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## **Inside:**



Three fires a day in

**Celebrating Christmas** in Sana'a



Making it easier to do business in

## More US intervention in Yemen's anti-terror plans



Yemeni anti-terrorism units search locals in this file photo. Efforts to combat Al-Qaeda operatives in the country will be increased as the government plans to set up new anti-terror units in various governorates.

SANA'A, Dec 26 - The Yemeni Ministry of Interior's announcement on Friday that it will create four new anti-terrorism branches for units in Shabwa, Marib, Hadramout and Abyan is a response to direct pressure from the United States.

Saeed Ubaid, an expert on Al-Qaeda, told the Yemen Times that the US has recently become increasingly demanding on Yemen regarding combating terrorism. He said that this new move by the Yemeni government was in direct response to US pressure on the Yemen government to step-up its efforts against terrorism.

"The increasing demands of the US on Yemen have become like an order and not cooperation," said Ubaid.

"And that makes us feel that the US wants to fight a proxy war against

Ubaid claims that one of the most recent demands from the US has been for Yemen to provide intelligence information about members of Al-Qaeda, arrested or being held by, the Yemeni government.

He described the expansion of antiterrorism units to cover the four governorates as "a forward movement", as long as they can prove efficient, are well equipped and local security leaders in the areas support them.

The Ministry of Interior said that its move aimed to "tighten the noose on terrorists and to paralyze their movements where they hideout".

"Yemen has never been, and never will be a safe haven for terrorism," it said.

The ministry claimed the step would advance its confrontation with Al-Qaeda elements to "a closing stage to root them out of Yemen".



Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed responsibility for the recent parcel bomb plot. Packages were sent to the US from Yemen and intercepted in Dubai and London at the end

The four governorates chosen for the new units have witnessed intense clashes between Al-Qaeda elements and Yemen's security forces, said Saeed.

"Shabwa is the home of Fahd Al-Qasa, listed by the FBI as the third mostwanted terrorist and the US born cleric Anwar Al-Awlaki," he said.

Lauder city in Abyan governorate, where one of the branches of the counterterrorism unit will be based, was announced as an "Islamic state by Al-Qaeda," according to Ubaid.

Similarly, Marib, where one of the branches will be established, is also considered a heaven for Al-Qaeda in Yemen, he said.



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Hadramout will host the largest of the new bases. A number of the governorate's local security leaders have been targeted by AQAP in 2009 and 2010, according to the Ministry of Interior. In March 2009, a suicide bomber in Shibam killed four South Korean tourists, which Al-Qaeda later claimed responsi-





## First underground electricity cables planned for Yemen

By: Malak Shaher

SANA'A, Dec. 26 - Underground electricity cables - a first for Yemen - will installed in the capital city from next month to save power and reduce electrocution, said the country's Ministry of Electricity

Khaled Rashed, head of the ministry's Electricity Corporation, said that Sana'a needed underground cables, along with the rest of Yemen, to prevent citizens from stealing power.

In an interview with the Yemen Times, he said that around 35 percent of the electricity is lost to thieves in Sana'a. In total, 29 percent of electricity is lost in the entire country for the same reason. Rashed said that citizens connect wires to exposed electricity cables to steal power.

Rashed discussed the country's elec-

Heritage **meets** communi

tricity problems and talked about the new phase of Marib gas station, in Magrib governorate, during a two-day seminar that started at Sana'a University on Sat-This was not the only initiative that

would decrease Yemen's electricity expenses and losses. Awadh Al-Soqotri, the country's Minister of Electricity, said at the same seminar that electricity cut-outs are set to decrease with the establishment of the 400-megawatt capacity Marib Gas Station in Marib governorate.

He said that the second phase of this project will start in January and it would cost nearly USD393-million.

Al-Sogotri said that the second phase would reduce the amount of oil derivatives, such as diesel and fuel, required. He said that using fuel to generate power costs around USD200,000

Mirab Gas Station was established in February 2009 to solve Yemen's electricity problems and utilize gas instead of fuel. Al-Soqotri explained that the second phase of this project would also involve creating another station inside the main Marib station.

The new station would be capable of supporting the main station. This support station would add 40 percent of the capacity of the main station without using new gas. It would depend on recycled

Al-Soqotri and Rashed also said that Yemenis owed more than US\$112million in electricity bills. This affected project development.







## Medical students complain about few training opportunities

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Dec 25 – Students of the Medical College at the University of Sana'a complain about lack of training opportunities in health facilities as their courses are overcrowded.

"I go to the hospital to practice, but as we come in large numbers of up to 60 students, the doctor on duty refuses us to enter and takes only three of us," Aref Al-Hashidi, sixyear medical student, told the Yemen Times.

According to Al-Hashidi, teaching halls in hospitals are too small for the large number of students wishing to practice. "The biggest hospital hall has room for 30 students, but there are 60 students that want to attend," he said.

Conditions in the university labs are bad as well. "There are supposed to be no more than 20 students per lab," said a second-year medical student, who adds there are often three times as many.

Emad Al-Najri, another six-year medical student, blames over-enrollment for these



Dr. Ali Al-Miri, vice-dean of the Medicine College for

conditions. "In our first year, we were 400 students and now in our six year we are still  $\frac{\circ}{\overline{\blacktriangleleft}}$ 270 students at the human medicine department, whereas the capacity is only 50," he

The number of public health facilities where students from the University of Sana'a can practice their skills is limited. According to Al-Najri, there are only four public hospitals for training in Sana'a: Al-Sabae'en, Al-Jumhori, Al-Thawra and Al-Kuwait hospital.

The University of Sana'a accepts paying and non-paying students who study separately. Formal non-paying students are usually taught in the morning, while paying students have separate classes in the evening. However, according Ali Al-Meri, vice-dean for students' affairs, the Medical College is an exception and all students have classes to-

Dr. Nabeel Al-Hamadi, professor of forensics at the college, confirms this: "The university has refused to pay professors for their teaching in the evening shift," he explains.

> "They want to separate parallel students to an evening shift without paying professors extra."

Due to overcrowding in medical classes teachers were forced to prolong the four months practical course to one year in order to ensure that all students get their chance in training, according to the professor.

Ahmed Shawki from the Students' Union points to the bylaw of the university, which states that the number of students in the Medical College should not exceed 100 for the formal education and 50 stu-



Students have complained that their chances to apply their medical knowledge in Yemen

dents for the parallel education. According to Shawki, the bylaw was not respected and for this year about 260 students were accepted for the human medicine department.

Vice-dean Dr. Ali Al-Miri disagrees. He says that in the past the faculty used to receive more students than it does now and denies that the bylaw was not respected. According to Al-Miri, the extra-enrollment for this year is due to scholarships awarded mainly to girl

"The Ministry of Higher Education grants scholarships for studies abroad. Some female students refuse to leave Yemen due to traditions and religion that prohibit female students to travel alone. Their scholarships are then changed into internal ones," he explains. These students are enrolled at the University of Sana'a, which slightly increases the number of students.

According to Al-Miri, the quality of teaching is not inhibited, as external assessments prove that medical graduates from the Medical College are among the best students in the

"Four years ago, the World Health Organization conducted an assessment in West Asian and Middle Eastern countries including Yemen in both public and private universities. The Medical College at the University of Sana'a came first among all universities",

In his view, low capacity of hospitals combined with high competition between the various public and private teaching institutions in Sana'a are the true reasons for overcrowding in hospital training facilities. "Private colleges can pay hospitals to accept their students for training," he adds.

Al-Miri therefore believes it is time to have another building. According to him, the university plans to construct its own teaching hospital with about 1,000 beds to provide its students with the opportunity to practice and to allow the college raise its enrollment ca-

## In Brief

#### SANA'A

#### Nearly USD225-million needed for 2011 Humanitarian Response Plan

Yemen needs nearly USD225-million to implement its Humanitarian Response Plan for next year. This announcement coincided with the launch of the Plan prepared by UN agencies operating in the country.

This plan will target 1.8 Yemeni citizens who face food insecurity, 1.5 children suffering from malnutrition, 225,000 internally displaced people in Sa'ada, including 97,000 who have already moved back to their homes, and 2,391 African refugees and asylum seekers.

It aims to implement three strategic goals over the next year, focused on life-saving assistance that should include providing shelter, healthcare, food, safe water, sanitary facilities, protection of violence-affected people and fighting extreme food insecurity and other severe

Furthermore, the assistance should cover time-critical responses, ensuring good environment to meet needs of early recovery, supporting sustainable solutions for the targeted people, promoting the principle of accountability and the capacity of the authorities and those engaged in providing aid services, sharing information, establishing good crisis management and improving the humanitarian response to cover all people in need.

Twenty-one foreign and local organizations will contribute to the fund which should cover sectors such as food and agricultural by 36 per cent, response to refugees by 18 per cent, nutrition by 12 per cent, shelter by 8 per cent, protection by 6 per cent, healthcare by 6 per cent, water and sanitary by 5 per cent, rehabilitation and early recovery by 5 per cent, support and coordination services by 2 per cent and education by 2 per cent.

About 71 projects will be implemented under the plan, including 27 life-saving projects, 30 time-critical projects and 14 support projects.

The UN agencies in Yemen contributed 74 per cent of the total fund and international non-governmental organizations 21 per cent, while smaller local organizations will provide 5 per cent.

The plan also aims to attract more donor aid through providing a cohesive strategy and improving the quality of the project through publicizing the concept of social, gender and basic data on tools necessary for providing assistance.

Last year, Yemen spent USD117.7-million within its Humanitarian Response Plan.

This sum was provided by the United States, the European Commission, UN agencies including the Central Emergency Response Fund and other donors.

## USD500-million in aid to Yemen in next five years

The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) has committed to provide USD500-million in aid for development projects in Yemen.

This sum will be released during 2011-2015, it said on its website. The allocation announced during the meeting of donors in Brussels in November comes within the commitment to providing loans and donations to Yemen during the next five years, it added.

The fund has provided aid to Yemen since 1974.

#### Five agreements signed as Arab Justice, Interior Ministers conclude joint meeting

Yemen's Interior Minister Mutaher Al-Masri said that the results of the joint meeting of Arab Justice and Interior Ministers held in Egyptian capital Cairo was "good and positive"

At the meeting, five agreements on combating corruption, terrorism, cross-border organized crime and electronic crimes as well as regulating inmates and jails were finalized, he said.

But the agreements need to be ratified by Arab countries, he made clear, adding that on the margins of the meeting, he held meetings with a number of his counterparts and discussed the bilateral security cooperation with country of them.

## **SOCOTRA**

## Ancient city unearthed in Socotra Island

A Russian archaeological team has unearthed an ancient city in Socotra Island, the state-run 26sep.net has reported.

After four-year archaeological excavations, the Russian team managed to discover an ancient city called 'Khajlah', located near Hidibu city, the main city in the

The city dates back to the second century AD, according to the team. It said that the remains of the exposed ancient houses, roads, alleys and squares indicated that the city had been an administrative, religious and cultural area for the entire island.

This site is bound to increase Socotra's attraction as a tourist destination. Socotra's tourism office said that about 2.590 tourists visited the island in November. Socotra is an archipelago of four islands in the Indian

Ocean. The largest island, also called Socotra, is about 95% of the landmass of the archipelago.

The island is isolated and a third of its plant life cannot be found anywhere else on the planet. It has been described as the most alien-looking place on Earth.

Botanical field surveys led by the Centre for Middle Eastern Plants, part of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, indicate that 307 out of the 825 (37%) plant species on Socotra are endemic which means that these are found nowhere else on Earth.

One of the most striking of Socotra's plants is the Dragon's Blood tree (Dracaena cinnabari), which is a strange-looking, umbrella-shaped tree. Its red sap was thought to be the dragon's blood of the ancients, sought after as a medicine and a dye.

## Water disease affects three million Yemenis

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Dec. 26 — The Yemeni Ministry of Public Health and Population has launched a national campaign to eradicate bilharzia, a parasitic water disease, within the next six

Rasheed Al-Shami, vice-president of the ministry's National Program for Controlling Bilharzia, said that the campaign was launched on Saturday. He said that it would cover six governorates where bilharzia was rife and confirmed that the plan would aim to eradicate this disease in six years time.

Al-Shami confirmed statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO) that there are currently three million Yemenis infected with bilharzia. He said that the World Bank had granted Yemen USD25-million for the six-year campaign.

He told the Yemen Times that some Yemenis were responsible for spreading this disease and called on them to change the way they were using water wells. He said that most Yemenis do not care about bilharzia.

Al-Shami said that there was a popular misconception that running water does not carry bilharzia. He said that the campaign faced difficulties in finding children who needed immunization against bilharzia. He said that children, especially those who dropped out of school, were the most infected.

"Those children repeatedly swim in wells and streams. They are not aware about bilharzia, unlike children at schools who sometimes get advice from their teachers," he

Al-Shami said that women in rural areas were also highly exposed to bilharzia infec-

"Women in these areas always wash their clothes in contaminated water," he said.

He said that bilharzia "leads to bladder and spleen cancer, cirrhosis (liver failure) and other serious diseases". He also said that there were many bilharzia-infected patients at cancer centers and hospitals in Yemen.

"The government and locals spend an estimated USD16-million annually to treat bilharzia complications," he said.



Many Yemenis, especially in rural areas, use contaminated wells and water that leads to bilharzia disease which affects mostly hildren and women.

partment at the National Center for Health Education, said that "unfortunately many Yemenis cannot avoid using stagnant water in their villages, despite the dangers of doing "Yemenis have to stop bad habits, like uri-

wells in villages. Many wells and streams are open in those villages," he said. He said that "symptoms of bilharzia don't

nating, defecating, washing and swimming in

appear clearly in the body. It's a silent dis-

Al-Dhabhani said that developed countries do not manufacture medication for bilharzia

Zaki Al-Dhabhani, head of the media debecause they had eradicated it long ago. He stressed the importance of the coordination between Yemen's environment, health and agriculture ministers to address the problem of stagnant water and open wells. He revealed that more than 220 districts were infected with bilharzias.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Safani, a consultant at Al-Askari Hospital, said that bilharzia spread from infected water to humans when the germ entered the body through the skin. This caused skin irritation.

"The most important procedure to eradicate bilharzia is avoiding urination and defecation in wells and waters," he said.

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social change in their respective contexts.

YLVP is designed to give participants innovative tools to shape public opinion in cuttingedge media while strengthening their inter-cultural leadership skills. The first phase of the program will take place in Sweden during two weeks in May. There will be two follow-ups, one in the MENA region and one in Sweden.

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Opinion-makers between 20 and 35 years old from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, West Bank-Gaza, Yemen or Sweden who are engaged in media, culture, society, business or politics and are actively working

for social change within their own context, using media as a tool for shaping public opinion.

Submit your application by using the online application form and the YLVP questionnaire together with an updated CV. You will find the application procedure at www.si.se/

There is no fee for the program. Travel, hotel and food expenses are included in the program. The application deadline is February 15, 2011. Announcement of final candidates

will be April 2011. For more information about the Young Leaders Visitors Program, go to www.si.se/ylvp or contact Javeria Rizvi Kabani, program manager, at jrka@

## Three fires a day in Yemen this year



The civil defense with the help of locals tries to extinguish a fire. Private water trucks had to be called in after the civil defense ran short of water.



A fire destroyed one of the biggest furniture stores in Sana'a last Wednesday. Fire fighters tried for more than seven hours to extinguish the blaze. It erupted again the following day.

### By: Shatha Al-Harazi

ana'a, Dec. 23 - The number of fires in Yemen for 2010 is estimated to be 1179, equivalent to three fires every day, according to civil defense statistics.

The civil defense department says the reasons for the high numbers are unclear. "The owners of trading industries ignore our warnings and think that we make them only in order to make them pay," explained Ismail Abdallah, head of the civil defense. "Once the fire happens you find them complaining and trying to transfer the blame."

Only 3 per cent of recorded fires were caused intentionally.

"Usually we face problems in investigating the causes," said Abdullah. "Some people, facing huge loses, attempt to manipulate insurance companies."

Shaheed Al-Aza'zi accident officer for insurance company, United Insur-

ance, confirmed that insurance fraud is a serious problem. "One of the major problems we face as an insurance company is corruption. The main process depends on the investigations stage and sometimes officials write the investigation report as the client asks, often after they have paid them money for it," Al-Aza'zi.

The civil defense department declined to provide numbers of deaths, or casualties, caused by fires this year and was unable to provide the Yemen Times with estimates for the losses incurred. "The loss is huge in both humanitarian and financial terms. But compared to other countries the losses caused by these fires are very small," said Abdallah.

On Wednesday night a huge fire burnt down a furniture store on Al-Asbahi Street, incurring costs of over YR 3 billion. The owner, Abd Al-Hakeem Al-Waeli, called the civil defense department, but they did not respond until he asked an official to call them.

"The civil defense came 15 minutes after the fire started, but they were useless," said Abd Al-Hakeem. "We could have avoided the loss if they had done their job properly. I lost billions in this fire."

Abdallah Mohamed, a local from the area, described how he arrived at the fire before the civil defense which arrived without water and then had to call for water trucks to help them.

The civil defense truck has a capacity of only 8000 liters of water, relying on private water trucks to provide them with back-up water supplies, according to Ismail Abdallah. He believes there is nothing wrong with calling for assistance from water trucks as a means of public support in extinguishing fires. "We do have large capacity water trucks but during long periods of fire fighting up to a hundred thousand liters of water is consumed and it therefore becomes necessary to call the private water trucks to help," said Abdallah.

Even with the assistance of the wa-

ter trucks the fire at the furniture store started again the next day. "The fire wasn't extinguished properly and so the next day another fire started at the back of the shop," said Mohammed.

"The civil defense showed how untrained they are and that they don't have any experience in extinguishing fires, they used local help," explained Mohammed.

The owner didn't have insurance "I don't have insurance and I believe that Allah only can compensate me," said Abd Al-Hakeem.

The civil defense gives priority each year to its awareness and prevention programs. They visit schools, houses and work places. "Around 492,000 people benefited from these activities directly or indirectly in 2010," said Abdallah. "There are other materials used to extinguish fires such as foams and dry powder but it depends on the kind of fire. The civil defense is always ready to fight fires and deal with disasters but it depends on our capabilities."

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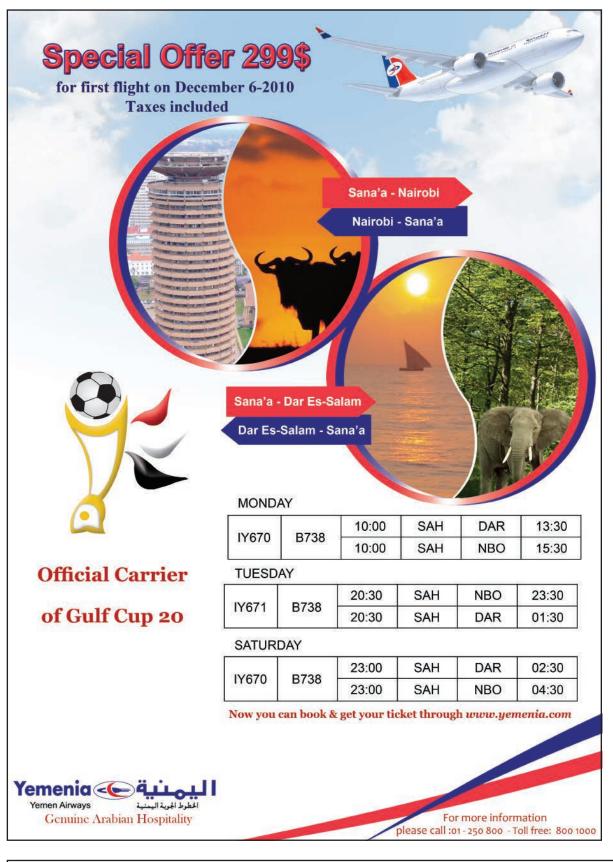
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# **Celebrating Christmas**

in Sana'a

By Iona Craig

urkey, mince pies, Christmas pudding, roast potatoes and the dreaded brussels sprouts, might not be that easy to come by in Sana'a, but a festive spirit can still be found amongst the small community of Christians and expatriates in the city over the festive

> Saturday's Christmas Day was the highlight of the Christian calendar, where celebrations include the giving and receiving of presents, family gatherings and lots of rich food. Christmas culminates in religious services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

In Sana'a weekly Protestant services are held in more than half a dozen sites around the city whilst in Aden there are three Catholic churches and one Anglican church, the latter under the ministry of former London-based, Nigel Dawkins.

This year Dawkins, who has been the Anglican Chaplin at Aden's Christ Church for the last year and a half, came to Sana'a to preside over a gathering of foreign nationals and join in the tradition of Christmas Carol singing.

The usually familiar figure of a clergyman wearing a dog collar seems strange in Yemen where it is estimated there are just 4,000 Catholic Christians and four Catholic priests, working in the governorates of Sana'a, Hodeida, Taiz, and Aden forming part of the UAE-based Apostolic Vicariate of Arabia. Protestants, mainly of North African and Filipino origin, make up les than one percent of the population.

December 25 marks the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, believed by Christians to be the Son of God. A date disputed by some denominations of the Christian faith. The Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate the day on January 7.

Christianity and Judaism preceded Islam in Yemen and were founded here in the 4th century AD, when Abyssinians (Ethiopians) occupied the Arabian Peninsula over two hundred years before the Muslim faith came to the region.

Today there are very few Yemeni Christians. Dawkins says he has met just one family of Yemeni Christians during his time here.



In the days before and after Dec. 25 you might see the odd Christmas tree in Sana'a.

## **Christmas giving**

The festive period also carries with it symbols such as Christmas trees, and Father Christmas or Santa Claus, which have non-Christian origins. The familiar red and white suit of the mythological character has been used as the personification of good spirit and giving associated with the religious festival.

The distinctive red and white hats and stockings can still be found in Sana'a. Hadda toyshop owners have taken to stocking up on Christmas decorations, Christmas trees and tinsel. One shopkeeper claimed to sell as many as three trees a day in the run up to Christmas, with the faux green fir trees and their flashing lights fetching up to YR 35,000.

December 24, Christmas Eve, is the night when the fairy-tale, whitebearded character of Father Christmas (or Santa Claus), believed by children to be the giver of all Christmas presents, travels through the night on

a reindeer drawn sleigh, to deliver gifts around the world. This year his progress could be tracked online, where, according to the he U.S.-Canadian military organization NORAD, he crossed Yemen at around 11pm on Friday night.

The exchanging of gifts is one of the central parts of modern Christmas celebrations, which means Christmas can often be an expensive time of year. In the Middle Ages the practice was banned by the Catholic Church, as it was suspected to have pagan origins. It was later recognised on the basis that it associated St. Nicholas with Christmas. Sinterklaas, or Saint Nicholas, considered to be the original Santa Claus, was a 4th-century saint who had a reputation for secret gift-giving. In addition the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh were given to the infant Jesus by the Biblical three kings, who some believe travelled to his birthplace in Bethlehem from Yemen.

"We don't spend a lot of money on presents. But we like to bring home made food for each other instead," said 22-year-old student Liza from Poland. "That way we are all giv ing something."



## A festive feast

But it's the gathering together for the traditional Christmas feast, which remains priceless. In Sana'a chicken plays substitute to the usual turkey or goose and chocolate cake makes up for missing mince pies.

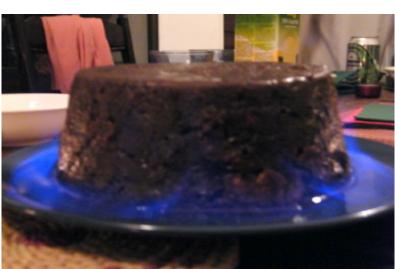
In a kitchen in one of the ancient tower houses Old Sana'a, on Saturday, a group of foreign nationals spent the whole day cooking and preparing an evening Christmas

"It doesn't matter if it's turkey or chicken. It's the getting together, preparing and then eating a special meal together through the day that makes it feel like Christmas," said Gill Meakin, who has spent two Christmases in Yemen. "You might be away from your family but it's still a special day when you can share it with friends."

Fellow chefs agreed that despite being away from their families there's



Chicken with all the trimmings.



Homemade Christmas pudding is still possible in Sana'a

something unique about celebrating Christmas in Sana'a.

you realise that every country

"I have friends here from Japan, Britain, Africa and the US. It's interesting to sit down and chat about what would be a usual Christmas day at home," said Sofia whose home is in Spain. "Then

and culture has its individual traditions which make Christmas day special."





## YT mission statement



"To make Yemen a good world citizen."

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



## **OUR OPINION**

## Respecting our soldiers

he young man, no more than 20 years old, was barely able to walk. With assistance from another soldier he was dragging his bare feet across the cold tiled floor of Aden airport. He had several wounds, but the worst was in his left eye which was almost gone.

He had to fight his way through many passengers taking the same Yemenia flight from Aden to Sana'a on Friday Dec. 17, 2010. He had to stand in long lines grimacing in pain. The other passengers simply stared at him, with no compassion but lots of pity.

He probably got injured in the attack by secessionists against state soldiers in Abyan the same day. He must have needed to be brought to the capital Sana'a for med-

He seemed so helpless, so vulnerable and so disappointed. He had almost lost his life for his country and this is how he is rewarded. He had been stationed with other young Yemenis at a security check-point somewhere in Abyan. All he was doing is following orders and being a part of a national security system to make Yemen a safer place.

Now that he is wounded, he did not even have shoes on his feet and had to fight his way around a crowded

The other passengers realized that he was a solider wounded while on duty. Still no one made room for him or gave him their place in line. No one offered him help or even words of support. He was an outcast, pitied then

Is this how we reward our soldiers? Is this how the state treats its men in the conflict zones? I would have expected a first class ticket with full support, if not a private jet to rush him to Sana'a. But not even shoes? That was just too sad.

I wonder how much his salary was in the first place? I hear it is usually no more than one hundred US dollars a month. Is that worth sacrificing one's life for?

I don't know what happened to him after that. He must have gone to the hospital. He must have gone home if he survived his injuries. But I am sure that he will be wounded for life, and it is not the physical wounds I am talking about.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

## Saudi Arabia's jihadi jailbird: A portrait of Al-Shu'aybi ideologue Nasir Al-Fahd

By: Murad Batal al-Shishani Militant Leadership Monitor

the mid-1990s, Saudi authorities clamped down on the relatively centrist Islamist opposition led by two prominent sheikhs at the helm of the al-Sahwa (awakening) movement named Salman al-Ouda and Safar al-Hawali. The crackdown on al-Ouda and al-Hawali resulted in a gap in the religious leadership of Saudi Islamists. This space was then filled by sheikhs of a more radical strain based out of the ultra-conservative city of Buraydah, the capital of al-Qasim Province in the geographic center of the Arabian Peninsula. These extreme sheikhs later formed the "al-Shu'aybi school."

The so-called "al-Shu'aybi school" refers to the students of the late Hamoud al-Oqala al-Shu'aybi, who was, until his death in 2002, an extremist Salafi sheikh. He had issued several notable fatwas including one supporting the Afghan Taliban after they decimated the towering Buddha sculptures in Bamiyan in March 2001, as well as a cold statement endorsing the September 11 attacks, both highly controversial to Western sensitivities, if not to many in the Kingdom as well. Al-Shu'aybi's followers began to propagate a retrograde, millenarian form of Islamism that was more notable for what it was against than what it actually stood for, and which was not in line with traditional Wahabbi thought in Saudi Arabia at the

Although the acolytes of the fanatical al-Shu'aybi were not as famous and influential as the comparatively modernizing sheikhs of the al-Sahwa movement, the jihadi movement which began to emerge in Saudi Arabia in late-1999 and early-2000 benefited from their support as the al-Shu'aybis legitimized the jihadis' fight against the Saudi state and aided in the recruitment of new supporters. The most important of al-Shu'aybi students are Nasir al-Fahd, Ali al-Khudair, Hamoud al-Khaldi, and Suliman al-Elwan. These four have been in prison since 2003 and all but al-Elwan have appeared on Saudi state

television denouncing the very jihadi ideology they had been promoting as well as their roles in the movement (Okaz, November 18, 2003; November 23, 2003).

Al-Fahd later denounced his televised appearance. Decrying that Riyadh had deceived him, he stated that he still considered the Saudi state an apostate regime that was cooperating with "crusaders" in killing jihadis. He also endorsed the titular leader of al-Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden. Al-Fahd and Suliman al-Elwan are among the most influential al-Shu'aybis figures.

Nasir al-Fahd was born in Riyadh in 1968 to a religious Saudi family. He originally studied engineering before transitioning to shari'a studies at Imam University's College of Shari'a in Riyadh. In 1992, he was appointed as dean of the College of Da'wa and Usul ud-Din (Call to Islam and Religion's Fundamentals) at Umm al-Qura University. It was at this same university where he was later arrested in 1994 and shipped off to al-Ha'ir prison, 25 miles south of Ri-

Al-Fahd was imprisoned on allegations of writing a poem deriding what he deemed the "loose morals" of Maha al-Sudayri, the shopaholic wife of Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz. Since al-Fahd was not imprisoned because of a direct ideological confrontation with the government, like the situation occurring at the time between Riyadh and the al-Sahwa sheiks (many of whom were later imprisoned), al-Fahd felt humiliated by his allegations. This embarrassment later fomented more animosity with the al-Sahwa sheikhs because while al-Fahd had been imprisoned, it was for a relatively petty charge compared to the outspoken al-Sahwa leaders who were jailed for confronting Saudi authority. Their confinement only lent them more validity in the eyes of their fellow travellers. Al-Fahd had vigorous arguments while incarcerated with Salman al-Ouda, a leading jailed al-Sahwa figure who was dismissive of al-Fahd, which bothered him a great deal. As Norwegian Islamist scholar Thomas Hegghammer correctly noted, this prison experience played an important role in radicalizing al-Fahd at the time when the al-Sahwa sheikhs, al-Ouda in particular, were moderating their positions.

#### Al-Fahd's controversial writings

Following his release in 1997 from his initial 3-year stint in prison, al-Fahd's name became more prominent among radical Islamists in the Kingdom who began consuming his hard-line views. Although al-Fahd was situated in Riyadh, his connection with the Buraydah-based al-Shu'aybis was subsequently strengthened. Though al-Fahd wrote several books and treatises, the two most important ones must be noted here. The first was a letter entitled "The position regarding the infidelity of those who assist the Americans." This writing consisted of two parts, the first on the conflict in Afghanistan and the second on the war in Iraq. In these letters, al-Fahd labeled any Muslim, whether an individuals or as part of the state, as kaffir (unbelievers) if they aid the American war effort in any manner in Afghanistan or Iraq. The significance of this letter is that it was issued during a period of relative quiet within the Kingdom before the jihadis began their violent campaign clashing with Saudi security forces and attacking Western targets, which lasted from 2003 until 2007. Nasir al-Fahd's writings provided the justification for jihadi claims that Saudi Arabia was helping the United States invade these two Muslim countries by way of military bases and logistical aid.

The second article of al-Fahd's that caused a great stir was entitled the "The Legality of Using Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)," in which he listed what he considered "proofs" derived from the Quran and Sunnah that allowed for the use of WMD. The basic justification of this second diatribe was that the "infidels" al-Fahd so describes have killed millions of Muslims in various global conflicts, and therefore Muslims are allowed to kill millions of non-Muslims in retribution. Al-Fahd's rationale for the use of WMD was a gross perversion of the ancient Abrahamic lex talionis (the law of retaliation), commonly known as "an eye for an eye." Significantly, al-Fahd developed his article based on a question of whether it is permitted for al-Qaeda specifically to start attacking enemies like the United States and the European Union with WMD in an offensive form.

In the fourth issue of the electronic jihadi magazine al-Mushtaqun Ila al-Jannah (Those Yearning for Heaven), a two-page article was devoted to the "Scholars and Martyrs of al-Wahabbiya." The article listed the ideas of those particular sheikhs who considered Saudi Arabia a kaffir state, even listing Islamist scholars that lived decades ago whose ideas are found useful for today's purposes. Calling the Saudi state an infidel or apostate was unthinkable in previous years, but the evolution of radical al-Shu'abyi thought advocated by Nasir al-Fahd has made this possible. Al-Fahd's name and ideas are listed in this Wahabbi ideological tract alongside well-known Saudi jihadis such as Yousef al-Ayyri, Faris al-Zahrani and Abdullah al-Rushud.

The listing of al-Fahd's name amongst a host of other prominent Saudi jihadi thinkers shows the influence he has had within the peninsular jihadi milieu. The publication of al-Mushtaqun Ila al-Jannah magazine online further emphasizes the importance of al-Fahd among active jihadis as well as sympathizers. Religious authority is an essential element in the structure of Salafi-jihadi groups, which now includes al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). This theological rationale is a necessary component for legitimizing violence against perceived enemies and attracting fresh recruits. It clear that, though he remains imprisoned, Nasir al-Fahd has cleverly managed to advance the extremist objectives of the al-Shu'aybi Islamists.

Murad Batal al-Shishani is an Islamic groups and terrorism issues analyst based in London. He is a specialist on Islamic Movements in Chechnya and in the Middle

## Think things are bad now?Don't let it run out of water!

By: Halima Gellman

he security situation in Yemen looks increasingly fragile. The Yemen-based Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed responsibility for the two mail bombs destined for Chicago last month. And now, the release of WikiLeaks documents disclosing a cover-up of US drone strikes by the Yemeni president pose

new challenges to American national secu-

Then there's Yemen's rebel movement in the North, a secessionist movement in the South, 40 percent unemployment, dwindling oil reserves, and hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced people, with more than half of its population living on less than \$2 a day.

Yet with all these problems, the most severe threat to Yemen's future is its water risis. Yemen is running out of water fast. Experts say that Sana'a, Yemen's capital, is likely to run out of water by 2020. This kind of water scarcity breeds conflict and instability, in which Al Qaeda groups step in to fill the vacuum. If the US really wants to fight terror in Yemen, it must address its water shortage in meaningful ways.

## Severe water scarcity

Currently, only 20 percent of the Yemeni population is supplied with water. In Sana'a, up to 70 percent of residents depend on privately owned water trucks, and the cost of water has tripled in the last year, forcing families to spend about a third of their incomes on purchasing water. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace confirms this looming disaster, observing that "Sana'a will be the first capital in modern history to run dry."

The director of the Sana'a Basin Water Management Project, funded by the World Bank, reported that the water that they are now drilling around Sana'a is the last of the natural water supply. Conflict over water resources is bound to rise as communities

realize their wells have run dry and that they cannot afford increasingly expensive water. By some accounts, roughly 80 percent of current conflicts in Yemen are already over water.

This crisis is the product of climate change, poor water management, and irresponsible use. Rainfall has dramatically decreased and aquifers are quickly drying up. Currently 99 percent of drilling in Yemen is illegal, and the government in Sana'a has little authority outside the capital.

## Drugs and population growth

Contributing to the water shortage is Yemen's addiction to qat. An estimated 70 percent of Yemeni men chew the plant's leaves daily for a mild narcotic effect. Most farmers have abandoned food crops in order to grow qat since the drug is much more profitable. But this thirsty plant is sucking up more than half of Yemen's water sup-

A rapidly growing population further complicates the water scarcity issue. At a growth rate of 7 percent a year, Sana'a has one of the fastest growing populations of any capital city in the world. Yemen's population has quadrupled over the last 50 years and is predicted to triple again by 2015, estimated to rise from 23 million to 60 million.

## Need more than military aid

As the water crisis progresses, Yemen stands to become even more violent and desperate – a situation that directly affects US national security. US intelligence offi-

cials have acknowledged that Yemen is the most active and well-established Al Qaeda cell outside of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border region. And the US has recently pumped over \$150 million dollars into upgrading Yemen's counterterrorism capacities and training and equipping their security forces. Wikileaks documents now divulge that the US is behind drone attacks in Yemen as well.

But the security challenges in Yemen re much more complicated than simply bolstering its security forces or launching covert military campaigns. Considering the looming water crisis and the instability that accompanies it, any effort to deal with terrorism in Yemen must include solutions to the water issue.

Military aid or force does not address the circumstances of poverty, lack of education, and basic needs that enable extremist ideology. Long-term strategies must focus on peacebuilding, education, and economic development, along with ways to deal with the water crisis.

It would be irresponsible for the United States to focus solely on the military dimension of the Yemen challenge. The country's long list of problems does not lend itself to limited or short-term approaches. The stability the West hopes to achieve in Yemen cannot occur if the country's water crisis is not addressed in a substantial way.

Halima Gellman is a Masters Candidate at NYU's Center for Global Affairs. She has worked on issues relating to refugees, women, and peacebuilding in Sudan, Egypt, Morocco and Algeria.

## SKETCHED OPINION By: Hamid മ Parliament majority

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## Making it easier to do business in Yemen

Dr. Taha Al-Fosail is the Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade for the business sector. He is responsible for reform programs within the ministry and in charge of ensuring the ease of doing business in Yemen. He is also assistant professor of economics at the University of Sana'a.

Dr. Al-Fosail is always busy with phone calls and meetings. In between signing a document and answering a phone call, you hardly have the time to shake his hand for a greeting. However, the smile does not leave his lips and he welcomes you with a friendly "How are you?"

He told the Yemen Times about Yemen's efforts in making the business environment more attractive to investors, so that poverty and unemployment can be alleviated.

Interview by: Ali Saeed

As you are in charge of the ease of doing business file in Yemen, why has Yemen received such a bad score in the 2011 Doing Business Index?

In comparison with last year, Yemen has fallen from 104 to 105 [on the index]. So we maintained our level on the index for two reasons. Firstly, some countries have done more reforms than Yemen. Secondly, our most recent reforms to ease doing business have not been taken into account.

The 2011 Doing Business Report covers the period from July 2009 to May 2010. Our investment and income tax laws came into effect only after this period. There was also an amendment to the business law that was issued in July 2010. The amendment that entitles Ministry offices to grant licenses to agencies and companies on behalf of the Minister was enacted after the report was released. Hence many reforms that have been done recently were not considered. We hope they will be taken into account in the next report.

Yemen's level in comparison to other Arab states is still good, but it is also true that for some indicators Yemen did not score anything. However, as I already mentioned, this is because the latest reforms have not been considered.

Another example of this is the getting credit indicator. The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) has made big improvements in providing credit. A crediting information system has been introduced in cooperation with the Central Bank of the UAE. The number of people in the system has risen and the number of credits has increased, but none of this was considered in the report.

This may be due to the fact that the technical team for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) has a low presence in Sana'a, and that there is a new technical team in Washington which needs time to learn more about the country. The IFC technical team is now preparing a visit to Yemen to see the new reforms on the ground.

Many economists think that Yemen's economic problems are poverty and unemployment. How can the Ministry of Industry and Trade contribute in reducing those two problems?

We always say that small and big businesses are able to overcome such problems because of their social prestige and financial capacities. We now try to support these businesses by simplifying

In the past, the cost of registering a business exceeded YR 200,000 or even YR 300,000 due to corruption and delavs. This year the Business Registration Law was changed and owners of small businesses are now exempt from paying registration fees, which makes it a lot easier for them. We encourage owners of small businesses to register in order to be able to expand their activities.

The same applies to businesswomen, as it has become a trend that women in Yemen are running their own businesses. This is a good development, as poverty and unemployment are widespread among women.

Between 80 to 90 percent of women in the business sector are still informal. We at the ministry try to provide simplifications for women to register their businesses. The businesswoman is only required to come to the Ministry. The



Dr. Taha Al-Fosail, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Yemen, is also an assistant professor of economics at Sana'a University. He spoke exclusively to the Yemen Times in this interview.

employee responsible for businesswomen at the Ministry is a woman and will deal with the registration as a matter of priority.

We also have plans together with donors. Recently the Yemeni government signed an agreement with the Dutch government to support the Ministry in computerizing business registration. The headquarters of the Ministry will be connected with the offices in the governorates, so the registration will be online from any office in any governor-

In the 2008 report, Yemen ranked near the bottom of the Ease of Doing Business Index, where it came 177 out of 178 countries. Now it ranks at 105 out of 183 countries. This means we have achieved something. If we compare Yemen to the Arab region, we see that Yemen has taken large steps for-

At the end of 2008, a ministerial committee was formed by the cabinet chaired by the Minister of Industry and Trade. It consists of all relevant bodies including the Tax Authority, the Customs Authority, the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Yemen, the Ministry of Public Works and other institutions. The objective of this committee is to simplify the procedures for doing business in compliance with our

reform programs. The doing business environment is not only a concern of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, but of many bodies such as the Tax Authority and the Chamber of Commerce.

Reforms require funding and unfortunately this is what we are lacking. For this reason, we cooperate with the IFC through their office in Sana'a, their regional office in Cairo, and their headquarters in Washington. Most recently we conducted a joint survey on doing business procedures. It was carried out in the governorates of Taiz, Hodeida, Sana'a, Hadramout, and Aden. Procedures to unify formalities were assessed in all ministry offices in these five gov-

Now we are working on a new business registration law that focuses on solving land property issues. Land disputes represent a huge problem not only for business registration but for many investment projects.

The Real Estate Registration Law has been prepared in partnership with international organizations considering best practices as well as the situation in Yemen. This law has been in parliament for more than three years without discussion or endorsement, because it conflicts with the interests of some of the representatives.

An obstacle in the current law lies in the high fees, which were estimated at three percent of income. The proposed new law would reduce the fees to one percent.

Real estate property registration is important for the private sector. It motivates businessmen, as it provides a legal basis and assurance for their property. And there is no project that can be done without land.

Is there any unit at the Ministry responsible for informing business people so investors know about the simplifications?

There is constant contact between us and the General Federation of the Chamber of Commerce, as well as between the Ministry and Chambers of Commerce at the level of the governorates.

The industrial sector holds strong potential for creating jobs. What role does the Ministry play in this sector? For a long period the industrial sector remained outside the government's economic activities. Three years ago the state started to care more about this sector, as it is important not only for iob creation, but also for diversifying the economy. We know that Yemen's economy depends on its diminishing resources of oil. As our economy is heavily dependent on oil, it was very badly affected by the worldwide financial crisis. This is evidenced by the reduction of the expenditure side of the state budget in 2009 and 2010, as well as in the projected budget for 2011.

Meanwhile the basic requirements for the industrial sector have started to appear and that is a positive development. The Ministry worked on the legal and legislative framework by creating the Industry Development Committee that consists of the government and the private sector.

One month ago for the first time in Yemen an industry law was issued. Last week the strategy of industry development was discussed. Currently a strategy to develop micro-industries as well as an industry modernization program are in preparation.

#### Has the portrayal of Yemen in the media as a country suffering from terrorism affected business in Yemen?

No doubt. It has slowed down the business activity in the country. But Yemen was able to overcome this problem by hosting the 20th Gulf Cup in Aden. It was a smart step of the government to take responsibility for hosting the cup. Our objective was achieved and it demonstrated to the world that Yemen is a safe country. Yemen is similar to any country suffering from terrorism, but Yemen has recently been confronted with a severe and planned media attack by local and foreign entities to distort Yemen's reputation.

The 20th Gulf Cup introduced a different image of Yemen. Many tourists from the Gulf states have started to travel to Yemen, especially to the coastal areas. And when people feel safe and secure, investors will come and start up

## Economic freedoms cannot rely on oil

One indicator of a nation's economic prosperity is the Index of Economic Freedom issued each year by The Wall Street Journal and The Heritage Foundation. The index covers 10 economic freedoms - from property rights to entrepreneurship. In 2010, Yemen ranked 121 out of 179 countries.

66 People need

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freedom to

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

urprisingly, having more oil production does not necessarily mean more economic freedom in Yemen. In fact, according to the experts who draw up the Economic Freedom Index, an abundance of oil more often seems to inspire economic repression.

The oil industry requires very little investment in labor or human capital, and only a marginal investment in land. People need freedom to be productive, but oil does not generate the incentives needed for societies to embrace open-

In 2010, of the 17 countries investigated in the region, Yemen ranked

number 14 followed by Syria, Iran and Libya. Iraq has not been ranked since 2002.

2010 Yemen's economic freedom score is 54.4 out of 100, which is 2.5 points lower than last year. This reflects a deterioration in seven of the ten economic freedoms measured that form the general economic freedom score. Yemen's

overall score is lower than the average for the world and for the region.

Realizing this, Yemen's government has announced on more than one occasion that improving the national economy is a key challenge which supersedes the conflicts in both the north and the

«It is not terrorism or secessionists,

but economic development that is our key challenge," said foreign minister Abubakr Al-Qirbi in a public statement earlier this month. He had linked the country's stability to improving its economic conditions.

Therefore, the government has carried out some initiatives to promote economic prosperity. For example, Yemen has improved its 'doing business' environment, and the overall freedom to start, operate, and close a business is relatively well protected under Yemen's regulatory environment.

Starting a business takes an average of 12 days, compared to the world average of 35 days, although the entry cost of launching a business is still high. Obtaining a business license takes less

than the world average of 18 procedures and 218 days. Bankruptcy proceedings are also relatively straightforward. This is why Yemen's Business Freedom indicator for 2010 was relatively high at 74.4 – above the world average of 64.6.

However most of the government's efforts have been focused on promoting investment in the oil and minerals sector,

where the fast cash is. "Yemen's economy needs diversity. More than 70 percent of GDP comes from oil and gas. This is a very risky situation because it means the entire country is dependent on one source [of income], and this is a recipe for disaster," said Murad Zafir, a well-known Yemeni economic analyst

## **DISTRIBUTION OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM** ATLANTIC PACIFIC OCEAN OCEAN INDIAN OCEAN PACIFIC OCEAN DETAIL OF CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORES 80-100 FREE 70-79.9 MOSTLY FREE 60-69.9 MODERATELY FREE 50-59.9 MOSTLY UNFREE 0-49.9 REPRESSED NOT RANKED

Economic freedom as a solution "Economic freedom correlates with poverty reduction, a variety of desirable social indicators, democratic gov-

ernance, and environmental sustainability," said the editors of the 2010 Economic Freedom Index Report. Yemen is the least developed country in the region as at least 40 percent

of the population is below the poverty line, living under USD 2 a day. Thirtyfive percent of the able population is unemployed according to government The decline in oil prices internation-

ally has severely affected the economy of the country, which is a non-OPEC member producing around 400,000 barrels of oil per day. This output has been declining, and is expected to decline further next year. A recent in-

crease in oil prices worldwide, however, will temporarily produce extra income that will go towards the shortfall in the government's budget. Crude oil prices have jumped 11 percent from USD 81 on Nov. 22 to just over USD 90 on Dec. 22.

Ahmed Saif, an economist and director of the Sheba Center for Strategic Studies predicts that this increase in the price of oil will continue up to USD 150 due to unusual cold weather in Europe and the US, and conflicts over sources of oil. But Saif said that this anticipated extra income from oil is only a temporary solution and that Yemen's budget is in urgent need of alternatives to oil as this resource is running out.

"The state should diversify the sources of its budgetary income to have

a healthy economic system," he said. "There are other alternative sources for the budget such as agriculture, fisheries, and the tourism industry. These are the sources that the government should focus on."

## **Faltering reforms**

Yemen's government this year has introduced a series of economic reforms, including some which cover the management of public finance and changes in the legal framework. Whilst these have been introduced, many have not been fully implemented or face considerable delays.

"Pervasive government interference in the economy and an underdeveloped financial sector constrain the entrepreneurial environment and development of a more vibrant private sector. Wide-

### **The Economic Freedom** Index

Ten specific indicators of economic freedom are measured for each country: The higher the score, the lower the level of government interference. All countries were graded on a scale of zero to 100. The 10 indicators are: business freedom, trade freedom, fiscal freedom, government size, monetary freefreedom, property rights, freedom from corruption and labor freedom. Ratings in each category were averaged to produce the overall index score.

spread corruption remains the most serious impediment to Yemen's overall economic freedom," read the Economic Freedom Index Report.

Another example is the investment environment. While the government has made progress toward improving the investment regime, investmentrelated laws and regulations can be non-transparent and inconsistently applied, and the state remains an important presence in the economy. Dispute resolution and contract enforcement are unreliable.

"The number one concern for many businessmen - local or from outside – is the rule of law. Unless I have an influential business partner, I don't have any protection and could lose my capital. This is why, although I am a Yemeni, I moved my investments to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia," said Hamoud Abdu, a businessman in fabrics.

On property rights, Yemen ranked a low at 30 out of 100 - the world average was 43.8. The judiciary is subject to government pressure and corruption. Contracts are weakly enforced. Foreigners may own property, but foreign firms must operate through Yemeni agents, and protection of intellectual property rights is inadequate.

Moreover, corruption is perceived as pervasive. Yemen ranks 146 out of 178 countries in the Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index for 2010.

## Yamaan Foundation celebrates the launch of the endline KAP survey



n 20 December, Yamaan Foundation for Health and Social Development marked the conclusion of the Social Marketing Project with a presentation of their HIV/AIDS and contraceptives survey. The Social Marketing Project started in 2005 as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Public Health, German Development Bank (KfW) with the aim to improve reproductive health services in Yemen.

Dr. Ashraf Badr, director of Yamaan Foundation, thanked Ministry of Public Health, Government of Germany for their generous fund through German Development Bank KfW and also he thanked all staff and friends of the foundation for their hard work, especially Jamila Al-Raebi, Asia Al-Dhabi and Fran Roots. "I thank everyone who helped us establish this foundation and promoted it so that today we are one of the key players in reproductive health in Yemen" said Dr. Badr.

Deputy Minister of Health, Jamila Al-Raibi, praised the Yamaan Foundation and other partners for their active participation in the project and pointed to the significance of the survey: "This is an important workshop to announce the survey results." Al-Raibi added that the survey documents the improvements in reproductive health and family planning in Yemen. She attributed the increased knowledge and improved behavior in society to the interventions of the ministry and its partners and announced that another survey will be carried out in 2011 in order to further monitor society's attitude towards these issues.

The use and availability of contraceptives was one of the main indicators of success of the Social Marketing Project. 4,000 distribution points were established across Yemen and around 900,000 couples year of protection were achieved. Health education sessions conducted and targeted 225,000 men and women in the targeted 14 governorates. The campaign also addressed religious leaders and preachers with about 1,200 awareness-raising sessions. 60 workshops were organized in girls' schools, and 14 sessions addressed community leaders. Yamaan foundation showed films on re-

productive health in 180 mobile cinemas across the 14 governorates. 150 radio spots and 20 TV spots were produced and aired. The foundation also helped to train social specialists, medical doctors, midwives, service providers of the private and public sectors on reproductivehealth consultations.

HIV and AIDS was another topic of the campaign. More than 240 workshops were conducted for youth, plays and awareness sessions addressed the general public. 240 barbers and 240 hotel workers and 40 health workers received training on HIV transmission and prevention methods.

Yamaan aimed to transfer the knowledge of social marketing and behavior change communication to the local civil society organizations and implement various activities of the project through many local NGOs like Yemeni Family Care Association, the Charitable Society for Social Welfare, Yemeni Women's Union, the Health Institute and the On-job Training Center, and National Health Education Center.

The project was financed by German De-



velopment Cooperation through KfW. Bernd Schonewald - KfW Yemen Country Director - welcomed the achievements of Yamaan foundation and praised the success of the social marketing project, as well as the successful cooperation with the Ministry of Health.









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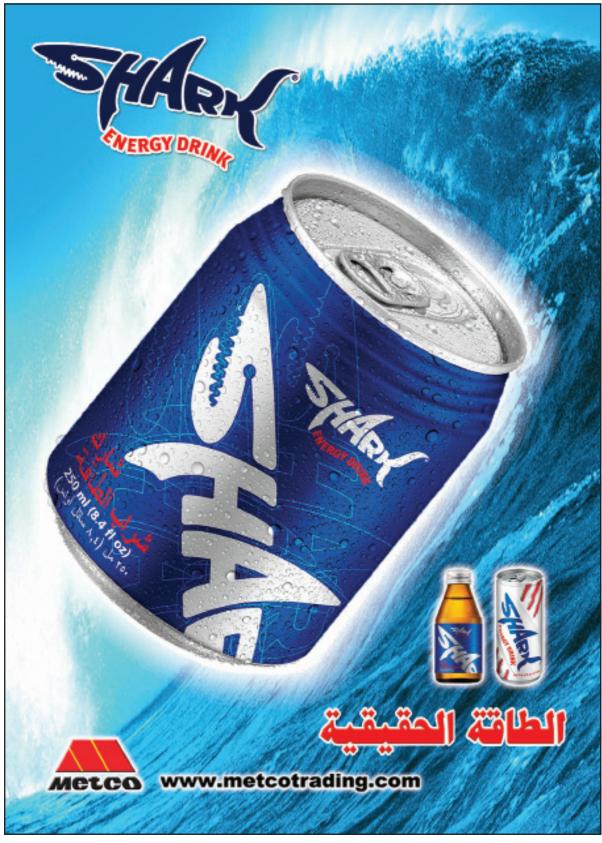
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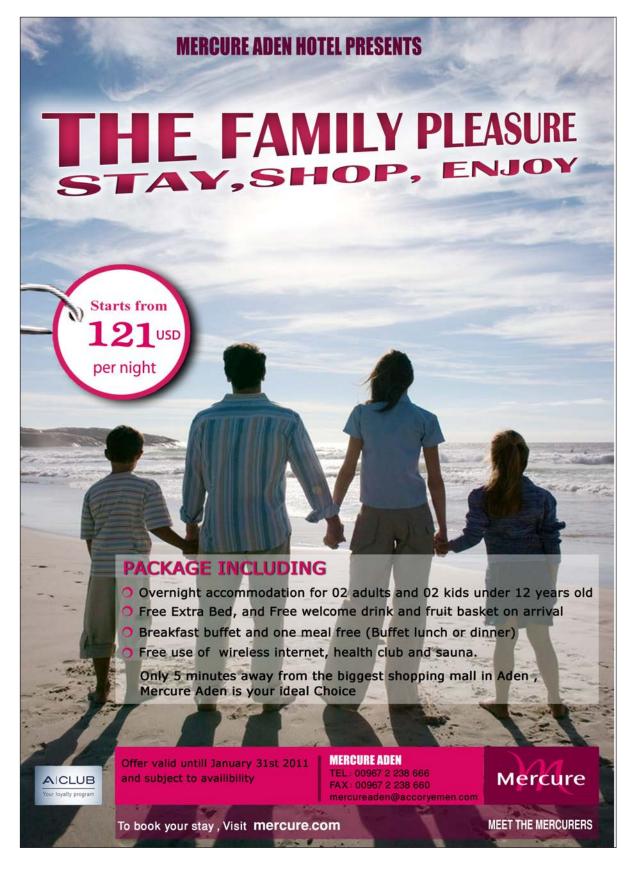
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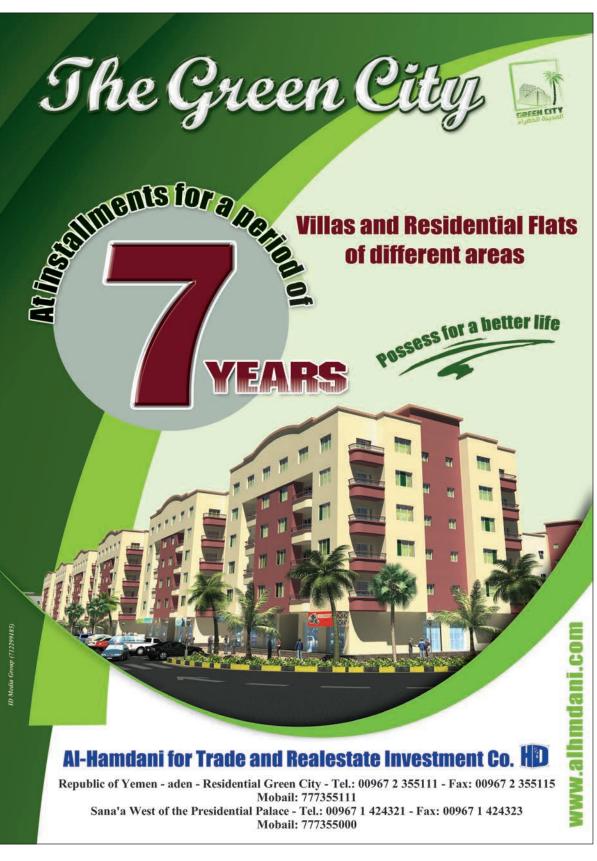
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Arched decorative colored glass windows are probably the only handicraft that will not face extinction. Coming from a tradition that predates Islam and that has morphed into tourist industry, Qamariyas remain a favorite symbol of Yemen.

YT Photo by Amira Al-Sharif



## **JOB VACCANCY**

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MSF is recruiting staff to work in its project located in Hajjah Governorate:

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- nutritional survey, etc. Follow strictly the Universal Blood-Fluid Precautions
- Official Medicine Certificate.

relevant local authorities as needed.

- Previous experience in similar position and with a NGO
- Organization, initiative, tidiness and courtesy
- Good communication skills ability to communicate
- Ability to prioritize activities in case of overwhelming
- Willing to learn and work with protocols and guidelines.
- Flexibility to adapt to changing working conditions and to the working hours that could be increased in number due
- to the dynamic nature of the outreach activities. Good knowledge of written and reading English is
- compulsory

## Specific qualifications and experiences

- To provide instant emergency treatment to emergency
- cases in collaboration with the consultant To classify the patients according pre-established

Medical Doctor Gynaecologist (1 POST for the priect, Female)

- system of triage Provides care to the patients using proper dressing
- techniques respecting the MSF protocols.
- Administer drugs according to the prescriptions and respecting MSF protocols
- To collaborate with the expatriate team in the
- supervision of the Midwives team, and the medical activities in general
- To work in collaboration with all medical staff to ensure
- quality of medical care.
- Be accurate in all kind of reporting and medical
- Work according to roster, which includes nights and
- Give a good example to your colleagues, patients and community.
- To respect and promote absolute confidentiality of any information related to patients.
- To respect and promote the medical ethics. To represent MSF in the capacity as a health officer and do not misuse MSF identity (ID, Shirts, etc.) and to contribute in promoting MSF's core values & principles

amongst the staff and the bigger community of patients

- + relevant local authorities as needed. To promote proximity & witnessing role of MSF. To take responsibility on safety & security issues not
- only for him/herself but also for the entire team. To take on any other tasks deemed necessary for the project and/or any other related activities for the mission as a whole e.g. assessment of humanitarian
- needs, nutritional survey, etc. Follow strictly the Universal Blood-Fluid Precautions.
- Official Medicine Certificate. Previous experience in similar position and with a NGO
- desirable Organization, initiative, tidiness and courtesy
- Good communication skills ability to communicate
- Ability to prioritize activities in case of overwhelming workload
- Willing to learn and work with protocols and guidelines. Flexibility to adapt to changing working conditions and to the working hours that could be increased in number
- due to the dynamic nature of the outreach activities. Good knowledge of written and reading English is compulsory

#### MSF only accepts candidates fulfilling the above criteria. Those should send their contact details, CV and a covering letter before JANUARY 7th, 2011 at msfe-haradh-emerg@ Médecins Sans Frontières - Spain or contact our office located on the street behind Thiafkco restaurant

## An imperative order

By: Khalid Mohamad Alkarimi khalidmohamada@yahoo.com

To ingratiate yourselves is really feeble-mindedness To exert even an attempt to flatter The ultimate weakness indeed is. Belittle never yourselves, An imperative order to all flatterers Who are overrun by others Then go the top low stars. Flattery can help is an illusion Just like embracing mirage as a basin A flatterer is, granted, an untrue one Merits not be counted as a human. At a stake are the world's relations Once all the globe's dwellers Get their spirits immensely polluted By such vile demeanors. My mind wonders raises; If people, all people, flattery abhor Some bow to some for what reasons? If all believe in being equals Will superiority or its opposite rise?

## When calls rise to no avail

By:Majed Ahmed Alqutami majedahmed1985@yahoo

When calls rise to no avail For ceasing fire rumblings of arms Sky ,sea and soil all come to be A scene of awful acts and crimes Damage holds the globe Puffing out stinky smells and smokes

Grass grows gory Frightening the sun's rays Changing the gardens' greenery to

Streams walk slow Pouring out of veins and gaping

wounds Leaving an appalling portrait of deaths

Offering lots of desperate eyes' tragedies In which children ask

Fear, chill and hunger to show sympathy

## **Education for the next** generation

By: Mohammed Sharaf **General Secretary of Yemen Tennis Federation** 

mailto:mod6162001@yahoo.com

oday Yemen suffers from 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 these millions were being used to improve education for Yemeni peo-

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 achieve. They have to make our schools more qualified than before.

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 spend lots of money on sending 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 every one".

## **Gulf 20 Cup more than** a football game

By: Abdul-Slam Al-Qarari alkorari55@hotmail.com

he Gulf 20 Cup is, finally, to kick-off its football contests on Monday 22 Nov. at May 22 Stadium in the governorate of Aden. This really is a victorious moment for the Yemeni government and its people. For the Yemeni political leadership, it is no small feat to host such a popular game at this moment. The security campaign against Al-Qaeda operatives and the violent acts by the secessionist Southern Movement have both been over-reported and exaggerated by regional and international media. They have created concerns about the government's ability to ensure a secure place for the games. Yet the Yemeni leadership could have diffused such fears by inviting a security team from the GCC to come to the country. They could have made sure that all precautions had already been taken to ensure a secure championship and that there

was nothing to be worried about. The timing cannot be more important for Yemen, which has been the target of world media since the US administration designated it as a venue for its next war. The Gulf 20 Cup has provided the Yemeni government with an invaluable opportunity to defuse local dissidents' arguments that the southern governorates and their people have been deliberately underprivileged. It is most important to organize this football competition at this critical time, and it will certainly serve as a practical response to the cascade of inaccurate and unfair analysis and reports about the weakness of the central government and the security situation in Yemen.

Of course, there are a host of political, economic and security problems as a result of mismanagement, a lack of good governance and the breakdown in the rule of law. But things are not so awful that Saleh's regime hardly controls the capital and that Yemen is the world's next failed state as has been reported by some regional and international media.

To organize this sporting contest in the two governorates of Aden and Abyan is both symbolic and momentous. Aden city was the cradle of football in the Arab world. It was in Aden where in 1839 Yemen became the first Arab nation to be introduced to football. This is half a century earlier than the

Egyptians who discovered football in 1882. The first Arab football club was also established in the city of Aden in

Abyan is the area where Al-Qaeda have established its hideouts since the early 1990s. The first serious terrorist attack took place there in 1998, and the governorate has been the host for pre-emptive strikes against Al-Qaeda operatives and recent confrontations with terrorist cells.

To manage a regional championship - the most popular in the region - simultaneously in two southern governorates, where anti-central government sentiment is running high and Al-Qaeda is reportedly active, is the most persuasive way to convince public opinion abroad that Yemen has been unfairly portrayed as safehaven for terrorists. Acutely realizing this fact, the political leadership has devoted all its resources and made strenuous efforts to make the Gulf 20 Cup a successful and distinguished championship.

Being organized in Yemen, the Gulf 20 Cup has created an attractive opportunity for many people from the Gulf to visit the country and get first hand experience of the security situation and its tourist attractions. A large number of travelers are reported to have already flocked to Yemeni cities to stand by their own football teams.

The Gulf 20 Cup is of paramount significance for the Yemeni government and its people. It is both a challenging and promising event. Its importance goes far beyond sport. Many analysts have rightly argued that this is really an acid test for the government's efficiency and its capacity to take control over all Yemeni regions, at least when it decides to or there is a good reason to do so. If it can manage this grand game successfully, there is no real reason to be worried about Yemen's future. Let's pray towards this

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	1310	0900	Sana'a/ Adeii / Sana'a Sana'a/ Taiz/ Djibouti/ Taiz / Sana'a	CRJ-200 CRJ-200	FO-500/
,	1800	0930	Sana'a/ Mukalla / Sharjah / Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-600
	1230	1000	Sana'a/ Sayoun / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-182
	1230	1100	Sana'a/ Hodeidah / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-866
	1450	1300	Sana'a/ Ataq/ Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-190
	1855	1400	Sana'a/Aden/ Sayoun /Aden/ Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-186
	1745	1515	Sana'a/ Mukalla / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-152/
	1820	1630	Sana'a/ Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-114/
	2220	2030	Sana'a/ Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-120/
	Arr.	Dep.	Route	Model	Flight
	1220	0700	Sana'a/ Mukalla / Socotra / Mukalla / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-150/
	0900	0730	Sanara/ Hodeidah / Sanara	CRJ-700	FO-170
	0950	0800	Sana'a/ Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-110/
	1130	1000	Sana'a/ Taiz / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-160/
	1300	1030	Sana'a/ Sayoun / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-182
	1555	1245	Sana'a/Gaidah/ Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-198/
	2100 1730	1400 1600	Sana'a/Aden/ Jeddah /Aden / Sana'a Sana'a/ Taiz / Sana'a	CRJ-700 CRJ-200	FO-820/
	1900	1630	Sana'a/ Taiz / Sana'a Sana'a/ Mukalla / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-154/
	2250	2100	Sana'a/ Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-120/
	Arr.	Dep.	Route	Model	Flight
	0600	0100	Sana'a/ Abha / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-870/
	0900	0730	Sana'a/ Hodeidah / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-170
	1540	0800	Sana'a/ Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-102/
	1615	0900	Sana'a/ Taiz / Dammam / Taiz / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-830/
	1425	0910	Aden /Mukalla / Socotra / Mukalla / Aden	CRJ-700	FO-250/
	1200	0930	Sana'a/ Sayoun/ Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-182/
	1555	1400	Sana'a/ Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-106/
	1800	1630	Sana'a/ Hodeidah / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-172/
	1930	1700	Sana'a/ Mukalla/ Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-154/
	2210	1800	Sana'a/ Al-Madinah / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-840/
	2020	1830	Sana'a/ Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-108/
	Arr.	Dep.	Route Sana'a Mukalla / Socotra / Mukalla/ Sana'a	Model	Flight
	1120 0900	0600	Sana'a/ Mukalia / Socotra / Mukalia/ Sana'a  Sana'a/ Sayoun / Sana'a	CRJ-700 CRJ-200	FO-150/
	1100	0930	Sana'a/ Sayoun / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-160/
	1420	0930	Sana'a/Aden/ Sayoun /Aden/ Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-186/
	1130	1000	Sana'a/ Hodeidah / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-866/
	2140	1400	Sana'a /Aden / Dammam / Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-832/
	1530	1400	Sana'a/ Taiz / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-166/
	1730	1600	Sana'a/ Hodeidah / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-172/
	1800	1530	Sana'a/ Mukalla / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-152/
	Arr.	Dep.	Route	Model	Flight
	0930	0700	Sana'a/ Sayoun / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-180/
	1310	0700	Sana'a/ Hodeidah/ Jeddah/ Hodeidah/ Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-822/
	1530	0700	Sanara/ Aden / Sharjah / Mukalla / Sanara	CRJ-700	FO-602/
	1310 1220	0900	Sana'a/ Taiz/ Djibouti/ Taiz/ Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-500/
	1845	1030 1300	Sana'a/ Aden / Sana'a  Sana'a/ Mukalla / Socotra / Mukalla / Sana'a	CRJ-200 CRJ-700	FO-104/
	1550	1400	Sana'a/ Mukana / Socotra / Mukana / Sana'a  Sana'a/ Ataq / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-192/
	1840	1300	Sana'a/ Adan / Adan / Adan / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-192/
	2120	1930	Sana'a/ Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-118/
	0010	2000	Sana'a/Al-Madina/ Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-842
	Arr.	Dep.	Route	Model	Flight
	0830	0700	Sana'a/ Hodeidah / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-170
	0950	0800	Sana'a/ Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-100/
	1250	0900	Sana'a/ Mukalla, /Aden / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-140
	1615	0900	Sana'a/Taiz/Dammam/ Taiz/ Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-830/
	1300	1030	Sana'a/ Sayoun / Sana'a	CRJ-700	FO-182
	1410	1100	Sana'a/ Gaidah / Sana'a	CRJ-200	FO-196
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## Private sector to support girls' education

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

mal, which means hope in Arabic, is the name of a fictional character of a little girl in a school uniform wearing a backpack. She is the symbol of an initiative to encourage girls' basic education called Broadening Regional Initiative for Developing Girls' Education (BRIDGE), launched in 2005.

The project, created by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), operated in Taiz governorate as BRIDGE I between 2005 and 2008 and has since moved to Dhamar governorate as BRIDGE II (2009-2013).

Now, Amal has supporters from the private sector.

Last month, this education project launched an initiative whereby the private sector can contribute to promoting girls' education in Dhamar governorate.

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tant to BRIDGEII.

of teaching and learning, and escalating

community participation. Today, BRIDGE II is operating in 70 schools in seven districts. Once JICA phases out in 2013, it becomes the government's responsibility with support from the local community to duplicate the model and expand it to more schools. BRIDGE II also aims at producing replicable model of whole school development that the Ministry of Education will use nationwide after its trail period in

Dhamar governorate. "The bottom line is assisting the Ministry of Education at central, district and school levels to understand the whole school development mechanism to improve girls' enrollment in basic education," said Shin-

Mohammed Badiah, chairman of Dhamar Chamber of Commerce was key person in support group. He was enthusiastic about this initiative and encouraged the business community to contribute to making this initiative a success.

"It is amazing how the businessmen were enthusiastic and wanted to contribute for real. They asked for a proposal to highlight how they can contribute to improving girls' enrollment in the governorate," said Rasha Jarhum, field consul-

Girls enrollment in basic education in Dhamar today is no more than 57 percent compared to 93 percent for boys. JICA and the Ministry of Education operate using a whole school development model which focuses on improving schools in five areas: Increased enrollment and gender equality, improving the school environment, building the capacity of school administration, improving the quality

> ichiro TANAKA, Deputy Team Leader of JICA expert team.

> > targeted 59 schools in 6 districts with the purpose of establishing an applicable and replicable model of good school management and enhancing girls' education based on increased community partici-

cause contrary to common belief that education in Taiz governorate is good, there are some districts such as Dhubab, Maqbana, Alwazeya and Al-makha where the rate of girls' enrollment in basic education is low and intervention was needed.

in 2008, the local girls' education office applied this model in 119 schools. However, it still needs more financial support from the government or involvement of the private sector or donors. BRIDGE II aims at build-

ing the capacity of the Education Ministry from the core in order to imple-

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BRIDGE I in Taiz governorate

BRIDGE I started in Taiz be-

Since JICA phased out from Taiz

ment the model of school management developed by BRIDGE I.

The model is not just about creating education friendly schools. But also to draw-in the parents, especially the mothers, to the schools and make them believe that girls' education is important.

To involve the mothers the project includes a program for illiteracy eradication and sewing among other capacity building initiatives.

Now that BRIDGE II has won the support of local businessmen in Dhamar, it will organize a national campaign of Amal Supporters to involve the private sector in February next year to support girls' basic education nationwide.

Moreover, Amal's Supporters will soon include media and civil society in an attempt to mobilize different communities to support girls' education in Yemen.

If you want to know more about Amal Supporters or get involved send an email to bridge2@padeco.co.jp



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