

Inside:



3
1,000 new jobs promised for Aden



5
Injaz boosts entrepreneurial spirit in Yemen



12
Arranged marriages: Where is the love?

Tension and bloody confrontations ensue in Lahj

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Dec. 19 – Security authorities have been forced to send military re-enforcements to Lahj governorate as fierce altercations between the army and activists from the Southern Movement continue.

Tension has been running high in the area since a Southern Movement activist was killed on Friday. Hundreds of Southern Movement supporters protested on Saturday, condemning the killing of Abbas Mohamed Saleh Tanbah, 28, one of their activists who died in a confrontation with the army.

Radfan district security forces confirmed Tanbah's death. According to a statement from Yemen's Ministry of Interior, Tanbah was regarded an "out-law person" for his participation in an operation that targeted a number of security and armed forces while they were on duty in the Al-Habilain area in Lahj.

Security forces told the Media Security Center, run by the Interior Ministry, that Tanbah was a dangerous criminal and one of the leaders of an attack that targeted a number of soldiers in the main market of Al-Habilain city. They said that the accused was killed while soldiers were defending themselves against the attack that targeted them while on duty.

The center said that two other persons from the armed group that targeted the soldiers were injured. It added that the ministry was now conducting investigations to find those who carried out the attack that resulted in the death of Major Ali Ghanem Al-Amari, two soldiers and the wounding of seven other soldiers.

A security official said on Friday that five people were killed and others were injured in clashes in Al-Habilain between army forces and armed members of the Southern Movement, during an attempt to arrest Tanbah before his killing.

Local eye witnesses said that a huge military force, including a number of tanks, armored vehicles and dozens of soldiers, came from Taiz governorate to Al-Anad Triangle in Lahj. The force began moving to Al-Habilain. The witnesses also said that some local officials and social figures from Al-Habilain were negotiating with military leaders to prevent the army from storming the city.

Local sources said that dozens of gunmen arrived on Friday evening from Al-Dale' and the mountains of Yafe' – two areas close to Al-Habilain – to participate in confrontations against the army.

On Sunday, southern separatists



Violence continued in southern Yemen over the last week. Scenes of unrest broke out, as seen in recent months when vehicles were set alight.

claimed that they had kidnapped an army officer in Al-Habilain.

"Gunmen from the Southern Movement kidnapped Captain Mohammed Ali Abdullah Hadyan near a security checkpoint north of the town of Habilayn," an un-named security official and leader of the Southern Movement told AFP news agency.

Southern Movement leader Taher Tammah confirmed the abduction, according to the news agency. Tammah said the officer belonged to an influential tribe, and his kidnapping was aimed at "putting pressure on the occupying authorities to release our detainees."

Renewed clashes in Radfan

There were renewed clashes in Radfan district in Lahj governorate on Friday night between deployed military forces in Radfan and armed men from the Southern Movement. The conflict continued until Saturday morning. Military forces stormed the mountains overlooking the city with tanks and machine guns.

Local sources said that one soldier was killed and two others wounded in the clashes. Gunmen blocked the army from retrieving their casualties until local mediation allowed soldiers to remove the injured soldiers to Lahj for treatment.

Gunmen have been seen wandering the streets and lanes of Lahj. Armed separatists have also been seen setting up checkpoints at the city's entrance. Deployed military forces in the area are

on high alert and there are reports of military enforcements heading towards Radfan.

Tribal leaders in the Radfan area have urged President Saleh on Saturday to intervene and address the problems that have accumulated in the area over several years. They have requested an independent committee to sit with all political powers, local authorities, tribal leaders and social figures to discuss local problems, especially the re-occurring security incidents.

Tribal leaders said in a statement that a meeting had been held to discuss the situation in Radfan. They said that they have disclosed their opinions on the daily security incidents in the area, but that no one has listened to them. They have also accused some parties of deliberately increasing the tension in the area for personal gain.

Tribal leaders have rejected a military solution, saying that this will have dangerous consequences for the district and for the nation.

'Yemenis lost confidence in State'

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Dec. 18 – An independent poll has revealed that Yemen's voters don't expect much to improve after next year's proposed general elections and analysts say that this is an accurate reflection of what's happening on the ground.

The Yemen Polling Center's public opinion survey, released last Thursday, showed that at least 30 percent of Yemenis interviewed believe that the election won't improve their lives because of electoral fraud. Sixty-seven percent of the survey's respondents want an international observation presence during the election to ensure its integrity.

Only 23 percent of the poll's respondents believed that the election would be a means for enhancing life in Yemen. The poll surveyed 1,014 Yemenis across the country's 12 governorates. There were an equal number of male and female respondents.

MP Shawqi Al-Qathi from the opposition Islah Party told the Yemen Times yesterday that this poll was evidence that Yemenis were becoming more aware about the electoral process.

"Yemenis are frustrated with the State because it has no intellectual or clear vision. The present government has been in power for more than 32 years and we still have high illiteracy in Yemen," said Al-Qathi.

He alleged that the government will waste money and "buy votes" during the election.

"We hope that international organizations would supervise the election to be sure that it is honest and effective," said Al-Qathi.

MP Ali Al-Ansi, also from Islah Party, alleged that most Yemeni voters have been disillusioned by the elections because of a significant decline in the election process.

"Yemenis have lost confidence in the state. Most Yemenis are blackmailed into electing the ruling party," he alleged.

- Poll shows 30% say elections won't improve their lives
- Opposition says ruling party will spend money to buy voters
- Yemenis view elections as 'political festivals'

"We suffer from a severe crisis of confidence in government. Most Yemenis are depressed and down in the dumps, but they will rage against the government if this bad situation continues. Opposition parties may hold a referendum on the legitimacy of the regime."

Hafeth Al-Bukari, head of the Yemen Polling Center, said that opposition parties had no clear agenda either. He said this led to mistrust between the parties and voters. This was worsened by the ruling General People's Congress party's ability to present distorted facts about opposition parties in Yemen, he said.

"Most Yemenis don't realize the importance of the election as a way to get change. They consider elections as carnivals and political festivals," said Al-Bukari.

He said that the government-run media have also not been able to adequately promote electoral or political awareness. He said that the electoral process had become less honest and that "sheikhs, officials and governors influence citizens to vote for the ruling party".

MP Aidaroos Al-Naqeeb, from the Socialist Party, also said that Yemenis do not trust the government.

"We have national division and a very bad economic situation. Yemenis are disappointed," he said.

He also alleged that the ruling party would hold "an election without voters". It will force public employees and others to vote for it, said Al-Naqeeb.

"Unfortunately, the relationship between Yemenis and the State has turned to rivalry and hostility," he said.

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HIV and AIDS awareness low in Yemen

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Dec. 19 — The Comprehensive Care Association, a Yemeni NGO, yesterday hosted a conference to raise awareness about AIDS and highlight the country's HIV protection law.

Yemen's HIV law, supported by Yemeni parliamentarians, was passed in August last year. Ten parliamentarians, along with one HIV-infected person, designed the legislation to protect HIV-infected people. The law took more than two years of parliamentary discussions before being approved. During the process the group set up the Yemen HIV and AIDS prevention organization called PAP.

"It's the best law in the Arab world, after Djibouti," said Dr. Abd Al-Barri Dugheesh, MP and head of PAP.

"But if I had the chance to change it now I would improve it. But it's still a big achievement."

HIV-infected people are entitled to the same rights as other citizens, as mentioned in the Yemeni constitution, and mentioned in international conventions. Of these rights, PAP confirmed that HIV-infected people have the right to transport and movement, which

means they can travel without being asked for an HIV test.

"Preventing the infected from traveling or entering other countries makes the problem worse than what it is now," said Dr. Fawzia Ghrama, the UNAIDS coordinator in Yemen.

HIV or the human immunodeficiency virus is an incurable disease. It attacks the immune system and is transmitted in blood via sexual contact or contaminated needles. The disease can also be passed from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery or breastfeeding.

It can be many years before HIV damages the immune system and lead to the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, also known commonly as AIDS.

Worldwide some 60 million people have been infected with HIV, according to a UNAIDS 2009 report. In Yemen, the latest figures show 3,145 recorded cases of HIV infection, according to Ghrama.

However, in 2006 the National AIDS Program (NAPS) reported that the number of reported cases had reached 1,821 by the end of 2005. But the program estimated that as many as 12,000 people could have been infected countrywide.

Internationally 125 countries do not

impose restrictions on HIV-infected citizens or require HIV tests for their visa applications. Fifty-seven countries currently impose restrictions on those infected with HIV, six countries refuse to grant visas, even for short periods of a day, and 24 countries will deport any known HIV carriers, according to UNAIDS.

In January this year the US, China and Korea all removed compulsory testing for the visa applicants, said to Ghrama.

Only two Arab countries – Morocco and Djibouti – and Iran do not require compulsory HIV testing for an entry visa.

"To have a special law for the HIV-affected persons means that we are discriminating against them. It means that they have been violated against and they need a law to protect them," said Ghrama.

Yemeni legislation states in Article 15 that "except for the case of donating blood and for pre-marital tests all other testing has to be voluntary and confidential".

Many people still believe that HIV testing has to be compulsory in order to give exact numbers of infected people

in Yemen.

"Compulsory testing can help a lot in medical operations, especially when it's urgent, so that the doctor can save time by knowing if the patient is HIV positive or not," said Dr. Raja'a Al-Shoa'ibi, head of Nabdh Al-Haiah organization, which works with HIV patients in Aden.

Ghrama thinks that the compulsory test will bring more harm than good to Yemeni society.

"Don't forget the 'window period' in which the HIV-infected person can be tested but the results will still be negative. It's usually from three to six months that the results are known," said Ghrama.

"So what would happen if a man had the test during the window period and after a few years his wife gave birth and only then they know about the infection? Think of the damage that could happen to the wife when the husband can prove that he wasn't infected when they got married?" asked Ghrama.

The conference hosts said that Yemen needed more comprehensive and regular media coverage about AIDS. They said that AIDS was only highlighted when on the annual World AIDS Day.

In Brief

SANA'A

Yemen, Egypt discuss security coordination

Yemen's Minister of Interior Mutahar Al-Masri and Egyptian ambassador to Yemen, Ashraf Aql, signed security coordination and related agreements in the capital on Saturday. Aql said that Egypt valued Yemen's efforts and praised its security devices. He said Egypt was ready to develop joint cooperation with Yemen in all fields.

IMF: Yemen progressed in dealing with financial imbalances

A senior official at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Friday that Yemen has progressed in dealing with its economy's financial imbalance. But its limited resources and security troubles have exacerbated the situation, added the IMF official, in a Reuters news agency report. In a telephone call from Washington, head of the IMF's Permanent Mission, Hassan Al-Atrash, told Reuters that oil exports formed about 60 percent of the Yemeni government's revenues. In the last seven months, the Yemeni Rial has fallen 16 percent to the US Dollar.

Official: Yemen can fight terrorism on its own

Yemen can fight terrorism at home on its own, without foreign intervention, a top Yemeni official has said. Abdul Karim Al-Eryani, President Saleh's political advisor, said that the U.S. has asked Yemen many times to participate in operations against Al-Qaeda in Yemen, but every time the Yemeni government turned down the requests. Al-Eryani said in an interview with France24 that

Yemeni-U.S. relations remained healthy and cordial. He also said that the media exaggerated Al-Qaeda's presence in Yemen. He said that it was impossible to compare Yemen with Pakistan and Afghanistan. But he did not deny that Yemen was dealing with major economic and political demands.

HOEIDDAH

Child rights awareness campaign launches in Hodeidah

Alternatives to Combat Child Labor through Education and Sustainable Services (ACCESS-Plus) launched a child rights awareness campaign for parents in cooperation with CHF International on Saturday. Campaign participants will learn about the worst forms of violations of child labor, the importance of education for children, mobilization and advocacy for children's issues and how to protect children from persecution and abuse.

Tourist resort for the Red Sea

Plans are underway to build a tourist resort on Kamaran, Yemen's largest island in the Red Sea. The 108-km squared island is 18km long and 7km wide and strategically located at the southern end of the Red Sea. Hodeidah province's Tourism Office director, Abdullah al-Kalwi, said that the tourist project would include swimming pools, restaurants and water sports at a cost of up to YR1.3-billion. He said there were currently six tourist projects being built at a cost of USD65-million and these would include chalets and hotels. The six tourist projects will open by mid-2011.

Lebanon University wins inter-college debate

By: Shatha Al-Harazi

SANA'A, Dec. 15 — Lebanon University won the final of Yemen's inter-college debating competition held recently at the Science and Technology University, in Sana'a.

Twenty-four students from five Yemeni universities participated in the inaugural British Council project, designed to support English language teaching in Yemen. The final debate was held last Wednesday, December 15.

The British Council said that research had shown that when students are involved in debating contests they learned to tolerate opponent's views. The opportunity to demonstrate what

they had learned in the classroom to the public also encouraged students to work hard and deliver high quality presentations.

The competition was hosted with the assistance of the Ministry of Education and broadcast live on the ministry's education channel on Sheba TV.

"This is the first debating competition in Yemen and we would like to continue the competition in the future with the support of our partners," said competition facilitator Fatwi Yosies.

Dr. Mourad Al-Azani, professor at Sana'a University's faculty of education, was one of the competition's coordinators. He said that they had "never expected to achieve what we have today".

"Most of the topics discussed at this competition, like early marriage and free trade agreements, are political discussions in parliament... What we are trying to do is to take discussions out of the parliament and into academic circles by creating these debates between students," he said.

"All the topics were chosen because they are hot topics. This kind of debate should be encouraged and promoted across the Islamic world to reach a better understanding through dialogue."

Seven judges, including three women, decided on the winners and awarded marks for debate delivery, argument construction and teamwork.

Debate winners Haneen Medyan, Hiyam Alarami and Osama Kaza were

awarded Toshiba laptops. The runners-up Alia'a Ali Al-Matary, Mazen Saeed Saleh Ba-baeer and Haifa Mohammed Al-Hadheri received iPods. Third place winners from the University of Science and Technology walked off with electronic dictionaries.

The final debate, between Lebanon University and Sana'a University's Language Faculty, each with three team members, was about refugees and their weakening effect on Yemen's economy.

Medyan from the winning team argued that Yemen has its national problems with reaching self-sufficiency, so it was impossible to host the huge number of African refugees in the country. "Even if the UN helps them, they are

not all registered legally to get the help. They come into the country and spread diseases as they aren't scanned when they enter the country," said Medyan.

Al-Matary from the opposing team argued though that refugees weren't choosing Yemen because it's the best country, but because they need safety.

"They come here and get nothing from Yemen's budget. In fact, there are other international organizations that take care of them, offer them health care and good educational opportunities," argued Al-Matary.

The winning team argued that all over the world refugees had a negative effect on the host country's economy and that they also forged their identities to get money from the host country.

The Sana'a team retorted that this was not the case in Yemen and that refugees couldn't make the country's situation any worse as Yemen was one of the world's poorest countries. This team also said that refugees do not steal any good opportunities from Yemenis but accepted jobs that Yemenis refused to do and therefore improved Yemen.



VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

إعلان عن طلب مدربين متخصصين

The Yemen Microfinance Network (YMN) is a joint initiative from the Social Fund for Development (SFD) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to act as a secretariat for the Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in Yemen. Its main focus is on training, capacity building, transparency and information exchange.

The YMN has established a training unit within the network to train the practitioners of the MFIs. The unit will provide trainings in different areas of Microfinance and soft skills to build the capacity of the microfinance practitioners. Currently the network is in the process of developing its curriculum for trainings and is looking for capable individuals to work with the network as Trainers to conduct a number of training courses as well as developing training materials. The areas of training and training material development are as follows:

Microfinance skills:

- Board Governance
- Human resources
- Auditing
- Accounting
- Market Research
- Product Development
- Financial Analysis
- Customer Service
- Marketing (on a strategic and lower level)
- Delinquency Management
- Risk Management

Soft Skills:

- Training of Trainers (TOTs)
- Planning (Strategic, Action planning)
- Management and supervision
- Leadership
- Decision making
- Problem solving
- Report/Proposal writing
- Communication
- Negotiation
- Team building
- Time management
- Evaluation techniques.

Qualifications/Skills and Experience:

- Knowledge of microfinance operations and best practices or any relevant field, banking, social development, social work;
- Knowledge in personal development and soft skills best training methodologies;
- Knowledge and experience of developing

- training programs and training materials;
- Possess training material that can be modified to the microfinance industry;
- At least 2 years experience in conducting training;
- Certified trainer in relevant fields from accredited institution, preferably in Microfinance such as Sanabel and CGAP,
- Excellent writing and speaking communication skills in Arabic, English is additional;
- Ability to think out-of-the-box and develop innovative solutions;
- Ability to work independently within tasks assigned, and as part of a team in terms of collaborative climate and dedication to deliver results;
- Demonstrated high professional and ethical standards;
- Demonstrated networking and negotiation skills;

Submission guideline:

- The application should comprise of the following:
 - Maximum two pages proposal including timeline of training courses and developing training material, cost and expertise;
 - One page cover letter clearly stating the area of training applying for and explaining the applicants' interest and suitability for the position,
 - Updated CV.
 - Supporting documents

شبكة اليمن للتطوير الأصغر هي عبارة عن مشروع مشترك أنشئ من قبل الصندوق الاجتماعي للتنمية (SFD) وبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي (UNDP) ليكون نقطة الوصل والممثل لصناعة التمويل الأصغر في اليمن وللمؤسسات التمويل الأصغر، وتركز الشبكة على التدريب وبناء القدرات، والشفافية وتبادل المعلومات.

وضمن الشبكة تم إنشاء وحدة التدريب التي تعمل على بناء قدرات العاملين في مؤسسات التمويل الأصغر من خلال تقديم دورات تدريبية في مختلف مجالات التمويل الأصغر والمهارات الشخصية، وتقوم الوحدة حالياً بتطوير المناهج التدريبية وتبحث عن مدربين متخصصين في تطوير المواد التدريبية وتقديمها في المجالات التالية:

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| <h4>المؤهلات/المهارات/الخبرات:</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> المعرفة بمجال التمويل الأصغر وأفضل الممارسات لتطبيق عملياته أو أي مجال ذات صلة مثل المجال المصرفي/التنمية الاجتماعية/العمل الاجتماعي؛ المعرفة في مجال التنمية البشرية والمهارات الشخصية وأفضل المنهجيات للتدريب فيها؛ الخبرة في تطوير وتحديث البرامج والمواد التدريبية. امتلاك مواد تدريبية بالإمكان تخصيصها لتلائم العاملين في مجال التمويل الأصغر. خبرة في التدريب لمدة لا تقل عن سنتين مدرب معتمد في المجالات ذات الصلة من مؤسسات معترف بها ويفضل في مجال التمويل الأصغر مثل شبكة سنابل للدول العربية والمجموعة الاستشارية لمساعدة الفقراء مهارات اتصال ممتازة (تحدث وكتابة) باللغة العربية وتعتبر اللغة الإنجليزية إضافية. القدرة على العمل بشكل مستقل ضمن المهام المسندة، وكفرد في فريق ضمن مناخ تعاوني والتفاني من أجل تحقيق النتائج؛ التحلي بأرقى معايير المهنية والأخلاقية. مهارات تفاوض وتواصل ممتازة | <h4>التمويل الأصغر</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> التحليل المالي خدمة العملاء مبادئ التسويق تسويق استراتيجي إدارة المتأخرات وتحديد سعر الفائدة إدارة المخاطر التشغيلية الحكم الرشيد والثقافة المؤسسية. الموارد البشرية المراجعة المحاسبة دراسة السوق تطوير المنتج |
| <h4>طريقة التقديم:</h4> <p>يتم التقديم عن طريق إرسال التالي:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> عرض فني ومالي لا يزيد عن صفحتين يحتوي على مدة الدورات التدريبية أو مدة تطوير المادة التدريبية، الكلفة والخبرات المؤهلة لذلك (كلفة تحديث المواد وتقديمها في برنامج تدريبي). رسالة تغطية لا تزيد عن صفحة واحدة يوضح فيها المتقدم مجال التدريب ومدى اهتمامه وملائمته لتقديم هذه البرامج. السيرة الذاتية. صور من الشهادات والمعلومات المساندة | <h4>المهارات الشخصية</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> كتابة التقارير كتابة مقترحات مشاريع مهارات الاتصال التفاوض بناء الفريق إدارة الوقت مهارات التقييم تدريب مدربين التخطيط (الاستراتيجي واليومي) فن الإشراف والإدارة القيادة اتخاذ القرار حل النزاعات |

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to: info@yemennetwork.org before Sunday, 9th January 2011. Applications received after the closing date will not be considered.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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1,000 new jobs promised for Aden

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Dec. 19 — A new USD50-million initiative, the Aden Gulf Project, will ensure at least 1,000 new job opportunities.

This was the bold promise yesterday from Salah Al-Attar, chairman of the General Investment Authority, which falls under the Yemeni government.

This new investment, which is a partnership between the public and private sector, is to enhance economic activity in Aden. Al-Attar said that the investment authority will act as a coordinator between investors and the government.

"This is what we really need. The project will enhance cooperation between the two sectors and will provide job opportunities," he said.

Abdul Jaleel Al-Sho'aibi, head of Aden Free Zone Administration (AFZ), said that the government will facilitate a platform in Aden so that the private sector can invest in the area.

Al-Sho'aibi told the Yemen Times that projects in the AFZ will sharply reduce unemployment in Aden by 2012. The project will be operated by the Aden Gulf Development Company (AGDC) in accordance with the development and operator agreement between the company and AFZ.

According to Waleed Qasem, from the AGDC, the project will occupy



New business projects are set to create jobs in various industries in Aden to ensure that more locals, as pictured above, keep busy. Photo Supplied

1,000 hectares. Qasem said that work on the project will start in January 2011 and will be finished within eight months. The project is to create a multi-purpose economic area which will contain logistics, light industry, commercial, and residential zones, and also quay facilities.

The contract for the project was signed by AGDC and AECOM, a global provider of professional technical and management support services to transportation, facilities, energy and water

markets.

Jim O'Gara from AECOM said that they hoped that "our efforts will help Aden Gulf restore its status as a commercial center in the region".

Brookwood, a privately held investment banking and private equity firm that specializes in the Middle East and Africa, was another signatory in the job creation deal.

AGDC is part of Yemen's largest company, the Hayel Saeed Anam Group

of Companies (HSA). It recently negotiated a new USD1-billion contract with the AFZ. The Aden Gulf Project is part of this deal.

Since 1991 the AFZ has designated 32,500 hectares of land where companies can trade without being subjected to the usual rules of taxation in Yemen. The Aden Gulf Project will be exempt from taxes on trade, industry and income as it is established in the free zone in Aden.

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Yemen protection officers foiled attack on CIA agents

By Iona Craig

SANA'A, Dec. 19 — Yemeni officials said that they foiled the bomb attack on four US citizens in Hadda last week. A Jordanian man was arrested at the scene.

An explosive device was placed in the back of, or underneath, a pick up truck near Pizzaiola restaurant in Hadda. A source told the Yemen Times that the device failed to properly detonate at 8:30pm last Wednesday. A separate unofficial source confirmed that the vehi-

cle's passengers were CIA agents.

No one was hurt in the incident, but a Jordanian national was arrested allegedly carrying firearms, multiple identity documents, explosives and video recording equipment. It's believed he is being held in Sana'a Capital Security Prison.

A Yemeni security official claimed on Friday that Yemen police protection officers caught the attacker when he tried to plant the explosives next to the embassy vehicle as it stopped outside the pizza restaurant.

A 'warden message' was put out by

the US Embassy's Sana'a website on Wednesday night, but did not mention US citizens being involved in the attack. An earlier UN security message, sent out via SMS to foreign nationals, said the incident possibly involved a US vehicle with diplomatic plates. The US State Department confirmed the attack in a statement on Thursday.

"On December 15, 2010, a US Embassy vehicle was attacked in Hadda, a suburb of Sana'a, Yemen, where it was parked in front of a restaurant frequented by Westerners. We can confirm that four

American embassy personnel were in the vehicle and no one was injured."

No links have yet been made between the arrested man and Al-Qaeda.

In September 2008 a double car bomb attack on the US Embassy in Sana'a killed 16 people, none of the casualties were Americans. Earlier in 2008, mortar bombs targeting the US Embassy missed and hit a nearby school, killing a guard and injuring 13 schoolgirls. In January last year three gunmen opened fire at a checkpoint close to the US Embassy. All three were arrested.

Opportunities

Africa and the South Asia Undergraduate Program

The U.S. embassy in Sana'a is pleased to announce that it is now receiving applications for the 2011-2012 Africa and the South Asia Undergraduate Program (NESA UGRAD). This program is for Yemeni students currently enrolled in an undergraduate university or college, who speak English.

This is a one academic year, full-time, non-degree study program in the United States. For more information about this program, please visit: <http://yemen.usembassy.gov/nesaue.html>

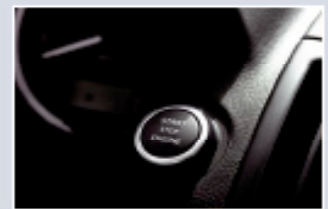
Applications are accepted via emails to PASSanaa@state.gov. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2011.



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SATURDAY

IY670	B738	23:00	SAH	DAR	02:30
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nexen****ESP TECHNICIAN
Position #0928 (B14) (CPF) - Masilla
For Yemeni Nationals Only****Basic Function:**

Perform a variety of ESP trade maintenance functions, the operation and repair of the VFD drives in the field and the associated down-hole pump installations, High voltage system repair associated with the operation and troubleshooting of Variable Speed Drives, Fixed Speed Drives and Switchboards at the CPF and various field locations. Trains National employees

Job Duties:

The incumbent shall:

- Installs, maintains, repairs and diagnoses trouble in the Driver components of the field pumping system.
- Participates in planned and preventative maintenance programs and breakdown work. Includes checking, adjusting and diagnosing equipment malfunctions and taking corrective action. Utilizes specialized measuring and testing instruments such as but not limited to, voltmeters, ammeters, and meggers etc. Assesses load requirements for electrical equipment. Plans and lays out certain work from blueprints, sketches, wiring. Assembles, disassembles and completely overhauls electrical motors, drives, generators, etc. Repairs down-hole motor cables.
- Authorized for electrical isolations on Variable Speed Drive applications up to and including 5 kV.
- Carries out other duties such as providing on-the-job instruction to trainees and coordinating work activities of laborer contractors.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of secondary (Technical) education (12 years) followed by 2 years' full-time formal training in ESP trades and 6 years of related experience.
- He will have completed Variable Speed Drive Courses and Submersible Pump Course.
- Fair Knowledge of English
- Valid Yemeni Driving License

- To Apply for this Job please apply to: recruiting_yemsana@nexeninc.com
- Applications **should be submitted NO later than Jan. 3rd, 2011**. Faxed applications will not be considered.
- Make sure that you mention the job title you are applying for in the email subject.
- Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

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- آلة تصوير ديجتال (ليزر) / طابعة شبكية / ماسح ضوئي / فاكس
- 35 / 35 نسخة في الدقيقة ابيض واسود / ملون
- مقاس (حجم) الورق حتى A3
- كاسيتات الورق 4 x 520 ورقة و 100 ورقة ممر جانبي.
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Copier	As Fast As 8.1 seconds color / 6.5 seconds black and white.
Resolution	600x600x4dpi
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Scanner	Scan to Email / Scan to Folder
Connectivity	Ethernet / high speed 2.0 USB wireless

WC7120 آلة التصوير الرقمية متعددة المهام الملونة موديل زيروكس (آلة تصوير و طابعة شبكية و ماسح ضوئي)

- آلة تصوير ديجتال (ليزر) / طابعة شبكية / ماسح ضوئي
- 20 / 20 نسخة في الدقيقة ابيض واسود / ملون
- مقاس (حجم) الورق حتى A3
- كاسيتات الورق 2 x 520 ورقة و 50 ورقة ممر جانبي.
- 110 ورقة جهاز سحب الاصول الاوتوماتيكي للوجهين.
- ذاكرة 2 جيجا بايت و 80 جيجا بايت قرص صلب.
- فرز الكتروني مسبق

Injaz boosts entrepreneurial spirit in Yemen

Yemen has finally officially become part of a global movement to empower youth between 15 and 25 years old. An Arabic version of the Junior Achievement program, which started in the USA in 1919, came to life in Jordan in 1999, and is now in almost all Arab countries.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The 70 students were overwhelmed with anticipation and bubbled with joy over the news. That Thursday was a special day for them as classes had been cancelled and a trainer from Injaz, who flew all the way from Cairo, was coming to talk to them.

"This is the project of your lifetime," trainer Nancy Refki, who has been with Injaz for ten years in Egypt, told the wide-eyed students.

Injaz is a youth-based initiative aiming to inspire and prepare young men and women to become productive members of society and to succeed in the global economy. Injaz Al-Arab, which is a parallel initiative to the US-based Junior Achievement initiative, harnesses the mentorship of Arab business leaders to help inspire a culture of entrepreneurship and business innovation among Arab youth.

Establishing Injaz Yemen started more than 18 months ago by May Salameh, the program's current executive director. She had worked with Injaz in many other countries and when she came to Yemen she decided to establish the organization here so that Yemen became part of an international movement for change.

It was exactly one year ago that Injaz Yemen went into four schools, two for boys and two for girls, in Sana'a. The program brought hope and inspiration as 1,600 eighth and tenth grade students went through hours of business planning and personal development sessions.

Now those students are becoming carriers of this movement and spreading it among their peers and smaller communities.

Corporate social responsibility

The business community helped launch this program through supporting the curricula, trainer and volunteers' expenses. Contributors included DOME, The Al-maz Group, Media Circle, Al-Kaboos, Shibam Holding, TOTAL, Yahya Abu Rijal Ltd., the General Investment Authority and Yemen Catering Services.

The program was able to operate in five schools in Sana'a, two public schools for boys, two public schools for girls, and one co-education private school, in addition to two vocational training centers.

Injaz Yemen and the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training agreed to work together in 2009 in the four governorates of Aden, Hajja, Hodeida and Amran. This was to benefit 900 students by providing them with an Entrepreneurial Package made up of three courses from INJAZ, called Success Skills, Master Class and Leadership. After this successful pilot, the ministry and Injaz Yemen recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding which will help Injaz Yemen to reach another 700 students at two centers in Sana'a.

The aim of this course is to educate graduates of Vocational Training Centers about the life skills that will allow them to succeed as professionals in the work place. The training intends to inject an entrepreneurial spirit into the graduates and enable them to create their own opportunities through opening small businesses.

When May Salameh approached the school headmasters after getting clearance from the Ministry of Education, she was inspired by how welcoming the school managements were.

"The principals were open to anything that would bring hope and development to the school, as long as there is a clear



Children busy designing their company product which is a simulation of a real life project.

structure to the program. They all said that they were happy to be part of a network of 13 Arab countries in the Middle East," says Salameh.

The students had a great experience in learning the Master Class program which encouraged them to think hypothetically about how to start a small business.

"I was shocked at the students' enthusiasm and creativity. They loved it and the tenth graders realized the solutions they are providing through their businesses are going to help their country as a whole," says Salameh.

"These students looked at how they can contribute to the development of their country through their individual plans."

There were around 70 students in a classroom and they were divided into

ten groups. They were told they have the task of producing greeting cards and that they were competing against each other to promote their product to a buyer. Each group was given a fixed amount of fake money and access to a 'shop' where they could buy raw materials to make their product and decide on the price.

"It was amazing how they did various designs and came up with marketing plans. And when we chose one product, we explained to the rest that although it was more expensive in price, its quality and good design made us choose it," said Salameh.

"It dawned on them that quality matters, and I hope that this is a lesson they will take with them into their real lives."

During the personal development sessions with the students, they were provoked to think about their future careers and how what they had learned had been reflected in their thinking. Injaz trainers were fascinated at how their ambitions related directly to the country's priorities.

"I have never seen our mission so relevant as it is in Yemen," said Refki.

This is because the students said they wanted to establish a pharmaceutical company because medicine is expensive, or a tourism agency because tourism in Yemen was bad.

Salameh mentioned that Injaz also

builds the capacity of the teachers at the schools targeted, as the teachers have a chance to see the advantages of learning through a participatory approach, and using techniques such as role modeling and case studies.

The beneficiaries of this program learn about business ethics, leadership, and success skills. But the most important aspect is that this is the only program in which the private sector is fully involved and even takes ownership.

This is the case in all Injaz programs around the world, and Yemen is slowly catching on. Salameh called on the private sector in Yemen to carry out its corporate social responsibility and help expand the program to reach more school students and university level youth.

Salameh says they plan to host a national competition in June next year where participants could compete with their business proposals for funding. Moreover, Yemen has been chosen to have a reality TV program following these students during their work and capturing what they are going through in their struggles to start small businesses.



May Salameh, executive director of Injaz Yemen.

Injaz Programs

Personal Life Planning (PLP)

This course is designed to help students understand themselves, their relationships with other people and their social and humanitarian surroundings. Moreover, it strengthens their confidence in being efficient people in society and clarifies how future plans are made within a specific time frame. At the end of the course, students are introduced to voluntary work and the positive impact of participating in it.

Success Skills (SS)

This course is designed to help students understand the meaning of communication and its value and impact on the community and its positive impact on their surroundings. They also gain through this course the skills to manage situations effectively through team work activities and role play.

Leadership Course (LC)

This course presents to students the importance of leadership and the impact of developing leadership skills on their professional and social lives. During the course, the characteristics of a leader are pointed out and discussed. Furthermore, the course provides students with the opportunity to volunteer to serve their society and practice their leadership skills through the implementation of a project. The project aims at developing the participating students' local communities, under the supervision of the private sector volunteers.

Entrepreneurial Master Class (EMC)

This course is a one day workshop (4-5 hours) that is facilitated by an entrepreneur. The aim of the Entrepreneurial Master Class is to introduce students to enhance self-employment, and to allow participants to test their ability to run their own businesses and work within a team. Throughout this session, students will create companies and assign role responsibilities between them. They create a name and a logo for their company, they prepare budgets, start the production phase of creating the product, and finally there is an announcement of the winner of the bid. This session aims at developing the marketing and creative thinking skills of the students as well as team work and competition.

Company Course (CC)

Under the supervision of the volunteer, students organize and register their own 'student company', which allows them to analyze and explore their personal opportunities and responsibilities. Students design strategies including business, production, financial, and marketing plans. After that, they produce a product, monitor productivity, evaluate the quality, and create a selling strategy. Finally, they close down the company and liquidize its assets, compose an annual report and develop personal career goals.



Injaz Yemen participating in the World Economic Forum in Marrakesh last month, where the Yemeni group won the best company marketing plan, but even more importantly, the participants' and judges' hearts. Photo by Injaz

Online businesses in Yemen can prosper

By: Malak Shaher

For Ahmad Abdulmalwla, 23, a newly-graduated student from the University of Science and Technology, starting his own business is the key to success.

He created 'Ibb 7', a website to promote tourism in Yemen. He said that when he created the website seven years ago, he did not think it would one day be the seed of his entrepreneurship.

"I created the website when I was a secondary school student. I did not know it would be of use to me. In 2006 the website prospered, and I made a good business out of the advertisements," Abdulmalwla said.

He said that he intends to continue working as an online entrepreneur as it is prospering in Yemen.

Every year, about 32,000 students graduate from public and private uni-

versities and vocational institutes in Yemen. Only 5,000 to 10,000 of these students obtain jobs in the public or private sectors when they graduate, according to a report by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The other graduates have to either look for jobs or start their own businesses.

Imad Al-Masodi, 25, earned a Masters degree in Technology and Innovation Management from Pacific University in Washington, USA. A year ago he established aqarmap.com, an online map-based website that facilitates the buying, selling and renting of real estate in the Middle East.

Last Monday Al-Masodi gave a lecture to students at the department of administrative services at the Science and Technology University. He wanted to provide the students with ideas on how to become entrepreneurs, focusing on how young people can use the internet to start their own businesses.

"The problem for most Yemeni youth is that they do not have ultimate goals for themselves. They become satisfied with the first income they make when they can make more," said Al-Masodi.

In fact, for a large number of young people who graduate from universities, getting a job is what they dream of. If they do not get a job, they start thinking of starting a business and earning a living from that.

For Mohammad Mansoor, 25, who graduated from the Faculty of Law at Sana'a University two years ago, the only job he could find was being a taxi driver in his own car.

"With the help of my father, I bought this car two years ago. I am making around YR100,000 or USD500 a month. This is what I could do to find a job," said Mansoor.

Like Mansoor, the majority of the unemployed try, with the help of their families, to establish their own busi-

nesses.

Al-Masodi said that university graduates should not be satisfied with small jobs. They should instead think of creative ways to start a business. He added that entrepreneurship is the real solution for young people to end their unemployment.

During the lecture, Al-Masodi gave students examples of high impact Yemeni entrepreneurs. He said that they had a long journey to achieve success. At the end of the lecture he provided the students with links for websites where they can participate in annual competitions for debut entrepreneurs.

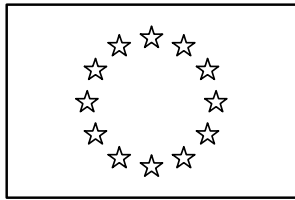
Al-Masodi said that there are 10 companies in the Arab world that provide venture capital, that is, who fund companies that show high growth potential. Obtaining venture capital is a way that promising entrepreneurs can initially fund their good ideas to create a successful company.



Every year, about 32,000 students graduate from public and private universities in Yemen. Only 5,000 to 10,000 of these students obtain jobs. Graduates can invest their abilities in creative projects or do business online, according to Imad Al-Masodi, a young man who started his business online.

Standard advertisement for local open tender procedures (C3)

Contract title:
Supply of three vehicles to the Social Welfare Fund – Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT)



Publication reference:
EuropeAid/130-845/M/SUP/YE

Contracting Authority:

Social Welfare Fund
Project in Support to the Social Welfare Fund – CCT
Republic of Yemen – Phase III
Noqom Area (behind Mövenpick Hotel)
Sana'a / Republic of Yemen

intends to award supply contract(s) for
Lot 1: 1 unit SUV automatic gear box and 1 unit SUV manual gear box
Lot 2: 1 unit Double cab pick-up

in Sana'a/Rep. Of Yemen with financial assistance from the Yemen Food Security Programme of the European Union, under Grant Contract No.

The tender dossier is available from:

Social Welfare Fund
Project in Support to the Social Welfare Fund – CCT
Republic of Yemen – Phase III
Noqom Area (behind Mövenpick Hotel)
Sana'a / Republic of Yemen

and may be obtained free of charge by sending a requesting e-mail to info@swf.gov.ye.net and/or alhanany77ye@hotmail.com..

This Procurement Notice is published by the Contracting Authority in the local press only: Yemen Times and Al Thawra Newspaper. Possible additional information or clarifications/questions shall be published on the EuropeAid website:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

The deadline for submission of tenders is **Saturday, 5th February 2011 at 14:00h.**

The tender opening will be held in a public session on **Sunday, 6th February 2011 at 10.00h**

Possible additional information or clarifications to questions by bidders shall be published only in The Yemen Times and Al Thawra Newspaper on latest 25th January 2011.

gtz Office Sana'a

Vacancy Announcement for National Personnel for the Cooperation Programme of Improving Reproductive Health in Yemen (PN 09.2061.1-001.00 - RH) done by the GTZ Office Sana'a

Manager of Component 1: "Reform of the Health Sector and Improvement of Management at Central Level"

Requirements:

Technical expertise in the following areas:

- Management, including operational planning, monitoring and reporting
- Personnel management, leadership skills and promotion of team work
- Training and coaching with emphasis on adult learning
- Good English reporting skills

Specific methodological expertise in the following areas:

- Health Policy
- Health Sector Reform
- Networking with partner institutions including international donors
- Working with government institutions in Yemen, preferably the MoPHP

Training: University degree in relevant field, preferably degree in Medicine and postgraduate degree in Public Health, PhD and advantage

Minimum of ten years of relevant professional experience, including experience in working in a team.

Language proficiency: native Arabic speaker, fluent in spoken and written professional English.
Adequate computer skills.

The Component Manager will be responsible for coordinating the programme component 1 "Reform of the Health Sector and Improvement of Management at Central Level" and will work in close collaboration with the managers of components 2 and 3 and the GTZ Programme Coordinator. Experience in results-based monitoring and gender-specific approaches is of advantage.

The candidate should be a good team worker, possess networking skills, and be open to continuous education, peer learning and quality improvement processes. Travelling within Yemen and occasionally abroad is necessary.

Interested candidates of suitable qualification are invited to send their application and an up-to-date CV in Arabic and English latest by **02/01/2011** to:

By mail: **GTZ Office Sana'a**
Human Resources Officer
Vacancy Announcement "Component Manager Reform of the Health Sector and Improvement of Management at Central Level (Comp 1)" (GTZ/RH)
P.O. Box 692
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

By Fax: **Vacancy Announcement "Component Manager Reform of the Health Sector and Improvement of Management at Central Level (Comp 1)" (GTZ/RH)**
Fax number: (00967-1) 412 539

By E-mail: **Vacancy Announcement "Component Manager Reform of the Health Sector and Improvement of Management at Central Level (Comp 1)" (GTZ/RH)**
e-mail address: Lana.Luqman@gtz.de or gtz-jemen@gtz.de

Only short listed applicants will be contacted and invited for interview.

Request for Expression of Interest

UNDP hereby solicits Expressions of interest for the following fields:

- Furniture.
- IT (Software, Hardware, Programming, Communications).
- Stationery.
- Constructions.
- Transportations (logistics).
- Car rental.
- Security and Safety (Guards, Equipment, Constructions.....etc).
- Printing and advertising.
- Electronics and Mobiles (TVs, Refrigerators, Heaters, ACs, Telephone sets.....etc).
- Courier
- Consultant Firms (Constructions, Technical (Electrical, Engineering, IT, Security, Safety).
- Audit companies
- Medical equipments and Supplies.
- General Services.

UNDP invites qualified potential suppliers to express their interest in supplying/providing the services for the above. The File should specify the name and address of company, contact person, relevant supply, services, experience, financial statement, list of professional staff, list of reference letters/contracts, specify the field of supply. The envelopes must be submitted to UNDP office no later than **10 January 2011**.

It should be noted that UNDP is not obliged to invite to participate in the subsequent bidding process any potential supplier who had expressed interest in this project. Only vendors prevailing from past experiences delivering the above will be considered. Interested potential suppliers should forward their Files, labeled "REOI" including the documentation listed above.

Request for Proposal (RFP) and any subsequent purchase order will be issued in accordance with the rules and procedures of UNDP.

Interested potential suppliers should forward their envelopes to the following address:

United Nations Development Programme
"EOI for Supplies, Services and works"
P.O. Box : 551
Off sixty road, near alawqaf complex
Sana'a – Yemen
Attn.: Mrs. Sally Ghollam
Email: sally.ghollam@undp.org
Tel.: +967 1 448605-124



الرغبة في الانضمام الى قائمة الموردين المعتمدين لدى برنامج الامم المتحدة الانمائي

يطلب برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي من المهتمين في الانضمام الى قائمة الموردين المعتمدين لدى برنامج الامم المتحدة الانمائي في تقديم الخدمات والأعمال في المجالات التالية:

- الأثاث.
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- القرطاسية.
- الأعمال الإنشائية.
- النقل (الإمدادات).
- تأجير السيارات.
- الأمن والسلامة (الحراس والمعدات والمنشآت...الخ).
- الطباعة والإعلان.
- الإلكترونيات والتلفونات المحمولة (أجهزة التلفزيون والثلاجات والسخانات ومكيفات الهواء والتلفونات...الخ).
- الشحن السريع.
- الشركات الاستشارية (الإنشاءات والأعمال الفنية الكهربائية والهندسية وتكنولوجيا المعلومات والسلامة والأمن).
- شركات مراجعة الحسابات.
- المعدات والتوريدات الطبية.
- الخدمات العامة.

يدعو برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي الموردين المؤهلين للانضمام الى قائمة الموردين المعتمدين لدى برنامج الامم المتحدة الانمائي في توفير أو تقديم الخدمات المذكورة أعلاه. ينبغي أن يشير ملف الشركة الى اسم وعنوان الشركة والشخص الذي يتم الاتصال به ومجال التوريدات أو الخدمات وكذلك الخبرة والقوائم المالية وقائمة بالموظفين المهنيين وقائمة بخطابات المراجع/ العقود وتحديد مجال التوريدات وينبغي تقديم المظاريف إلى مكتب الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي في موعد لا يتجاوز العاشر من يناير ٢٠١١م.

ينبغي أن يلاحظ أن برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي ليس ملزماً بدعوة أي مورد قدم ملفه في هذا المشروع لتقديم عطاء. سيتم فقط النظر في الموردين المعتمدين في تقديم الخدمات أعلاه. يتوجب على الموردين المهتمين تقديم ملفاتهم تحت عنوان « الرغبة في الانضمام الى قائمة الموردين المعتمدين لدى برنامج الامم المتحدة الانمائي » شاملا الوثائق المذكورة أعلاه.

سوف يتم إصدار طلب العروض وأي أمر شراء لاحق حسب قواعد وإجراءات برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي.

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بريد إلكتروني: sally.ghollam@undp.org
تلفون: ١٢٤ - ٤٤٨٦٠٥ ٩٦٧



Yemenia Tanzania office celebrated



attended the event and praised the airlines expansion strategy and the relations between Yemen and Tanzania. Deputy commercial affairs at Yemenia airlines Muneer Jahoush commented that resuming the flights after a five year disconnect is an indicator of strengthening relations between the two countries and a new service from Yemenia to its clients in Africa.

He added that this is only a step in the company's long term policy that aims at covering more and more destinations all around the world keeping up with the advancement in the aviation industry.

Minister of Transport of Tanzania also attended the event and was happy that the flights were renewed and so it allows new opportunities

between the two countries. A documentary film on Yemen as a tourist destination was shown during the celebration and the guests were given souvenirs from Yemen.



Yemenia airlines are three flights a week and this started early this month as a service to Yemenis in Tanzania and businessmen from both countries as well as the rest of the African Horn. Cabinet secretary general Abdulhafez Al-Simah



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Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, 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

Much more to Yemen than what we see in the news

By: Alice Hackman

The British media's focus on a young British Muslim woman who stabbed a British Member of Parliament last month once again shines a gloomy spotlight on Yemen. According to The Guardian, Roshonara Choudhry, a 21-year-old student who stabbed the politician for supporting the war in Iraq, told the police: "I've been listening to lectures by Anwar al-Awlaki.... He's an Islamic scholar. He lives in Yemen."

As the media concentrates on al-Awlaki's on-line sermons, his role in the launch of Al Qaeda's new magazine, and the Yemeni government's ongoing battle against Al Qaeda, the real Yemen has been drowned out. Yet it is this narrative – that of the vast majority of the population, not of a few hundred militants – that holds the key to better understanding, breaking stereotypes and perhaps ultimately less extremism.

Inside a coffee shop, near King's Cross station in central London, British-born Yemeni Abubakr al-Shamahi, 21, sips his hot chocolate and talks passionately about his home country. Not once does he talk about extremism. Instead, he talks of corruption and his fear that donors' money is not properly spent on long-term development, he laughs at Yemeni parents' matchmaking, and he raves about the beauty of the old city of Sana'a. No one he knows has been influenced at all by the radical sermons of al-Awlaki.

This is the real Yemen. It is not al-Awlaki's falsified narrative of a West-hating, militant-training Yemen. It is a country of over 22 million people – over 70 per cent of whom are under the age of 25 – struggling for development and the privilege to join the World Trade Organization. On Facebook, this is what the English-speaking youth in Yemen are telling the world. A Yemeni-Canadian, Issmat Alakhali, 32, attracted over 4,500 users to his page, "I know someone in Yemen and he/she is not a terrorist!" which he launched in January. More recently, Atiaf A., another young Yemeni, started a video project called "I'm Yemeni, I'm not a terrorist".

And yet, in an interview last May, Al-Awlaki said that he enjoyed free movement among the tribes of Yemen because "the people of Yemen hate Americans." This is not true. Most young Yemenis learn English because, apart from it being the international language of business, they also dream of emigrating to the United States or Europe to study or to work.

For the average young Yemeni, daily grievances are far more important than politics. Graduates hope to find a job. Young men struggle to accumulate enough jobs to be able to get married. New couples battle with price hikes. Nearly half of the population lives on less than two dollars a day and social development indicators – such as child malnutrition, maternal mortality and educational attainment – remain extremely poor, according to the UN's World Food Program.

In the north of the country, hundreds of thousands of Yemenis have been displaced by six rounds of war between the government and the Houthi rebels. In the south, a growing secessionist movement threatens the unity of the country, while each month thousands of refugees, asylum seekers and economic migrants arrive on the coast from the Horn of Africa. Nationwide, the next generation will struggle for water to drink as the country's population continues to increase and its already depleted aquifers rapidly run dry.

Instead of focusing always on Al Qaeda, the international media should highlight the efforts of youth-led initiatives such as Resonate! Yemen, Me for My country, Ayoon Shabah (Arabic for "youth's eyes") and the Yemeni Children's Parliament to tackle some of the country's other issues. They should profile social entrepreneurs like Hayat al-Hibshi who set up the Assada Women's Association to help girls from marginalised poor communities go to school.

The media should also highlight positive exchanges between the Muslim communities of Britain and Yemen, such as the British-Somali charity that helped to set up a day care centre for young refugee mothers in Sana'a earlier this year.

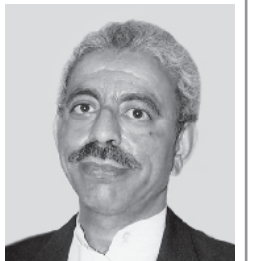
More media focus on positive community-led change in Yemen, instead of terrorism, would counter negative stereotypes of both Yemenis and Muslims in the West. The effect would be more respect for Muslims in the West, less feelings of alienation or anger among their children and, perhaps, less reason to listen to a radical preacher in the first place.

Alice Hackman has recently returned to London after two years as reporter and Features Editor for the Yemen Times in Sana'a, Yemen. Click on this link for her blog from Yemen: alicecauyemen.blogspot.com. This article was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).

COMMON SENSE

Obituary: Mohammed Hassan Sabra
A minister who left lasting marks in our lives

Amidst all the tragedies, bad governance and depletion of scarce resources to no end the country is facing today, Yemen indeed has lost one of its legendary heroes of public service. Mohammed Hassan Sabra may not be known to many people, who were unfortunate not to have lived in a period where Ministers of Government were still able to show the results of their work on the ground and their mark was touched by just everyone who lives in this God forsaken land. Indeed there was a time in Yemen's modern history that we had ministers, who performed excellently throughout their lives and who touched the hearts and minds of all those who worked with them. These ministers never saw public service as just a means of gaining wealth and prominence and purely owed their rise to senior positions on the wealth of contributions they have given to their country's political growth and economic development. These were ministers who got along with the wealthy and powerful in the same way they got along with the common folk who worked the land, or worked in grocery stores or who ran gas stations. They moved around without any armed escort, for they never harmed anyone to have to hassle with having an accompaniment clad with the most lethal weapons. You often saw them walking the streets joking around with passersby who recognized them from an earlier encounter in life and shared some light moments amid the dreary period of deprivation, which most of these ministers tried to make sure that Yemen never sees again.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

But alas, this was a period that only remains in the memories of those, who could recall when the former Prime Minister of several times, Muhsin Al-Aini would make sure that he holds a general meeting with elements of the public at large to see what is circulating in people's minds about their Government. That was a time when Government was actually for the people and not for some cutthroat bureaucrats, who not only sleaze their way to prominence and wealth by abusing their Government positions or embezzle and extort their way to the top, not to mention lying to their constituents when they sought political positions, but sometimes sell their honor and dignity for the least of worldly gains.

Many people in Sana'a recall many times when Abdulla Al-Sallal, the First President of the Republic would stop to joke with the barber or with a shopkeeper who he often went to for some of his own personal needs. Many people recall seeing people like Abdullah Al-Kurshumi speak his mind out about other ministers, who got in the way of progress by introducing bureaucratic routines that have reversed the course towards development and good governance and hindered the likes of Mr. Kurshumi and Mr. Sabra from putting their blueprint for Yemen's progress on the ground and not just in their tiring and boring speeches of praise for the leadership of the land, on which they count to continue their plunder of the land.

Mr. Mohammed Hassan Sabra, late Minister of Electricity and Water (1983 – 1988) was a whole different breed of public service. He started early in life to bear his marks, while working with senior public figures like Imam Al-Badr (prior to the Revolution) and eventually coming to be the Office Manager of General Hassan Al-Amri, former hero of the Siege of Sana'a and Prime Minister. In other words he "worked his way up to social and political prominence. He was the son of a successful vineyards farmer from the village of Rawdha, which was at the time, 10 km north of Sana'a, before the urbanization monster crept in to devour what used to be one of finest grape growing areas of Yemen, if not the world (Rawdha seedless white grapes used to be indeed the finest and most delicious white seedless in the world by this observer's own taste throughout the world).

Mr. Sabra was the man who was able to supply the former Yemen Arab Republic and eventually all of Yemen with 80% of the CURRENT national grid, where he started as the General Manager of the Sana'a Electricity Company in its embryonic days in the Early 1970s. When it became the Yemen General Electricity Corporation, he was its first Chairman of the Board. When the latter was made a Ministry along with the National Water and Sewerage Authority (The Ministry of Electricity and Water), he was the Vice Minister. But everyone remembers that he was the real engine of electricity in Yemen, throughout the time, no matter who was the Minister. He produced all the power generating stations (including the current twin cycle gas/light fuel oil station in Mareb, for which he had initiated the studies and drawings, before resigning on account of health and other reasons), most of the power transmission lines, substations and control centers. He had the foresight to introduce the North-South Power Link Project, that was the first concrete step towards the unification of former North and South Yemen.

But for most of those who knew the very light hearted, classy and refined gentleman that Mohammed Sabra was, he was that dynamic personality of high taste and good manners that only the school of Hard Knox could produce. He was equally admired by Yemenis and non-Yemenis for his ability to cut all red tape to a minimum for the execution of any projects and he had the rare character of following up on any task he took charge of or assigned from beginning to end. One could state without reservations that had the Yemeni Government followed through with the 50 year master plan he drew up for the electrification of Yemen (albeit with the addition of the South after unification), we would not be under the chronic blackout situation to which Yemenis are currently subjected. May God bless his soul.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years. His blog may be read at: <http://lcom-senfromyem.blogspot.com>

OUR OPINION

Fixing Yemen

Most 'intellectual' discussion groups these days are filled with heated debates, with many of the arguments revolving around whether or not having the next elections on time will be good for Yemen.

Opposition parties say there is no point in having elections as there is no credible electoral system in place, and that the ruling party is going ahead with elections despite a boycott by all other parties.

The ruling party says if the opposition wishes to boycott the election it is their choice. It points out that there are reform mechanisms in process, and it is the right of the Yemeni people to have elections. It says that the elections should not be dependent on the moods of political parties.

This is one of the rare occasions that I find myself siding with the ruling party. I believe that elections must happen, and that it is not fair to Yemen or Yemenis that we postpone them one more time. As it is, the credibility of the parliament is in question, and will continue to be so even if elections take place as there are legitimate doubts regarding fairness and transparency.

But believe it or not, I think that make-believe elections are better than no elections. If the elections are cancelled we are not allowing the younger generation to understand the concept of democracy and this will take Yemen backwards.

What many people in the opposition forget is that this is not about now, this is about the future. It is about acquainting younger Yemenis with the democratic process and getting them involved in it and used to it, even if it is fraudulent for the time being. Because they will eventually take ownership of it and turn it, even if only in the long run, into real fair and free elections.

The other point is that I don't believe that change will occur from the top down. There is no way the president will step down, despite his repeated claims, or that power will be passed peacefully in a true democratic fashion. Therefore, change needs to come from the bottom, through grassroots developments.

This is why I believe in having representatives of various parties at different political levels such as local councils and parliament. It is very important for the opposition to enter the parliamentary elections with full force and try to win as many seats as they can.

Yes there will be fraud, and yes there will be questions on using state resources to support the ruling party, but if we just pull away and decide not to be involved how else will change take place?

If the opposition thinks that the statement they are making by not being involved will make a difference, they are mistaken. They have made this statement before and nothing really came of it.

Let's not repeat the mistake of the 2006 local council elections which the opposition largely ignored, and consequently won less than 10 percent of the positions available.

We need to enter the parliamentary elections and give Yemenis hope that there will be some change.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SKETCHED OPINION

By: Hamid



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Arab media wonders: Where are the WikiLeaks cables critical of Israel?

By: Jalal Ghazi

Arab media are growing more suspicious of WikiLeaks's selection process of the released U.S. cables. Many Arab journalists are wondering why none of these cables are critical of Israel, despite the controversy surrounding its wars in Lebanon and Gaza.

According to WikiLeaks official website, the organization has acquired about 4,000 U.S. cables that originated from the American Embassy in Tel Aviv. Yet the website has released only 22 cables so far, none of which damages the credibility of Israel. To the contrary, the leaked U.S. cables have forced Arab states in the Gulf to publicly take stronger positions against Iran and have strengthened Israel's position against the Palestinian Authority.

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange could not find better support for his decision to go public with the classified U.S. diplomatic cables than remarks made by the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

In Time magazine, Assange quoted Netanyahu in an attempt to show that the publication of the U.S. cables "will result in some new kind of harmonization." «And we can see [Netanyahu] coming out with a very interesting statement that leaders should speak in public like they do in private whenever they can. He [Netanyahu] believes that the result of this publication, which makes the sentiments of many privately held beliefs public, are promising...»

Assange was referring to statements made by Netanyahu at the end of November to a group of reporters in Tel Aviv, according to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz. «Israel has not been damaged at all by the WikiLeaks publications," Netanyahu reportedly said. "The documents show many sources backing Isra-

el's assessments, particularly of Iran.»

He added, "For the first time in history, there is agreement that Iran is the threat. If Middle East leaders start saying openly what they have long been saying behind closed doors, we can make a real breakthrough on the road to peace.»

Despite strong U.S. criticism of the WikiLeaks release, at least one senior American official reportedly agrees with Netanyahu's assessment.

David Sanger, the chief Washington correspondent for the New York Times, said on NPR's "Fresh Air": "Just last week, a very senior American official from the State Department said to me, you know, this ultimately may be helpful because it may free up the Arab press, which takes its signals from Arab leaders, to write about Iran's nuclear program which by large, they have not done."

For the longest time, Arab media—which are owned and controlled by Arab rulers—have mainly focused on Israeli violations against Palestinians and refrained from criticizing Iran's nuclear program or perceived threats.

Arab regimes sought to avoid confrontation with Iran, which is much stronger militarily than they are. They wanted the United States to attack Iran without becoming targets of Iran themselves.

Abdel Bari Atwan, editor-in-chief of the London-based daily newspaper Al-Quds Al Arabi, criticized Arab rulers who urged the United States to attack Iran: "We did not read in one single cable that an Arab leader has the courage or the desire to protect his country from the alleged Iranian threat. All of them want the U.S. and Israel to perform this role on their behalf."

Arab regimes also avoided taking strong positions against Iran's nuclear program because this would make them look like hypocrites. Arab masses ex-

pect their leaders to criticize Israel's nuclear program, not Iran, which is seen as a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause.

State-sponsored Arab media mainly criticized Israel, because this made Arab rulers appear to back the Palestinians, which enhanced their popularity despite their corruption.

However, they no longer can play this game because their animosity and mistrust of Iran have been exposed. They now have to explain to their people why they view Iran as the region's biggest menace.

Netanyahu was quick in pointing this out. «Our region has been hostage to a narrative that is the result of 60 years of propaganda, which paints Israel as the greatest threat," he said. «In reality, leaders understand that that view is bankrupt. For the first time in history, there is agreement that Iran is the threat.»

The leaked U.S. cables show that Arab states in the Gulf actually view Israel as an asset in their quest to weaken Iran and stop it from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Arab rulers can rely on Israel to prevent any future rapprochement between Iran and the United States, especially if reformers take power in Iran. Atwan, the Al-Quds Al Arabi editor, put it this way: "What if an American-Israeli attack on Iran topples the current regime and brings to power a nationalist Iranian regime that is friendly to both Israel and the U.S.?"

Before the 1979 revolution, Iran was on very friendly terms with both the U.S. and Israel, and Iran was viewed as an important and strategic ally for Washington.

The possible return of such a scenario threatens Arab states in the Gulf because they fear Iran's territorial ambitions would be emboldened. Iran refuses to give back the three islands that it has



taken over from the United Arab Emirates in the straits of Hermoz during the Shah era. Iran has also taken advantage of the ongoing war in Iraq by spreading its influence there, and it is trying to take over Iraqi oil fields in the south. Iran may also demand a bigger share in the huge offshore natural gas fields in the Gulf, which it shares with Qatar.

In addition, the perceived Iranian threat has strengthened the Israel position vis a vis the Palestinian Authority. The U.S. diplomatic cables show that Gulf states are much more concerned about the potential Iranian threat than the construction of Israeli settlements in the West Bank or East Jerusalem.

This has deprived the Palestinian

cause of even the verbal support of these Arab states, as reflected in their non-reaction to the Obama administration's recent dropping of demands that Israel extend the settlement freeze—a major Palestinian condition for resuming peace negotiations.

As a result, the Palestinian Authority has started asking more countries to recognize their state. So far Argentina and Brazil have agreed, but even if many more nations were to follow suit, Israel is still in a stronger position and it can do whatever it wants, especially amidst the absence of tangible Arab opposition.

Before the release of the U.S. diplomatic cables, there was a widespread

belief that Arab states—especially the oil rich ones, which have strong bonds with the United States—were exerting pressure on Washington to demand that Israel extend the settlement freeze. This view, however, turned out to be wrong—which explains why Arab states did not even protest Obama's decision.

Israel will continue to be Wikileaks's biggest winner, as long as Wikileaks refrains from releasing U.S. cables that potentially can be damaging to it. But one must ask how long can the rest of the 4,000 or so U.S. cables that originated from Tel Aviv remain classified in our whistle-blowing age.

Source: menassat.com

Can soccer solve a separatist problem in Yemen?

By: Bobby Ghosh
TIME

Countries hosting major soccer tournaments usually hope that home-field advantage and passionate local support will spur the national team to punch above their weight—and perhaps even miraculously defy the odds by winning. For Yemen, the 20th Gulf Cup of Nations is freighted with far greater expectations.

The government of President Ali Abdullah Saleh is hoping the tournament, which enters its semi-finals stage on Thursday, will help heal a longstanding national wound, repair the country's image in the eyes of the world, and persuade potential investors and tourists that Yemen is a good destination for their dollars. (See pictures of Yemen's northern insurgency crisis.)

(There's not much point hoping for sporting glory: the home team lost all three of its games and has already been eliminated.)

So far, so fabulous. The Gulf Cup, featuring eight teams from Arab nations, has been a roaring success. The two host provinces, Aden and Abyan, are enjoying the fruits of an estimated \$1 billion of investment, tens of thousands of visitors and the heady atmosphere you'd expect from the biggest sporting event ever to be staged in Yemen. Soccer-related posters and banners are everywhere, and it seems half the male population is wearing team jerseys.

Saleh's gamble appears to be paying off. The president chose to hold the tournament in the southern provinces despite those being plagued by an on-and-off separatist insurgency. Aden and Abyan are the heart of what had been socialist South Yemen, before it united with the northern Yemen Arabic Republic in 1990. Unification has not been entirely smooth: the two regions fought a war in 1994, with the north prevail-

ing. Southern separatists continue to mount violent attacks on security forces and state infrastructure. (Watch TIME's video "Road Tripping in Yemen.")

The separatists' main grouse is that since unification the south has been treated as a stepchild by the more powerful northerners: provinces like Aden and Abyan got little investment. Thousands of southerners lost their public sector jobs when their government was merged into the Sana'a-based central administration. So Saleh sought to mollify the south by having it host the Cup, with its attendant bounty of investment and jobs.

Fears were that separatists might use the international attention drawn by the cup to stage big attacks, but a massive security presence has largely prevented that. Apart from one attack last Sunday that killed a soldier in a town 170 km northeast of Aden, there has been little violence. "All the fears about security have been unfounded," says Foreign Minister Abubakr al-Qirbi.

Even the President's critics have been caught up in the excitement. "It's a beautiful experience for Yemen," says Nadia al-Sakkaf, editor of the independent Yemen Times newspaper. "It's a good move [by Saleh]." Opposition leader Ansaf Mayo, leader of the Islamist Islah party and an Aden native, acknowledges that "the Power" (his term for the Saleh government) is finally giving the ancient port city the attention it deserves. "We feel the momentum generated by the Cup will restore the city's importance," he says.

Nobody's suggesting the south is now satisfied with its lot in the unified country, but the success of the tournament has, at least for the time being, taken the wind out of the separatists' sails. And a respite in the south gives Saleh the chance to focus on two other raging conflicts: the rebellion by a northern Shi'ite sub-sect known as the Houthis, as well as the growing ambition of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or

AQAP. The president is coming under increasing pressure from the U.S. and Europe to stamp out AQAP, but many Yemenis think the Houthis are a more pressing threat to their country. (See how Al-Qaeda is becoming more lethal in Yemen.)

The relative absence of violence around the Cup is a boost for the reputation of Saleh's security forces, which haven't always enjoyed a reputation for efficiency and discipline. U.S.-trained counterterrorism forces are at large in Aden, to prevent AQAP from hijacking the tournament. Some locals chafe at the overwhelming security presence and the inconvenience of too many checkpoints, but their complaints are being drowned out by the goodwill generated by the Cup.

Making that goodwill last will be a challenge, however. Many locals worry that when the circus leaves town, so too will the investments and jobs. "If all the new hotels are empty after the Cup is over, then people will soon forget how much fun it was," warns Ramadan Mohammed, who works in the oil industry. "The South's problems can't be solved with two weeks of [soccer]."

Tourism minister Nabil al-Fakih is already feeling the pressure to keep visitors and investors coming after the tournament. Thanks to AQAP and the dire travel advisories by the U.S. and European government, he's not expecting very many Westerners. "It's very difficult to improve our image in the West," he says. But the Cup has given Aden plenty of exposure in the Arab world. "Arabs are not so sensitive [as Westerners are] and they understand our product," says al-Fakih. Among the south's attractions, he says, are historical and archeological sites, trekking and swimming opportunities, and fully clothed beaches.

The Cup, al-Fakih says, "gives us a chance to start again with a clean slate." Too bad the national team finished dead last.

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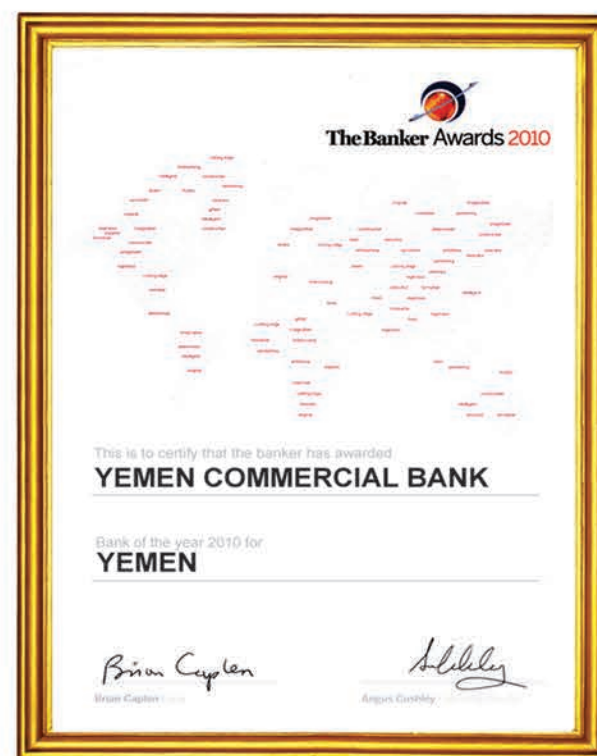
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Education in Yemen will improve lives

By: Mohammed Sharaf,
General Secretary of Yemen Tennis Federation
mod6162001@yahoo.com

Today Yemen suffers from a confluence of many problems in politics, economics, health and education. But why? What are the reasons? Who is responsible?

I suggest that all these issues can be addressed with one important solution: education for the new generation. Our government spends a lot of its money on things which are less important than education. In fact, the ministry of education has the smallest budget of all of Yemen's ministries.

When I say education, I am not talking about a certificate that a student receives at the end of the year. I mean education that touches their souls and minds from the inside. The government is spending millions of dollars to fight terrorism. But wouldn't you rather see these millions used to improve education for Yemeni people?

If we can develop good schools with qualified teachers in our cities and villages it will not only benefit people personally but also the country generally. It is the uneducated villager who ends up serving terrorism and destroying our public facilities. His lack of education means he doesn't realize his own potential. Instead of serving his country he ends up destroying it.

With well-educated people, unemployment will be killed. The possibility of getting jobs will be much easier. Those who have been educated will work to end poverty in our country. So my request to the government is to focus on education so that all people have the chance to succeed. It has to improve our schools.

Have you ever heard of Europeans sending their children to be educated in Yemen or other Arab countries? On the contrary, Yemen's wealthy elite spends lots of money to send their children to private schools and later abroad to continue their higher studies.

As a first step, why doesn't the government try to close the gap between our public and private schools? That way, instead of sending our best students abroad, we can educate them here and harness their potential. If both the government and the people could start believing in education our children would learn how to respect their country, how to protect their history and how to interact with foreigners.

Let's fight illiteracy together. I feel anguish and sadness when I know that some children are not attending school for financial reasons. Let's do it together, "Education for everyone".



A Yemeni wedding becomes a public affair in the Old City of Sana'a. The young girls in this picture were part of the groom's procession which included live music and a merry crowd.

Pic by Yazed Kamaldien

Academic freedom leads to development

By: Naseh Ahmed Shaker
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Why do we need education? There are too many answers for this tricky question. A philosopher would answer, "To attain the truth." A university student would say, "To have a decent job."

A company employee would respond, "For promotional purpose." And a high school student would claim, "To escape from the protracted complaints of parents." Drawing from the above, we can steer education to one single-mined purpose: Development.

Education is for development; materialistically, idealistically, individually or collectively. But this purpose, development, in the context of any country in the world, will not be fully attained

if without academic freedom.

To be simplistic, academic freedom is the freedom applied within the academic establishment. For the university professor, academic freedom is the freedom to teach by using his or her own methodology, conducting research, dismissing the students, above all; how his or her lecture should be conducted.

For the student, academic freedom is the freedom or the right to challenge the lecturer or professor without sanction and freedom to choose his or her learning path. For academic institutions, academic freedom is the freedom of the institution to set the curriculum for the teaching and learning staff and what should be researched.

Contemporary academic freedom was born in Europe during the 1100's and 1200's; the period of rising of universities.

Academic freedom has many benefits

but the drawback is that this humanitarian philosophy is not ubiquitously applied in many parts of the world. It is mostly not applied in less-developed countries.

This is one of the dominant reasons that ensure that university education is not true education for one purpose: Development.

To me, academic freedom is an excellent approach that any university should apply. It would internationally open student's minds, lead to diversity and assist in envisioning eternal development.

Why is education not equal worldwide? One of the most rational responses is that academic freedom is not applied where the education system falls behind the more developed front-runner.

We must apply academic freedom now. Let's make this dream a reality.

The sorry fact about visas

By: Khalil Farhan
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As we know, poverty and corruption are the main reasons that make our young eager to escape or immigrate from their nation to another country that may provide them with a good education or job that can put them in a good position.

In a poor country such as Yemen, we hear many stories about people who have

decided to escape from their miserable situation. They submit their request to visit some country through its embassy under the pretext of tourism or education. When they get permission and receive a visa, they change their mind and settle in the new country, despite knowing that they are violating the residency laws of the country they have made it to. Therefore, many embassies in Yemen have made the process of getting a visa more complex. They have the right to do so, because our country does not

respect its citizens, and our people did not respect the laws and conditions of entry of other countries. So we deserve these complex procedures.

In short, we should blame our country because it has neglected its citizens, and has not appreciated the power of its people. We have to blame ourselves instead of blaming others, because we have violated the laws of another country. Once we have corrected our problems, we will see the process of getting visas for any purpose get easier.

Yemen hits the spotlight for all the wrong reasons

By: Abubakr Al-Shamahi
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Yemen is hitting the headlines once again, and once again it's for all the wrong reasons. Yemen is apparently a hotbed of international terrorism, home to the theatrically named 'Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula'. This new villain in the arena strikes fear into the hearts of the civilised world. Yet how many people had even heard of Yemen a couple of years ago? Thanks to the events of the past year, Yemen has been thrust into the international spotlight. Quite frankly, Yemenis are not too happy about being in the news, it only means one thing: Problems.

If Yemenis have become accustomed to expect one thing, it was our invisibility to the outside world. It may surprise many people to find that Yemen is roughly the size of France, with a population of around 23 million people. Far from receiving international recognition for its rich and vivid culture, Yemen garnered more publicity, thanks to a 'Friends' episode, from the line "Yemen even sounds like a real country," than being responsible for giving the world coffee and algebra.

In the UK, the Yemeni community goes largely unnoticed. Despite being probably the oldest Muslim community in the UK, we are not an assertive group by any means. We tend to disappear into the wider ethnic mix of the major industrial cities, passing off as slightly different looking Asians, with the occasional realisation from the layman that we were Arab, just not the rich kind.

For myself, growing up in Birmingham, a city which incidentally has around 10,000 people of Yemeni origin, I have spent the best part of my 20 years trying to explain where Yemen is on a map, and attempting to prove its existence to my increasingly skeptical group of friends.

Now everyone has heard of Yemen. Seeing Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh satirised on the hit American show 'Saturday Night Live' was a moment I never pictured happening. Years of hiding in the corner of the Arab world, and now our cover has been blown.

The name of Yemen, a country with a civilisation that spans millennia, is being dragged through the dirt thanks to a couple of hundred militants, and an international media which is all too keen to follow any mention of Yemen with the line "the ancestral homeland of Osama Bin Laden". There is a serious lack of understanding surrounding anything to do with Yemen, with so-called experts failing to comprehend why anyone would wish to visit Yemen, and therefore being inherently suspicious of anyone who has been there.

Yemen has always suffered from internal problems, however, these have never affected the outside world much, and have therefore gone unnoticed. This neglect has now come back to bite the international community, the latest form being the ink jet bomb plot. Yemenis have come to learn that publicity is not always good. In fact, in most cases it is terrible. Unfortunately the only news to ever emerge out of Yemen is negative, alarms go off in every Yemeni's head whenever we hear the name of our

country in the headlines.

It should not be like this. There are many positives to Yemen, things that will never be highlighted due to the way the international media operates, and the type of story that is likely to hit the headlines.

Yemen, to put it simply, is a beautiful country. A traveller would be hard pressed to find a country bursting with so much culture and history, and yet still seemingly untouched by the outside world. To step through the ancient city gates of Bab Al-Yemen, and enter into the old city of Sana'a is like stepping through a portal and walking into a living, breathing, Arabian Nights tale. The green valleys of Ibb defy the stereotype of the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula. The ancient town of Shibam, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to the world's first 'skyscrapers', and dubbed the 'Manhattan of the Desert'. Visit the isolated island of Soqatra, and you will be exploring the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean.

Yemenis are prouder of their claim to boxing legend, and Sheffield-born, Naseem Hamed, than the supposed claim to Bin Laden.

We would infinitely prefer to be known for our proud history as Arabia Felix (Happy Arabia), rather than our modern image as an exporter of 'jihadis'. Alas, this now seems impossible for Yemen. Yemenis much preferred the days when to hear the mention of Yemen in the international media was a rare occurrence. Personally, I would take the days of obscurity, away from the glare of the media, over the recent exposure. The majority of Yemenis would definitely agree.

United Nations mistreats refugees

By: Emad A. Swailim
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The UNHCR mission in Sana'a, since it opened its office, has been arrogant in the way it treats refugees. It is still acting in a proud manner towards refugees. It is notorious for corruption and trades on the plight of refugees. A decade ago I worked as a social consultant for the UNHCR in Sana'a. I did not love the practices of this office, famous for its many staff changes, because of corruption. It has been proven that most of its staff have been involved in cases of bribery, which prompted me to retire from that sick office.

As a social consultant I followed up on the issue of one of the Iraqi refugees in Yemen at this office and, despite the importance of the issue of the refugee in question and the established justice of his cause, the UNHCR crew in Sana'a spared no effort to help the refugee.

Its staff said that some of his documents were stolen. They also threatened to blackmail him.

What is even more surprising and alarming at the same time is the pride that the staff have. They were shameless when they requested a bribe from

the refugee, in my presence. This went against his rights.

Corruption is this era's disease for governments and various bodies are immersed in corruption. This is known far and wide.

Mechanisms of corruption existing at the UNHCR office in Sana'a are beyond imagination, especially when it comes to the interpretation of regulations and principles of refugee protection. Refugees are also made to seem inferior in the face of the UNHCR staff's ugly pride. Their disdain, contempt and humiliation of refugees causes nausea. And that's not to mention the non-humanitarian methods that the UNHCR office in Sana'a has in dealing with refugees.

This office chucks all the humanity and moral laws away and depends on methods of obscure and crooked deals.

This might lead some refugees to adopting harsh tactics in dealing with the office staff, especially since the bulk of the staff at the office are incompetent in dealing with refugee issues, either because they are too young, lack experience or are ill-qualified.

A standard employment criteria is English language proficiency, regardless of political and cultural maturity required to deal with refugees. That is

not the case with all the staff.

Another example of inappropriate staffing is that a young woman who is 20 years old is employed as a protection officer. What sort of protection can she provide to refugees when she would also need to be protected when perhaps on her way home when her shift ends late at night.

The protection of refugees is not a grant or a gift from an UNHCR employee. Refugees who feel dissatisfied will forcefully seek protection, knowing that the presence of the employee and his salary is for the service of the refugee and not vice versa.

All these violations against refugees at the UNHCR office in Sana'a has cast doubt upon the seriousness of its commitment to help refugees.

Please note that these are the reader's views and not that of the Yemen Times newspaper, its editors or publisher. The Yemen Times offers any individual the right to reply to opinions expressed within these pages.

Arranged marriages under scrutiny...

Where is the love?

By: Safia Aljabry

It has been five years since Najla Yahya got married and she still doesn't love her husband. She didn't love him from the start of their marriage. In fact, she was in love with someone else before being forced to marry her husband. Her parents arranged the wedding. She's only 26 and lives in a loveless marriage.

On the other hand, Muna Saleh, 46, and mother of five happily celebrated her twenty-fifth wedding anniversary a few months ago. Her marriage was also arranged. Muna is satisfied with her life as she grew to love her husband over the years that they spent together.

These two stories raise one of the most discussed issues in Yemen over the years: arranged marriages. These marriages were, and still are, prevalent in Asian societies. It's a common practice in countries like India, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and some other so-called Islamic countries.

Some wonder how arranged marriages work. Others are born believing that it's the right way, while many remain confused about the issue.

In the past, marriages in Yemeni society were always arranged. Neither the bride nor the groom had any choice when it came to agreeing on their marriage partner. All arrangements were made by their families.

Over time, the rigid rules of arranged marriage have loosened a little. The first change was that the bride and groom were asked for their consent. Sometimes they were even allowed to see each other before getting married, but only in the presence of a family member. For many, this was much better as they got a glimpse of their future lifetime partner.

Nowadays, with the increase of more

educated and open minded people in Yemeni society, the focus is shifting from arranged marriages to love. Increasingly, individuals in Yemen are saying that they want a marriage based on love and affection from the outset.

Aisha Mansour, 22, is a student and says being engaged before getting married is better.

"Engagement means that there's a period of communication to get to know your future spouse better. I feel this is better as it gives the couple an idea of their life partners. It helps you know if you will be able to love the other person," said Aisha.

Hana Ahmed, 33, is a mother with one child. She describes her love-based marriage as a success.

"I met my husband when I was studying at college and that's where we fell in love and ended up getting married. I am celebrating my fifth wedding anniversary soon, and I'm happy with my life," says Hana.

Some youth want to find love before marriage

The topic of having an arranged marriage or marrying someone that you love raises conflicting opinions from young Yemenis. Some youth still strongly believe in arranged marriages, while others believe in getting engaged before marriage. The latter believe that this will allow them to get to know their spouses. And some want to fall in love before getting engaged or married.

Shayma Mohammad, 19, is a student and says she is against arranged marriages.

"It's an old principle and I don't have to live by that. I prefer to get to know the guy and at least like him before marriage. Besides, my parents will never let me marry a person I don't know," she said.

Then there's Naima Ahmed, 22, who says that love is waste of time.

"I want to get engaged to a person that I don't know. As long as my parents choose a guy for me then I'm fine with the decision. He will respect me more," she said.

Naima says that she doesn't even want to talk with a guy during the engagement period as she believes that all these conversations will be based on lies.

"We'll get to know each other better after marriage because there will be no sugar-coating or trying to impress

each other," she says.

Naima's mother agrees with her daughter. She says that in a society like Yemen, chances are that the husband will end up degrading his wife if their marriage was based on love.

"The husband will usually ask questions like 'how many others were there before me?' They tend to get too jealous, thinking that the wife will go out and find another lover," says Naima's mother.

Mohammad Sabri, 26, says that he is not opposed to traditionally arranged marriages but is not against "love mar-

riages" either. He wants to choose his own wife though.

"Either is good as long as I know who the girl is, even if I am not in a romantic relationship with her. If I choose someone for myself I won't care much about anyone else's opinion. In the end it's me who'll be getting married and not everyone else," says Mohammad.

Mazen Al-Asbahi, 21, and Akram Ahmed, 23, say that it's better to know who they are planning to spend the rest of their lives with. They say their parents won't mind if they choose their own wives as long as they get to meet her before the wedding. Mazen believes that this reduces the chance of disagreements later in the marriage.

Parents can make mistakes too

Sawsan Mohammad says that parents don't always make the right choices for their children.

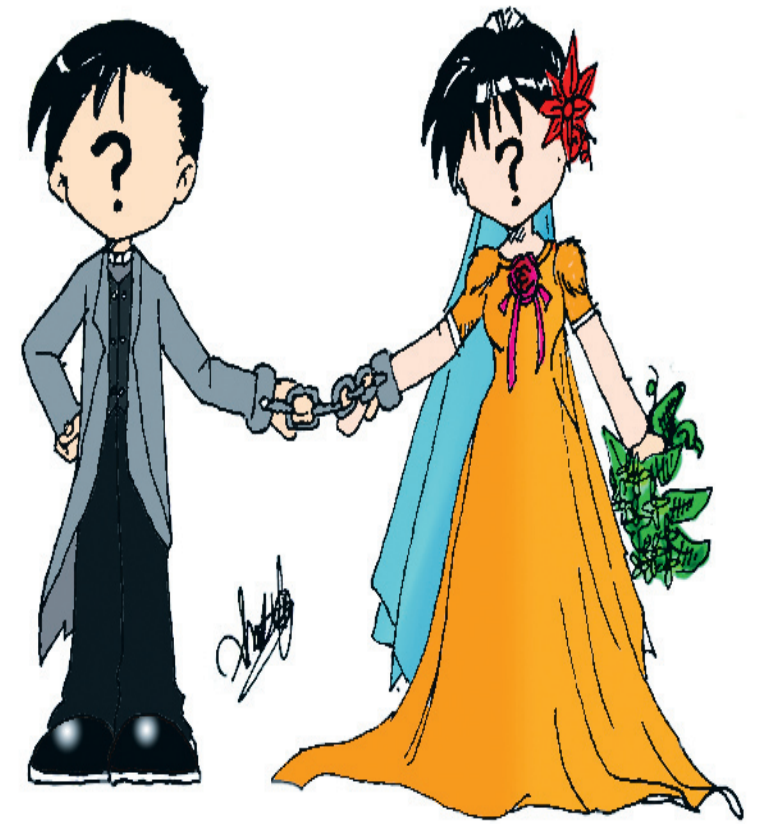
"Sometimes arranged marriages end up in divorce because parents choose partners for their children based on looks and not on good personalities," says Sawsan.

Recently, Sawsan's mother was trying to find a suitable wife for her nephew. Sawsan said her mother kept on criticizing all the good girls because they were too short, too dark or too fat.

Rania Nabil, 20, says the result is secretive relationships as young people want to spend time with someone that they love.

"I am engaged and my parents are not against me talking to my fiancée or getting to know him," says Rania.

"Secret romantic relationships exist in our society, whether they are accepted by society or not. I personally prefer engagement before marriage because it helps the two people to get to know each other better. If they don't like each other, they can just break the



Some say this is the result of arranged marriages, being tied to someone that you don't know, or love.

engagement as it is only but a promise. It's better than getting a divorce after marriage."

Yemeni culture beyond its borders
Old habits die hard and some Yemenis who live outside the country still have strong opinions when it comes to arranged marriage.

Abdullah Al-Aidros is a 22 year old Yemeni who was born and raised in Saudi Arabia. He currently studies in Malaysia. His view is simple: if he lives in Yemen, he will prefer an arranged marriage because of the society's norms. However, if he lives in Malaysia, he would definitely first find love before marriage because arranged marriages are not compulsory in Ma-

laysia.

Nabila Ali, 24, is a Yemeni who lives in Kenya and is married. She has a whole different opinion on the issue. She says that it's not really about arranged marriage or love. She says that both lead to the same result: marriage.

"You see, in marriage, the husband is a rectangle and the wife is a circle. They are brought together to blend and form a new shape. Marriage really is not anything like the Indian-made Bollywood love stories that we see. Marriage takes a whole lot of work and patience to make it work successfully. That's why, in Islam, marriage is considered completing half of your religion," says Nabila.



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The successful candidate responsible for the following tasks:

- Supervise maintenance contractors for maintenance work in all company's buildings and rented houses
- Supervise the process of providing suitable houses to all TEP Yemen expatriates including but not limited to finding, negotiating and leasing, preparing and maintaining the houses.
- Ensure that all offices functionalities are in order, (electricity, plumbing, water network).
- Supervise the cleanliness of the office and its environment.
- Follow-up offices utilities and maintenance payment in due time.
- Monitor and ensure that TEP Yemen's maintenance is properly followed-up.
- Ensure enough stock of consumables and spares parts.
- Communicate with procurement section about any request of equipment / consumables / contract renewal.
- Keep in order and file all the documentation requested for audit purpose.
- Monitor petty cash for local supplies if necessary.
- Verify services contractors' invoices.
- Follow-up maintenance costs and liaise with budget and cost control section.
- Ensure staff is aware of Safety and Security issues and establishes the need for Safety and Security training commensurate with Logistics roles.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- Technical degree or significant experience on technical and maintenance fields
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in logistics and maintenance operations within a company of 100-200 staffs
- Good negotiation and planning skills as well as good knowledge of local contractors.
- Fluent in written and spoken English and Arabic.
- Good knowledge of MS applications

PROCUREMENT OFFICER - Sana'a

Within the Procurement team in Sana'a office, where all purchasing and tendering activities are fully managed, and reporting to the Head of Procurement, the successful candidate will be responsible to process all the assigned procurement tasks in line with Company procedures.

The successful candidate responsible for the following tasks:

- Receive from the head of department a number of requests of purchase of the Subsidiary and process them.
- Perform the purchasing activity as per the set Company's rules.
- Complete files properly documented and auditable at time of submission for commitment approval.
- Prepare contractual part of Subsidiary Contracts based on Standard Group Contracts and participate on the official bids opening and recommendations.
- Perform other activities as and when requested by head of department.
- Understand the need, request for quotation, evaluate, clarify and recommend to hierarchy the supply of material/service based on a valid requisition.
- Promote local vendors whenever possible as per Company policy & the PSA.
- Build the purchasing file in a manner to retrieve all documents required and justifying final commitment before transferring the file to the Expeditor.
- Process related invoices without delay to maintain a good business relation with vendors.
- Prepare official Call For Tenders based on head of department guidance and technical departments requirements as per the internal procedures.
- Monitor reception and keep tenders in safe custody until the bids opening.
- Participate in the evaluation of tenders and recommendation.
- Prepare the contractual document and follow-up the file till final issuance and signature.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- Bachelor degree in a technical field or business administration
- Minimum of 5 years experience in technical activities in Oil and Gas industry.
- Good knowledge of the various aspects of procurement contents and process
- Excellent negotiations skills
- Good command of both spoken and written English
- Good knowledge of MS applications

SAP COORDINATOR - Sana'a

Within the Finance Division, the successful candidate will be reporting to the Finance & IST Manager and will be responsible to coordinate the activities within SAP of the individual Module Lead Users and the Business Process Owners.

The successful candidate will contribute to the following responsibilities:

- Manage the Optimization of the Investment in SAP with Business Processes
- Manage the Relationships within the context of SAP between TEPY and :
 - SAP support center
 - SALSA metier
 - Other Affiliates
- Harmonize Delegation of Authorities in Procedures and SAP Release Strategies
- Develop, Implement and Manage a KPI Reporting System
- Monitor cost of SAP
- Support center Budget and KPI's
- Salsa license cost and the numbers of Users
- Optimize Reporting, with Standard SAP, BW, ABAP
- Monitor and Follow up System Internal Audits
- Facilitate the Development and Maintenance of Procedures, User Documentation and Work Instructions.
- Facilitate User Access, Assignment of Roles and User Training, and monitor System Access Security and Control.

Qualification and Experience Required:

- Higher Education plus 5 years business experience in one of the Disciplines of Materials, Maintenance or Finance.
- At least 3-5 years of experience in SAP
- Ability to Train others

DOCUMENT CONTROLLER - Sana'a

Within the Projects and Construction team in Sana'a where many projects and construction requests are running in parallel, and reporting to Budget and Planning Officer, the successful candidate shall manage and follow up all issuance of all Engineering and Construction documents, and Call Off Orders of the Department, and shall maintain quality and accuracy of database.

Successful candidate will contribute to the following responsibilities:

- Prepare /arrange / organize the storage document, scanning and filing system as per the Management Document System (MDS) procedure according to TOTAL General Specifications for all disciplines and for all Vendors / Contractors, both in electronics & in hard copies.
- Manage all the access control of database for all engineering in Sana'a and construction on site, arrange the chrono in / out process and update the weekly report.
- Issue projects / Construction Requests / documents / drawings numbers.
- Prepare, manage and follow up all Call-Off Orders issued to Contractors as per procedure.
- Follow up of deliverables from Vendors and Contractors during the engineering and construction execution phase up to the AS-BUILT - Final Dossier.
- Ensure the delivery of all deliverables is properly done, on time, through transmittal sheets.
- Organize and properly file engineering dossiers and drawings of both hard and soft copies from engineering services and construction site and record in master registry.
- Submit all complete and final documents for Projects and Construction Requests to site both in electronic and hard copy.

Qualification and Experience Required

- 6 plus years experience.
- Minimum English Level English (fluently written and spoken with good technical English knowledge).
- Good knowledge in computer usage and well understanding of Microsoft Office environment such as Word, Excel, Access, etc...
- Can operate SAP, or has ability to learn quickly from training sessions with colleagues.
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"Um Ahmad had this demon inside her for more than 20 years. We tried many ways to get it out but nothing worked. God be with her and take revenge on those who did this to her... Her husband's second wife is the one who sent this demon to make her husband abandon her," said Um Ahmad's sister.



Yemenis usually believe that demons can haunt the living. It's common to hear that someone is suffering from the 'evil eye' or that a demon is haunting someone's body. There are also different ways to get rid of demons. Mostly, Muslims who believe in the power of the Qur'an as a means for healing would go to a sheikh. They read certain verses from the Qur'an for different cases. The haunted person gets some water and oil that had been blessed by the words from the Qur'an.

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الوزير الأسبق لوزارة الكهرباء والمياه،
رحمه الله رحمة الأبرار وأدخله فسيح جناته

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