknowledge its complete failure in dialoguing with these parties because of their structure that is colored with dictatorship, opportunism and conspiracy and the impossibility of re-qualifying them for the democratic process.

The European continent that remained fragmented and divided for a considerable period of time has become today strongly unified despite the fact it is composed of different states and people who speak different languages. Regrettably, as our dialogue ends, we hear some JMP leaders promoting and instigating apostasy and defection, and fueling ethical conflicts.

I think that even if the ruling party hands the job to JMP to form the election commission from members belonging to their individual parties and excluding judges and GPC members, the problem will remain unsolved. And, during the parliamentary elections in 2009, people will realize that the opposition parties will announce abolition of the elections and the electoral system. The best dialogues for these parties are the ones that concentrate on controversial religious matters such as: Where is the seventh sky? And which one was created first, the egg or the chicken?

Source: Al-Methaq Weekly.

How to get rid of the crisis?

By: Ahmad Al-Haj

Yemen is witnessing these days an unprecedented political action at the official and popular levels, and the most prominent aspects of this action at the official level is the initiative taken by President Ali Abdullah Saleh. This initiative is composed of ten major points for conducting constitutional amendments to touch upon the situations of executive, legislature and local governance.

When it comes to the popular level, the most prominent aspects of the political action are demonstrations and sit-ins, as well as the emergence of several political groups outside the umbrella of the officially recognized political parties. These groups include the Retirees' Society, National Solidarity Council and the Parliamentarians Union. As the reasons for staging demonstrations and sit-ins have become known to everyone, most of the observers and those interested in the Yemenis affairs raise various questions about these reasons, the timing of issuing such an initiative and the appearance of these political groups.

Observers also raise questions about whether such political developments are the product of a vital political action in Yemen or they are symptomatic of political confusion and chaos. As far as I am concerned, the positive aspect in the current political landscape in Yemen is not included in this initiative or the political grouping.

Instead, it is part of an agreement between the government and the opposition. In the meantime, the state and the society agreed that there is a real crisis threatening unity and security of the nation while a national consensus has been reached for reviewing the way essential measures are taken to maintain the progressive course of unity, democracy, and the financial and administrative reforms before the crisis arrives at its climatic point.

Except for this positive aspect, all what is produced by the political action in Yemen is merely foams and political balloons that are impossible to survive for a longer period of time. At the official level, one can say that all what has been produced by the political kitchen and decision-making centers, which are part of the state's institutions in confronting political and economic crises and infringements, is nothing more than media banners and balloons that have nothing to do with the status quo. No positive achievements have been reached despite the fact that the President's initiative covered numerous positive points at the central and local levels.

Regarding the unofficial levels, the political and social action has failed to produce civil community organizations, parties and unions built on rigid foundations and proper principles. Over the past few days this action produced the type of organizations, which seem to be short-lived due to their sectarian or racist affiliations such as the Houthi Movement in Sa'ada, regionalist banners such as

Retirees Society in South Yemen, or due to their blurry goals such as the Parliamentarians Union.

Some of the civil community organizations in Yemen have an ethnical color such as the National Solidarity Council. And, all these groups are merely political balloons that have nothing to do with the status quo. In fact, the reasons behind the state of confusion and chaos experienced in Yemen are internal while the state and its ruling party are primarily responsible for the unprecedented political congestion including confusion and chaos. In addition, civil community organizations and political parties are accountable for a small part of such a state of confusion and chaos.

To get rid of this condition that has become a source of trouble and fear about the present and future of Yemen, there should be serious steps to change policies and strategies of the state and society as well.

As no one can say that there is no blame on the state for what is happening, but out of honesty, justice and fairness, the state alone may not be able to resolve the persisting problems unless the majority of people understand the threat, which these problems pose to their daily lives. One of these persisting problems is the rapid population growth in one of the world poorest countries and this problem necessitates joint efforts by the state, civil community organizations and political forces without an exception.

Source: Al-Wasat Independent Weekly.

SILVER LINING

"Muslim or Kafer":
Too Little to Understand

Last week, I was trying to review with my little child Maha some of her school courses. When we were going through some of contents of the Islamic religion course, she started telling me that Islam teaches people to be clean and tidy. This is fine. However, the 6-year girl in her first year in a private school started telling me her teacher taught her that the devil likes the Kafer or infidel because he is dirty and that the devil does not approach the Muslim because he is clean. Wow. This is horrific.



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

She is so small to understand the meaning of words like "Kafer", "devil" and the like. I found it difficult to explain and make her figure out such stereotypical phrases. My child picked up the lesson quickly and now, whenever she sees a man or a woman on TV at home, she starts asking: is he/she Muslim or Kafer? This is really too much for a little child. Why should our schoolteachers squeeze our kids' minds with such heavy stuff and create this gap between the world and us? It is the job of the education ministry to check what sort of education our kids are given.

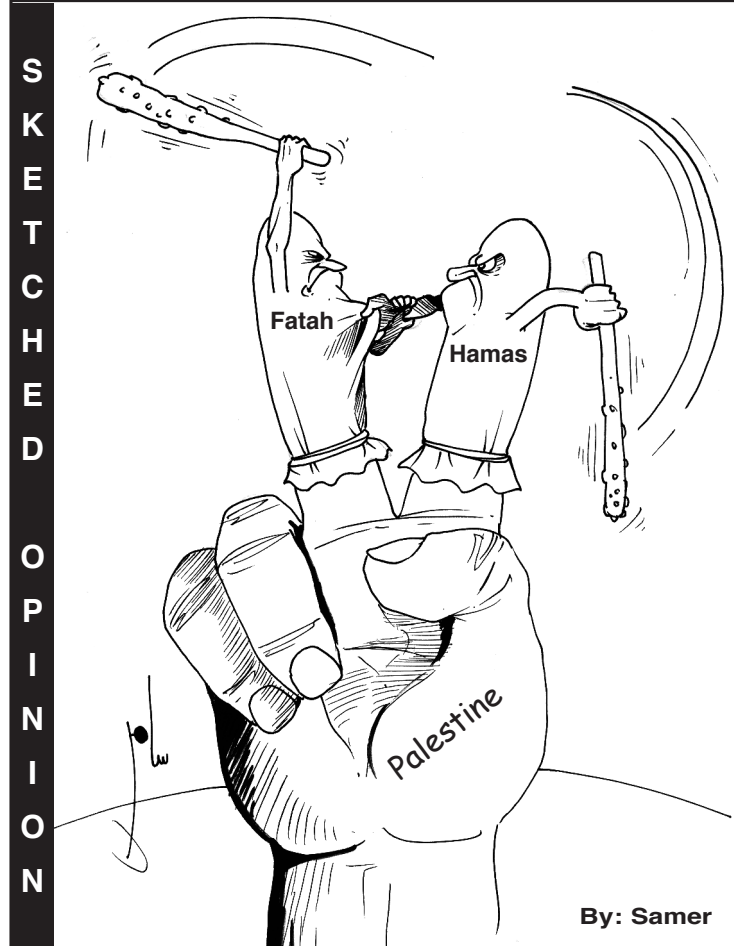
I understand it is fine our kids learn Islamic teachings from their elementary school. Yet, they should not be confused with such hard and debatable questions. It is very dangerous to teach little children that one party is holding the absolute truth and the other is completely wrong and is the beloved of the devil. They grow with such stereotypes that really broaden the scope for hatred and intolerance. They listen to such discourse in school, mosques and even at university. Some helpless and distracted people due to unemployment or other sorts of reasons find in such a discourse a good resort to diffuse their depression. They grow fanatic. The "other" here or there turns into a symbol of evil they have to crack down. The result is the fire and terrorist blasts we see across the region. I understand absence of democracy and repression of authoritarian regimes is one of the key reasons of this situation. However, such one-sided opinion culture that does not recognize individualism and the freedom of thought provides the basis and the best environment for such extremist ideology to grow.

Last week, I went to the book fair running these days in Sana'a. I parked my car at Algeria's street, crowded with many cars. I went in and started searching for interesting books to pick up. I noticed that the fair is pregnant with many religious books and that heavily bearded Salafis were hovering the area, collecting books here and there. The books mostly are about the horror of hell, magic, jugglery and other superstitious stuff. The other sorts of books were limited.

I do not mean the Salafi books must be prohibited or banned. But, at least other sorts of books that cherish life, logical thinking and reasoning, computer and technology at large should be boosted and made available on the same scale. Young people should learn well to have hope and be positive about life and tolerant with the world.

Some of my foreign friends and even readers have expressed concern over the consequences of my vocal articles and my open views about several political and social issues like the article on the chaos of mosque preachers and the use of loudspeakers. I do thank them for their concern. It seems their worry has hit the nail on the head. As I said earlier, when I went out of the book fair premises, I found my car's spare tire and other decorative stuff were stolen during the day and in one of the crowded streets. Two days later, I received three emails from someone I do know in which he implicitly gives warning lessons on why some are defending the rights of the people in the southern governorates. Frankly speaking, I do not blame anybody for the theft but the loose security situation. I did not care to inform the police about it because there will be no fruit out of that as usual. However, if such alarming messages, does it mean we should tone down our rhetoric and make up with wrongdoings? I do not think so. If we soften and make peace with injustice, mistakes will exacerbate and good governance will never be attained. Do not you think so?!

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



By: Samer

YEMEN TIMES

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National Bank Of Yemen



CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR

Reviewer's report to H.E. The Minister of Finance

The National Bank of Yemen Report on the condensed interim financial statement

We have reviewed the accompanying condensed interim financial statements of the National Bank of Yemen (The Bank) which comprise the balance sheet as of 30 September 2007, the related statements of income, cash flows and changes in owners' equity for the period then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes for the condensed interim financial statements.

Management's responsibility for the condensed interim financial statements

The Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these condensed interim financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and related Yemeni laws and regulations. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of condensed interim financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Reviewer's responsibility

Our responsibility is to issue a report on these condensed interim financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with the International Standard on Auditing applicable to review engagements. This Standard requires that we plan and perform the review to

obtain moderate assurance as to whether the condensed interim financial statements are free of material misstatement. A review is limited primarily to inquiries of the Bank's personnel and analytical procedures applied to the financial data and thus provide less assurance than an audit. We have not performed an audit and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Opinion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the accompanying condensed interim financial statements are not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the significant accounting policies used in preparing the condensed interim financial statements described in note 3 to the condensed interim financial statements applied on a consistent basis. We also confirm that the significant accounting policies followed in preparing the condensed interim financial statements are the same as those followed in the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2006 as well as those followed in the full set interim financial statements for the period ended 30 September 2007.

Dahman 

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

25 October 2007,
Aden, Republic of Yemen

BALANCE SHEET As at 30 September 2007

		30 September 2007 YR '000	31 December 2006 YR '000
ASSETS	Note		
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	4	12,268,871	10,112,819
Due from banks	5	25,382,706	24,013,103
Treasury bills, net		32,191,589	28,954,836
Certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen		9,350,000	9,200,000
Loans and advances to customers, net of provision	6	8,284,732	7,092,222
Available for sale investments, net	7	142,712	140,485
Debit balances and other assets		645,100	476,730
Property, plant and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation		1,905,989	1,871,837
TOTAL ASSETS		90,171,699	81,862,032
LIABILITIES AND OWNER'S EQUITY			
LIABILITIES			
Due to banks		51,399	99,598
Customers' deposits		78,121,015	71,666,203
Credit balances and other liabilities		2,045,862	1,682,834
Income tax payable	8	860,111	917,415
TOTAL LIABILITIES		81,078,387	74,366,070
OWNER'S EQUITY			
Capital	9	5,500,000	5,500,000
Surplus on revaluation of property reserve	9	639,762	639,762
Reserves	9	1,336,640	1,336,640
Cumulative changes in the fair value reserve	9	19,560	19,560
Retained Earnings		1,597,350	-
TOTAL OWNER'S EQUITY		9,093,312	7,495,962
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWNER'S EQUITY		90,171,699	81,862,032
CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, net	10	33,927,609	25,089,035

Reviewer's report attached (page 1).

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

Arwa Ali Suleiman Al-Koori Manager Statistic & Research	Sami Abdul Hamid Mackawee First Deputy General Manager	Abdul Rahman Mohammed AlKuhali Chairman and General Manager
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STATEMENT OF INCOME For The Nine Months Ended 30 September 2007

		January/ September 2007 YR '000	January/ September 2006 YR '000
STATEMENT OF INCOME	Note		
OPERATING INCOME			
Interest on loans and advances and due from banks		1,945,412	1,350,051
Interest on treasury bills		3,448,959	3,218,361
Interest on certificates of deposit with the Central Bank of Yemen		1,127,770	645,668
Total interest income		6,522,141	5,214,080
Cost of deposits		(3,469,598)	(3,720,510)
Net interest income		3,052,543	2,493,570
Commissions and fee income on banking services		520,055	383,352
Income on available for sale investments		2,359	884
Gain on foreign currency transactions		53,628	56,603
Other operating income		602,561	276,874
NET OPERATING INCOME		4,235,146	3,211,283

OPERATING EXPENSES

Commissions and fee expenses on banking services		47,994	19,367
General and administration expenses		861,397	675,966
Provisions	11	815,544	537,620
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		1,724,935	1,232,953
NET PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD BEFORE ZAKAT AND INCOME TAX		2,506,211	1,978,330
Provision for Zakat		(48,750)	(26,000)
NET PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD AFTER ZAKAT AND BEFORE INCOME TAX		2,457,461	1,942,330
Provision for income tax	8	(860,111)	(679,816)
NET PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD		1,597,350	1,262,514
Earnings per share	12	YR 290	YR 316

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW For The Nine Months Ended 30 September 2007

	January/ September 2007 YR 000	January/ September 2006 YR 000
Net operating profit before changes in assets and liabilities related to operating activities (1)	1,854,205	1,588,236
Net decrease in assets (2)	(8,079,987)	1,776,046
Net increase in liabilities (3)	6,655,600	9,527,942
Net cash flows (used in) investing activities (4)	(83,495)	(165,957)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents (1+2+3+4)	346,323	12,726,267
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	61,886,479	47,369,509
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 September	62,232,802	60,095,776

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWNER'S EQUITY For The Nine Months Ended 30 September 2007

	Capital YR 000	Revaluation Reserve YR 000	Statutory Reserve YR 000	General Reserve YR 000	Cumulative Changes in Fair Value Reserve YR 000	Net Profit for the Period YR 000	Total YR 000
At 31 December 2005	4,000,000	639,762	305,176	412,881	18,268	-	5,866,087
Net movement in fair value for the year	-	-	-	-	1,292	-	1,292
Net profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	1,703,770	1,703,770
Transfer to statutory reserve	-	-	255,566	-	-	(255,566)	-
Transfer to general reserve	-	-	-	255,566	-	(255,566)	-
Government's share in net profit transferred to capital	1,107,451	-	-	-	-	(1,107,451)	-
Transfer to capital	392,549	-	-	(392,549)	-	-	-
Employees' share in net profit	-	-	-	-	-	(84,187)	(84,187)
At 31 December 2006	5,500,000	639,762	1,060,742	273,898	19,560	-	7,495,962
Net profit for the period	-	-	-	-	-	1,597,350	1,597,350
At 30 September 2007	5,500,000	639,762	1,060,742	273,898	19,560	1,597,350	9,093,312

The Bank's Board of Directors, in its meeting held on 8 January 2005, resolved to comply with the instructions of Central Bank of Yemen in its circular no. 12 dated 8 December 2004 to the banks licensed to operate in the Republic of Yemen to increase their capital to YR 6,000 million beginning from the year 2005 and by the end of 2009. H.E. the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, at that time, accepted the recommendation of the Bank management to start increasing the capital from the Government's share of profit at the end of each year beginning from 2004 as the Board of Directors will decide at each year end.

The Bank's Board of Directors, in its meeting held on 15 April 2007, resolved to increase their capital to YR 10,000 million. H.E. Minister of Finance has approved the increase in the capital. The capital will be raised from the Government's share of profit at the end of each year as the Board of Directors will decide until the amount of the capital reaches YR 10,000 million.

No transfer has been made to the share capital and reserves from the net profit of the period as the same is done at the end of the year.

The attached notes 1 to 18 form an integral part of these condensed interim financial statements

NOTES TO THE CONDENSED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For The Nine Months Ended 30 September 2007

1 INCORPORATION AND ACTIVITIES

The National Bank of Yemen (The Bank), which was incorporated in Aden in 1969, is wholly owned by the Government of Yemen. The Head Office of the Bank is at Queen Arwa Street, P. O. Box no. 5, Crater, Aden, Republic of Yemen and is registered under Registration Number 1748. The Bank undertakes all banking activities through its head office and 28 branches spread all over the Southern and Eastern Governorates and through two branches in Sana'a, one in Hodeidah and Taiz each.

The Bank had 614 employees as on 30 September 2007 (31 December 2006: 629 employees).

2 PREPARATION BASIS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These condensed interim financial statements are prepared in accordance with the International Accounting Standard 34-Interim Financial Reporting issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the interpretations of the Standing Interpretations Committee (SIC) of the IASB, the current local prevailing laws and regulations and the rules and instructions issued by the Central Bank of Yemen.

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

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

The effect of these deviations is immaterial on the condensed interim financial statements of the Bank as on 30 September 2007.

3 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies followed are the same as those followed for the year ended 31 December 2006 as well as those followed in the full set interim financial statements for the period ended 30 September 2007.

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

	30 September 2007 YR '000	31 December 2006 YR '000
Cash in hand:		
In local currency	534,460	346,860
In foreign currencies	421,703	377,678
Cheques purchased, net	14,257	39,753
Total cash in hand	970,420	764,291
Reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen:		
In local currency	4,385,148	3,929,006
In foreign currencies	6,913,393	5,419,522
Total reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	11,298,541	9,348,528
Total cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	12,268,871	10,112,819

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

5 DUE FROM BANKS

Due from the Central Bank of Yemen and other local Current accounts with the Central Bank of Yemen:

In local currency
In foreign currencies
Total current accounts with the Central Bank of Yemen
Current account balances with local banks
Total due from the Central Bank of Yemen and other local banks
Due from foreign banks and other financial institutions
Current and demand account balances
Provision for outstanding reconciling items
Time deposits
Total due from foreign banks and other financial institutions
Total due from banks

Time deposits include:

- An investment linked deposit made with a term to be held for five years and carries a fixed interest rate is indexed to LIBOR and is capped upper and lower barrier. The period of the deposit is five years.
- An investment linked deposit made with a term to be held for four years and carries fixed 4.00% for year three and 4.50% for year four to June 2008.

6 LOANS AND ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS

Loans and advances to customers in private sector:

Overdraft facilities
Short term loans
Commercial papers discounted
Total loans and advances to customers in private sector
Provision for losses on non performing loans and advances
Suspended interest (note 9-b)
Total provision for losses on non performing loans and advances
Net loans and advances to customers

Gross non performing loans and advances at 30 September 2006: YR 2,040,318 thousand). The Bank has provided for losses on non performing loans and advances at 30 September 2007: YR 1,682,834 thousand).

Substandard debts
Doubtful debts
Bad debts

Total gross non performing loans and advances

6-a Provision for losses on non performing loans

In accordance with Article 85 of the Banks Law no. 38 of 1998 and Article 9 - (j) of the Income Tax Law no. 31 of 1999, any provision for losses on loans and advances to customers in private sector, are not deductible from the Central Bank of Yemen in this respect, are not allowable as a deduction in arriving at the taxable income.

Details of movements in the provision for possible losses on non performing loans and advances are as follows:

	Specific YR '000	General YR '000
Balance at 1 January	1,573,179	63,857
Revaluation of opening balance in foreign currencies	2,704	77
Amount utilized during the period/ year.	(2,758)	-
Adjusted opening balance	1,573,125	63,934
Amounts recovered of loans previously written off	(546,575)	(12,005)
Provision for the period/ year (note 11)	646,504	65,075
Charged to the income statement	99,929	53,070
Balance at end of period/year	1,673,054	117,004

Management has decided to provide for the general provision for losses on non performing loans and advances including watch loans at the rate of 2% (2006: 2%).

6-b Suspended interest

This represents interest on non-performing loans and advances in accordance with the provisions of the Yemeni regulations and which is recognised as revenue when the loans are repaid.

Balance at 1 January	
Exchange differences	
Amounts written-off during the period/ year	
Recovered during the period/ year	
Suspended during the period/ year	
Balance at end of period/ year	

7 AVAILABLE FOR SALE INVESTMENTS

These comprise investments, available for sale, in the form of equity securities and debt securities.

Unquoted investments in UBAF Group:
UBAF - Curacao - A Shares of US \$ 1 each
UBAF - Curacao - B Shares of US \$ 1 each
UBAF - Curacao - C Shares of US \$ 1 each
Total investment in shares in UBAF Group

Other unquoted investments:
Arab Banking Group - Bahrain
Arab Financial Services Company- Bahrain (note 7-a)
Yemen Financial Services Company- Yemen (note 7-b)
Yemen Mobile Company for Telecommunication- Yemen (note 7-c)

Total other unquoted investments
Total available for sale investments
Provision for impairment (note 7-d)
Net book value of investments available for sale

7-a Arab Financial Services Company - Bahrain

The fair value of the investment in Arab Financial Services Company is per the latest audited financial statement (2006: US\$ 9.94 per share (2006: US\$ 9.94 per share).



البنك الأهلي اليمني

FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

	30 September 2007 YR '000	31 December 2006 YR '000
al banks	1,123,053	1,400,300
nk of Yemen	179,258	351,246
ther local banks	1,302,311	1,751,546
tions	1,974	1,974
	1,304,285	1,753,520
	2,883,362	2,480,384
	(25,123)	(24,602)
	21,220,184	19,803,801
ial institutions	24,078,421	22,259,583
	25,382,706	24,013,103

foreign bank for US \$2,000,000 (YR 398,140 thousand) ed interest rate of 5.50 % for the period. However the ulated based on a predetermined formula which has an deposit is from 29 April 2004 to 29 April 2009.

foreign bank for US \$2,000,000 (YR 398,140 thousand) interest rates of 2.50% for year one, 3.25% for year two, ur. The period of the deposit is from 16 June 2004 to 16

TERS, net of provision

	30 September 2007 YR '000	31 December 2006 YR '000
	6,009,845	5,415,766
	4,144,624	3,325,186
	-	41,687
ivate sector	10,154,469	8,782,639
advances (note 9 - a)	(1,790,058)	(1,637,036)
	(79,679)	(53,381)
as and advances and	(1,869,737)	(1,690,417)
ers	8,284,732	7,092,222

eptember 2007 amounted to YR 2,408,410 thousand (31 up of the same is as follows:

	30 September 2007 YR '000	31 December 2006 YR '000
	427,430	310,140
	598,244	279,994
	1,382,736	1,450,184
advances	2,408,410	2,040,318

and advances

of 1998, which came into effect on 27 December, 1998, 1991 as amended by Republican Decree Law no. 12 of made by a bank in compliance with the regulations of object to the provisions of any income tax law and are ome.

losses on loans and advances during the year were as

ber 2007-----	-----31 December 2006-----
Total YR '000	Specific YR '000
1,637,036	1,281,167

2,781	9,046	421	9,467
(2,758)	(1,025)	-	(1,025)
1,637,039	1,289,188	64,980	1,354,168

(558,580)	(556,694)	(14,191)	(570,885)
-----------	-----------	----------	-----------

711,579	840,689	13,068	853,753
---------	---------	--------	---------

152,999	283,991	(1,123)	282,868
---------	---------	---------	---------

1,790,058	1,573,179	63,857	1,637,036
-----------	-----------	--------	-----------

al provision for performing loans and contingencies

and advances in accordance with the Central Bank of e only when collected.

	30 September 2007 YR '000	31 December 2006 YR '000
	53,381	36,320
	15	1,287
	(-)	(307)
	(288)	(842)
	26,571	16,923
	79,679	53,381

TS, NET

e following Banks and financial institution:

Ownership Percentage	No. of shares of US\$ 1 each	September 2007 YR '000	31 December 2006 YR '000
0.788	1,497,200	17,982	17,982
0.783	234,650	2,818	2,818
1.371	328,250	6,244	6,244
	2,260,100	27,144	27,144

0.344	2,067	2,067
-------	-------	-------

0.167	19,732	19,732
-------	--------	--------

10.000	61,780	59,553
--------	--------	--------

0.139	61,200	61,200
-------	--------	--------

	144,779	142,552
	171,923	169,696
	(29,211)	(29,211)
	142,712	140,485

Services Company – Bahrain is based on the book value of i.e. for the year ended 31 December 2005) of the Company 9.94 per share).

7-b Yemen Financial Services Company - Yemen

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

7-c Yemen Mobile Company for Telecommunication - Yemen

The Bank has purchased 120,000 shares of YR 500 each for a sum of YR 60,000,000 of Yemen Mobile Company for Telecommunication (Yemen Shareholding Company). The total share capital of this Company is YR 43,262 million. The Bank paid YR 1,200,000 as acquisition costs which has been added to cost in accordance with International Accounting Standard 39 - Financial Instrument - Recognition and Measurement.

7-d Provision for impairment

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

8 INCOME TAX PAYABLE

	30 September 2007 YR '000	31 December 2006 YR '000
Amounts due to the Tax Authority	917,415	704,870
Balance at 1 January	860,111	917,415
Charged for the period/ year in the Statement of Income (note 8 - a)	1,777,526	1,622,285
Total amounts due to the Tax Authority	(917,415)	(704,870)
Amount paid during the period/ year	860,111	917,415
Total income tax payable		

8-a Charge for the period

The charge for the period has been calculated on the basis of the net profit for the period. It has been calculated at 35 % of the net profit of the period.

8-b Prior year tax assessments

The Bank received on 19 May 2007 the final tax clearance for the income tax liability for the financial year ended 31 December 2006.

9 OWNER'S EQUITY

9-a Authorized capital

The authorized share capital amounting YR 10,000 million (2006: YR 6,000 million) consists of 10,000 thousand shares of YR 1,000 par value each (2006: of 6,000 thousand shares of YR 1,000 par value each).

9-b Declared and paid up capital

The paid up share capital amounting YR 5,500 million (2006: YR 5,500 million) consists of 5,500 thousand shares of YR 1,000 par value each (2006: 5,500 thousand shares of YR 1,000 par value each).

9-c Net profit distribution

In accordance with the provisions of the Public Corporations and Establishments Law no. 35 of 1994, the net profit of the Bank shall be allocated as follows:

- 15% to statutory reserve;
- 15% to general reserve;
- 65% to the Government for its share of profits;
- 2% to employee's incentives; and
- 3% to employees' social fund.

9-d Surplus on revaluation property reserve

The difference between the revalued amounts of the freehold land and the buildings and their net book value as at 31 December, 1999 has been credited to the above account and included in owner's equity.

9-e Cumulative changes in fair value reserve

In accordance with the provisions of IAS 39 Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement, the differences between the fair values and the book values of the 'available for sale' investments are recognized in the cumulative changes in fair value until they are sold, collected, disposed off, or until they are determined to be impaired, at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognized is included in the statement of income.

10 CONTRA ACCOUNTS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS, net

As at 30 September 2007	Gross Commitments YR '000	Covered by margin YR '000	Net commitments YR '000
-------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------

Commitments on behalf of customers for which there were corresponding liabilities by the customers concerned:

Documentary letters of credit	27,610,508	8,853,153	18,757,355
Letters of guarantees – customers	6,082,965	1,549,050	4,533,915
Letters of guarantees - correspondent banks	9,278,470	-	9,278,470
Customers' acceptances	1,259,521	-	1,259,521
Credit cards	63,503	14,726	48,777
Cheques purchased	58,319	8,748	49,571
Total contra accounts and other commitments	44,353,286	10,425,677	33,927,609

As at 31 December 2006

	Gross Commitments YR '000	Covered by margin YR '000	Net commitments YR '000
Commitments on behalf of customers for which there were corresponding liabilities by the customers concerned:			
Documentary letters of credit	12,651,967	2,193,462	10,458,505
Letters of guarantees – customers	6,232,978	1,185,708	5,047,270
Letters of guarantees - correspondent banks	8,138,189	-	8,138,189
Customers' acceptances	1,406,193	-	1,406,193
Credit cards	53,598	14,720	38,878
Total contra accounts and other commitments	28,482,925	3,393,890	25,089,035

11 PROVISIONS

	January/ September 2007 YR '000	January/ September 2006 YR '000
Provision for losses on loans and advances (note 6 -a)	711,579	426,605
Provision for off-balance sheet items	103,861	100,165
Other provision	104	10,850
Total provisions	815,544	537,620

12 EARNINGS PER SHARE

	January/ September 2007 YR '000	January/ September 2006 YR '000
Net profit for the period	1,597,350	1,262,514
Number of shares	5,500,000	4,000,000
Earnings per share	YR 290	YR 316

13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

	30 September 2007 YR '000	31 December 2006 YR '000
Board members and parties related to them:		
Loans and advances, gross	3,067	4,914
Customers' deposits	9,997	6,192

Board members and parties related to them:

	January/ September 2007 8	January/ September 2006 209
Interest income for the period		188
Interest expense for the period	305	

14 MATURITIES OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As at 30 September 2007	Less than 3 months YR '000	From 3 to 6 months YR '000	From 6 months to 1 year YR '000	Over 1 year YR '000	Total YR '000
ASSETS					
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	12,268,871	-	-	-	12,268,871
Due from banks	21,852,205	2,269,395	406,100	855,006	25,382,706
Treasury bills, net	30,060,177	-	2,131,412	-	32,191,589
Certificates of deposit with CBY	9,350,000	-	-	-	9,350,000
Loans and advances to customers, net of provision	1,346,481	802,026	1,244,759	4,891,466	8,284,732
Available for sale Investments, net	-	-	-	142,712	142,712
Total assets	74,877,734	3,071,421	3,782,271	5,889,184	87,620,610
LIABILITIES					
Due to banks	51,399	-	-	-	51,399
Customers' deposits	42,515,398	12,063,850	22,123,264	1,418,503	78,121,015
Total liabilities	42,566,797	12,063,850	22,123,264	1,418,503	78,172,414

As at 31 December 2006	Less than 3 months YR '000	From 3 to 6 months YR '000	From 6 months to 1 year YR '000	Over 1 year YR '000	Total YR '000
ASSETS					
Cash in hand and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Yemen	10,112,819	-	-	-	10,112,819
Due from banks	22,967,352	-	-	1,045,751	24,013,103
Treasury bills, net	28,954,836	-	-	-	28,954,836
Certificates of deposit with CBY	9,200,000	-	-	-	9,200,000
Loans and advances to customers, net of provision	1,696,691	482,742	1,956,461	2,956,328	7,092,222
Available for sale Investments, net	-	-	-	140,485	140,485
Total assets	72,931,698	482,742	1,956,461	4,142,564	79,513,465
LIABILITIES					
Due to banks	99,598	-	-	-	99,598
Customers' deposits	47,554,119	7,656,869	16,377,365	77,850	71,666,203
Total liabilities	47,653,717	7,656,869	16,377,365	77,850	71,765,801

15 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The Bank has filed a number of legal cases with the Public Fund Court and the Commercial Preliminary Court against former employees and customers of the Bank relating to irregularities and default in settlements of amounts due respectively. Where there are legal cases filed against the Bank at the respective courts, management fully and/or partly provided for such cases in the financial statements. In some of the cases, although court decisions were made in favour of the Bank, their executions have not been effected, whereas the other cases are still pending in the courts.

16 SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN CURRENCIES' POSITIONS

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

	30 September 2007 %	YR '000	31 December 2006 %	YR '000
United States Dollar	12.70	949,763	11.80	882,972
Pound Sterling	3.70	277,772	3.00	228,426
Euro	2.20	164,802	2.00	150,858
Saudi Riyal	0.60	45,653	1.60	123,244
Swiss Franc	0.20	13,963	0.10	5,209
Japan Yen	0.10	4,647	0.10	1,350
United Arab Emirates Dirham	0.00	(814)	0.10	8,330
Other	0.00	15	0.00	13
Aggregate foreign currency positions	19.40	1,455,803	18.70	1,400,402

The dollar exchange rate at 30 September 2007 was 199.07 YR/USD (31 December 2006: 198.51 YR/USD).

17 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

Capital commitments at 30 September 2007 amounted to YR 34 million (31 December 2006: YR 65 million).

18 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

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

National Bank Of Yemen

البنك الأهلي اليمني



Trust & Experience الخبرة والثقة

Yemen Press Review



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, November 1

Top Stories

- President Saleh inaugurates service and industrial projects in Aden, Lahj at a cost of YR 23.5 billion
- Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council to hold meeting on November 13
- Military servants get their increase of new wage strategy's second phase with October's salary
- Government stay in full alert to deal with any hurricane to erupt in Al-Mahrah province
- USAID praises President Saleh's initiative

The head of the delegation of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Sui Nelson praised, during her meeting with the undersecretary of youth and sports minister Muammer al-Eryani on Tuesday, the president's initiative including the allocation of 15 percent of the Parliament and Shoura councils' seats for women, the army's organ reported. It added that Al-Eryani briefed the delegation on the role of the CSOs in areas of development and democracy, pointing out that the government gave organizations a lot of opportunities to participate in social, cultural and economic development. He also commended the USAID's efforts to enhance the organizations' role in the country.

He touched on the president's last initiative that aims at improving the political system in the country, which asserted the importance of involving all CSOs in the processes of development and reforms. Nelson,

who visits Yemen currently to evaluate the CSOs' role in improving institutional work and political reforms in Yemen, lauded the role they play in the political reform process here, as well as their support for women and youth, pointing out to the unique democratic experience in Yemen.



Al-Wasat Comprehensive Independent Political Weekly
Wednesday, October 31

Top stories

- Authorities insult people, fuel Sa'ada events, says Abdulmalik Al-Houthi
- Taiz locals demonstrate in Dhamar, assemble at Al-Jawf governorate premises
- MP Al-Same'i to Al-Wasat: Ruling party's statements imply threats to kill me
- Exchange of accusations culminates President Saleh's meeting with Joint Meeting Parties
- Millions of dollars wasted in oil sector amid poor monitoring
- Government halts Nuclear Reactors Agreement, Anti-Corruption Authority insists on investigating Electricity Minister

According to the independent weekly, Yemeni government officially halted the preliminary agreement, which was already signed by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and the American Power Corporation for building five nuclear reactors at a total cost of \$ 15 billion in Yemen over ten years to come. Taken by the government on Tuesday, such a decision came following a letter addressed by the Supreme Anti-

Corruption Authority to Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar, demanding him to immediately halt all the procedures incurring any government's commitment to the agreement terms.

The authority also asked Mujawar to cancel any obligations on the government regarding its participation in conducting a feasibility study on economic, environmental and technical aspects until it verifies authenticity of the matter. It also demanded the official, through its letter, to provide it with the agreement file and verify authenticity of press reports criticizing the agreement, and stressed the necessity of investigating the Ministry of Electricity & Energy over the deal.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)
Tuesday, October 30

Top stories

- Those who mismanage the country are responsible for damaging national unity, said JMP leader Abdulwahab Al-Anisi
- Supreme Anti-Corruption Authority suspends nuclear electricity agreement
- Huge fire destroys judicial building in Hodeida city
- JMP denounces harassments against Aljazeera team in Hadramout
- Houthis accuse army of striking several areas in Sa'ada, injuring many people
- U.S. authorities enraged about release of terror suspect, threaten to levy sanctions on Yemeni government

According to an Associated Press's report, the United States is reconsidering some aid to Mideast ally Yemen after the reported release of a convicted leader in the fatal terror bombing of a U.S. warship, the newspaper said. Yemen scrambled Monday to say the suspect is in custody. State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack said the United States is raising the case of Jamal Al-Badawi with Yemen. "This was someone who was implicated in the Cole bombing and someone who can't be running free," he said. "He needs to be in jail." Separately, the Millennium Challenge Corp., a U.S. agency that distributes foreign aid based on nations' track records for good government, canceled a ceremony set for Wednesday to inaugurate a \$20.6 million grant to Yemen.



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress (ruling party)
Monday, October 29

Top Stories

- GPC resumes dialogue with Joint Meeting Parties on Wednesday
- Legal Affairs Ministry amends banking and judicial laws, enacts new insurance law
- Paris Institute pledges to retune migrant antiquities to Yemen
- Civil Service Ministry receives payrolls for salary increases of the wage strategy's second phase
- President Saleh stresses importance of educated people's role in confronting enemies of unity.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh stressed importance of the role of educated people, writers and

politicians in bravely confronting the malicious attempts made by enemies of the national unity, the newspaper reported. Upon his reception at 22 May Palace in the economic and commercial capital city of Aden in the company of Vice-President Abdurabbu Mansour Hadi at the Yemeni Literature Festival, Saleh said, "Yemeni Artists and Writers Union is one of the leading and frontline civil community organizations in increasing cultural awareness among citizens."

"We highly appreciate the kind feelings of artists and their enthusiasm to spread the culture of unity and planting it in the souls of those who never knew what was happening while the country was divided into two parts," Saleh added. "You the artists and writers have a great mission and national duty, which are dually represented in spreading the unity culture among youths. The unity did much for us. It fostered security, safety and stability and enhanced national development while the social interests got interrelated and this undoubtedly accompanies what is great. Everyone must remain committed to defending the national unity and fixing its concepts inside our society."



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, November 1

Top Stories

- Yemeni students in Malaysia to start mass strike at their government's embassy in Kuala Lumpur
- Director of Ghamr District escapes assassination attempt
- Sana'a University Teaching Staff to resume protests in two weeks

now

- Yemeni journalists declare a Sana'a-based alliance to fight corruption
- JMP concerned about investigations into bloody events

The weekly paper reported that the branch of Joint Meeting Parties JMP in Al-Dhale province expressed concerns over investigations into the bloody events that happened in September 10 and left two people dead and seven wounded. The parties noted defense-advocates of the victims were prevented from getting acquainted with the case details in order to follow the necessary legal steps. The JMP said the concerned authorities on the case are trying to fake facts and fabricate accusations to dissolve the case under the law.

The statement of the JMP issued on Tuesday demanded the public prosecution to be partial during investigations and asked to arrest murderers. In addition it demanded to enable the families of the two killed persons to practice their legal right represented in getting acquainted with the details of the case. The families have the right to provide all evidence in relation to the case, the statement said. The statement spoke to the JMP fans, civil society organizations and social figures supporting the families to bolster the case and invited them to attend a ceremony for the martyrs of peaceful struggle to be held on Thursday at Al-Samood square.

The JMP emphasized his solidarity with the families of martyrs and wounded persons due to peaceful struggle in Radfan, Hadramout and other province in Yemen. It asked the government to release all arrested persons, primarily Hassan Ba-oom and Nasser Al-Nouba. In addition the JMP expressed solidarity with the families of those killed or wounded in the bloody events at the Al-Habilain stadium on October 13.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Oxfam, an international NGO, works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering. It is working in Yemen since 1983. Oxfam announces a vacancy for the post of Advocacy & Media Officer, for its project "Good Governance in the Implementation and Monitoring of the third Five-Year Plan" which is funded by the Dutch Cooperation.

Project Name: Good Governance

Job Title: Advocacy Officer

The role

- Coordination with the Governance Project Manager and project team in developing & implementing the advocacy and media strategy for the Project.
- Interaction, communication and coordination with relevant stakeholders.
- Promote partnership between project, project partners and media
- Capacitate, support and advise project partners in relation to advocacy, media & communications work
- Documentation of project experiences

Qualifications

- University degree level in social sciences or related field.
- Minimum of 3 years experience in working in the fields of advocacy, media & communications. Working experience with an international organization is an added advantage.
- An understanding of and experience of working in the development sector, and sensitivity towards poverty and gender equity issues
- Demonstrated analytical and strategic planning skills
- Ability to work with others and as part of the team
- Fluency in Arabic and English
- Computer knowledge
- Willingness and fitness to travel for sustained periods of time

To apply

Please send a copy of your CV clearly stating in your covering letter the job you are applying for, to the following:

The Country Program Manager, Oxfam GB Yemen
P.O. Box 1045, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen,
Fax no: 01 445 650 OR Email: yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk

The Deadline for receiving applications is 14th November 2007

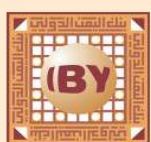
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Sheraton

Belong

Three-tier screening process can stop HIV contamination, doctors say

By: Robert Drapper
For Yemen Times

In the past, blood transfusions in Yemen were plagued by poor screening, and as a result, patients were infected with HIV. However, a new three-tier screening process comprised of the ELISA test, the Western blot and the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test has changed the way blood transfusions are handled in Yemen.

ELISA machines test blood samples for HIV, Habituates B, C and other infectious diseases. "It's very sensitive to infectious disease," says Dr. Arwa Ahmed Awn, a Ph.D. in hematology, and blood transfusion and general director of Yemen's National Blood Transfusion and Research Center. Hematology is the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases of the blood and bone

marrow as well as blood clotting and vascular systems. "Because of the nature of blood, the science of hematology profoundly affects the understanding of many diseases," like HIV according to Webster's New World Medical Dictionary.

"Now every unit of blood is screened," says Dr. Sa'eed Al-Sheibani, assistant professor at Sana'a University and general manager of Yemen's National Center of Public Health Laboratories. "If blood tests HIV-positive with the ELISA test, next is the Western blot and then the PCR," Al-Sheibani explains.

The Western blot is the second step in confirming a positive HIV test confirmed by ELISA. According to registered nurse and HIV/AIDS specialist Mark Cichocki, "Western blot is a test for specific antibodies to confirm repeatedly reactive results of the HIV ELISA or EIA test."

Once a blood sample has been subjected to the Western blot test, the sample will be either positive or negative. "A positive Western blot confirms HIV infection," Cichocki explains. Next, is the PCR test, which tests for the (RNA) Ribonucleic Acid, of the HIV virus. RNA is a nucleic acid molecule similar to

DNA but containing ribose rather than deoxyribose. RNA is formed upon a DNA template.

According to Medicine.net, "The PCR test is 100 percent effective. There's no way you can get a negative result," because the actual building blocks of the HIV virus are searched and confirmed in the blood sample provided. "PCR is a key technique in molecular genetics permitting analysis of any short sequence of DNA (or RNA) without having to clone it."

Yemeni truck driver Mohammed

Akhmed, 26, is one of many who donate blood "because I want to give to patients," he says, believing that God will bless him for it. His friend, 29-year-old soldier Khalid Saad Al-Jaef, shares his sentiments in receiving blessing from God. "The person who receives my blood is my friend," Al-Jaef says.

It's loving, caring blood donors like these who "give only for the blessing. They don't give for money," says Dr. Ismail Akhmed Al-Radamy, "They think that if they give blood to patients, Allah will bless them." It's this blessing and others like it that will be subjected to the ELISA test, which is mandatory.

Not all blood donations are subjected to the three-tier screening process. If a blood sample tests negative for HIV in the ELISA test, then no other test is needed. Only those ELISA tests that are HIV-

positive are subjected to the Western blot and PCR test. Most blood that's HIV-positive is contaminated with the "SEARO HIV strand, which comes from different parts of Africa," Dr. Sa'eed Al-Sheibani explains.

"It's very rare that we get positive results," from donor cases, Al-Sheibani explains, "approximately 10 cases annually," he says, noting that the public health lab receives approximately 60 donors each day.

All blood confirmed to be HIV-positive is associated with identification information specific to that donor. In the rare case that a donor at the public health lab tests positive for HIV, his or her information packet is sent directly to Al-Sheibani. "We then take them (the HIV-positive individual) to a committee, which educates them (him/her) about HIV," Al-Sheibani explains.

HIV positive blood that's screened via the three-step process either is thrown away or used for scientific purposes.

"We deep-freeze the HIV-positive sample, storing it with the serial number, examination date and type of test. We keep the sample for research purposes or to test new procedures or diseases," explains Dr. Abdullah Al-Hababi, who holds a master's in virology.

Finally, when it's time to dispose completely of HIV-infected blood, such biological waste and medical laboratory products are placed into an autoclave machine to sterilize them before incineration.

According to Dr. Al-Aiman Adel, it's this rigorous screening process that confirms HIV-infected blood and prevents some 20 cases of patients receiving blood transfusions monthly from becoming infected with HIV.

Be thin to cut cancer, study says

Even those who are not overweight should slim down if they want to cut their risk of cancer, a major international study has claimed.

The World Cancer Research Fund carried out the largest ever inquiry into lifestyle and cancer, and issued several stark recommendations.

They include not gaining weight as an adult, avoiding sugary drinks and alcohol, and not eating bacon or ham.

Everyone must also aim to be as thin as possible without becoming underweight.

People with a Body Mass Index (BMI), a calculation which takes into account height and weight, of between 18.5 and 25, are deemed to be within a "healthy" weight range.

But the study says their risk increases as they head towards the 25 mark, and that everyone should try to be as close to the lower end as possible.

There is no new research involved in this document: the panel examined

7,000 existing studies over five years.

The result, they say, is the most comprehensive investigation ever into the risks of certain lifestyle choices.

Recommendations Include:

- Limit red meat
- Limit alcohol
- Avoid bacon, ham, and other processed meats
- No sugary drinks
- No weight gain after 21
- Exercise every day
- Breastfeed children

Do not take dietary supplements to cut cancer. They see body fat as a key factor in the development of cancer, estimating its significance to be much higher than previously thought.

The report's authors say they have produced a list of recommendations, not "commandments".

Alcohol, red meat and bacon in moderation will do us no harm, and to suggest it will is wrong

Karol Sikora
Cancer specialist

"But if people are interested in reducing their cancer risk, then following the recommendations is the way to do it," said Professor Martin Wiseman.

"Cancer is not a fate, it is a matter of risk, and you can adjust those risks by how you behave. It is very important that people feel that they are in control of what they do."

Making cuts

However, two-thirds of cancer cases are not thought to be related to lifestyle, and there is little people can do to prevent the disease in these circumstances.

Read The Findings

Most computers will open this document automatically, but you may

need Adobe Reader. Nevertheless, more than three million of the 10 million cases of cancer which are diagnosed across the world each year could be prevented if the recommendations were followed, Professor Wiseman indicated.

In the UK alone, there are 200,000 new cases of cancer each year.

Cancers of the colon and breast are some of the most common forms of the disease, and the report says the evidence is "convincing" that body fat plays a key role in the development of these tumours.

The report also links the kind of food consumed to cancers, especially colorectal ones.

In particular, researchers say people should stop eating processed meats, such as ham, bacon and salami, and limit the consumption of red meat to 500g a week - although this still means you could eat, for instance, five hamburgers each week.

From a cancer perspective, all alcohol should be avoided, although

Cancer is not a fate, it is a matter of risk, and you can adjust those risks by how you behave. It is very important that people feel that they are in control of what they do

Professor Martin Wiseman
Report author

researchers accepted drinking small amounts could have protective benefits for other diseases.

The recommendation is therefore no more than two drinks a day for a man, and no more than one for a woman, slightly less than current UK government guidelines.

Sugary drinks meanwhile should be avoided, as these make you fat, and fruit juice consumption should also be reduced.

The report is also the first to urge breastfeeding as a means to protect against cancer, arguing that it may reduce breast cancer in the mother and prevent obesity in the child - although this has not been proven.

Cancer specialist Professor Karol Sikora said: "The educational message for the public should be that there are healthy diets and unhealthy diets but we should keep everything in perspective and not suggest rigid avoidance.

"Alcohol, red meat and bacon in moderation will do us no harm, and to suggest it will is wrong."

Antonia Dean, a specialist at Breast Cancer Care, said: "it is notoriously difficult to examine the potential role of diets or other lifestyle factors on breast cancer, as it is hard to isolate specific influences or establish how they might interact with each other.

"It is important that women keep the report findings in perspective - after gender, the highest known risk factor in relation to breast cancer is age, with 80 per cent of cases occurring in women over the age of 50."

Story from BBC NEWS.

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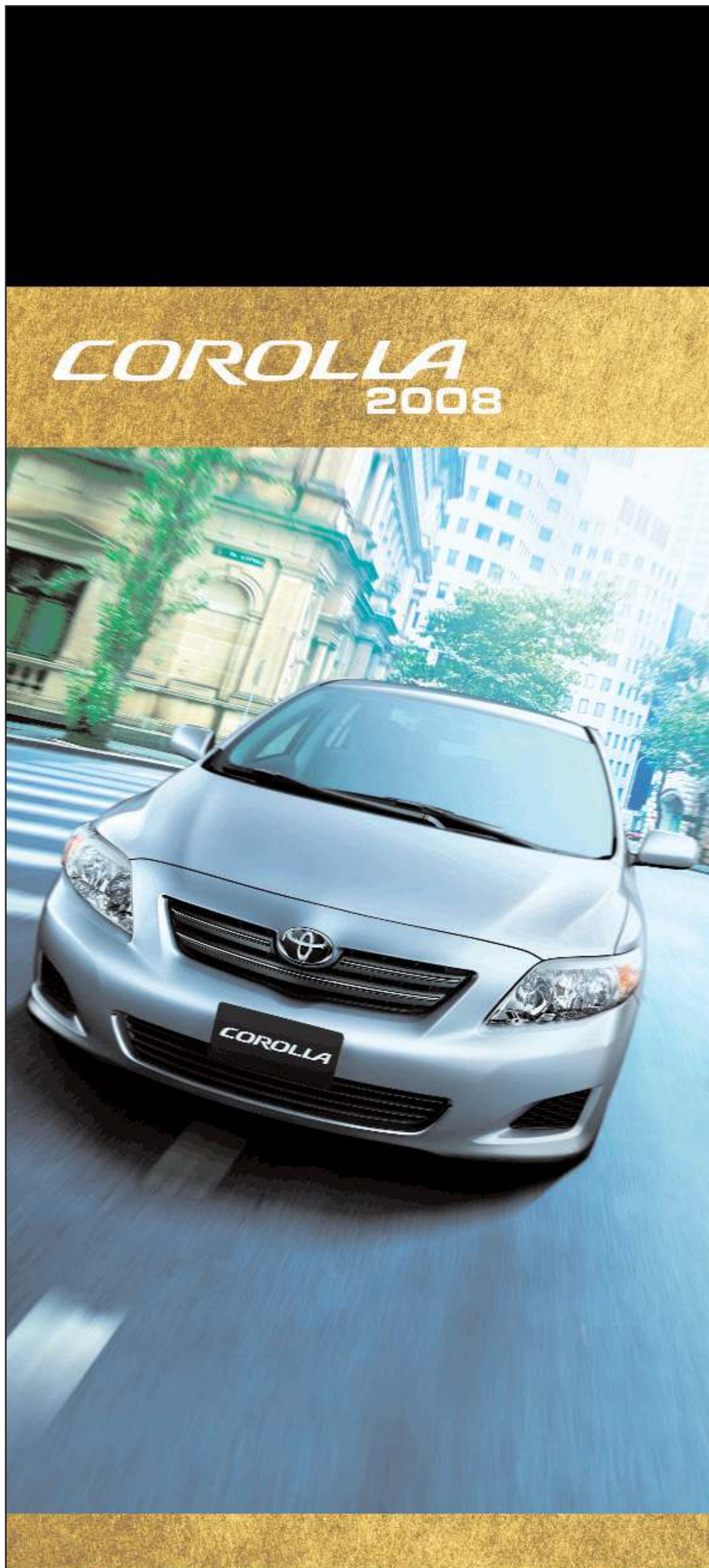
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Zabid Heritage City at risk

Much attention has been neglected toward Zabid's heritage since its registry on the World Heritage List in 1993. *Ismail Al-Ghabri* interviews with Dr Abdullah Zaid Issa, chairman of Yemen's General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities, to shed more light on the problem.

The historic city of Zabid's problems began to become aggravated four years ago and eventually have worsened. Although the city has been on the World Heritage List since 1993, it has been neglected since that time.

Issa admits that, like any community, social and economic change constantly pressure Zabid. "Citizens own property, including land and houses, within city borders and its surrounding areas. However, development and defamation haven't matched up with Zabid's significance in recent times. As the organization in charge of the city site, we found the situation problematic, so we paid several visits. We attempted to spare no effort to support the city," he explains.

According to him, the situation involves two main problems, the first of which is lack of funding preventing the preservation organization from being able to secure competent personnel required to deal with Zabid's problems.

"We desire support, as well as qualified and experienced individuals working round the clock, but such people demand high salaries, automobiles and accommodations and our organization has a limited budget. We sought to compel the Ministry of Finance to provide us a sufficient budget, but our attempts were futile," Issa laments.

The second major problem is that there's no cooperation on the ground. "Citizens think our organization is responsible for preserving the city, while they as onlookers commit violations, for which our organization is accountable. This is a daunting problem," he notes.

"We attempted to establish a local council to preserve the city, chaired by

the district's director, as well as executive officers. It was activated but unfortunately, it was unsuccessful due to lack of support in addition to the personal interests of narrow-minded individuals. Unfortunately, some powerful figures turn a blind eye toward new developments constructed of blocks and concrete."

He continues, "I don't deny that there are pressures from the public. People have become desperate as 10 years have slipped by without doing anything to preserve the city. Preservation is simply talk for consumption. Officials visit the city and release statements, but they don't follow up or do anything for it."

Issa maintains that over the past three years, he personally has spared no effort in order to do something for the city. "We did very simple things, but we didn't find anything done on the ground by executive parties within Zabid. There were some difficulties controlling new developments occurring within the city."

He continued, "I considered inviting an international organization to make a loan or a grant to Yemen. I had two approaches: either find an international organization to fund the city sufficiently to eliminate its financial problems or report the situation to higher authorities, so that's what I did, reporting to the Yemeni Cabinet.

"However, I discovered that even if the minister of culture wanted to cooperate with me, he wouldn't do anything because he's in charge of a ministry with its own problems. I told them that the situation is critical. I also informed them about the last meeting of the World Heritage Council, as well as that of the committee deployed by UNESCO. I reported on the findings of that commit-



DR Abdullah zid ayssa Chairman of general organization for the preservation of historic cities

tee, which granted us two years to prove that there is serious action on the ground," he explained.

The preservation organization now is controlling violations and preventing new developments from being built, as well as removing previous violations. "For the past two or three years, we've been working to prepare an area for future development based on necessary conditions. We now have a layout and are awaiting its implementation. We received directives from the prime minister, but they haven't been implemented yet.

"This is our real problem. Our laws and regulations are the best in the world but unfortunately, far from executive reality. Yemeni laws don't scare anyone; rather, they are a method to extort and a justification for parasitic individuals," he asserts.

Furthermore, he continued, "We face a real problem, which is following up land and applying laws. This is the pivotal key. I reported to the Cabinet on this issue and now the minister of culture is preparing a report on tasks appointed to every ministry to do their role based on the idea that responsibility is mutual."

Political action may solve the problem
Issa believes there must be political action regarding preserving cultural heritage. "Unfortunately, our organization receives the lowest budget. Of course,

there are priorities, but cultural heritage is as important as oil – the point is how to exploit it. If we want to preserve our heritage, the preservation organization should have a stronger position than the current situation," he maintains.

"When the organization was an executive office to protect the Old City of Sana'a, it was connected to the prime minister. However, when it was appointed to preserve historic cities, it became more important. It was connected to the minister of culture through whom we can reach the prime minister," he adds.

Issa says international support is very important for Zabid. "When a site is listed on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Center, UNESCO and the World Heritage Organization all support it. It also encourages donors to fund and contribute to preserving that site. I depend on this in conducting a campaign for Zabid."

He continued, "I pressured [German development group] GTZ and Yemen's Social Fund for Development through several meetings, telling them that if they want to preserve something, they should head to Zabid because it faces many problems. Subsequently, GTZ has opened a regional office in Zabid similar to the office in Shibam Hadramout."

Issa further explains, "What we want now is to take control of the land because the money and technical staff already are there. We request the governor and the executive officers to cooperate with us to control the situation. If these two parties are able to do this, the battle is won."

"Local residents also should have a vital role in this regard followed by the state, which makes decisions.

"Outsiders don't care about the city as much as local residents and the state. They won't help us when owners themselves commit acts of sabotage. The authority should take severe action against such violators, who are local residents and powerful figures in the area. They have a vested interest. We also should take a strong stand to resolve such problems," he concludes.

According to Issa, his preservation organization needs researchers, economists and social experts to offer their

help. "It's not easy dealing with an existing city where people live and suffer daily problems such as population growth and other social and economic problems," he notes.

"We're now on the right track, but we need more interaction from higher leadership to control the situation. We also need sufficient financial resources because that bodes well," he adds.

Islamic architecture awards

Every three years, two prizes are awarded for Islamic architecture. Yemen submitted two projects: the restoration of Al-Amariah School and the rehabilitation of the city of Shibam Hadramout.

Issa explains, "As I've already said, international support plays a vital role in this regard; political action was strong as well. There's a very clear indication that we've succeeded in restoring Shibam Hadramout. With all obstacles removed, it has come to fruition. GTZ was there for seven years.

"Political action also played a major role in restoring Al-Amariah School, which took second prize. They started restoring the school 20 years ago. The situation was taken seriously and was financially supported. When technical teams and other workers receive sufficient salaries suitable to their living standards, they spare no effort in doing their work. We don't want to spend money without receiving any benefit in restoring historic cities and sites," he points out.

Yemen won two of the nine prizes. "This was something special received from the Inman Khan Corporation, which has internationally famed consultants. Additionally, it pays all costs for those attending symposium and it has no bias toward any country. The consultants don't grant the prize for any project until they're satisfied with what's been done. We're very proud of these prizes," Issa adds.

Old City of Sana'a may lose its attraction

When asked if the preservation organization still experiences problems resulting from destroying some old homes in the Old City of Sana'a, Issa replied, "There's

some control, but we still lack operational capabilities, such as monitoring, inspecting and supervising personnel.

"With approximately 9,000 homes in the Old City, developments come into existence if you don't have a supervising team to follow them up. There will be some violations if you don't control the situation and the area will lose its awe. However, we control as much as we can according to our abilities."

Issa hopes social and powerful figures will assist the organization and understand that this is a preservation of Yemen's heritage. "Preserving heritage doesn't mean building homes using blocks and stone. This is a misunderstanding. Rather, we preserve historic value. You can't restore the value of a destroyed home. We want to restore these houses without missing their historic importance."

He continues, "Awareness campaigns should be conducted to educate citizens about the importance of such heritage. People must realize that everyone is responsible for its preservation. If homeowners and local councils don't care about this heritage, difficulties will arise and we won't be able to achieve the goals we want. People should have respect for rules and regulations that bring about public interests."

More cities registered on the World Heritage List

With other Yemeni historic cities, such as Jibla, registered on the World Heritage List, Issa mentions the difficulties his organization faces in managing them. "We have three branches in Sa'ada, Amran and Mahwit, but our budget hardly covers our employees. It's futile to pay employees when we're unable to do anything for the city. It's up to the political decision makers."

He concludes, "If you want to preserve a historic city, you'll face operational burdens including projects, studies and personnel. If political action doesn't accompany financial and administrative capabilities, there's no advantage. We should preserve historic cities and sites with the appropriate budget so that we can do it well."



**International
Finance Corporation**
World Bank Group

Title of the position: Project Officer – Yemen Tax Simplification Project
Grade: Local - GF
Reporting Lines: Senior Operations Manager, Business Enabling Environment; Program Leader Business Taxation (FIAS)
Location: Sanaa, Yemen
Appointment Type: 12 months

About the IFC PEP MENA and FIAS: The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, promotes sustainable private sector investment in developing countries as a way to reduce poverty and improve people's lives. In addition to its investment work, IFC, through the Private Enterprise Partnership (PEP), executes a major donor-funded program of private sector technical assistance and advisory services in the Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) region. The objectives of the program are to promote direct investment in the private sector, build local businesses and financial intermediaries, and help improve the business enabling environment.

For almost 21 years, The Foreign Investment Advisory Service (FIAS) has advised more than 130 member country governments on how to improve their investment climate for both foreign and domestic investors and maximize its impact on poverty reduction. FIAS is a joint service of the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank. We receive funding from these institutions and through contributions from donors and clients

About the Project: In July, 2007, The Government of Yemen asked FIAS/PEP-MENA to design and administer a wide-ranging reform program aimed at encouraging participation in the tax system through simplification, rationalization, and removal of barriers to paying and administering tax. This request followed the delivery of an assessment of the impact of the tax system on business to the Yemen Tax Authorities and endorsed by the private sector. Accordingly, the tax team will assist the Tax Authority and the Ministry of Finance to improve Yemen's business enabling environment by reducing the time and financial cost of complying with tax, streamlining and making the entire tax system more accessible, and aligning the legal framework with best practice, thus encouraging investment.

The project will specifically address the following:

1. Tax Procedures for Income Tax and GST administration
2. Income Tax specific policy issues (legal framework and administrative procedures)
3. GST specific policy issues (focus on administrative procedures)
4. Proliferation of sub-national taxes, licenses, fees
5. Develop a roadmap/strategy to improve the structure/efficiency of the Tax Authority.
6. Initiate the rollout of the reformed architecture of the tax authority to reflect the streamlined administration system.
7. Design and Roll-out of new SME taxation system (i.e. definition, legal and administrative roadmap for potential roll-out in the future)

Project Structure:

The Project Officer will lead this reform project with the support and direction of the joint FIAS / PEP MENA team based in Washington DC and Cairo. The Project Officer is expected to be the focal point of the project working closely with the client, the Tax Authority/Ministry of Finance, as well as the Private Sector. This will

involve coordinating with key government officials, private sector organizations, and the donor community in order to streamline and simplify the tax administration system.

The project will begin with an initial mapping / benchmarking exercise to identify the key constraints, followed by a process re-engineering/reform phase which will involve bringing all relevant stakeholders and process owners together to redesign the process with the support of international experts. The re-designed processes will be complemented by training and capacity building activities for both administrators and the private sector.

Responsibilities of the Project Officer:

Primary responsibility of the Project Officer would be to implement all components of the Tax Simplification Project. Specific tasks would include:

1. Work closely with the Business Enabling Environment Operations team to launch the project in a timely manner.
2. Provide input to the project design, manage the project on a day-to-day basis, and conduct the project's exit strategy.
3. Deliver top-quality work on time, and meet tight deadlines and targets in a difficult external environment, assuring that all project activities exemplify internationally accepted best practice.
4. Regularly report to the Senior Operations Manager and Business Tax Program Leader on project implementation, including procurement, budget management, quality control and service delivery.
5. Assist the PEP MENA and FIAS team in building strong relationships with senior government officials.
6. Coordinate on all areas of project delivery with hired local and international consultants.
7. Organize and lead study tours, workshops, and conferences.
8. Undertake field missions on an as-needed basis.
9. Collaborate with PEP-MENA's Monitoring & Evaluation expert to define and monitor impact indicators from the outset of the program and until its finalization.
10. Ensure that the donor community is updated regularly on the progress of the program—especially the co-financiers.
11. Facilitate the technical working group (public-private sector)

Qualifications

- Advanced degree in Business Administration, Accounting, Economics, Law, or equivalent
- Eight - ten years work experience in development, preferably in the field of regulatory reform as well as experience in project management, or experience in tax administration, tax consulting, tax law.
- Excellent oral and written communication and presentational skills
- Fluency in English and Arabic
- Knowledge of regulatory approaches
- Proven planning, organizational and leadership skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills with a willingness to work in a team environment
- Exceptional ability to operate under pressure and tight deadlines with accuracy and professionalism

For full consideration, please submit your letter of application accompanied by the CV attention: Office Administrator before **November 19** via e-mail: WBYemen@worldbank.org **Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.**

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Yemeni traditional games: Remembering our childhood

Without disrupting their specialized small world, children still enjoy their childhood by playing traditional games. Traditional Yemeni children's games are many, but some have disappeared while others remain popular. *Fatima Al-Ajel* explores these various types of traditional games in a series, beginning with boys' games.

Many games in Yemen, and this may be true in many other countries as well, are played especially by boys as, for one reason or another, girl players are rare or not allowed to play them.

Many childhood specialists describe boys' games as physical and requiring more effort while other games are played violently. The nature of boys' games creates competition and leadership among them during play.

Children the world over play various versions of the same games, such as jump rope, marbles, tag, spinning a top, hopscotch, jacks and card games, with quite a few differences in game rules. In some games, there are also different songs with the same melody that are sung while playing.

Most boys' games are played using sticks, stones, balls, marbles, paper, etc., because they are the only means available to children, as they are simple items and mostly from the children's surrounding environment. In the following game, Yemeni boys basically play it with two sticks and stones.

Dharab Al-Hadwi, as it's called in Sana'a, is a traditional game played with two sticks and two stones. Dharab Al-Hadwi is classified as a boy game because few girls rarely play it. Previous generations have played it over the years; however, it's not popular today among most of Yemen's new generation, with the exception of children in some villages. As such, this game is considered one of Yemen's folkloric games.

How it's played

In Dharab Al-Hadwi, children are divided into two teams. Each side has two straight sticks, one longer than the other



Many games are similar to Zamb, where children can use the same rules and play the same way, but use other items such as bottle caps, erasers, buttons or cufflinks. Such games require two or more players.

in order to measure distance, and two large stones. The game is played in an open field.

One player begins by throwing the smaller stick as far as he possibly can and then the distance between the thrown stick and the positioned stones is measured. Subsequent players do the same. Whoever throws the small stick farthest from the stones wins.

Zaragaf, or marbles, is a well-known game worldwide and especially popular among boys. Marbles traditionally have been played in countries all over the world. In Yemen, there are many different ways to play, between either two competitors or a group.

This game creates competition between children to earn more marbles, as they start with only a few, the number of which varies from two to 10 or more, depending on the number of players and the agreement between them. Marbles are different colored and of two sizes. The shooter marble is called magza'a and is used to hit the smaller ones.

How it's played

Children draw a circle, triangle or line, its size depending on the number of marbles the boys have, and then place all of their marbles inside it. They designate a marble as the goal or center. The one who shoots the center marble without moving or touching the others wins all of the marbles. Alternatively, players compete for marbles by knocking the others out of the circle.

The player whose marble is nearest to

the line goes first. His goal is to roll his marble and knock other marbles out of the circle or triangle or across the line. The winner is the player who takes all of the marbles from the other players. The game continues until all marbles are gone.

Some boys skilled at playing Zaragaf use the game as a business in order to sell marbles and earn money. For example, a boy with lots of marbles will sell them to other children at less cost than they might buy or find in shops.

Children do their best to buy marbles, even if they haven't enough money. "I buy a few marbles and then play until I get more from Zaragaf. I then sell some to other children and keep some to play and earn more money," 10-year-old Zaragaf player Abdulsalam Al-Radaa'i explains.

Min Kobet Al-Tayyar is an interesting boys' game known in most Yemeni governorates such as Sana'a, Aden, etc., where the game's name mostly is the same, but the rules differ according to the players' different dialects and environments.

In his paper on Adeni folklore, Ahmad Al-Sa'eed mentions that Min Kobet Al-Tayyar is a traditional game in Aden. Additionally, there are at least 57 other games played by Adeni children, with different rules and songs than in Sana'a or other cities.

How it's played

Min Kobet Al-Tayyar requires players to run quickly and get a "house," which is a circle each player draws on the ground. One circle is left empty. One player stands in the middle of all of the others and play commences when the leader begins singing the game song, which is the game's name.

At the end of the song, the leader names a certain player's circle, which must be empty, so players must listen to the song carefully and move about to change their circles.

The player who can't get to a circle is the loser and therefore, punished. Punishment in such game is that every player hits the loser's hands three times, or more or less, as agreed at the beginning. Afterward, another player leads the game and so on.

This game makes children good listeners and they must be active.

Qasia'

Qasia' are empty cans children use as a goal. This game requires players to form two teams of at least three players, who must follow many rules in order to win. The game is played in an open field because players need space to run around.

How it's played

Before commencing play, both teams plan how to mislead the opposing team. Players then draw lots to see who will

start the game. The nature of the game is that if the other team can get to the goal and score with a ball without letting the shooting team touch them, they win. However, the shooting team can prevent the other team from reaching the goal by hitting them with a ball and then they win.

Players in this game create tricks to manage the play. For example, the shooting team tries to hide the ball and then runs to hit one of the other team members, causing the players to protect the goal and not allowing the other team to reach the goal. If a player from the other team is hit, he's out of the game, so the other team's numbers will decrease, which helps the shooting team win the game.

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Nowadays, many children don't know the most traditional children's games, such as Dharab Al-Hadwi. Nevertheless, the new generation plays games regardless of whether they know the old names, sometimes creating new names for traditional games using the same rules from the old ones.

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