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While the ruling GPC undertakes to hold elections in due time JMP demands re-forming the election committee

By: Aqeel Al-Halali
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Sept. 13 — The ruling General People's Congress (GPC) has confirmed that the upcoming parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held in April 2009. In the meantime, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) have demanded that the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) be re-elected "on an impartial basis".

Sultan Al-Barakani, assistant secretary general of the GPC, said in a press conference last Saturday that the JMP have to choose between either participating in the elections or boycotting them, and maintained that the GPC is committed to the constitutional appointments regarding the elections.

He said that the GPC "will work with its international partners to carry out the elections based on the European Union document both the GPC and JMP approved in 2006."

"50 percent of the items included in the European Union's document don't need any law or constitution amendments," said Al-Barakani, who heads the GPC parliamentary bloc. "The SCER is expected to abide by the document, except for some items that still need law and constitutional amendment. We will discuss these items with our international partners since the JMP demand adjourning the elections, rather than discussing the content of the document."

He pointed out that his party welcomed all opinions and views that can improve the election process, including



Sultan Al-Barakani during the press conference.

the European Union recommendations, and confirmed that the elections would not be adjourned.

Al-Barakani added, "We are careful that the Socialist Party remains in the political arena since it is a main partner in national unification."

He further said that the JMP "haven't so far agreed on the names of their candidates for SCER membership", accusing them of breaking the principle agreement signed between the two sides in 2006.

Concerning the presidential amnesty for political detainees, Al-Barakani said that "their release was based on political will as brothers in the Islah party cared only about Fahd Al-Qarni, and never asked about journalist Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani or the Socialist Party-affiliated detainees."

Doing Business 2009 report: Yemen holds record development in business regulations

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Sept. 13 — Yemen jumped 25 places in the global rankings on the ease of doing business and was listed as the world's 98th business reformer this year, according to the World Bank's Doing

Business 2009 report, released on Wednesday.

"Yemen introduced a one-stop shop and cut the paid-in minimum capital requirements. The new one-stop shop makes it possible to complete business start-up at a single location and easier to obtain a license from the municipality and to register with the chamber of commerce and the tax office. This was one of the boldest reforms recorded in this year's Doing Business report, and resulted in an advance of 25 positions in the global aggregate rankings for Yemen," the report said.

"Economies worldwide are increasingly committed to regulatory reforms, and this is evident in the Middle East and North Africa, the region with the second-largest share of economies that made it easier to do business," said Dahlia Khalifa, a co-author of the report. "Many

economies, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, are consistently making improvements and are advancing in the global rankings. Across the region, countries are making it easier to do business by looking to early pacesetters for ideas on how to reform," she added.

Among the different regions covered in the report, Eastern Europe and Central Asia led in reforms of business regulation for a fifth consecutive year, with more than 90 percent of its countries making improvements.

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Al-Qarni returns to the prison

SANA'A, Sep. 14 — The Yemeni political comic Fahd Al-Qarni returned to prison last Sunday, after he refused to sign a document renouncing to his political performances presented to him by Governor of Taiz Hamoud Al-Soufi, as part of the presidential order last Thursday to abolish the judiciary decision against him.

Al-Qarni stated that he informed the governor of his absolute rejection to drop political rights guaranteed to him by the constitution in signing the document. "I informed the governor that I would not bow to his request, and that prison was better for me than apologizing or agreeing to his conditions."

The administration of Al-Eslahya prison in the Taiz governorate had



transferred Al-Qarni to the governor's office in anticipation of his release, but readmitted him when he refused to sign the document which came as a condition for his being set free.

Al-Qarni had previously been jailed in July 2006, when officers affiliated to

the Criminal Investigations Bureau arrested a group of individuals, accusing them of selling a popular cassette entitled Shabi'een (Fed Up), which was made by Al-Qarni.

Making use of folk compositions in a humorous and sarcastic manner, the cassette bitterly criticizes the government's policies.

Al-Qarni was sentenced to one and a half years in prison, fined YR 500,000 and ordered to hand over the recordings of all his productions. In addition, Al-Qarni would have a bail set on the condition that he would not reproduce any of his work.

Yemen –U.S. to establish rehabilitation center for Guantanamo's returnees

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Sept.11— According to the Yemeni news website, www.26sep.net, the Yemen and American governments have agreed to establish a centre in Sana'a for the rehabilitation of Yemeni returnees from the United States' military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The website quoted a source as saying that the center would be funded by the U.S. government. The source did not reveal the date for opening the center, but declared that it would be set up in the near future.

While Yemen will take on the responsibility of rehabilitating these returnees intellectually and psychologically, the U.S. government will fund the center and its facilities technically, said the source.

According to the source, that the rehabilitation program will include classes for the returnees, who will also attend workshops and professional seminars, where they will learn skills to enable them to reintegrate into Yemeni society.

The Yemeni and U.S. governments went through tough negotiations in order to come to an agreement to

release the Yemeni inmates who now form the biggest fraction of the military prison's population.

Of the 275 prisoners who remain at Guantanamo, nearly 100 are from Yemen, replacing Afghans and Saudis as the predominant detainee group as the jail population has declined from a peak of about 680 in 2003.

Although the U.S. and Yemen governments have refused to publicly disclose details of their negotiations, the U.S. government said that it would return many Yemenis if Yemen gave the U.S. official assurances guaranteeing that the returned detainees would not be tortured and also would join rehabilitation programs.

Yemen offered the U.S. a rehabilitation program for the returnees and the U.S. approved it. The program contributed to overcoming differences between the two sides, said the source.

So far only 13 Yemenis have been repatriated from Guantanamo since the prison opened soon after a U.S.-led campaign toppled Afghanistan's Taliban regime. After being returned to Yemen, they were arrested by Yemeni security, and detained at the Political Prison in Sana'a for many months

before being released without charges.

The US military has reported that at least 10 percent of the prisoners at Guantanamo suffer from serious psychological problems.

In addition, U.S. defense lawyers for Guantanamo's inmates said that the high number of prisoners suffering from mental illnesses was due to the extreme isolation in which they are kept.

The prison at Guantanamo Bay has witnessed four suicides along with dozens of suicide attempts, according to the lawyers.

"The ex-Guantanamo detainees who come back to Yemen suffer from serious psychological and physical problems," said Ahmed Arman, an activist and lawyer with the human rights organization known as HOOD, the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedom.

"All of them have difficulties to reintegrate within their communities. They are unemployed, though some of them were teachers in Pakistan before they were arrested and deported to Guantanamo. They also cannot get married due to the social stigma of being an ex-prisoner," Arman added.

Sheikh Al-Moayed needs to be moved to a hospital



Sheikh Al-Moayed in his cell.

By: Almgidat Mojalli

SANA'A, Sep13 — Sheikh Mohammed Al-Moayed's lawyer has asked Yemeni authorities to exert pressure on the U.S. administration to move Al-Moayed, currently in prison in Brooklyn, New York, to a hospital for medical treatment.

Sheikh Mohammed Al-Moayed was arrested in 2003 by order of the U.S., which accused him of having connections with Al-Qaeda and the Islamic resistance movement Hamas.

Ibrahim Al-Moayed, the son of the sheikh Mohammed Al-Moayed, stated that his father's lawyer had confirmed that the sheikh's critical condition requires him to be moved to a hospital.

He said that the prison's doctor recommended the move due to the lack of adequate facilities or appropriate med-

icine to treat him at the prison.

Al-Moayed expressed regret that lawyer Mohammed Naji Allaw, director of the Yemeni National Organisation for Defending Rights and Freedoms -also known as Hood, could, for unknown reasons, only meet his father once.

He added that his father complained, in a phone call last week, of the obstinacy of the prison administration in restricting his access to letters and newspapers.

According to Al-Moayed, an U.S. appeal court will issue its decision on his father, Sheikh Al-Moayed, later this month.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Moayed, a leading Islah party member, 78, and his assistant Mohammed Mohsen Zayed, 32, were arrested January 2003 in Germany.

They were turned over to the U.S. after the German Federal Constitutional Court approved their extradition on 13 November 2003.

A Yemeni CIA agent named Muhammad Al-Ansi induced Al-Moayed from Sana'a to Germany, where he was arrested by order of the U.S., which accused him of having connections with members of the Al-Qaeda organization and the Islamic resistance movement Hamas.

On 28 July 2005, a Brooklyn court sentenced Al-Moayed to 75 years in prison and fined him \$1.25 million. The sentence provoked disappointment and discontent among Yemeni political parties, tribal leaders and citizens alike, who turned out in numbers to demonstrate against the inhumane treatment Al-Moayed and Zayed face while detained in U.S. prison.

Indicators of a sixth Sa'ada war on the rise

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, Sept. 14 — Houthi field leaders have repeated their strong denunciation of an official media campaign, launched by senior government officials over the past few days against their followers.

Houthis' representative Sheikh Saleh Habra told various media outlets that the hostile campaign implies that the regime is plotting to breach the Doha-brokered ceasefire agreement, which the government and Houthis signed last February. "This is the same behavior followed by the government ahead of the fifth Sa'ada war," Habra went on to say.

He added that there is strong evidence against several local and international personalities that they oppose peace and stability in the Sa'ada governorate. "These people want to achieve their own objectives," Habra noted.

"The government hurriedly recruits thousands of tribesmen and provides money and arms to tribal leaders in an unprecedented way."

Habra urged those whom he described as "wise and judicious patriots" to advise the government to return to the right path, and not to lead the war-ravaged governorate into a sixth war, bound to kill any remaining citizens and destroy any remaining property.

Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs Rashad Al-Alimi holds Houthi followers accountable for hindering peace efforts in the various areas affected by the four-year fighting between the army and Houthis, adding that they don't cooperate with efforts aimed at enhancing security and stability in their areas.

Al-Alimi confirmed that Houthis have refused to abandon their mountaintop positions, which is why the

government doesn't remain committed to the other terms contained in ceasefire agreement.

During his visit to the Sa'ada governorate last Monday, the fourth of its kind since the war first broke out between the army and Houthis in June 2004, Al-Alimi, who is also Chairman of the Supreme Security Committee, threatened to stop all the efforts to reconstruct affected areas and compensate citizens whose property was damaged during the fighting, if Houthis were not receptive to these efforts.

Living conditions of displaced residents in the various Sa'ada areas continue to worsen as a result of poor medical services and frequent power cuts due to a lack of the diesel supplies needed by power generators.

Residents of war-affected areas are awaiting billions of Yemeni Riyals, which have been allocated to fund health and electricity projects.

Immigrants' bodies washed upon Yemeni cost

SANA'A, Sep, 14 — More than two dozen African immigrants drowned after smugglers, transporting them across the Gulf of Aden from the Horn of Africa, forced them overboard at gunpoint off the coast of Yemen, said the UN refugees' agency on Wednesday.

According to the UNHCR, the smugglers forced 120 passengers, who were fleeing the bloody conflicts in Somalia, to swim to shore in the middle of Tuesday night.

Wednesday morning, 35 bodies were found washed up near Wadi Al-Barakin, survivors told Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

The survivors said that the smugglers got nervous as they thought they would be captured by Yemeni security, so they started to push people overboard, saying that a smaller vessel would come to take the immigrants ashore.

"In order to intimidate us, they beat us heavily with their belts. One of the smugglers threw petrol on us and showed off his lighter," a 23 year-old Somali survivor told MSF.

The survivor confirmed that, during the two-day journey, they did not receive any food or water. "Some of us were placed in the hull; several people died because of asphyxia and some others were thrown overboard, among them two children," he added.

The UNHCR warned Tuesday of a sharp increase in refugees fleeing the ongoing violence in Somalia. According to UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond, 59 boats brought more than 1,700 people across the Gulf of Aden in the course of last August.

"That's triple the number of arrivals for August 2007, when 633 people landed in 10 boats," he said.

Though smuggling normally subsides between May and September because of stormy weather, UNHCR believes the recent upsurge is due to a number of factors, including continuing strife and displacement in Somalia, the opening of new smuggling routes across the Gulf of Aden, as well as a perceived decline in coastal surveillance during the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan, which began in early September.

So far this year, almost 25,860 people have arrived in Yemen aboard smugglers' boats. More than 200 have died and at least 225 remain missing. At the same time last year, there were 9,153 arrivals, 267 dead and 118 missing.

Yemen, the only Arabian Peninsula nation to have signed the UNHCR's 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol related to the status of refugees, has granted prima facie refugee status to Somalis arriving in the country fleeing the civil war in Somalia, which started after the collapse of Mohamed Siad Barre's regime in January 1991.

Islamist militants are currently fighting the Somali government and Ethiopian troops in the capital, Mogadishu, which witnesses frequent bombings and shelling.

Many international humanitarian organizations have regularly voiced their concern over the hazardous crossing between Somalia and Yemen, where would-be migrants have to run the gauntlet of unsafe small boats, rough seas and cruel smugglers.

Continued from page 1

JMP demands re-forming the election committee

Last Thursday, President Ali Abdullah Saleh had ordered the release all the political detainees detained during the protests in southern and eastern governorates in March and April of this year.

The release decision included 12 leading figures from the Socialist Party and the Islah party-affiliated singer Fahd Al-Qarni. The decision didn't include Abdul Karim Al-Khaiwani who was detained this past June based on a judicial verdict.

While Al-Barakani demanded that Al-Khaiwani be released as he is "an opinion detainee", Aidarus Al-Naqeeb, head of the Socialist Party parliamentary bloc, demanded that the ruling party "apologize to all the political detainees and compensate them, particularly since official media has shown them as criminals."

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Al-Naqeeb claimed that the GPC withdraw all the armed forms in the city and normalize civil life, as well as cancel the decision regarding the SCER issued by Saleh late this past August.

"The bloc of the majority in the parliament formed the SCER in an unconstitutional manner," said Al-Naqeeb, adding, "the SCER didn't gain two thirds of the parliament's votes and its members were not elected according to a mechanism of secret voting."

Al-Naqeeb added: "the ruling GPC thinks that the upcoming parliamentary elections will be a game which it can play outside of the law and the constitution. And it calls the JMP to participate in this game." He maintained that the current SCER is unconstitutional and not legislative, and therefore should be prosecuted.

He said that the GPC, which holds 229 out of 301 seats in the parliament, didn't

approve the project of the election law amendment, of which the parliament discussed all the items.

"Instead, the GPC approved the current election law, which is an unprecedented act in the parliament."

With regard to the continuous exchange of accusations between the ruling GPC and the JMP, political analysts believe that "the JMP aims, through its conflict with the GPC, to pass the stage of submitting to the current situation and reach the stage of changing Yemen's critical situation, particularly after the opposition parties feel they are marginalized by the ruling GPC."

However, some observers believe that "the JMP cannot be a counterpart for the GPC which utilizes all state resources to achieve its targets." They maintain however that "opposition parties are willing to hold more direct dialogues with Saleh."

Doing Business 2009 report: Yemen holds record development in business regulations

And the trend is moving eastward as newcomers join the list of economies making the most reforms. The top ten are, in order, Azerbaijan, Albania, the Kyrgyz Republic, Belarus, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, and Egypt.

"Economies need rules that are efficient, easy to use, and accessible to all who use them. Otherwise, businesses are trapped in the unregulated, informal economy, where they have less access to finance and hire fewer workers, and where workers lack the protection of labor law," said Michael Klein, the World Bank / International Finance Cooperation's vice president for financial and private sector development.

"Doing Business encourages good rules, and good rules are a better basis for healthy business than 'who you know',"

he added.

This year's report covers ten indicators of a business cycle as they apply to domestic small and medium-sized enterprises. These are starting a business, dealing with construction permits, employing workers, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts and closing a business.

However, rankings do not reflect a country's security, macroeconomic policy, currency volatility, corruption and crime rates, investor perceptions, labor skills or quality of infrastructure.

Yemen made improvements in one of the ten indicators covered by the report this year: the area of reform is business start-up. This is the region's most popular area for reform this year, with nine other economies in the Middle East and North Africa making similar improvements. Yemen was placed 98 out of 181 countries surveyed in the World Bank's global rankings on the ease of doing business, up from last year's 123rd position.

Yemen implemented one of the bold-reforms, reducing the world's second-highest minimum capital requirement and launching a one-stop shop for business start-ups, the report noted.

The next most popular area for reform -credit bureau enhancements that improve access to credit- saw activity in Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and the West Bank and Gaza.

Doing Business 2009 ranks 181 economies on the overall ease of doing business. The top 25 are, in order, Singapore, New Zealand, the United States, Hong Kong (China), Denmark, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, Norway, Iceland, Japan, Thailand, Finland, Georgia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Bahrain, Belgium, Malaysia, Switzerland, Estonia, Korea, Mauritius and Germany.

In Brief

Yemen refuses granting entry visa to IFJ President

A senior Yemeni official said on Sunday Yemen's government had apologized officially to grant an entry visa to President of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Jim Boumelha to visit Yemen.

The IFJ President was planning to hand over Yemeni journalist Abdelkarim al-Khaiwani an award of Amnesty International.

In a press release, Chairman of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) Nasr Taha Mustafa said that the IFJ had expressed understanding of the government's step, canceling the visit which was scheduled to take place next month.

Mustafa confirmed the YJS is monitoring the issue of Abdul Karim al-Khaywani, hoping al-Khaywani to be released soon.

The IFJ has congratulated Yemeni journalist Abdelkarim Al Khaiwani winner of Amnesty International's Special Award for Human Rights Journalism Under Threat and renewed its call for journalist organisations around the world to support al-Khaiwani as he challenges a six-year jail sentence handed down by a Yemeni court.

Yemen reviews conditions of Yemeni detainees in Lebanon

A diplomatic source said on Friday that Yemen's ambassador to Lebanon Faysal Ameen Abu Ras had talked with the Lebanese Prosecutor General Saeed Mirza the Lebanon's General Prosecutor Saeed Mirza over conditions of Yemeni detainees in Lebanese prisons.

The source was quoted by the independent al-tagheer.net as saying that three Yemeni detainees were accused by Lebanese authorities of belonging to the Fatah al-Islam group and targeting western interests in Lebanon.

"The ambassador Abu Ras discussed with Mirza the possibility of prosecuting the Yemeni detainees in Yemen", added the source.

"Those Yemeni detainees are Nasser al-Shayba and Salim Abdul-Karim accused of belonging to the Fatah al-

Islam and Muammar al-Awami who accused of targeting western interests in Lebanon".

Abu Ras asked the Lebanese authorities to provide a list of Yemeni wanted, arrested and killed during the events took place in the Nahr el Bared camp in Lebanon as well as the possibility of investigating with the detainees by a Yemeni investigation team.

According to the source of the Yemeni embassy in the Lebanese capital Beirut, Prosecutor General Mirza accepted to deal with Yemen's requests officially.

Sana'a**U.S. plane forced to land at Sana'a airport**

Security sources said on Monday that Yemeni authorities had allowed a U.S. aircraft to land at Sana'a international airport due to a sudden breakdown.

The twin-engine Cessna 421 took off from the Saudi city of Jeddah.

Comorian Justice Minister leaves Sana'a

Comorian Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs Madi Ali left Sana'a Sunday after a short visit to Yemen for meeting with officials in transport ministry. Upon departure, Ali told Saba that during his visit he discussed with Yemeni officials mutual relations between the two countries in field of transport via providing Comorian Hajjis transport services to Mecca during Hajj season, adding that the visit comes in the framework of enhancing strong mutual relations between the two countries.

Commander of republican guards receives top US military official

Commander of Republican Guards and Special Forces brigadier Ahmed Ali Abdullah Saleh held talks on Saturday with the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Michael Vickers who is currently visiting Yemen.

The talks focused on military cooperation between Yemen and United States in field of combating terrorism.

The US military official highlighted

successful operation done by the Yemen and security forces in following terror elements and shooting some al-Qeada members down.

He expressed appreciation of the American administration and international community for efforts of Yemen to face terror operations which contribute to enhance stability and security in the region.

He voiced readiness of his country to offer further assistance for Yemen in this regard.

Dhamar**RHP distributes medical equipments to health facilities**

Reproductive Health Program (RHP) in Dhamar is preparing to distribute medical equipments to a number of health centers and units across the governorate's districts with the cost of \$ 31 thousands.

Secretary General of Dhamar Local Council told Saba that the medical equipments come for equipping health facilities across the governorate's districts for completing health infrastructure.

He indicated that the program's plan for the second half of 2008 includes establishing 18 centers for delivery emergencies in a number of districts, among of them 7 inclusive centers and 11 main others as well training health cadre working in these centers.

He concluded that the second phase of the program, started early of 2008 with financing from Dutch government worth \$ 1 million, would continue for five years, clarifying that the program provides reproductive health services, training and qualifying cadres and supporting health facilities in the governorate.

Shabwa**Mujawar inspects natural gas project in Belhaf**

Prime minister Ali Muhammad Mujawar paid on Sunday an inspection visit to the Belhaf natural gas project and listened to an explanation on the implementation process.

The giant project cost is estimated at \$ 4 billion and the project is run by the French Total Petroleum Company.

Minister of Oil and Minerals Ameer al-Aidrus said that the project is 87% completed of the station, 96% of the pipeline and 43.3% of the other facilities.

He affirmed that the first pipeline with 3.3 million metric ton of natural gas would be operated during the first quarter of 2009 and the second pipeline in the second quarter. Accordingly, Yemen will produce about 6.8 million metric ton of natural gas annually, he said.

Prime minister also inspected the Ataq electricity station and security station projects and the town central hospital.

He reaffirmed that the government has approved plans to enhance electricity efficiency in the province of Shabwa through providing extra ten megawatts, five of which to be provided during the next few weeks and the others during the next year

Shabwah university to be set up

Prime minister Ali Muhammad Mujawar on his current visit to Shabwah province said preparations got underway to set up the Shabwah university, adding an academic team is currently conducting studies of the project.

The announcement came at a meeting that gathered Mujawar with the province local and executive authorities members.

The meeting discussed several issues in relation to developmental projects in the province as well building up human capabilities.

Aden**Yemen, UK discuss support of development in Aden**

Aden governor Adnan al-Jafri received on Saturday an official of Yemeni file at the US foreign ministry over British support for development in the governorate.

They also discussed opportunities of investment in Aden Free Zone and industrial zones there.

The governor called on UK businessmen to come and invest in the governorate especially in the AFZ and benefiting from features granted by Yemeni law

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of investment.

The UK official expressed desire of the British government to present further support for development projects in Aden as well as improving the Yemeni coast-guard to protect regional waters.

Abyan**Archeological survey of historical site in Abyan**

A team of Authority of Antiquities Museums and Manuscripts is going to carry out an archeological survey and studies of the historical city of al-Qara in Abyan province, south of Yemen.

Head of local council of Rusd district in Abyan Fadhel Hussein al-Sulaimani

said that that local authorities and Culture Ministry are being exerted efforts to join al-Qara city and the Sultanate of al-Afiya into the list of the world heritage and historical cities.

"We seek to draw attention of concerned international organizations to the historical and natural characteristics of the city in order to contribute to preserving it and repairing its buildings", said al-Sulaimani.

"We asked previously UNESCO and a Netherlands Organization to help save the city's buildings from destruction".

The city was inhabited by the sultanate of al-Afiya 653 years ago, containing more than 100 stone and marble-built sultan palaces and houses.

Their News

Seyaj discusses the Media propagation for Victims of Sexual abuse children next Thursday.

Experts of media, lowers and civil society organizations discuss the consequences of "Media propagation of pictures and names of children who were sexually abused".

"The activity aims at calling the attention of media and jurists to the devastating effects of exposing children who are victims of sexual abuse to media and publicizing their personal information and the consequences of that on their life and families." Said Ahmed Algorashi the head of the Seyaj Organization for Childhood protecting, the activity organizer.

Algorashi said that the activity which is sponsored by Cac Bank will be executed on next Thursday and will be presented by: Mr. Nasr Taha Mustafa the head of Yemeni Journalists Union, Mr. Abdul-bary Taher the Ex- head of Yemeni journalists Union and human rights activist the lower Abdulrahman Barman.

besides many participations of parliamentary personalities journalists lowers, human rights activists as well as attendance and participation invitations for all individuals and institutions who are concerned on childhood issues.

Almost a quarter of a million individuals and more than 30,000 families benefit from Ramadan charity projects

Ramadan charity projects organized by the Islah Social Charity Association have reached 243,631 individuals and 31,445 families within the first ten days of Ramadan.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Qubati, the general manager of the association, stated that the projects target the poor

all over the republic, indicating that the association distributes 144 meals every day in the mosques and centers of the association.

He said that the meals' beneficiaries are students, prisoners, police station employees and traffic policemen. The projects also include the distribution of ready meals, meat and dates to poor families and individuals.

Al-Qubati said that the Iftar Al-Musafer project would be launched during the coming twenty days, and would target a further 20,000 traveling individuals throughout the country.

The project, which will be executed in collaboration with the cooperation of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, will offer travelers Iftar, the breaking of the fast during Ramadan, on all roads leading from the governorates of Sana'a and Aden to the rest of the country.

Al-Qubati renewed his call for the businessmen and benefactors to support these projects to help needy people.

Yemen Urged to Respect Rights of Religious Minorities

Freedom House is deeply concerned about an apparent crackdown in Yemen on religious minorities, including followers of the Baha'i faith and Christians who converted from Islam.

Three Baha'i businessmen who have lived in Yemen for decades with their families but retain Iranian citizenship face imminent deportation, possibly to Iran. Yemeni police arrested the businessmen in June along with three other Baha'is. While Yemen has generally respected the rights of religious minorities, Iran has executed hundreds of Baha'is since the Islamic Revolution.

"Freedom House appeals to

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to rescind the deportation orders and release these individuals," said Jennifer Windsor, Freedom House executive director. "For the Baha'i, deportation to Iran would likely mean their incarceration and torture, a clear violation of international human rights law."

The Associated Press also reports that Yemen is holding at least nine persons for converting to Christianity. Converting from Islam to any other religion is illegal in Yemen and punishable by death. Those arrested are only released if they renounce their new faith and vow to embrace Islam again.

In 1994, Yemen ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes the freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

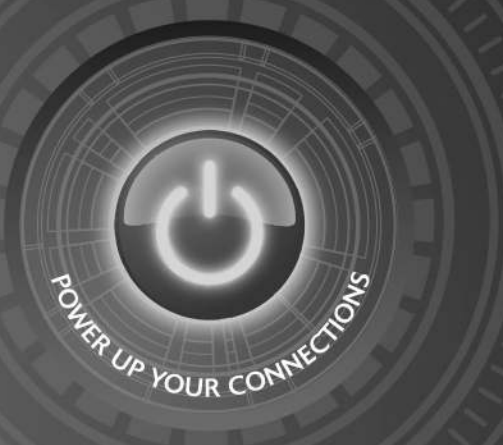
"Freedom House calls on the international community to carefully monitor the treatment of religious minorities in Yemen and to remind their Yemeni partners of their international obligations," said Windsor.

Yemen is ranked "Partly Free" in the 2008 edition of Freedom in the World, Freedom House's survey of political rights and civil liberties, and "Not Free" in the 2008 version of Freedom of the Press. Iran is ranked "Not Free" in the 2008 edition of Freedom in the World and "Not Free" in the 2008 version of Freedom of the Press.

Freedom House, an independent nongovernmental organization that supports the expansion of freedom in the world, has been monitoring political rights and civil liberties in Yemen and Iran since 1972.



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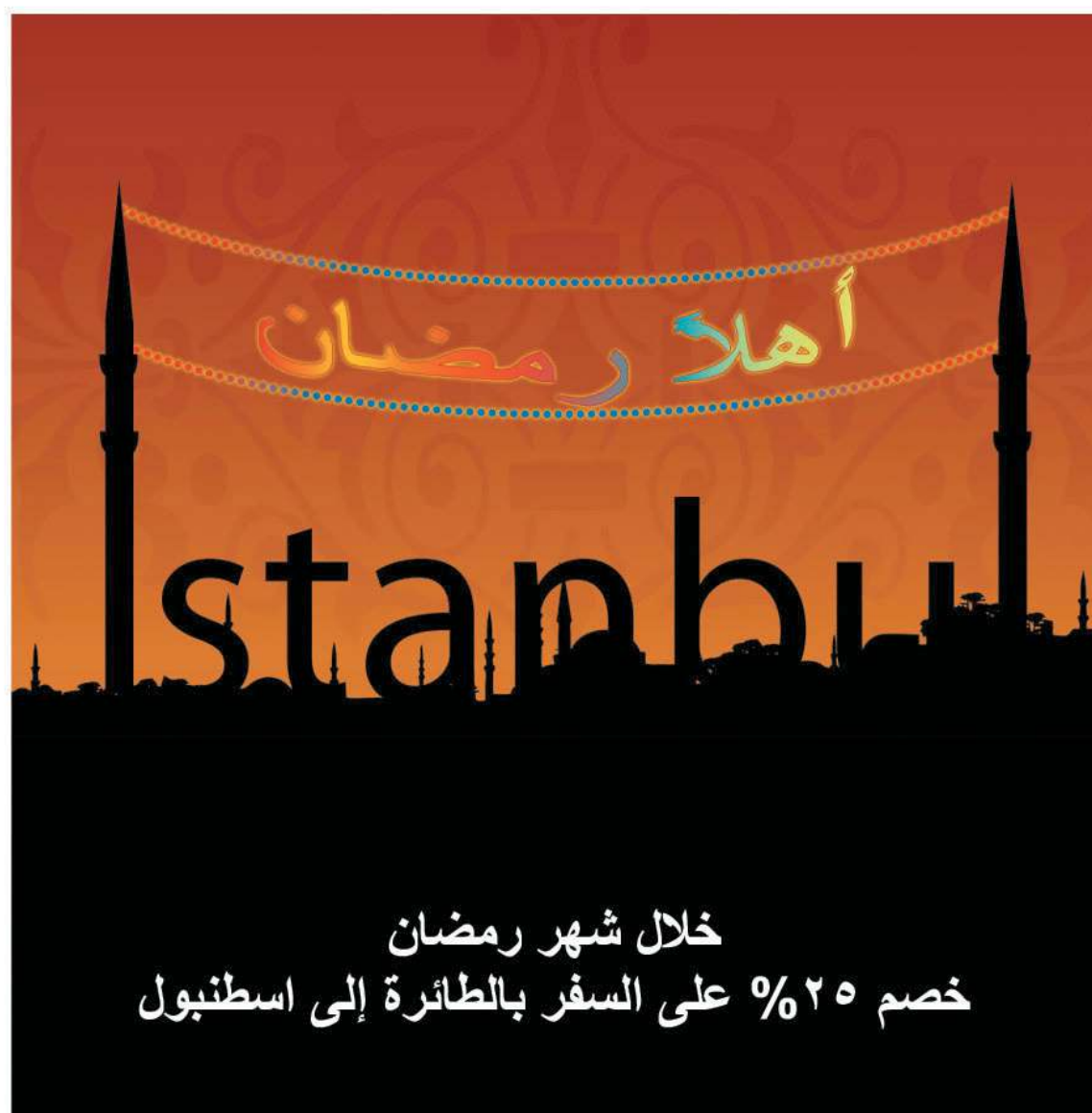
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China Hi-Tech Fair	Shenzhen, Guangdong Province	Oct. 12-17, 2008	www.chtf.com
Jingdezhen International Ceramic Fair	Jingdezhen, Jiangxi Province	Oct. 18-22, 2008	www.chinaicf.cn
China Yiwu International Commodities Fair	Yiwu, Zhejiang Province	Oct. 22-26, 2008	www.chinafairs.org
Electronics Manufacture Expo(Suzhou) China 2008	Suzhou, Jiangsu Province	Oct. 18-21, 2008	www.goemex.com
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Denmark: “The happiest place on earth”

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Last month, I was in Denmark to participate in a 10-day journalism course entitled, Media Skills Development for Dialogue organized by Crossing Borders for young journalists and media/communication students from the Middle East, North Africa and Denmark.

I had read surveys maintaining that Denmark is the happiest place on earth, so while there, I looked for the reasons why Danes are happy. A high standard of living, free education, good public health services and a clean environment were part of the answer.

But something else also was important – Danes enjoy satisfaction in life because they have low expectations; thus, they seemingly get what they want easily and rarely feel disappointed.

As I gazed out the car window on my way from the airport, I discovered a quiet and beautiful city. Although tall, modern buildings are few in Copenhagen, modernity, technology and design still are features of the city.

Both historic and modern architecture, high-tech transportation, a safe society and their freedoms all captured me. For example, the blond-haired, blue-eyed women are true equals with men, working as teachers, waitresses, bus drivers, sales clerks, lawyers, etc.

Danes are friendly and most speak English and are willing to help.

At my hotel, I picked up a booklet on Copenhagen's events and activities for August. I was astonished at the number and variety of cultural and entertainment events in the city, including music, dance, opera, theater, sports, cinema, exhibits, sightseeing, etc.

I later took a walking tour of Strøget, Europe's longest pedestrian street passing through Copenhagen's old city. It's also the central shopping area in Copenhagen.

Because many Danes ride bicycles, there are paths and signs indicating cycling routes nearly everywhere. Bikes are good quality, fancy in design and may be rented at numerous places.

Most of my time was spent in Vallekilde, which is in the countryside of Odsherred in the northwestern part of Sjælland (Zealand). Situated 100 kilometers from Copenhagen, or an hour and a half train ride, the town is 6 km. from the sea and sits amid the beauty of nature.

The closest town and railway station is



Copenhagen's waterside restaurants and cafés are alive with people.

Hørve, which is less than 3 km. from Vallekilde Communications College, founded in 1865 and focusing primarily on communications. Open all day, every facility may be used 24 hours a day, including its computer room, TV room, lecture hall, theater and music studio. Students live, study, eat, party and relax on campus.

In Vallekilde, I enjoyed the landscape, the amazing nature and the quiet atmosphere. As one Danish friend pointed out, I was lucky to be in Denmark during the summer when the weather is good. Danes enjoy the summer by spending their days with friends, dining al fresco (outside) and simply having fun.

While in that beautiful country, I took more than a thousand photographs. A Palestinian friend asked me, “Why are you taking all of those photos? You can just save the images in your mind,” to which I replied, “I want to share what I've seen with others.”

However, my friend was quick to note, “But today we're going to visit a place where photography isn't allowed inside. We're going to Christiania.”

Christiania was founded in 1971 when a group of hippies took over an area of abandoned military barracks and developed their own set of rules, completely independent of the Danish government. With an area covering some 32 hectares of land, some 1,000 people live and work there.

There are paintings and sculptures everywhere in Christiania and there's always live music playing somewhere, which is why a visit there is worthwhile. Christiania is an important tourist attraction in Copenhagen, annually attracting between half a million and a million visitors to this “Free Town.” It's also a place where drugs still are sold; however, in

2004, the Danish government closed all shops selling drugs in the open.

My personal favorite experience of the trip was a canal tour of Copenhagen that I went on with my entire group around the harbor and the city's idyllic canals. Beginning from Nyhavn, we passed a number of architecturally interesting buildings, such as the Copenhagen Opera House and Den Sorte Diamant (The Black Diamond), home of the Royal Danish Library.

Along the way, we also passed the Little Mermaid, which is a statue of a little girl sitting on a rock on the beach.

Copenhagen's waterside restaurants and cafés are amazing. You won't want to leave there because it's alive with people eating and drinking outdoors in a relaxing environment amid historic buildings on both sides of the canal.

Whenever I was in a longer conversation with a Danish citizen, the Prophet Mohammed cartoon scandal inevitably came up. All of the Danes I met opposed the cartoons. As one Danish friend said, “The cartoons were a stupid mistake.”

My visit to Politiken newspaper, one of Denmark's largest, and DR, Danish Radio and Television, revealed the secret behind the professional creativity of such media establishments. There, journalists enjoy comprehensive facilities and a pleasant working environment within newsrooms and studios characterized by good lighting, quietness and teamwork. It made me feel like you were in a beehive. After visiting their media, I envied the Danes.

This training trip to Denmark was and still is a great experience for me because it gave me the opportunity to meet journalists and media workers from numerous countries, with whom we were able to exchange journalism experiences and gain new skills.

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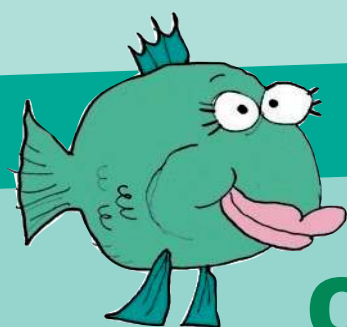
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FRANNIE LEARNS A LESSON

Last Chapter: Frannie and her friends meet their new teacher. Frannie is scared about taking the bus to school.

Chapter 3: “What’s So Scary About A Bus Ride?”

Frannie swam from room to room in her house eating a packet of surf snacks. She was supposed to be doing her chores; cleaning her room and doing the dishes, but she couldn't stop thinking about what her dad had said about the bus.

“Why do I have to take the bus?” she thought. “Why can't Dad take me to school every day?”

She started her chores to take her mind off the bus. After she finished, she began to work on homework. She was supposed to write down things about her family to share with the class.

“Maybe I'll write how they don't like me and make me take the bus to school,” she thought. She worked on her homework until dinner time. The family sat down at the table to a meal of brine burritos and sea salad.

“Brine burritos again?” complained Freddie. “Yuck!”

“Don't complain, or you won't have any plankton ice-cream,” Frannie's mother said.

“Yeah, don't complain, you don't have to take the bus to day care,” Frannie said.

“Frannie,” her father began, “your mother and I have talked about this, and we feel that it is better for everyone, if you take the bus.”

“You mean better for you,” Frannie said. “You just don't want to take me.”

“You shouldn't talk that way. You know that I love spending time with you. Your school is just in the opposite direction from my office, and I need to be at work earlier than when your school starts. Also, your mom and I



feel like you are getting old enough where you can handle the responsibility of riding the bus.”

“Really? So that's why you want me to ride the bus?” Frannie asked.

“Yes, really. We think you can handle it, and riding to school with classmates can be fun,” her mother said.

“Okay, I'll ride the bus,” Frannie said smiling.

“Sounds good,” her father said.

“Frannie went to bed that night feeling good about having to ride the bus. She was a little scared about not having anyone to sit next to, but she thought everything would work out. She fell asleep dreaming of the ride to school with a smile on her face.

The next morning Frannie got up out of bed and got ready for school. She went downstairs to breakfast and had a bowl of frosted fish flakes. Her mother said good-bye and Frannie walks out to go wait for the bus. When

the bus pulled up, she was amazed. The driver, a red lobster, said hello to everyone as they entered.

As Frannie swam onto the bus, her excitement faded. She didn't see anyone she knew. The bus was full of older kids. She picked an empty seat near the back of the bus, and sat alone. When the bus came to the next stop, Frannie was surprised to see her friend Carter enter the bus.

“Carter!” Frannie called. “Come sit here!”

Carter went and sat next to Frannie. “Hey Frannie-Fran,” Carter said. “When did you start riding the sardine can?”

“It's my first time,” she answered.

“That's cool,” he said. “Tommy and Suzy ride it too. They'll be here after the next stop.”

Sure enough, Tommy and Suzy joined Frannie and Carter, and the friends talked for most of the ride to school.

“Hey guys, you want to play catch with this oyster pearl I found?” Carter asked.

“Yeah!” replied his three friends.

They started playing a game of toss while they rode. It was going pretty well until Frannie threw the pearl to Tommy, but she missed and threw it over his head. She hit a third-grader in the face. Frannie was about to apologize, but as soon as she saw the fish she hit, she got scared. The other fish was a large brown blowfish, and as soon as she saw Frannie, she puffed out her body to its full round size.

“Who's the wise guy it!,” said the blowfish.

“I'm sorry,” said Frannie. “I didn't mean to hit you.”

“Sorry doesn't cut it. Meet me behind the gym after school.” The blowfish growled.

“What for?” Frannie was scared.

“Because we're going to fight, dummy.”

“Oh no!” thought Frannie. “What do I do?”

Next Chapter: “Frannie and the Blowfish”

Using the newspaper

- Look for images or words relating to different types of transportation. Cut and paste them into the following categories: land, sea, air.
- Make a collage of the blowfish in the story using small pieces of newsprint glued together on a piece of paper. Give your blowfish a name.

To do and think about ...

- Write a list of pros and cons of traveling on a school bus.
- Make a list of chores you have. Now create a list of chores that Frannie might have in Coralville. Are there any that are the same? Compare your answers to your classmates. Create a graph that shows the most common answer for both Coralville and “land” chores.
- Help Frannie do her assignment by finding things about her fish family to share with her class.
- Partner with a classmate, friend or sibling. One of you should write a letter from Frannie to someone else asking for advice on her “little problem”. The partner should read it and then write a letter back giving Frannie advice.

What will happen next?

What do you think Frannie will decide to do after school?

REAL LIFE & VALUES: Responsibility

For what was Frannie asked to accept responsibility? Describe a situation where you have had to accept responsibility. How did it make you feel?

More activities...

www.wan-press.org/Frannie

World Association of Newspapers

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Words of Wisdom



The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge.

This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play.

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

OUR
OPINIONThe world seven
years since 9/11

Seven years ago the world's political power map was quite different from what it is today. Seven years ago USA was the greatest world power governing all countries like a strict shepherd.

Today two of the largest eastern countries have pulled themselves out of the third world countries category and changed from being a burden to the world to two of the largest productive economies.

Even Russia has gradually gained its strength and today is starting to make its own decisions somewhat causing an unbalance in the so called uni-polar power system.

But what is most interesting is that USA itself has lost much of its popularity especially in the developing and Arab countries.

And even within America itself the growing Arab and Muslim communities are a considerable threat to the conservative party if they decide to take their votes elsewhere. Although the much awaited democratic candidate has turned out to be a disappointment to them as they express continuously throughout the internet.

Much has been said on who is the real mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks. Some have been substantiated over the years but in all cases Bin Laden is still somewhere hiding and probably plotting more attacks. I was in a European airport on this year's 9/11 and was wondering if something will happen. Security was strict as usual and a BBC news report a few days before said even the allowed small liquid quantities could be used to construct a bomb that could take down a plane.

Now I don't carry any amount just to make my travel less cumbersome for me as a passenger and for the airport and flight security staff.

One thing I know that since 2001 the world has become a less friendly place and there is much distrust and theories of conspiracy. All nations agree to fight terrorism and many have actually taken measures sometimes even going overboard to prove they are an ally in the war against terrorism. And I believe that whatever popularity Bin Laden has gained because of his stand against the USA was quickly lost in the Muslim world because they realized that terrorism does not distinguish between people. Now terrorist acts are taking place in the Islamic world distributing the peace and stability.

However, the anger against Bin Laden and Co. has not been directly translated to appreciation of the USA and this is what the current American politicians are not comprehending. They could easily use the global sentiments to once again take position as a leading power if they play it right, and if they start making intelligent political statements.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Fast in order to get healthier

By: Al-Khadher Al-Hasani

This is the holy month of Ramadan. It comes to us this year as peoples' living conditions have worsened, prices of foodstuffs and other basic commodities have skyrocketed, and Yemeni citizens begin to complain about their vulnerable condition.

Inflation and price hikes have proliferated in an unprecedented way, the purchasing power of many people declined, and means of extortion and cheating multiplied in popular markets where citizens

rush to buy their food and other necessities.

All such things happen while politicians and political parties (ruling and opposition) are extremely engaged in discussing constitutional amendments, particularly in what regards the electoral system and General Election Law, as well as the proposed amendments to this law.

Irresponsible tradesmen practice scandalous extortion against consumers and cheat them, while politicians practice a kind of extortion of their own. In addition, members of the political parties under the name of Joint Meeting

Parties (JMP) practice all forms of extortion against the authority and people of beloved Yemen.

The authority, on the other hand, is not aside from blame as it commits numerous inexcusable mistakes and irresponsible practices in favor of certain individuals, with funds coming from public money, supposed to be spent on services for the oppressed and affected people of Yemen in all of the southern, northern, eastern and western parts of the nation.

Ramadan is a month of worship and fasting, and both words imply that a Muslim citizen must refrain from exercising all taboo and

illegal habits, not only from eating and drinking. They should abstain from producing irresponsible statements that are meant to eliminate every beautiful element in the nation.

When we claim that people should quit evil practices as well as administrative, financial and moral corruption, the main objective is that we all remain committed to the principles of Islam.

Islam is a religion that lifts injustice and oppression from human beings and eliminates all causes of human slavery, not only during Ramadan, but throughout the months of the entire Hijra

calendar year.

Ramadan is a faithful school that cultivates peoples' ethics and behaviors. Do political party supporters of negative intent and irresponsible tradesmen learn what Ramadan means for them? Do they know what the holy month really means for Muslim believers?

We must avoid exaggeration while speaking about price hikes, as well as extremist thoughts and ideas, and be moderate in our everyday behaviors and habits. Opposition members should not claim what is impossible or miraculous in order to be integrated with the current regime.

Ramadan without a government

By: Najeeb Al-Ghurbani

Farmers and laborers are extremely engaged in finding ways to provide subsistence for their families, while the government and opposition are very busy in constitutional amendments and useless speeches. Both the government and opposition leave us in trouble, while Friday remains the same Friday and the sermon remains the same sermon.

Suddenly without any indicators, Ramadan, the holy month of worship and forgiveness, is upon us. And because the government is unable to do anything in Ramadan -or any other month of the year- with regard to fighting the phenomenon of price hikes, irresponsible tradesmen with no

consideration for the significance of the holy month have flooded the local markets with expired foodstuffs and other perished commodities.

One day I went to a pharmacy to buy Cerelak milk for my baby girl, and was shocked to find out that this commodity was no longer available. On the street however, I found that large quantities of the expired commodity were being sold. Those who were selling them also offered honey, milk and dates.

The local markets are excessively flooded with expired foodstuffs while citizens, seemingly suffering from malnutrition, anemia and severe poverty, rush to purchase the lot. Those who buy these expired goods are limited-income citizens, farmers, laborers and marginalized people whose living standards

have deteriorated due to poor policies that only encourage corruption to become rampant and poverty to become more severe.

Where are the oversight authorities and agencies concerned with product specifications and quality control? Where is the Consumer Protection Authority? Not one of these parties monitors expired commodities sold by vendors in the streets of our capital and other cities nationwide.

It is not acceptable for citizens to receive Ramadan with expired or fake commodities. Why does the good government not realize the daily risk of disease to citizens? Yemeni citizens are consuming trafficked pesticides and cancerous substances in food that has remained in stores until becoming unusable.

The Yemeni popular markets

have turned into a landfill for waste disposal, especially as goods on the market contravene even the simplest international specifications followed in the rest of the world. The government approves the mechanism of free market, while vendors exploit this concept to replace it by chaos.

Street vendors exploit the government's inability to arrest or question tradesmen, even those who have already been charged with monopolizing goods or smuggling them illegally into our homeland. They also exploit poor awareness on the part of citizens, who never check the dates of production and expiry on cans or boxes of products.

The government doesn't feel ashamed to say that it has many oversight committees to monitor foodstuffs in local markets. The

government doesn't feel ashamed that it has no specific laws to govern the process of importing foreign products into the country.

It is ridiculous to see that citizens are living in a territory without law and order, particularly as their own government continues to sponsor irresponsible tradesmen who create multiple crises with negative impacts on citizens' living conditions.

The shame is on a government that has proved unable to monitor or control what is taking place in the local market. The ordinary citizen has become a victim of his own government. Ramadan Karim and acceptable fasting for the ordinary citizen! In order to be healthier, the government should fast by refraining from corruption and the embezzlement of public funds.

Traditional enemies begin the battle

By: Mona Safwan

While serious efforts and strong stands came together to support the addition of a woman to the membership of the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER), a campaign, opposing women's participation in politics and social activities, emerges. The campaign claims that women's political participation means defying religion and that religion doesn't accept women's involvement in politics.

The struggle for women's
participation in politics

Several weeks ago, the Advancement & Prosperity Forum (APF) began collecting signatures of women and human rights groups and organizations as a strategy for exerting pressure on the relevant agencies in the government to add a woman to the SCER membership.

This has been a persisting demand since the most recent local council elections in September 2006, which led to the appointment of Elham Abdulwahab as manager for the recently established women's department in the SCER.

But this was not the sole ambition of the women's movement. Chaired by Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh and Dr. Raoufa Hassan, the APF strongly backs all women's involvement in political life, notably in the elections as voters and candidates.

The opposition of the Islamic
political movement

However, the recently established Virtue Protection Authority Forum has begun its fight against women's quota through various political websites as part of its battle against all forms of evil in society, according to its terminology.

It maintains that women's quota is seen by religious clerics as a violation of God's Legislation.

According to serious jurisprudential effort, women's quota poses a threat to Islam, particularly according to some extremists, who call on other conventional forces in society to follow suit in opposing women's participation in politics.

117 was the number that headed a religious letter that publicly called for prohibiting women's quota, despite a presidential initiative to allocate 15 percent of Parliament seats to women after which the APF was established.

The presence of a fatwa by senior religious clerics in Yemen, issued to rescue politicians and place them formally outside the battle, implies that the Islamic political movement is the direct opponent of the women's movement in this struggle.

The battle is not over yet

As usual, the women's

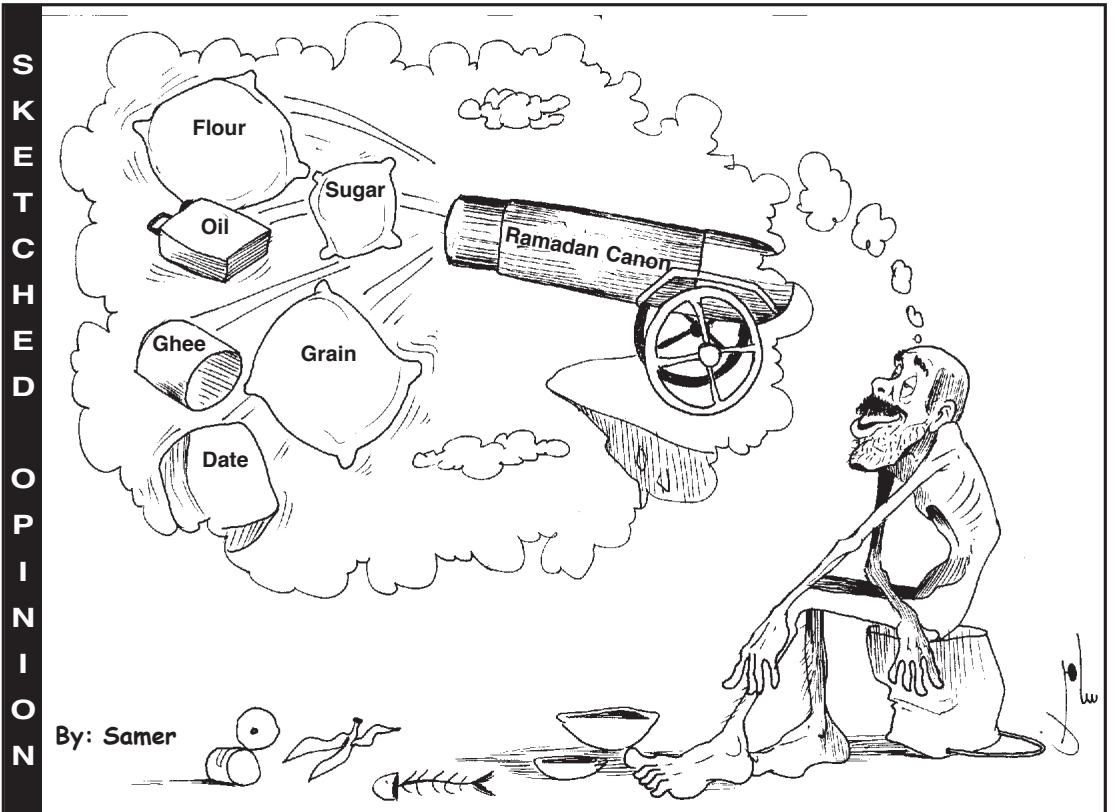
movement's conventional enemy has demonstrated its strong objection to women's participation in politics, by saying that political parties are not entitled to approve women's political activity, or their specific share in elected bodies, even if these parties have the capacity and political will to do so.

What has already happened doesn't surprise us, nor is it the

end of the battle.

Especially after so many female activists rejected the so-called fatwa banning their involvement in politics, the women's movement has not raised the white flag yet.

Women seem to be in need for an urgent fatwa to reassert women's role in politics and to begin the battle in earnest.



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1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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E-mail: yteditor@gmail.com
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Yemen Press Review



Al-Ahali.net, an independent news website

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008

Top Stories

- Central Bank of Yemen doesn't accept denominations of one hundred and two hundred
- Minister of Local Administration eliminated from Sa'ada Reconstruction Committee
- Political Advisor to President: Yemenis migrate to Saudi Arabia to flee poverty like Somalis do

Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, Political Advisor to President Saleh and one of the most prominent political actors in Yemen, showed a sharp position about Yemeni opposition leaders abroad, describing the daily criticism of Yemeni government by the opposition as "not going beyond the circle of barking", the website reported.

This came as part of a televised interview with the Saudi journalist Sulaiman Al-Hatlan, who is in charge of preparing the Gulf Talk on the Hurra Satellite Channel. And the interview was about to be broadcast on Monday evening. Al-Eryani insisted that Haidar Abu Bakr Al-Attas still remains a top secessionist, a statement that was labeled as a frank accusation of opposition in South Yemen.

Al-Eryani called his strong opponent Al-Attas to return to Yemen and ensured him save living if he returns. He confirmed that he is ready to go in person to Al-Attas if the latter accepts to return to Yemen in order to accompany him in the plane during his flight to his homeland.

The interview also discussed the topic of Virtue Protection Authority, which Al-Eryani strongly criticized, denying that President Saleh supports for any political position. He stressed that those who support the authority don't need good things for Yemen.

Al-Eryani confirmed that Houthis receive financial and media support from Iran, rejecting the idea that Saudi Arabia or Yemen offered any concessions to settle differences over border demarcation between both bordering states. He stressed the necessity of Gulf Cooperation Council states accepting Yemeni workforce, particularly as the country is experiencing a state of extreme poverty. "In even Gulf states don't accept Yemen laborers, this may constitute an extra burden on the Gulf's security," Al-Eryani was quoted as saying.

Al-Eryani likened Yemenis who migrate from their homeland to Saudi Arabia to Somalis who travel to Yemen to flee extreme poverty and conflicts in their homeland.



Al-Motamar.net, affiliated with General People Congress (ruling party)

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008

Top Stories

- Al-Eryani: Yemen suffers poverty as a major problem
- Minister of Industry and Trade calls for community partnership to meet food crisis
- SCER hopes that parties speed up presenting representatives to election committees

Member of the Supreme Commission for Elections and referendum (SCER) Dr Mohammed Abdullah Al-Siyany on Saturday told almotamar.net that his commission almost finished drafting and amending all publications, forms and guides related to the phase of reviewing and amending voter registers as part of its preparations for the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled in April next year, the ruling party's website reported.

Al-Siyany said work is underway around the clock at the technical sector as well as other sectors in order to finish the preparations as soon as possible due to the short time available for the SCER because the commission was only composed recently.

He affirmed that SCER is still committed to the constitutional and legal dates for carrying out the phase of revising and correcting voter registers. He has made it clear that the SCER last week asked political parties to provide it with names of their representatives in the supervising, major and branch committees for the stage of revising and modifying voter registers. The commission hoped that political parties would provide names of their representatives in line with the shares adopted during the local and presidential elections of 2006.

According to the website, Head of the Information Office at the General People's Congress (GPC) Tareq Al-Shami renewed his charges Saturday to the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), accusing them of attempting to hinder the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Al-Shami said that attempt of the JMP to hinder the elections is the result of its realization that its popularity has dwindled very much, pointing out that leaderships of the JMP worked for

marginalizing their parties and leaderships.

He also reminded Parliament of the postponement of its secessions for weeks to give opportunity to JMP member parties to present names of their candidates for the SCER but they procrastinated and that compelled Parliament to take its decision by rejecting election law amendments and selecting SCER members.



Al-Balagh Independent Political Weekly

Tuesday, Sept 9, 2008

Top Stories

- Al-Janadi: SCER is legitimate and we are not concerned about compromise
- Religious Zaidi cleric released from political security detention
- NDI Resident Director meets with representatives of EU and international organizations

The Al-Balagh weekly learned that Peter Dimitroff, Resident Director of National Democratic Institute (NDI) has returned to Sana'a after he had been absent over the past time period for an important mission related with operations of the Institute that is concerned with election affairs and democracy in our country, the weekly reported.

It went on to say that NDI is pondered upon as the most important international agency that contributes to correcting democratic practices in the nation. Composition of the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) and dialogue

between ruling and opposition parties on election law amendments over the past time period are some of the most prominent events related with democracy.

The international organization resented waste of time on futile dialogue between political parities. It holds the view that dialoguing outside Parliament is merely a waste of time, insisting that Parliament should play its role in this regard.

Political party leaders in Yemen are waiting for NDI's comment on the Parliament's most recent step that annulled proposed election law amendments and approved the old version of the law. JMP harshly criticized NDI during the past few months over statements made by the Institute's Director, which the opposition coalition viewed as serving the ruling party and its government at the expense of enhancing democracy in the country.

The Institute cited in its report that Yemen's 2006 election was fair, adding that SCER managed the electoral process better than it did before.

The weekly learned that Dimitroff will hold a string of meetings with representatives of EU and other international organizations to examine the various steps taken to compose SCER and amend the election system.



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008

Top Stories

- Saudi police rescue 22 Yemen illegal immigrants from death in the

desert

- HOOD: Three citizens and a child are being held hostages in Sana'a
- Defense-advocate demands Al-Moayad transferred to hospital due to critical condition

Defense-advocate of Sheikh Mohammad Al-Moayad has demanded the Yemeni government should exert pressure on the U.S. administration in order to allow him take the ailing detainee to hospital, the website reported in its lead story.

It continued that the U.S. lawyer told the eldest son of Al-Moayad, Ibrahim, in a call conversation that his father condition is critical, pointing out that his doctor inside the jail recommended that the aged inmate be taken to hospital as he could not be healed there.

According to the news website, Ibrahim Al-Moayad further expressed sorrow as the Yemeni lawyer Mohammad Alaw came back to Yemen without meeting his father, indicating that the U.S. appeal court would issue a sentence against Al-Moayad in this month.

The website went on to say that Ibrahim explained that his father complained last week in a phone conversation that the prison management impedes delivering papers and letters to his father.

Sheikh al Moayad was sentenced to 75 years in prison while his companion Mohammad Zayed was sentenced to 45 years. The pair was caught in Frankfurt Airport while flying to Germany for medical treatment and was subsequently handed over to the U.S. Administration on suspicion of funneling funds to the Palestinian Hamas Movement and supporting terrorism.

LETTER OF INVITATION TO SUBMIT BEST OFFER FOR TURN KEY DESIGN CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF SANA'A SEPTAGE TREATMENT PLANT AT AL-HUSHAISHIYA

Introduction

The Government of Yemen represented by Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation has received a grant from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development / State of Kuwait to finance the Turn Key Job of Design, Construction and Operation of Sana'a Septage Treatment Plant at Al-Hushaishiya Area.

This invitation is open to all Internationally qualified Contractors with sound experience internationally or nationally in the field of Turn Key Projects for Treatment Plants. All qualified Contractors with solid relevant experience are encouraged to associate with local Contractors having experience in the same field of Construction works in reinforced reservoirs, Pump Houses, ... etc

Contract Documents

The Project Contract Documents includes the following:

- Letters of Invitation.
- Statistical General Information to the Contractors
- General Conditions of the Contract.
- Particular Special Conditions of the Contractors.
- Technical Specifications.
- Project Bills of Quantities.

Participation

All qualified and interested Contractors may obtain the prepared documents from the Client (Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation). Against US \$200 non-refundable, however the Contractors should inform the Client, upon the receipt of this invitation with the following:

1. Confirming the receipt of a full set of Contract Documents.
2. Confirming the Contractor's Participation or otherwise.
3. Documenting whether the Contractor will participate alone or in a joint venture.

Time of Submission (within sixty days of Invitation Date)

All Offers including the sealed Technical and Financial offers should be submitted to the

officers of Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation before 12:00 noon of 02/11/2008.

Enquiries

All enquiries which the Contractors may have should be addressed to the following address:

Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation

Att: Engineer Abdulla Al-Mut'a

General Manager of (PMU)

For Sana'a Sanitation Network Projects

P.O. box 2659, Al-Hsabab

Sana'a – Republic of Yemen

Fax: +967 237 645

Tel: +967 237 644

E-mail: swslc@y.net.ye

Additional Instructions to Contractors

1. The Contractor who will participate should fill in all forms included within the Contract documents precisely with all details including a complete break down of the main items in order to enable SWSLC to compare the offers received from different Contractors.
2. In case of Associations or Joint Venture cases between International Contractors and Local Contractors, the leading partner should be identified without releasing and other partners from his responsibilities nor his liabilities.
3. The participating Contractors should identify their relevant experience in Turn Key Projects which should be reflected clearly by having a comprehensive detailed offer with a table of contents.
4. Each Contractor should include within his offer a Bidding Guarantee issued by a certified Bank working in the Republic of Yemen for a value of 40,000 US dollars. Offers shall be valid for 120 days from the day of submittal and Bid Guarantee shall be valid for 150 days from the day of the submittal.
5. This Document will be considered as apart of the Contract Agreement.

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Ramadan: King of all months

By: Nasser Salah

The Holy month of Ramadan is regarded as a unique, spiritual month of mercy that Allah (God) exclusively gave to mankind. The Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him (PBUH), said in the Holy Hadith: "All the good deeds are completed for the individual himself, except for fasting which is merely for Allah and He does reward for it". For Muslims, it is considered the dearest month and a welcome guest, which stops once a year at their homes wherever they may be on Earth. However, it is not only a time of refraining from eating and drinking, but also a significant school where one can learn many important lessons such as forgiveness, endurance, tolerance, reinforcing ties of kinship -strengthening a relationship between relatives, neighbors and friends- Sadaqah (charity) and Zakat (almsgiving), purification of souls and coming closer to Allah (God) by performing holy and good deeds while avoiding the sinful ones.

In today's world, many Muslims, not only in Yemen but also worldwide, consider Ramadan to arrive in difficult conditions, mainly sky-rocketing food prices. This is because many Muslims incorrectly view Ramadan as a time to splurge on food, which is in fact against Islamic teachings. It is advisable to follow the orders of Allah and his prophet of keeping away from extravagance. With respect to this, in Surat [Al-Isra, 27], Allah says: "Verily, the spendthrifts are brothers of the Shayatin (devils), and the Shaitan

(Devil) is ever ungrateful to his Lord."

Fasting is mentioned fourteen times in the Holy Quran. Furthermore, fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims are obliged to fast during this blessed month, according to undisputed holy revelations. In the Noble Quran, it is revealed in Surat [Al-Baqarah, 183], "O you who believe! Observing As-Saum (the fast) is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you become Al-Muttaqun (the pious)." Ramadan is the time of concentrating on performing good deeds, refraining from sinful or bad ones, and fearing Allah, while seeking his mercy and forgiveness. It is not a time for overspending money on huge meals, a luxurious month, or a month to waste time on playing dominoes and cards or watching TV for hours, in addition to chewing qat overnight. Instead, people should take the opportunity to devote themselves fully to be as near as possible to Allah.

Every country and community has its own mores and customs. However, the customs surrounding Ramadan in Shabwa in general, and in Assaid in particular, are distinguished from other places. In the past people used to welcome Ramadan a week before by chanting, "Welcome, welcome O Ramadan, you are welcome O Ramadan" and "Welcome, welcome O Ramadan, virtue and fasting are during your time". Likewise, they used to bid Ramadan farewell a week before by chanting, "Farewell, farewell O Ramadan" and "God with you O Ramadan! They used to go early to mosque to attend the five prayers in groups as well as reciting Quran.

When the time of sunset (Maghrib)

approached, before breaking the fast they used to head to the mosque so that they could chant some praying verses for ten minutes while dates and water were provided. They used to say together "I bear witness that there is no God but Allah from whom we seek forgiveness, invoking Paradise and seeking refuge from Hell", besides some other prayer-chants. After leaving the mosque, people usually went to their homes to sip cups of coffee, and eat sour bread called *lahooh* with either goat or sheep consommé called *shoor-bah*, a kind of food that consisted of smashed-grains and meat cooked in a wood-fuelled oven. Some needy families would go to the doors of the more fortunate, politely asking for something to eat by performing chants, wishing them wealth, health and offspring. After breaking the fast and praying the Maghrib prayer, people were accustomed to going to the mosque to attend the Al-Aisha and At-Taraweeh prayers as well. Families would sit up all night with their relations till early dawn, or go to sleep early to be able to face work in the morning.

A man known as the 'man of early dawn', would walk around alleys beating his drum from two till about three thirty in the morning so that people could wake up for the early meal (sahoor) and prayers. The sahoor usually consisted of crushed loaves of bread mixed with goat-milk and sesame oil, coffee and water. Four days before Eid Al-Fitr, a number of people including children would accompany the 'man of early dawn' chanting, "Ba Sha'a'al Eid Eidham, Ba Shafa'al Man As-Salimeen" for instance, to collect grains for him in return for his service waking up the village's people.

Nowadays, things are very different. Regretfully, today's generation regards Ramadan as the month of splurging on food and spending too much money on expensive, unnecessary items. In fact, fasting Ramadan involves a mysterious sacred relationship between Allah (God) and his servants, because one can realize that it is a time to feel hungry so as to feel compelled to be kind to others who lead a difficult and less fortunate lifestyle. In addition to that, doctors often recommend fasting, for good health.

Ramadan is a time for those who disobeyed Allah (God) to cut relations with the Devil (Satan), ask Allah to forgive sins and have mercy on weakness, because Allah loves to hear his servants frequently ask him, giving up committing bad deeds and converting to the way of virtue as Islamic religion



People get ready to break fast on a top of a mosque.



Some people chat in the afternoon.

teaches us in the Quran and the Sunnah of the prophet.

Fasting invokes a spiritual and sacred relationship between mankind and Allah. Allah mentioned the month of Saum (fasting) in the Holy Quran, the month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Quran, guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion between right and wrong. Whoever sights the cres-

cent on the first night of the month, must observe Saum (fast) that month, and whoever is ill or on a journey, must make up the number of days for which he did not observe Saum (fast) later. Allah tends for your ease and He does not want to make things difficult for you; he wants you to complete the same number of days, and you to magnify Allah i.e. to say Takbir or "Allahu Akbar" (Allah is Great) for having

guided you so that you may be grateful to Him. [Al-Baqarah, 185].

It is unfortunate that some people know Allah during Ramadan, but don't even remember Him during the other months. Actually, worshipping Allah as well as following the instructions of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is an obligatory duty for human beings to carry out as a way of life, and not just during the holy month of Ramadan.

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- Provide quarterly and where required monthly financial reports to the Islamic Relief HQ Finance department.
- Ensure the effective and efficient working of budgetary, accounting, reporting and internal control systems for the field and all sub-offices.
- Liaise with external auditors, government departments, banks regularly.
- Manage and undertake local internal audits of the field and sub-offices including implemented projects.
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- Perform other duties as deemed necessary

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- Ability to manage and supervise finance staff in multiple and remote locations.
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- High degree of computer literacy.
- Bilingual – Arabic & English
- Proficiency in accounting software preferably QuickBooks.
- Disposition of a team player.
- Ability to work independently and provide initiative in improving finance functions.
- Willing to travel to remote locations and in difficult terrains.

2. Position: **Human Resources & Administration Officer**
Reference: HRAO/IPD/090908

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- Maintain smooth office operations including provision and operation of equipment
- Co-ordinate and organize recruitment processes, induction and HR systems and procedures
- Support in the coordination and organization of performance management and development activities
- Ensure that the office runs smoothly and that equipment is maintained, serviced or repaired and that Health and Safety procedures are followed.
- Maintain effective communication and filing systems in the office
- Perform other duties as deemed necessary

Requirements:

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Al Mo'tabia Madrasa



Situated at Al Wasita in the city of Taiz to the west of the Ashrafite Madrasa, the Al Mo'tabia Madrasa has the rare distinction of being built by a woman, Gihat Al Tawashi Al Agal Gamal Al Dein Me'tab bin Abdullah Al Ashraf. She was the wife of Sultan Al Malik Al Ashraf Ismail bin Al Afdal, mother of his sons Al Abass and Ali Al Mujahid, and is supposed to have died in Zaid in 796 A.H. / 1392 A.D.

The school is built around an open nave flanked by four porticos, the deepest of which is that of the Kiblah. The

portico of the kiblah is covered by six domes, decorated from the inside with various glittering ornaments whose elements are derived from plants. Their effect is enhanced by geometrical and written elements in bright colors on a layer of gypsum. The main entrance is at the south of the school but there are a number of annexes to the school. The most important of these is the western gathering in which students were educated according to the Shafie School on the subject of jurisprudence, both fundamentals and branches. The large hall was created specifically to teach the

Koran to young orphans. Many reputed scholars of the era studied at this school. They include Imam Reda Al Dein bin Al Khayat, jurist Hassan bin Abdul Rahman (died 866 A.H. / 1461 A.D.), the erudite Shams Al Dein Ali bin Elias Al Hamaoui who came to Yemen in (797 A.H. / 1394 A.D.), and Shams Al Dien bin Said Al Zubairi Al Ma'afri who was a specialist scholar in grammar, linguistics, fundamentals, the Islamic law of inheritance, logic, and algebra.

Schools built during the Rasulid era were generally similar in design, with a central courtyard surrounded by halls, student rooms, classrooms and a mosque. Most schools were also built with a sepulcher where the founder of the school was buried, which also served as a place for the Koran to be recited at the beginning or the end of classes.

Visitors to the building will easily recognize it to be a school, and marvel at the progress made through its architectural and artistic functions. Because of the structural and climatic characteristics, the architects utilized all their pro-



fessional skills to bring it the best designs, architectural elements, building materials and decorative elements. The way these architects dealt with climatic and environmental challenges have made the school one of the extraordinary examples of the Yemenis' deep-rooted architectural thinking in one of their most thriving cultural epochs. Source: Tourism ministry, Endowment ministry



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