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Displaced people flee violence to fleeing aid

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Aug. 5 — Vulnerable populations in the Sa'ada governorate are still suffering from constant tensions and sporadic armed clashes between government forces, Houthis, and tribes.

Since early 2004, the Houthis, a group named after the leader of the initial rebellion, has engaged in an armed conflict with the Yemeni military and government-backed tribal fighters in Sa'ada.

The conflict comprised of five separate clashes, the most recent officially ended on July 17, 2008.

Although the government and the Houthi forces have agreed to a ceasefire, the situation remains fragile. Both parties accuse each other of breaching the truce, and violent confrontations are reported in many districts.

Many people, particularly in the western districts of Sa'ada have fled their homes to seek refuge in Sa'ada city, further straining the infrastructure of Sa'ada.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said on July 24 that

more than 1,000 families had fled their villages by end of June to take refuge in one of four displacement camps.

Al-Talh, Al-Anad, Sam and Al-Ihssah camps are situated in and around Sa'ada city.

The number of Internally Displaced People rose from 6,500 to more than 7,600, in one of the four camps.

There are also approximately 10,442 IDPs staying with relative and friends in neighborhoods in Sa'ada city (mostly in the Abdeen and Rahban neighborhoods).

However, it is still difficult to calculate the exact number of displaced people, according to a report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

"Information on people displaced by the conflict in the north has been limited by access difficulties and the lack of a profiling exercise," the report said. "There was consensus amongst the United Nations and international agencies in July 2009 that an estimated 100,000 people remained displaced."

The total number of people may be higher, according to the report.

More than 130,000 children and

adults were displaced before the fifth eruption of war ended in 2008, it estimated.

A notable number of the IDPs have since returned to their war-afflicted communities. Others refuse to return due to violence, the fear of persecution due to political affiliation, or because their homes and livelihoods are destroyed, according to Save the Children.

According to the organization's statistics, 66 percent of new IDPs fled their homes rapidly at night or early in the morning. Most of them arrived in Sa'ada city with hardly any belongings.

A Save the Children field-team said that many newly displaced children suffer from their traumatic experiences and distress.

Several children have also been identified as separated from their primary caregivers- arriving with relatives or neighbors- and thereby exposed to additional risks related to their well-being, safety and rights, said Save the Children.

The majority of the IDPs are from the Sahar, Majz and Haydan districts,



The ICRC carries out an essential items distribution in Al-Sari village in Nov. and Dec. 2008. Almost 5,000 individuals benefited from this distribution.

and include communities as Bani Maath and Al Talh (Sahar). Haydan town and Dahyan (Majz).

Natural disasters

Sa'ada also witnessed heavy rainfall last April. Many families lost their homes, some or all of their livestock, and other items necessary for their survival.

ICRC was able to reach to over 3,400 people, distribute tents, ground sheets, mattresses, blankets, soap,

buckets, kitchen sets, and a months worth of wheat flour, vegetable oil, beans, rice, sugar and salt.

Access difficulties

Assessments conducted by the United Nations Children's Fund and the ICRC and as well as World Food Program monitoring confirm that most IDPs are still in need of aid.

However, the kidnapping and killing of 9 international humanitarian workers in June about 12 km outside Sa'ada

city has deteriorated the security situation. National and international humanitarian organizations now face new challenges.

"We are currently facing a very volatile and unpredictable situation," said Klaus Spreyermann, the ICRC's head of sub-delegation in Sa'ada. "[I]t is having an impact not only on the people directly affected by the conflict, but also on the capacity of the ICRC and the Yemen Red Crescent to respond to their needs."

Report reveals human rights abuses in Yemeni prisons

By: Heather Murdock

SANA'A — Hodeida jails house large-scale human rights abuses, including rape, illegal detentions, overcrowding and shortages of food and water, according to a new report prepared by the National Forum for Human Rights.

The worst abuses take place when male guards are in charge of women, said Abdulhafidh Mu'jab, who prepared the report after a team of nine lawyers toured Hodeida detention centers.

"Women located in these unsafe places encourages violations or rapes," he said.

And many women in Hodeida are detained before trial longer than is legal or humane, in facilities that are inadequate for female prisoners, he added.

"They should work on procedures to release women from prison and makes these procedures as fast as possible," Mu'jab said.

According to Khalid Ayash, who heads the organization, women do not to report sexual assaults in jails because they fear the severe social stigma associated with rape in Yemen.

International human rights groups say women who report rape in Yemen have more to fear than social stigma. Rape victims are sometimes accused of and prosecuted for adultery, a crime

that is punishable by stoning to death, according to Human Rights Watch.

Sex between unmarried people is punishable by 100 lashes and up to a year in prison, according to Yemeni criminal law.

Rape victims also fear violence at the hands of relatives who are shamed by their wives' or daughters' compromised chastity.

"Women do not dare talk," said Ayash.

He said families of victims send him complaints, but it is currently impossible to guess how many women have been raped in Hodeida jails.

Hodeida conditions inadequate

None of the jails in Hodeida have proper facilities for women, according to the report. In the Hais district, for instance, women are held among male officers in a room inside the police station.

In Zabeeda, a single room, large enough for 10 people, and one bathroom house female detainees near the police administration offices where men work.

The lawyers that created the report also saw women housed in rooms with men's facilities in Beit Al-Faqih and Bajel. Some jails, according to the

report, were not government facilities, but houses rented to detain prisoners.

"Female prisoners need special care because they are in a society that says they are shameful if they coexist with men," the report reads.

Rights abuses in detention centers are also not limited to female detainees in Hodeida, according to the report.

One prisoner in the Hais district told the lawyers that prisoners were not supplied with food or mattresses, and families were forced to provide meals to incarcerated relatives. The prisoner also complained of water shortages and filth.

In Zabeeda, prisoners complained of overcrowding, food shortages, and lack of electricity. One prisoner said she was detained for four months before her case was examined, according to the report.

In Bajel, prisoners were not allowed to see their lawyers, and reported a shortage of water, bathroom services and electricity.

Problem nationwide

Squalor is not exclusive to Hodeida detention centers, according to other Yemeni human rights activists.

Yemeni MP and Human Rights Committee member Ahmed Said

Hashed told the Global Politician in 2007 that detention centers across the country are grossly overcrowded, unhealthy and dangerous.

"It pains me to find security apparatuses practice torture, attacks and the worst kinds of mistreatments in the prisons and custody centers," he said.

Prisoners also suffer from food shortages, medical care and sanitation and are victims of beatings, torture, sexual abuse and detentions without charges, he said.

Children also suffer rape and torture at the hands of authorities in the prison system, he told the Global Politician. A Ministry of Interior report said more than three quarters of incarcerated children under 15 years old had never been charged, according to the Global Politician.

"Sorrowfully, many acts and crimes are committed against children in Yemen," he added.

The Ministry of Human Rights also reported poor conditions in Yemeni detention centers, and problems within the judicial system that lead to extended detentions without charges, and arrests of people as proxies for relatives accused of committing crimes.

The Minister of Human Rights, Huda Al-Ban, visited prisons in Aden, Taiz,

Abyan, Lahj, Ibb and Sana'a between June and July in 2007.

From the Central Prison in Sana'a, she reported a lack of clean, healthy food, especially for pregnant women, children locked up with adults, and prisoners locked up by local leaders not authorized to make arrests, according to subsequent Yemen Times reports.

Also common were prisoners who had served their sentence, but could not pay the fines the judges ordered as part of their punishments. During the visits, the ministry paid the debts of almost 100 prisoners who were then released, according to a Yemen Times report.

As a result of these findings and human rights conferences, the Ministry of Human Rights is planning a nation-

wide effort to identify abuses within the criminal justice system, according to Abdulkareem Ahmed Al-Wazzan, the General Director for International Organizations and Reports.

Judges, police, prisoners and prison officials will be asked to provide details about the problems and needs of the system. Al-Wazzan said this information will be presented at an international conference early next year.

"Any violation of any rights is a crime that should be punished," he added.

Detailed information about the needs of Yemen's criminal justice system will encourage the international community to contribute much-needed funds to the project, he said.

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Fifty one tons of illegal pesticides in Yemeni stores

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, Aug. 5 — Croplife Yemen has counted 51 tons of illegal pesticides in stores in Taiz, Amran and Sana'a, according to its chairman Dr. Ahmad Al-Aghil.

Only 17 percent of pesticides in Yemeni stores are original brands, whereas up to 46 percent are fake brands and 37 percent are banned, he explained at a Croplife Yemen workshop held last Tuesday in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The illegal pesticides come from China, India and Jordan among other countries via Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, according to Al-Aghil.

Croplife closed down 400 Chinese factories producing illegal pesticides, he said.

Previous visits have shown that Dhamar, Taiz and Dhale'e are the governorates that most use illegal pesticides because inspections are rare in these areas, he said.

Two weeks ago, experts from Croplife paid visits to pesticide stores in the Taiz, Amran and Sana'a governorates to assess what they were selling. The agricultural governorate of Sa'ada was however not included in the survey for security reasons.

Pesticide importers, representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

and Ministry of Finance, security officials, members of the judiciary and customs officials gathered on Tuesday

to discuss ridding the country of illegal pesticides.

Al-Aghil called on the government to coordinate efforts with neighboring countries to dispose of these illegal pesticides. He also demanded a court be established to quickly settle all issues associated with illegal pesticides.

The government closed down some stores selling illegal pesticides in Amran, Taiz and Sana'a, according to Al-Aghil. Their owners are currently in court, asking to reopen their businesses.

Yemen uses much less pesticides than other countries in the region, said Al-Aghil. Pesticides are particularly sought after by qat farmers and up to 80 percent of all pesticides in Yemen are used on qat, said Mansour Al-Aqil, general manager Plant Guidance at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

"If the country could get rid of qat trees, pesticides would not exist," he said. Pesticides are not so commonly used on crops like wheat, which is why Yemen's production of these crops is still limited, added Al-Aghil.

Pesticides are one of important elements of agricultural production, said Abdullah Al-Sayani, general manager of Plant Protection department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. No country can do without them, even the US, despite its highly-developed agricultural techniques.

Expired pesticides

Besides illegal pesticides, the Croplife team also recorded the presence of up to 20 tons of expired pesticides in some pesticide stores around the country, said

Al-Aghil.

His organization, the importers and government will coordinate to prevent this from happening in the future, he said.

According to an eyewitness who accompanied the Croplife team on the recent field visits, one store in Taiz contains large quantities of expired pesticides. There is a very bad smell emanating from it.

This store is located in a populated area where people have begun to suffer from chest problems, and some have been admitted to local hospitals.

Pesticide bottles

About fifteen million empty pesticide bottles accumulate a year around the country, according to Al-Aghil, but there are no means to dispose of them.

"We have suggested burners in the farms," said Al-Aghil. "We aimed to distribute 500 burners to farmers to get rid of empty bottle."

Pesticide smuggling

The ministry is taking steps to limit pesticide smuggling, which has increased over the last two years. Al-Sayani attributed the rise in the quantity of illegally imported pesticides to a few companies holding the monopoly of the pesticide market.

Licenses are only issued for the legal import of 500 tons of pesticides, according to Al-Sayani.

"We have been criticized for importing pesticides and criticized if we import too little quantities, because restricting imports will lead to more

pesticides being illegally smuggled in," said Al-Sayani.

However the door is now open for more companies to import authorized pesticides under the supervision of the government, he said.

He said that the Yemen-Saudi Joint Technical Ministerial Committee had decided not to allow any pesticides to cross the border without permission from the ministry in its recent meeting, according to Al-Sayani.

Disposing of illegal pesticides

Fifty seven tons of illegal pesticides have recently been stopped at the border with Saudi Arabia, but nothing has yet been decided as to what to do with them, he said.

New laws issued by the government to ban re-exporting stored and expired pesticides via the country's outlets are complicating discussions about how to dispose of them, said Al-Aghil.

Al-Sayani however suggested using the illegal pesticides found in stores under the supervision of the ministry to save the country millions of riyals importing new pesticides.

In May, over three tons of banned pesticides were seized and returned to their country of production by the Plant Protection department, at the Alb crossing in Saudi Arabia.

Croplife International is a global federation representing the plant science industry with a network of regional and national associations in 91 countries. Croplife Yemen was established in 2004, and works on educating people on the safe use of pesticides.

New climate change initiative in Yemen



Environmental activist Al Gore with participants at the Asia Pacific Summit in Melbourne

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug. 4 — After his return from the Climate Project Asia-Pacific Summit, Dr. Yasir Abdul Maged Hameed, a general medical practitioner working in Taiz, is directing efforts to raise awareness about the importance of climate change in Yemen.

The summit was held during the second week of July in Melbourne, Australia, and Dr. Hameed was selected from Yemen to be part of the 261 people from 19 countries around the world to be trained by American environmental activist Al Gore on climate change issues.

"I hope my training at the summit will mean I can work to inspire and create change in order to avoid catastrophic climate change here in Yemen," said Dr. Hameed. "I plan to be an advocate for this work in the important five-month lead-up to the Copenhagen climate change negotiations."

The initiative's first phase is to convey the global impact of climate change to intellectuals and professionals in Yemen through a presentation, in which Dr. Hameed has included information specific to climate change in Yemen to localize the issue for the Yemeni community.

Educational materials will be handed out in English and Arabic, and will soon be made available to the media through workshops in Sana'a, Taiz and Aden to create public interest and awareness about this issue.

The summit was hosted by the Australian Conservation Foundation and was the first to bring together people from the Asia-Pacific region to be trained by Al Gore. It was the first time Yemen was professionally represented at such a high-level event

on climate change.

"I was selected because of my research on climate change in Yemen, a country which is not adequately represented in this field as there is not much research or information available on climate change and [its] impact in Yemen," explained Dr. Hameed.

Climate change in Yemen could increase the rates of children with "climate sensitive" diseases such as diarrhea and malaria and exacerbate malnutrition, according to Dr. Hameed. Extreme weather events linked to climate change also compound the threat of drought in the country.

"A recent study has suggested that for every degree of increase in temperature the rate of hospitalization of children with diarrhea increased by 8 per cent," he wrote in a recent report.

The 261 participants, chosen out of 3,000 applicants, were diplomats, doctors, chief executives, students, economists, school principals, a farmer, a fire-fighter, climate relief workers and an associate professor of philosophy.

Gore stated his intention of being part of this Asia-Pacific community after this conference, as the region has been identified as vulnerable to the humanitarian and economic impacts of climate change.

During the summit, the participants were given tools on climate change communication and advocacy. They exchanged experiences and discussed how to make themselves heard to bring down carbon emissions in their region towards the Copenhagen Climate Conference in December.

"This really is the time to build a groundswell of public support in favor of strong action at Copenhagen," said Don Henry, executive director of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Infant dinosaurs' footprints found in Yemen

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug. 4 — A Yemeni scientific team announced early this week that it discovered four new dinosaur track sites, adding them to the map of the dinosaurs' environmental surroundings in Yemen.

The team started its work in Arhab district in Sana'a and had already begun surveying the area early this year after it discovered tracks of dinosaurs' footprints dating back 140 million years ago.

"Who knew that the area that was typical for predatory giant animals around 140 million years ago would turn into a place for humankind," said Dr. Mohammed Al-Haifi, assistant professor of Environmental Science, Sana'a University and head of the scientific team.

In Bait Sha'fal village, Arhab district, located some 65 kilometers north of Sana'a, the team discovered what it called a point that represented a typical environment for dinosaurs. The village was built on limestone where the tracks of dinosaurs were discovered when residents of the village removed a sedimentary layer 20 centimeters thick.

Scientists discovered the petrified tunnels of a network of water wells at the location of dinosaurs' paths. The team related that on the street in Bait Sha'afal village, they found the petrified



Scientists discover the petrified tunnels of a network of water wells at the location of dinosaurs' paths.

tunnels of water springs in the form of two equal round holes located near each other. These tunnels created water channels, now dry, that met up with another water spring and continued on in two different directions to the east and the north. The dinosaur tracks were found in different locations around the fountains, indicating their behavior in this ancient environment.

Al-Haifi said that this location represents a typical environment for

dinosaurs in the area, noting the petrified springs that were found for the first time. He added that they indicate the ancient biodiversity through the paths of small dinosaurs that were still in their early stages of life. This confirms that this environmental atmosphere was representative of a good place for dinosaur reproduction and growth.

In addition, the team found a new track of 64 huge footprints 80 square centimeters each. The average length of

every pace was 120 cm.

"I call on the concerned bodies to visit these sites, invest them and develop them in modern scientific ways because they represent our continuous natural resources," Al-Haifi said.

In Saifan village, some 49 kilometers to the north of Sana'a, the team discovered a new site of dinosaurs' footprints in different directions, mostly heading north and southeast. The tracks that go north consist of 21 footprints and the second head southeast consist of 16 footprints. This site is roughly 12 kilometers away from the first site of discovered dinosaur tracks.

In June, the team found fossilized ferns as well as dinosaur footprints and tracks belong to theropods, or carnivorous quick-moving dinosaurs, while others may be the imprint of sauropods, or plant-eating dinosaurs.

In May 2008, scientists announced the discovery of dinosaur tracks made by a herd of 11 sauropods in a coastal mudflat in Yemen, 50 kilometers north of the capital of Sana'a in the village of Madar. They were the first dinosaur tracks to be discovered in the Arabian Peninsula.

Only a few dinosaur fossils have been reported so far in the Arabian Peninsula, including isolated bones in Oman and possible fragments of a long-necked dinosaur in Yemen.

Breast cancer campaign launched

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Aug. 5 — One in every eight Yemeni women may develop breast cancer, especially if she is older than 35, has not breast-fed, or breast cancer runs in her family. As of August 2008 there were 360,000 registered cancer cases in Yemen and 20,000 deaths from breast cancer. Most of the breast cancer cases were discovered in late stages, according to the National Cancer Control Foundation.

Over one million women are diagnosed with breast cancer a year worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

However, in Yemen, diagnosis and treatment are only available for a select few. A single center at the National Breast Cancer Foundation in Sana'a is equipped for advanced detection of breast cancer with mammograms, or x-rays of both breasts, and will open towards the end of the month.

"Reasons why women do not realize that they have breast cancer in its early stages include ignorance and cultural shame," said Ghada Al-Mutawakel,



media and advocacy officer at the foundation. "A wife would try to hide her problem from her husband, fearing that he would divorce her if he realizes she has such a problem."

As a response to this issue, and coinciding with the international breastfeeding week, an alliance of five organizations has launched an advocacy campaign to alert concerned authorities about the gravity and prevalence of breast cancer in Yemen.

The alliance includes the Cancer Foundation, the Awam Foundation for Culture and Development, the Yemen Times, the Youth Media Forum and the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, who hosted the campaign's launch on Wednesday morning.

"This is the first campaign of its kind in Yemen. Not much attention has been given to it and it is time someone raised the issue," said Thuraya Dammaj executive director of the Awam Foundation for Culture and Development.

The campaign aims to convey the voice of vulnerable women to decision

makers, mainly the Ministry of Public Health and Population to activate breast cancer programs at the ministry, as well as to encourage state and private media to take up the issue.

International non-governmental organization CHF-International is funding the campaign as part of its civil society empowerment program. The funding follows a training course for over 30 people from civil society and the media, notably on project planning and community mobilization, during which participants were encouraged to submit proposals for a USD 6,000 project as application of the theories learned during the course.

"The campaign is an advocacy one, which means that we have to raise the issue and lobby for support among concerned authorities," explained Al-Mutawakel. "The first stage will be the launch and media coverage of the issue, and then next week we have a seminar on breast cancer, precaution and early discovery targeting 25 or more civil society and media persons. We will then send a delegation to the Ministry of Health requesting practical actions towards solving the problem. We are

also collecting signatures to go with the visit."

The alliance has contracted the Radio Broadcasting sector at the Ministry of Information to create a seven-minute advocacy radio session to be broadcast by several local stations in Yemen.

At the end of the three month campaign, a newsletter highlighting the issue and educating about breast cancer in Yemen will be printed and 1,000 free copies will be distributed to interested parties.

At the end of the launch an award for the best report and best investigative report on breast cancer in Yemen each winner would receive a 100 hundred dollars prize and the winning articles will be published in several local newspapers in Arabic and English. The guidelines of the competition will be published later in Yemen Times.

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If you are interested in being part of this campaign and want to add your signature contact, Thuraya Dammaj at thoraya2002@yahoo.com

New water pipeline to Aden

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Aug 4 — With the intent to provide more drinking water to meet the demand of the increasing population in Aden, a new water pipeline has started pumping water to four districts in Aden this week.

At a total cost of YR 1.1 billion, the government financed project took a little over a year to complete.

"The new project was financed by the government to support the current aquifers, especially Abyan basin," said Hassan Saeed Qasim, deputy manager of the water and sanitation local corporation in Aden. "Preparation for the project started in May 2008. The completed line is 25 km long and 24 inches in diameter."

For the first time water will be pumped from Bir Ahmed to Muala, Tawahi, Khour Maksar and Crater districts. The new water line will increase water pumping hours to residential houses by two to three hours. For example in Khormaksar the water is turned on for eight hours a day. This project will add two more hours to that total, according to Qasim.

"The water crisis cannot be solved but it might be reduced," he said. "Desalination is the solution for the Aden's water shortage, but it would be

expensive for consumers.

"Water from Al-Manasra will be pumped to Aden by the middle of August," Qasim added.

Water comes to Aden from three different aquifers which are Beer Nasser with 37 wells, Beer Ahmed with 36 wells and Al-Rawa with 15 wells. The need for water has recently jumped in Aden due to the rapid increase in population and industry. The private unregulated drilling of wells in the locations of water production aquifers is still a challenge for water management.

Water flowing into the reservoirs at Bir Nasser from Abyan Basin decreased 32 percent between January and October 2008, according to a recent report by the Ministry of Water. This has led to a sharp decline in the water level at the assembly reservoirs in Bir Nasser and Jabal Hadeed, resulting in a water shortage in the districts of Dar Sa'd, Basatin, Mualla and Tawahi.

In Aden, the smallest governorate of Yemen, the water supply depends entirely on groundwater. As rainfall in Aden is the lowest in Yemen according to governmental statistics and the hot climate quickly evaporates any rain that does fall on its lands, this precious source of water is not recharged at the same rate that it is exploited.

In Brief

SANA'A**Yemen, WB discuss project of developing seaport cities**

Deputy Minister of local administration Mohammed Zimam held a meeting on Sunday with the delegation of the world bank over project of developing seaport cities of Aden, Hodeidah and Mukalla.

They also discussed a project urban development in Sana'a and Taiz and project of tackling damages of flooding which hit Hadramout and Maharah governorates.

Zimam said that the designs of the project of developing seaport cities was done 2002, affirming important role of the seaports in the local development

Parliament listens to reports over loan agreements

Parliament listened on Sunday to reports related to loan agreements to fund development projects in the country.

The parliament listened to a report presented by the committee of services and committee of oil, minerals wealth and development over a loan agreement to contribute to fund a rural power project, which has been signed between Yemen and the Islamic Bank for Development (IBD) at sum of \$ 23 million.

The objective of the project is to supply the rural regions with electricity

Then, the parliament listened to a report presented by the committee of the education and committee of oil, minerals and development over a loan agreement of setting up Yemeni-Korean Technical Institute signed between Yemen and

Korean Bank of Exports and Imports at amount of \$ 15.3.

Traffic accidents claim lives of over 250 people in month

At least 256 people were killed and 1,816 others were wounded due to traffic accidents taken place throughout the country all over last July, Interior Ministry reported on Sunday.

While different traffic accidents during the first day of the current August have killed nine people and wounded 57 others.

According to official statistics 1,339 accidents were registered during the previous months, including 667 car crashes and 496 running over.

Vehicle's overturning came in the third rank with 207 accidents and falling accidents came in the last with about 37 ones.

The Ministry said that the results behind these accidents were the excessive speed, drivers' carelessness, wrong overtaking, cars' technical faults and other reasons.

Seminar on neo-techniques in water processing held

A seminar was held in Sana'a on Sunday over the up-to-date techniques for treating water accompanying the oil production operations.

The seminar was organized by GeoYemen for Petroleum and Mineral Services and the U.S. (A.B.R) company.

The seminar reviewed the techniques of A.B.R. Company in the field of extracting oil and processing the accompanying water, its services presented to the oil companies in this

field and the solutions for the increase of water quantity aiming at reducing the cost of oil production as well as the services related to exploration and production field.

General Director of GeoYemen Nabil al-Qawsi considered the upward increase of water quantities accompanying oil as one of the most important problems, which faces the oil production operations.

He demonstrated that the ratio of produced water to the produced oil amounted in some fields to 98 percent, that is to say two barrels of oil against 98 barrels of water.

Draining these huge quantities of water which reach three million barrels per day requires spending about \$480 million per annum in addition to the harmful effects on the environment and losing quantities of oil.

TAIZ**Yemen, Pakistan discuss investment opportunities**

Yemen and Pakistan discussed here on Sunday the investment opportunities in Taiz governorate in fields of tourism, industry and education.

Governor of Taiz Hamoud al-Sufi held talks with the charge d'affaires of Pakistan embassy in Sana'a Ahmed Ali on the possibilities to establish a Pakistani school in Taiz as the one existed in Sana'a.

On the other hand, the Pakistani official met also with the Director General of the Commerce and Industry Chamber of Taiz Mufeed Sayef.

The meeting discussed the commercial and industrial activities of the chamber and its relations with chambers in other

governorates.

The Pakistani official also paid visits to some national industrial facilities and acquainted with their developments and level of production.

HODEIDAH**Workshop on quitting females' circumcision**

The Islah Social Charity in Hodeidah province inaugurated on Sunday in cooperation with UNICEF an awareness workshop on risks of females' circumcision.

The workshop lasting for twenty-four days, targets 390 cadres from local councils' members, teachers, Civil Society Organizations, women's leaders, health service providers, mosques' preachers and women's effective societies in a number of districts in the province.

The workshop's Coordinator Faisal al-Gushimi made it clear to Saba that the workshop aims at introducing the participants to the religious and health facts on females' circumcision and how to deal with the society's different classes and enhancing the rules and bases, which strengthen the importance of giving up the females' circumcision.

MUKALA**Japan's support to Hadramout governorate reviewed**

Hadramout Governor Salem al-Khanbashi reviewed on Sunday with the First Secretary for the Political, Economic and Aid Affairs in the Japanese embassy in Yemen the possible developmental programs and projects to be funded by the Japanese government.

The Japanese official made it clear that

he visits the governorate to get acquainted with the fields to be supported by Japan, especially in the social development fields like health, water and sanitation, electricity and the small social projects aiming at improving the family's living.

For his part, al-Khanbashi valued the unlimited support presented by the friendly Japanese government to our country, noting what the Hadramout governorate got from this support in lots of various projects.

He affirmed the local authority's readiness to offer all necessary facilities to succeed the Japanese-funded projects.

RIYADH**Al Basar Foundation holds medical camp in Yemen**

Al Basar International Foundation to initiate on Sunday a medical camp in Ibb province to perform several surgeries on eyes.

The foundation's secretary general Adel al-Rashoud said in a press release that the foundation would examine many poor people in the province, who are suffering of white water disease.

He said that the foundation also will lay a foundation stone for the first eye hospital in Ibb, adding that the foundation has established two hospitals in Aden and Mukalla.

It is worth to mention is that Al Basar International Foundation is a charitable organisation based in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia. It began its work by organizing mobile out-reach program called Free Eye Camps in countries with a high incidence of eye diseases, some of which can cause blindness. The countries were

selected on the basis of empirical studies and statistical information.

AMRAN**Yemen, WB discuss taken measure to preserve ground water**

Deputy Amran governor Bakr Ali held Saturday talks with the International Social Adviser of the World Bank on the taken measures to preserve the groundwater for basin water in Amran governorate .

Ali governor briefed WB adviser on what has been achieved by Amran Basin Committee and concerned sides to reduce depletion of water in the basin and prevent acts of indiscriminate drilling, reviewing obstacles faced in the basin.

He affirmed the importance of giving priority support to Amran governorate because it is one of the most important agricultural provinces in Yemen and its agricultural products reach 65% of its annual production.

RAYMAH**Lightening rod sets blaze in 3 stores**

A fire has broke out in three trade stores in Al-Jabeen district in Raymah government, causing large financial losses but no human casualties reported.

A security source in the government told Saba that the fire was due to a lightning hit the three stores, leading to setting a blaze in them.

The stores contained petroleum materials, foodstuff and clothes.

The source added that the fire lasted for three hours because of the wind's speed, pointing that the fire was put out with cooperation of policemen and citizens.

Their News

Arab cultural leaders join peers from around the world in London launched new British council leadership program

Yemeni Photographer, Asiya Al Sharabi joined 33 other cultural leaders from the UK, Western Europe, North America, North Africa and Near and Middle East in London to develop their skills and professional networks, as part of a two day program (8-9 July) launched the British Council's new Cultural Leadership International program (CLI).

CLI is the first network of its kind. It aims to help develop future cultural leaders in order to cultivate international partnerships and collaborations modeled on UK cultural leadership expertise. It provided opportunities for the international exchange of knowledge, experiences and ideas, and support people in fulfilling their potential and realizing their aspirations. In the Middle East CLI has been developed in partnership with key local practitioners and cultural organizations in response to their feedback on the opportunities and issues faced by the sector in the region. By creating new long-lasting international relationships CLI opened more doors for cultural organizations in the region and strengthen the contribution individuals can make to driving their organizations forward for future success.

CLI is aimed at young professionals who are already actively engaged in the cultural sector and who want to play a key role in its future. Chosen participants have demonstrated a level of achievement and commitment to their work, self-development and a desire to share these experiences with others internationally.

Asiya is a freelance photographer with a degree in Arts. Her work includes documentaries, portraits, landscapes and still life. She works regularly for the Yemen

Observer newspaper in Yemen - one of Yemen's main bi-weekly English publications, as well as Yemen Today Magazine. She has worked as a voluntary photographer for the Yemeni Para-Olympics and has taken photographs for the International Library of Photography book - Visual Inspirations. Her works have been exhibited on the Peniche Anako Ship in Paris and at the Korean Exhibition Centre.

During the two-day program, prominent cultural figures from Europe and the Middle East debated what it means to be cultural leaders and how a new and interconnected generation of cultural leaders could work together for greater impact on society. Participants worked together to resolve challenges they face using 'Action Learning Sets' techniques, learned from the experience of other cultural institutions and developed their own individual development plans with expert advice.

Paul De Quincey, CLI project director, British Council, commented:

"This meeting - the first to bring all the 2009/10 CLI participants together - represents a fantastic opportunity to explore the nature and demands of cultural leadership in important but different geographical regions. I look forward to a fascinating and lively debate that will go some way towards creating a better understanding of the complexities of cultural leadership in an international context and the potential difference that good leadership of cultural organizations can make to our societies."

Salah Salem, CLI Regional Program Manager for the Middle East said:

"The Middle East has both a rich cultural heritage and innovative contemporary cultural scene to share with the rest of the world and help improve understanding between cultures. Cultural

Leadership International aims to help the arts and cultural sector of the Middle East flourish by providing opportunities for individuals with potential."

"Internationally, the cultural sector has an important role to play in the world economy and in strengthening international co-operation. By investing in the next generation of cultural leaders, the British Council is using its long-established expertise in the arts to support a strong and healthy cultural sector for years to come."

Assistant/Associate Professor Operations Management - posting

Delft University of Technology
The Assistant/Associate Professor in Operations Management will make an active contribution to the research group's curriculum for both the Bachelor's and Master's programmes. The candidate is expected to contribute to the development of lectures, while also personally lecturing and conducting classes and exercises in both Dutch and English. Teaching duties also include coaching and supervising graduate students. Developing and carrying out research projects is an additional, important part of the work.

Ph.D. Student, Faculty of Sciences, LACDR - posting

Leiden University
Project information This PhD position is part of a larger project within the 'STW Perspectief Programme' of 'Genbiotics', which is focused on the identification of novel, biotech generated and biologically active antibiotics. In total three PhD students, based at the RUG, the Erasmus University and at the LACDR, will work in this project. The aim of the project at the LACDR is to identify and characterize the antimicrobial compounds/metabolites

produced by filamentous fungi, like *Penicillium chrysogenum* after over-expression of their genome. Identification will be pursued by applying various advanced Mass Spectrometry techniques combined with various chromatographic approaches. The research will be conducted in a facility equipped with state-of-the-art mass spectrometry and chromatography instrumentation and is running parallel with the developments taking place within the Netherlands Metabolomics Centre (NMC, www.metabolomicscentre.nl). Within the NMC, quantification and identification of metabolites are central research lines for new technology development. The candidate will work closely with NMC PhD's and post-doc's to co-develop new tools for the identification of the biological active compounds produced by these fungi.

Assistant professor (tenure-track) on Nanotechnologies for Biomolecular Physics - posting

Technische Universiteit Eindhoven
The new assistant professor will be expected to:

- Perform research within the field of nanotechnologies for biological investigations.
- Publish in renowned scientific journals.
- Make a significant contribution to the educational program of the department.
- Obtain external grants from national and international funding organisations.
- Supervise MSc and PhD students.
- Promote the applicability of the results of the research.
- Maintain and expand contacts with industrial partners.

PhD Student Persuasive Technology - posting

Technische Universiteit Eindhoven
The PhD-student will conduct his/her research in the NWO-project "Persuasive Technology, Allocation of Control, and Social Values".

At the core of the project is the belief that technology alone cannot bring about a sustainable society. Individual agents need to change their behavior as well. This is where persuasive technology comes into the picture. It aims at persuading human agents to behave in socially-valued ways, by giving information, providing feedback, and taking over actions. The success of a persuasive technology that serves the public interest depends on the integration of sound technology, effective persuasive principles and careful attention to ethical considerations. Overall, this research program investigates the psychological mechanisms and the ethical dilemmas of persuasive technology. Specifically, it will consist of an in-depth empirical study of a concrete case where persuasive technology is under development: the energy management and safety of vehicles (cars, trucks). Vehicle simulators will be used to observe human agents using various forms of persuasive technology, where the most important variable will be the amount of control transferred from the user to the technological system. The present PhD-project will focus on psychological mechanisms related to shared values, competence, trust, experience and confidence that influence allocation of control. This project will run in a strongly interdisciplinary setting: The PhD-student will closely collaborate with another PhD-student (philosophical perspective) and a Postdoc who develops the vehicle control simulation.

Full Professor in Medical Signal Processing - posting

Technische Universiteit Eindhoven
Research:
The trend towards patient-centric care requires accurate and robust techniques to monitor the state of a patient outside the hospital environment. Fundamental signal-processing challenges to support this trend include:

- creation and exploitation of modern

probabilistic models and approaches for single-modal and multi-modal signal analysis, classification, and interpretation in the face of the typical sources of uncertainty in ambulatory settings;

- efficient implementation of these models and approaches to enable low cost and low power dissipation.

The professor is expected to identify and address these and related challenges at a fundamental level, and to apply and validate the resulting solutions in visionary projects together with partners.

Education:

The professor is expected to take part in the teaching duties of the signal processing systems group, within both the electrical engineering and the biomedical technology departments of TU/e.

Management:

The professor will nominally spend around 60% of his/her time on building and managing the Care&Cure program. This will involve the development of program lines, research roadmaps, and strategic partnerships, in close consultation with the key stakeholders. He/she will head the Care&Cure management team. Assisted by a project and business development officer he/she will initiate and coordinate efforts to pursue funding to support research projects, and pro-actively pursue utilization of research results, e.g. via generation of intellectual property and via start-up ventures.

Position:

This position is embedded in the signal processing systems group, which is part of the EE department.

Two assistant (tenure-track) professors in Operations Management - posting

Technische Universiteit Eindhoven
Successful candidates are expected to teach in the undergraduate and graduate programs, and advise undergraduate and graduate students in their projects, often in collaboration with industry. Research is expected to be top-tier, with interests and opportunities to closely work with industry.

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research visits Pakistan School Sana'a

H.E. Dr. Saleh Ali Basura, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research visited Pakistan School Sana'a, Yemen on 05th of August 2009. The Chairman Pakistan School Sana'a and Charge d'Affairs Pakistan Embassy welcomed him at school.

A brief introduction about the school, its faculty and existing facilities were given the Acting Principal Kamran Jamil as the Principal Dr. Ghulam Mustafa will join school next week. The new Principal holds PhD degree in English Language teaching and Applied Linguistics. Besides this, he has a vast experience of teaching and administration.

Honorable Chairman Pakistan School Sana'a, Ahmed Ali Sirohey, also briefed the H.E. Dr. Saleh Ali

Basura, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research about the future plans of Pakistan School Sana'a and expressed his desire of opening

- English language institute headed by PhD doctor.
- Institute of Information Technology.
- Institute of Management Sciences.

In his speech, Chairman Pakistan School Sana'a Ahmed Ali Sirohey expressed his wish of opening Pakistan University in Yemen. He also offered the services of teaching English language to the officers of Yemen going to other countries for courses and higher

studies.

In his address, H.E. Dr. Saleh Ali Basura, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research appreciated the existing facilities in Pakistan School Sana'a and assured that he will assist school in solving its problem such as getting equivalence for "O" level and "A" level University of Cambridge U.K exams in Yemen. He also showed great interest and applauded plan of Pakistan School Sana'a for opening English Language, Information and Management Science Institutes. And, he also advised the school management for the required application for the establishing Institute. The school will have his full support and assistance opening above motioned institutes and Pakistan University in Sana'a Yemen.

بِقَلُوبِ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدْرِهِ تَلْقِينَا نَبَأَ وَفَاةِ الْمَغْفُورِ لَهُ بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى

الدكتور / أحمد عبدالرحمن الخالد

وبهذا المصاب الجلل نتقدم ببالغ العزاء والمواساة إلى الإخوة/

الأستاذ / بسام الخالد
وكافة آل الخالد

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته ومغفرته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته و يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان ... إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

المعزون:

مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY HOSPITAL, SANA'A

We are focused to provide quality healthcare services by bringing professional consultants specialists from the re-known part of the world on permanent basis, instead of visiting only.



CONSULTANTS SPECIALISTS FROM ABROAD JOIN USTH

Dr. Fareeha Naem

M.B.B.S, M.C.P.S, FCPS in Obs & Gynecology Join as Consultant/ Head of Department Obs. & Gynecology

**Sees cases of:**

Vaginal Hysterectomies, Abdominal Hysterectomies, Operative Laparoscopies for tubule legations & ovarian drilling, Infertility treatment, Colposuspension, Hystero-colpopery, Cancer surgeries, Myomectomy.

Dr. Naeem Akhtar Khawaja

M.B.B.S, FCPS in Ophthalmology Join as Consultant Ophthalmology Department

**Sees cases of:**

Phaco Surgeries, I.I.D Surgeries, Oculoplastic Surgeries, Squint Surgeries, DCR Surgeries, Refractive Surgeries, Excimer, Lasik, Glaucoma Surgeries.

Dr. Isfi Parveen

M.B.B.S, FCPS in Obs & Gynecology Join as Consultant Obs. & Gynecology Department

**Sees cases of:**

S. Section, Leptotamies both elective & Ovarian Pathology, Abdominal Hysterectomies, Ovarian drilling, Infertility treatment.

Dr. Muhammad Zaheer

M.B.B.S, M.C.P.S, FCPS in Surgery Join as Consultant General Surgery Department

**Sees cases of:**

Thyroid, Parotid, Breast, GIT tumors, Traumatic & Elective Vascular Injuries, Hepato Biliary & Colorectal surgery, Special interest in Laparoscopic surgery.

Dr. Muhammad Irshad Hussain

M.B.B.S, M.C.P.S, MRCS (Glasgow), FCPS (Pak) Join as Consultant General Surgery Department

**Sees cases of:**

Elective & Emergency Laparotomies (Trauma), Emergency Thoractomy (Trauma), Head & Neck Surgery, Breast, GIT tumors, Traumatic & Elective Vascular Injuries, Hepato Biliary & Colorectal surgery, Special interest Minimal invasive surgery, Oncological Surgery.

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الطاحون

بُر مطحون جديد

نقي

الغذاء المضمون... في الطاحون

ناعم

غني بالألياف والمعادن

الشركة اليمنية للمطاحن وصوامع الغلال

الطاحون الجديد هو بُر مطحون طحن كامل من أجود أنواع الأقماع الأمريكية، ويأتي هذا التطوير تلبية لإحتياجات المستهلك الكريم وللحصول على أفضل النتائج من حيث الطعم والشكل والمواصفات (الريولوجية).
* يتميز الطاحون عن غيره بالآتي :-

المنتج	الطاحون	أنواع القمح الأخرى
التنقية	تتم تنقية القمح قبل الطحن بأحدث ما توصلت إليه التكنولوجيا من وسائل لإزالة الأحجار والشوائب والآتريه... الخ.	يعبأ بأكياس ثم يطحن مباشرة وبالتالي لا يخضع لأي عملية تنظيف في الطواحين.
الوزن	لا يفقد منه شيئ عند نحله وتجهيزه للإستخدام.	يتم إزالة النخالة منه عند النخل مما يقلل من فائدته ووزنه.
السيف والإهد	يوفر الكثير من الوقت بسبب إستخدام الآت حديثه في التنقية.	يستغرق وقت كبير في التنقية اليدوية من قبل ربات البيوت.
العبوه	متوفر في عبوتين ٥٠ كجم - ٢٥ كجم	متوفر في عبوه واحدة فقط.
الضمان	تضمن جودته الشركة	

Invitation for Bids

Tender Advertisement no. (1) of 2009
(One Envelope System — Technical + Financial)

Yemen Coast Guard Authority announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (1/2009) for the Manufacture, Supply and operational familiarization of two patrol boats of 22 meters in length.

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to selling documents location to receive Bidding Documents (BDs) for an amount 100,000 YR (one hundred thousand Yemeni rials) non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Shoaop, Al-Qyadh Street
Tel: 00967 1 252466
Fax: 00967 1 242475
P. O. Box: 2166

The deadline for selling BDs will be on 09/09/2009.

Bids must be submitted I sealed envelopes addressed to the above address mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder procurement department. The documents should be composed of one original and two copies in both Arabic and English languages. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

1. A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (26,880,000 YR) (Twenty-six million eight hundred and eighty thousand Yemeni rials). The Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than 150 days from date of the Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
2. Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
3. Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
4. Valid registration and classification certificate for the purpose of sales tax.
5. Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness.)
6. Priority in acceptance will be given to bids submitted by the manufacturer companies which have appointed agents in the Republic of Yemen

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.
The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be at 13:00 on 15/05/2009. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened.

Bids Opening will take place at the same address where the bid were submitted and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period of 35 starting from advertisement.

إفتح وألج فوراً

SHARK ENERGY DRINK

العديد من الجوائز النقدية

50,000 YR

10,000 YR

1000 YR

500 YR

100 YR

50 YR

تبدأ المسابقة من ٢٠٠٩/٦/١٥ ولمدة شهرين وحتى نفاذ الجوائز النقدية المحددة
إستلام الجوائز من مراكز الإستبدال أو فروع الشركة متكو

تعر: تلفون: ٥٧- / ٢٤٨٨٩٤ صنعاء: تلفون: ٢٠٤٢٢٧-٢١٥١٤٤ عدن: تلفون: ٢٥٠٨٥٩ / ٢٥٠٩٤٨ العليدية: تلفون: ٢٢٠٨٢٥-٢٢٠٨٤٩ إب: تلفون: ٤١٧٢٢٢/٤
الكل: تلفون: ٢١٤٢٦٩ سينون: تلفون: ٥٢٦٦

Founder and Medical Director of Yemen Smile Dr. Bona speaks to the Yemen Times: "Some patients that come to us have waited their whole lives."

Since the birth of the Yemen Smile foundation in 2003, hundreds of people in Yemen have benefited from the organization's endeavors to make children and adults with cleft lip and palate smile normally, and to give each cleft child new hope and a better future. Dr. Bona S. Lotha founded Yemen Smile with former British Ambassador Frances Guy. He and his large team have changed Yemeni people's lives forever, often literally pulling beneficiaries off the streets.

Yemen Smile relies entirely on donations. Last month, US Ambassador to Yemen Stephen A. Seche and representatives of Yemen's business community recently presented a donation of USD 37,000 to the Yemen Smile foundation. He praised Yemen Smile for, "rising to the challenge of providing much needed treatment options to Yemeni children suffering from cleft palate and lip deformities."

"Total, DNO Norway and Sabafon of Yemen are among the biggest contributors to our cause," said Dr. Bona, whose organization operates in camps all over the country including, the far-off island of Soqatra.

Dr Bona speaks to Salma Ismail about the challenges and triumphs of giving people their smiles back.

The urge to help

"Yemen Smile was not a pre-planned [non-governmental organization]. We came to Yemen in March 2003 to help cleft children and I was not sure at that time how we would get it done. We stayed for a few months. Having been here before that, training European doctors in the [Jumhuri] Hospital in Sa'ada, I knew that I had to stay to help people that needed me. I had no idea how to start but eventually we got it done.

"In Yemen they do not have the level of expertise to perform the surgeries. That's why I am training doctors from Yemen, as well as expatriate doctors."

A smile taken away

Oral-facial clefts are birth defects in which the tissues of the mouth or lip don't form properly during fetal development.

"Cleft lip is a congenital deformity [resulting from many factors], usually a chromosomal defect and its prevalence is roughly 1:750."

A cleft in the mouth, also known as oral clefting, occurs when the tissues of the lip and/or palate of a fetus don't grow together early in pregnancy. Children with clefts often don't

have enough tissue in their mouths, and the tissue they do have isn't fused together properly to form the roof of their mouths.

A cleft lip appears as a narrow opening or gap in the skin of the upper lip that extends all the way to the base of the nose. A cleft palate is an opening between the roof of the mouth and the nasal cavity. Some children have clefts that extend through both the front and rear part of the palates, while others have only partial cleft lip.

It takes 20 years for the complete treatment of cleft lip and palate. Many officials don't realize that.

It's a genetic disorder that can also affect other parts of the face, such as the eyes, ears, nose, cheeks and forehead, but most importantly a child's self esteem, according to Dr. Bona.



Dr. Bona S. Lotha

"People have multiple vitamins deficiency and that affects the fetus in the first trimesters," he said. "It is prevalent in poorer communities."

Operation camps

This year alone the foundation has helped Yemenis at surgery camps in Aden and Soqatra, not only by performing surgeries but by training Yemeni and expat doctors too.

The Aden surgery camp was held at the Ras Morbat Christchurch Clinic in March. Twenty patients were successfully operated on for different plastic surgery problems.

In Soqatra, a weeklong aesthetic and reconstructive camp was held at the Hadibo hospital. Successful operations were performed for up to thirty patients for various plastic surgery deformities. The operations went successfully and altogether thirty cases were operated.

At the Karama Hospital in Taiz, patients who were operated on during last year's camp got a chance for follow-up. In Mukalla, the camp was held at the Ibn Sina hospital in January where patients were screened for cleft lips and palates and other complicated facial deformities and operated on for the first time.

The logistics of the camps are taken care of by the Yemeni doctors, like Dr. Waheed Nazeer, a Yemeni anesthetist who covers all the project's camps in the country. Nazeer is one of the hardest working doctors, according to Dr. Bona.

"We also used to work in Sa'ada but we stopped because it was dangerous," he said. "I also trained doctors at Seyoun, Jibla Hospital, Aden and the latest was Soqatra."

"In Sana'ua, we hold a free clinic every Saturday at Hadda Hospital. We also perform surgeries for children from Hodeida [via] the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)."

"So far we have taken care of 540 cases since 2003 and the numbers continue to grow, [but] we yet have to have the structure to meet the demand."

Challenges and risks

With every surgery there are risks whether from the anesthesia or other factors, for Dr. Bona and his team they calculate the risks. For example if a child is malnourished. They will ask the family to bring him back when he is strong enough. "The minimum age for surgery is three months but some of our patients are as old as 55."

The other challenges they face are due to the sometimes volatile security situation in the country. "I personally would like to go to Sa'ada but I wouldn't for safety reasons."

However, because Dr. Bona passes

on his expertise to the Yemeni doctors he trains, the security threat poses no challenge to patients obtaining the surgery and care they need.

Long term sustainability

Yemen Smile is not the answer for the cleft lip and maxillofacial woes of Yemen, says the doctor.

"If we are looking at long term sustainability, we are not the solution," he says. Yemen Smile is currently trying to obtain official status in the United Kingdom. "Financially, once we have official status in the United Kingdom people can donate."

There are no cleft orthodontists or speech therapists in Yemen.

Moreover, a cleft palate cannot be fixed overnight: "It takes 20 years for the complete follow-up and a lot of authorities are not aware of this need."

Success stories to move forward

The doctors of Yemen Smile are often paid very little if anything, and their reward is often just to see a child's life changed.

"Yemenis everywhere are very kind. In Soqatra especially people were amazing and very friendly, their patience and gratitude keeps us moving forward."

Dr. Bona spoke of how he enjoys to hear how happy people become

following the surgery and how the surgeries make a difference to the patients. "Zahra, a mother of three from Hodeida was trying to commit suicide because of her deformity. So I got in touch with Frances Guy [former British ambassador to Yemen], who is now posted in Beirut, and she said she is willing to help."

"We contacted the American University in Lebanon. [As] hotel costs are expensive, so Frances will look after her. Prominent Yemenis are also donating. That's one life that will be changed completely."

A very simple operation can change a patient's life forever.

"Sometimes we pick them off the streets. I was walking down the street of Hadda and encountered a young boy. His name is Nasser, I looked at him and asked where his father was. I contacted him and we did the operation. They couldn't believe it."

"We also met a young man selling cassettes at [an intersection], near the Yemen German Hospital. He was so disturbed by his deformity that he had a towel wrapped around his face." They gave him back his smile.

"An American woman found a 13 year-old orphan in Taiz [who] was forsaken by his parents because of his deformity. After the successful operation, his father actually took him back."

"Stories like this give us a lot of happiness."

Collaboration of efforts

With the collaboration of the US and British embassies as well as the expatriate community in Yemen, the foundation has soared and continues to soar to new heights.

"All of the camps are run by

Yemenis. Dr. Waheed Nazeer is a key player and he is the one running about all these camps and coordinating efforts. The Yemenis are doing a great job."

There are a number of doctors that visit Yemen to lend their expertise. Among them is Dr. C.L. Yeap, an Aesthetic, Recon and Plastic Surgery Consultant at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore. He often gives some of his time to help plastic surgery patients in Yemen.

Psychosocial challenges

As part of their follow-up, many patients need speech therapy or orthodontic care. Unfortunately, "There are no cleft orthodontists or speech therapists in Yemen."

Many children are not lucky enough to benefit from the operation early on in life, so parents need to be aware of the psychosocial challenges for their teenage children. Unfortunately, in Yemen there is no professional system of support to help.

"I met a young lady who is around 27 years-old. She is the daughter of a high-ranking official in the Ministry of Health. She had lost all confidence due to her deformity which made her talk through her nose."

"We got in touch with the doctor who wrote the text books on this. She got a sponsorship by a Korean group. The operation was successful. Her father called me last week to tell me his daughter's life has changed."

Putting Yemen on the map

The doctors from Yemen collaborated with foreign doctors to write the first training manual in craniofacial surgery in English and Arabic in the Middle-East. However, that was not their biggest accomplishment.

"Last year, we had the largest number of scientific papers at the Asian Pacific Craniofacial Conference that took place in Taipei. We overtook the US and Japan in terms of the number of scientific papers presented. Delegates were surprised. They were saying 'Get me a map. I want to see where this Yemen is.'"

Yemen Smile's long term aim is to steadily increase the number of camps and operations performed in them to give children and adults back their smiles.

"We hope that every cleft palate child in Yemen has the chance of rebuilding their lives," concluded Dr. Bona. "In the long term, we hope to establish the first and much needed maxillofacial institute."

Job Vacancy

All candidates must be Yemeni nationals

وزارة الصناعة والتجارة
مشروع رفع كفاءة قطاع التجارة

PHASE 2:

Job Description: Officer
 Responsible to: National Project Director (NPD)
 Duty Station: Sana'a -Yemen
 Duration: One Year
 Commencement: 15 September 2009
 Contract: Special Service Agreement (SSA)

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Coordinate and follow up with all competent authorities to improve business environment.
- Coordinate the meetings of the Technical Committee on improving Yemen's Doing Business indices.
- Participate in preparing, implementing and following up the Technical Committee's policy matrix designed to improve Doing Business in Yemen.
- Communicate with representatives of various authorities in the Technical Committee to seek their views and proposals on issues related to Doing Business.
- Other tasks upon request of the NPD.

Qualifications Required:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Business Economics/Business Administration or related field.
- At Least 3 years experience.
- Working knowledge of computer applications and methods
- Demonstrated high professional and ethical standards
- Ability to manage multiple tasks within a dynamic environment with a high level of urgency.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.

Please apply with copies of certificates and work experience to the following address.
 E-mail: moityemen@hotmail.com
 Fax: 257155
 Tel: 238046 — 238047
 Applications should be submitted NO later than 13 August 2009

الإسم: نعمة ناصر شريف
الجنسية: أثيوبية
المهنة: شغالة

صاحبة الصورة أعلاه هربت من منزل مستخدمها في ١٧/٨/٢٠٠٩م وقد أخذت بعض الأشياء وعليه فإن من يقوم بتسجيلها أو التستر عليها سوف يعرض نفسه للمساءلة القانونية. علماً بأن جواز سفرها مازال لدى مستخدمها ومن يجدها أوبعدها عنونها الإتصال على الرقم التالي ١١٣٣٧١٢٣٤١ - ١١٣٣٨٩٩٥٥

أرض حمير للتجارة

لبيع الأثاث المكتبي والمنزلي والمدرسي والطبي والسيارات وقطع غيارها

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JOB VACCANCY

Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF), is an International Humanitarian Organization providing medical aid to populations in distress, victims of natural and man made disasters and victims of armed conflict, regardless of race, religion and political believe. In 1999 MSF was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** in recognition of its work. Currently MSF works in more than 70 countries. For more information, visit our Arabic website, www.msfuae.ae

Medical Doctor Responsible

Location: Based in Ahwar but with frequent travels to Aden.

Duration: 6 months (renewable) with one-month probation period.

QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge and Experience:

A qualified Medical Doctor from a recognized university with 2 to 4 years of experience as a medical doctor and Team Management, preferably with an NGO.

Skills and abilities

- Trained medical doctor
- Good communication skills and ability to provide patients with information
- Able to cope with stress
- Flexible and willing to accept new tasks/responsibilities if needed
- Good working relation with medical team
- Able to speak and write both English and Arabic

Registered Nurse

Location: Based in Ahwar but with frequent travels to Aden.

Duration: 6 months (renewable) with one-month probation period

QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge and Experience:

Diploma in nursing or medical assisting (at least 2 years after the secondary education)

Skills and abilities

- Good team spirit
- Pervious work experience in registration and medical records
- Trained nurse

- Must be experienced in the diagnosis of minor medical problems
- Basic level of English that allows proper communication with expatriate staff
- Ability to cope with stress
- Organization, initiative and courtesy

Receptionist / Translator

Location: Based in Sana'a

Duration: 6 months (renewable) with one-month probation period

QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge and Experience:

Specialized studies in languages and translation are highly desirable.

Skills and abilities

- At least 1-2 years experience of translation services.
- Excellent writing and speaking communication skills in English and Arabic
- Ability to manage multiple tasks within a dynamic environment with high level of urgency without compromising productivity.
- Translations will be from Arabic to English and from English to Arabic
- To translate properly and in a timely manner all documents required by the Coordination team
- To do verbal translation when needed for non-Arabic speakers of the Coordination team.
- To receive the visitors in the office and direct them to the relevant person
- To answer the phone and direct the call to the relevant person or take messages when necessary
- To make appointments with external entities when required
- To send & receive faxes and ensure their proper distribution in the office
- To keep an updated list of all relevant contacts
- To type all required documents
- To make photocopies as required

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should send their contact details, CV and a covering letter before **August 25th, 2009**

Email: msfe-sanaa@barcelona.msf.org
P.O. Box 16308 Haddah post office
Medicins Sans Frontieres — Spain
Sana'a—Yemen

Invitation for Pre-Qualification



Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company (SEPOC) here announces its desire to pre-qualify Contractors or firms for

RAS ISSA OIL STORAGE TANKS & TERMINAL PROJECT

The works consist of the following:

ENGINEERING, DESIGN, PROCUREMENT & CONSTRUCTION (EPC) / INSTALATION / ERECTION, TESTING, TRIAL RUNS AND COMMISSIONING (ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE WORKS)

Prequalification will be conducted through prequalification procedures specified in the documents and it is open to all contractors or firms.

Applicants may obtain further information from SEPOC Contracts & Tenders Department, and inspect the prequalification documents during the official working hours at SEPOC Main Office address as detailed below. A complete set of the pre-qualification document in English can be collected as a free of cost from our SEPOC Contracts & Tenders Department or can be downloaded from our website or from High Tender Board website (www.htb.gov.ye) by the interested applicants on or before 18.08.2009

The submission of prequalification documents shall be to our SEPOC Contracts & Tenders Department not later than 3.00 p.m. on 15.09.2009. The procedure for submission of documents shall be referred in the Instruction to Applicants section I- Item 31.0.

Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below, and be clearly marked on the top of envelope as **Application to Prequalify for RAS ISSA OIL STORAGE TANKS & TERMINAL PROJECT — SEPOC / ENG -2009- 003.1**

Only the pre-qualified applicants will be called to participate in the forthcoming tender (Technical —First stage of the tender)

Republic of Yemen

Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company (SEPOC)

Attention: Contracts and Tenders Manager

P.O. Box-481, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

City: SANAA

Postal Code: 481

Country: YEMEN

Telephone: 00967 1 416080, Ext. (2418)

Facsimile number: 00967 1 415884

Web site: <http://www.sepocye.com>

Electronic mail address: kmigdad@sepocye.com

Seminar on water treatment in oil production organized by IPR Group Companies and Geo Yemen Corporation under the auspices of the Minister of Oil

The Geo Yemen Corporation organized last Monday a scientific and promotional seminar on tackling the problem of water associating oil production.

The seminar was held under the auspices of Minister of Oil and Minerals Mr. Ameer Salem Al-Aidarous and was attended by Mr. Aidarius Shah Sefali, deputy director of the American company IPR. It was also attended by a high ranking delegation from IPR Group Companies represented by Amy Hassan Blair, manager of International Geological Works in IPR, Mr. Rieport Maknel, director of Oil Sector Services, Mr. Bamt Eudge, manager of Works Development and Mr. Adef Joe, director of Oil Information in the company.

In the seminar, Geo Yemen Corporation for Petroleum and Mineral Services said that disposing of the large quantities of water - over three million barrels a day - that accompany oil production in Yemen costs around USD 480 million a year. In addition, this problem harms the environment and oil sites due to the loss of quantities of oil.

Engineer Nabeel Bin Saleh Al-Qawsi, general executive director of the corporation, said that for every two barrels of oil produced 98 barrels were extracted of water.

Engineer Al-Qawsi pointed out that the high rate of water production compared with oil production is one of the major problems in oil production. He confirmed that the corporation aims to cooperate with the oil sector in Yemen, through offering the most up-to-date techniques and services needed for oil exploration and production. He said that the corporation aims also to tackle all the obstacles that face production to ensure the best economic and technical results.

The seminar was attended by a number of officials from the Ministry of Oil, including Abdul Malek Alama, Deputy Minister of Oil, Dr. Ahmed Ali Abdul Elah, head of the Oil Exploration and Production Corporation, and general managers of the oil companies as well as deputy director of IPR. Participants reviewed the techniques of the American company in producing oil and treating water accompanying oil pro-

duction, in addition to the services it offers to oil companies in this field. It further reviewed the solutions it offers to the problem of large quantities of water in oil production to decrease cost of oil production and achieve better revenues, in addition to other services related with oil exploration and production.

The American company is determined, during the upcoming period, to invest in oil and gas production in Yemen and offer technical services to oil companies working in Yemen.

The director of Geo Yemen confirmed in a statement to Al-Thawra newspaper that the seminar, in which all oil exploration and production companies participated, would focus on the new techniques used in oil production, notably to tackle the problem of water in oil production. He added that IPR has great expertise in the field of petroleum and related services, investment and works. He said that the company has undertaken new oil and gas exploration missions in the Red Sea in Egypt and discovered oil in Syria in Al-Kasra, Deer Al-Zur governorate.





معارض الشهر الكريم

لمجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم وشركاه

للفترة من ٥ - ٢١ أغسطس ٢٠٠٩م
الموافق ١٤ - ٣٠ شعبان ١٤٣٠هـ

فرصة التسوق الرمضاني

Obama's unfolding strategy for "victory" in Afghanistan

By: Webster Brooks

With July marking the deadliest month of combat for U.S. and NATO forces since the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan, America's fortitude and patience with an intensifying military conflict will be severely tested in 2009. So too will President Obama's leadership as a wartime president. England and Canada's flagging support for the war, rising casualty rates and abducted American soldiers pleading for their lives on cable news channels are already generating concern at the White House and the Pentagon. Because wars can be lost just as easily by the lack of domestic support, more so than military defeats on foreign battlefields, President Obama must continue to forcefully articulate what vital American interests are at stake in Afghanistan. He should answer his critics who question his rationale for escalating a war most experts agree cannot be won militarily against an enemy that poses no existential threat to America. Afghanistan is now Barack Obama's war. His credibility as Commander-in-Chief and his presidency may well depend on it.

President Obama came to office with a clear and well conceived strategy to prosecute the "Forgotten War" in Afghanistan; one he has relentlessly pursued in his first six months in office. Having inherited George Bush's war, he immediately redefined the goal in Afghanistan as defeating al Qaeda and its extremist Taliban allies, and denying them a sanctuary to launch attacks against America. Obama's critical first step called for a larger American military footprint on the ground. Not surprisingly, his attempts to persuade our NATO allies to make a similar commitment were not very successful. Although some of his

detractors questioned his decision to expand America's commitment in Afghanistan out of fear that the U.S. would get bogged down in a military quagmire, President Obama had no choice. When he assumed office in January, the Taliban had advanced to the outskirts of Kabul, and were gaining control of more provinces within the country. Not to act quickly and decisively to increase America's presence on the ground risked the downfall of President Hamid Karzai's weak and unpopular government. The possibility of Afghanistan collapsing into a failed state would have dramatically destabilized the region and vastly complicated an already dangerous situation in neighboring Pakistan and Iran. Since the arrival of additional troops in Afghanistan and Obama's installation of General Stanley McChrystal to lead the war effort, the Taliban's offensive has been blunted and President Karzai's government has been shored up. The troop surge has also been critical to restoring order across the country in the lead up to the September presidential elections.

In July, Obama's troop surge unfolded as the locus of his long-term strategy of unleashing a military offensive to break the back of extremist Taliban forces entrenched in Eastern Afghanistan. President Obama's goal is not to totally destroy extremist Taliban elements, but to significantly reduce their military capability and influence; thereby creating new conditions to draw "moderate" Taliban elements into Karzai's ruling coalition government. July's ground offensive targeted the Taliban's most significant stronghold in southeastern Afghanistan's Helmand Province. Helmand Province is not only one of the Taliban's military and cultural centers of gravity, but the most profitable poppy growing region in the nation that finances much of the Taliban's

operations. The Taliban cannot be defeated until its economic lifeline to narcotics trafficking is degraded and U.S./Afghan National Army forces can exert more control over the areas along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border to stem the flow of jihadists, arms and drugs to-and-from Pakistan.

The costs of taking the fight to the Taliban thus far have been heavy. The spike in U.S. and NATO casualties will undoubtedly continue throughout 2009 as the missions to subdue the Taliban in Eastern Afghanistan continue. In July, NATO and American forces suffered 75 fatalities; 42 two U.S. troops were killed and six more died the first two days in August. Despite the uptick in combat deaths, the U.S. and NATO must continue to press forward on the battlefield. Their failure to do so would send a negative message to the Afghan people who already question America's commitment and resolve to the future wellbeing of Afghanistan.

Similar to Iraq, the U.S. military is attempting to drive the Taliban out of its areas of refuge and support, and then remain in the "liberated" areas to secure the safety of local inhabitants. This close combat and exposure to enemy fire associated with the "capture, hold and build" strategy is more challenging in Afghanistan which is not only larger but more ethnically and tribally diverse than Iraq. The Afghan Taliban forces are extremely capable and well trained, particularly in using suicide and roadside bombs to kill American soldiers. Thus higher casualty rates must be expected.

By pressing its ground and air offensive early and hard against Taliban strongholds in Helmand Province, President Obama is hoping to score a decisive victory that will create the momentum to confront the Taliban in Afghanistan's other eastern provinces like Kandahar, while at the same time

demoralizing wavering Taliban elements. Key to the success of the Obama's strategy of winning moderate and wavering Taliban elements over to the Karzai government is convincing them that the Taliban hardliners cannot win the war or offer its citizens a better life.

As an integral part of this strategy the U.S. is moving to implement a similar tactic that it used with success in Iraq in the Anbar Awakening; putting Taliban insurgents on its payroll to stop fighting the Karzai government. In Iraq the U.S. coughed up \$30 million a month to pay 100,000 Sunni insurgents \$300 each. In Afghanistan it has been estimated that its 250,000 insurgents could be paid \$120 a month, or the national average of the salary of the lowest ranking members of the Afghan army. In the weeks ahead the Obama administration can be expected to roll out this program after the presidential elections that Karzai is expected to win.

A second strategy the Obama administration is reviewing to bring more moderate Taliban elements into Karzai's coalition government is "flipping" various Taliban leaders and groups. In Afghanistan's past twenty years of internal warfare, various warlords, tribal and clan leaders have often "switch sides" in the middle of a conflict based on who they think will win. Warlords and tribal leaders joining the same forces they once fought against has been a constant and peculiar feature of Afghanistan's devastating patchwork of civil wars. In short, many Taliban leaders have placed insuring the survival of their own tribes and clans above their loyalty to national Taliban leaders like Mullah Omar or major figures from other provinces. The Obama administration has made it clear to Hamid Karzai, that if he wins the presidential election, he will have to reach out to various Taliban forces that have opposed him and even

fought against him in the past. He will also have to end the rampant corruption that has marked his presidency. Karzai has already begun making his peace with some of these Taliban leaders by offering them offices in his government in exchange for their support for his candidacy. While "flipping" certain Taliban leaders is an intricate and complex process intrinsic to Afghan culture, the prospects of its success will be dramatically improved the more U.S. and NATO forces are able to rock extremist Taliban elements back on the heels militarily.

Beyond the military component of the Afghanistan War, financial support, NGO involvement, reconstruction teams, education, infrastructure and economic development assistance are needed to stand up a viable functioning state. If the U.S. is going to eradicate poppy fields and production that constitutes 60 percent of Afghanistan's economy they must also have replacement crops and programs available to poor Afghan farmers to maintain their support. Coordinating and bringing these resources to bear on Afghanistan is far beyond the means of the United States alone. It will require the cooperation and assistance of NATO countries and others like India, Iran and Russia that already have substantial investments and national security interest in a stable Afghanistan. But these massive investments and improvements in the daily lives of the Afghan people can only become tangible in an environment where there is a reasonable hope of long-

term security and stability in government. Right now the Afghan people have neither.

President Obama is well aware of the dangers of getting bogged down in a long-drawn out war in Afghanistan; one the United States cannot afford militarily or financially. Afghanistan storied history as being the graveyard of empires from Genghis Khan to the Soviet Union's disastrous occupation has informed his military strategy. President Obama's troop surge and military offensive to "capture, hold and build" territory while changing facts on the ground in the short run is the only realistic strategy that can create the conditions for a negotiated settlement with moderate and wavering Taliban forces. It is a realistic approach for getting American troops out of Afghanistan sooner rather than later. Whether the American people will demonstrate the resolve to support America's difficult and painful mission in Afghanistan remains to be seen. As for the Obama Administration, there can be no turning back now.

Webster Brooks is a Senior Fellow at the Center for New Politics and Policy (CNPP) based in Washington, D.C. He is the Editor of Brooks Foreign Policy Review the International Relations arm of the CNPP. His articles and contributions have appeared in newspapers, websites and blogs internationally. He may be contacted at wbrooks@newpoliticscenter.org. Source: www.foreignpolicyreview.org Brooks Foreign Policy Review

16 year girl, old enough to have sex but too young to vote

By: Alka Pande, Citizen News Service

It is a welcome move by a forward thinking judiciary official of an Indian High Court to challenge the law made centuries ago by the British. The old law set by the British in 1860 (which is in practice even today) considers a 16 year old girl mentally and physically fit for giving consent to a person for having sex with her. The said law is in force in India even today when the legal age for a boy or a girl to vote is 18. This is the age when they are considered to be adult citizens.

Justice VD Chaturvedi, the judge at the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court, has termed this provision of law "outdated and invalid." According to him, "The 1860 British law was designed to suit the then British rulers only."

Justice Chaturvedi has asked both the Government of India as well as the Government in the state of Uttar Pradesh to have a fresh look at the old law. He has shot off letters to Attorney General of India and the Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh besides both the governments at the Centre and in the state asking them their opinion on raising the 16 years age parameter to 18.

The move of Justice Chaturvedi has given an opportunity to legal experts and social activists to raise a debate on the said law mentioned in the Section 375 IPC (Indian Penal Code).

The issue cropped up when a man convicted for raping a 17 year old girl, filed an appeal in the High Court. A trial court had announced seven years' of rigorous imprisonment to the rapist, who sought amnesty from the High Court on the plea that the girl was above the age of 16 and was therefore, under the law, entitled to give her consent for having sex with him.

In his appeal, the convict had pleaded that the girl was 17 years of age at the time of rape. She had given her consent to him for making physical relations. Therefore, his conviction was not proper under Section 376 of IPC for rape as section 375 of IPC provided that

he or she could give consent for sexual intercourse after attaining the age of 16. Looking to the circumstances of the case, the High Court dismissed the appeal upholding the conviction, also holding that the consent was not voluntary.

The court went to the extent of observing that "the law relating to consent for sex was apparently designed keeping in mind that most of the British officers had to live here without their families so they were bound to indulge in extra-marital sex with women of all ages."

The High Court commented that a girl below 21 is not normally fit to decide good or bad for her and therefore, if any decision taken before that age is damaging to her welfare or interest, it must be deemed that such a decision was taken under inducement. The judge has also drawn comparison with other laws of the land which do not give several rights to persons of the age of 18 or even 21.

"It is an absolutely right observation", says Shalini Mathur, Director of Suraksha, an anti-dowry organisation. "The age of marriage is 18 and a 16 year old girl is considered adolescent which causes a grey area as to what a child in the age group of 16 to 18, is. However, the Juvenile Justice Act 2000 clearly states that "there is nothing like adolescence. Up till 18 a girl or boy is a child and after 18 he/she is an adult." Shalini Mathur, who has worked with young girls living in shelter homes argues, "If a girl is not fit for marriage till she is 18, how can she be fit to have sex with a man?"

Besides, in cases of rape in India, the age of a girl is judged by an X-ray of the girl's pelvic girdle and the age determined by this system is always two years plus or minus, which causes a hurdle in justice.

If the observation of the High Court is considered and an amendment is brought into the IPC, it will certainly eliminate the ambiguity and will bring clarity in the law.

The author is a senior journalist and a fellow of Citizen News Service (CNS) Writers' Bureau.

The Muslim image seen from UK

By: Dr. Terry Lacey

With British army dead in Afghanistan already greater than in Iraq, 52 percent of British voters want troops out now from a war where there can be no military victory. But the fate of Afghanistan will be decided in Pakistan.

The UK press recently reported bombs in Indonesia, Iraq and Pakistan. Hundreds are reported dead in clashes with an Islamist cult in Nigeria. When the Sunday Times does a report on the increasing use of sharia law in the UK it prints a negative picture of a sharia flogging, although the article is fairly positive.

The clampdown on the Iranian protesters was emphasized in the UK press but often without balanced reports that 62 percent of Iranians voted for President Ahmadinejad, with no clear evidence of substantive electoral malpractice.

Iranian democracy despite its compromise with theocracy remains substantially more democratic than most Arab or South Asian countries.

With the UK and Europe in recession, rising unemployment, falling incomes, the housing crisis and increased support for right wing and racist political parties, there are fundamental problems facing Muslim communities in the West.

Sadiq Khan, one of the four Muslim MPs in the British Parliament pointed out in 2008 that 62 percent of the 1.6 million British Muslims are either Pakistani or Bangladeshi, and that Muslims have the highest economic inactivity rate of any group in the UK (47.3 percent) and the highest rate of unemployment (16 percent).

Khan reported that 39 percent of all UK Muslims have no qualifications at all compared to 29 percent of the UK population, while 60 percent of Pakistani children, and 72 percent of Bangladeshi children in the UK are raised in poverty,

compared to 25 percent of white children. And Pakistanis and Bangladeshis have the highest birth rate in the UK. (Fabian Society Pamphlet 624/2008).

After ten years of a Labour Government elected with Muslim support, integration has failed. The majority of Pakistani and Bangladeshi migrants have simply moved from poverty in Pakistan and Bangladesh to poverty in the UK.

The majority of UK Muslim migrants are trapped in a culture of underdevelopment, low wages, unemployment and poverty with many not speaking enough English to break out of the ghetto.

Young Muslim women in the UK do much better at school than young Muslim men, but face barriers against improved education or economic advancement from conservative parents, and even forced marriages and sometimes honor killings.

And young Muslim men are disproportionately represented in jail,

along with young British blacks.

Perhaps the time is coming when the alternative of fighting your way out of poverty in Bangladesh or Pakistan will be a better option than bringing your children up in poverty in the UK as part of a marginalized ethnic and religious group.

Much greater effort is needed to tackle underdevelopment and poverty in Pakistan and Bangladesh, preferably with more help from Middle East sovereign funds and Islamic financing, and increased trade and investment between Muslim and southern countries, as the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) advocates.

Meanwhile in the UK after a decade of Labour government, the gap between rich and poor is wider, while freedom and liberty have been eroded by excessive over-reactions to the now-discredited Global War on Terror.

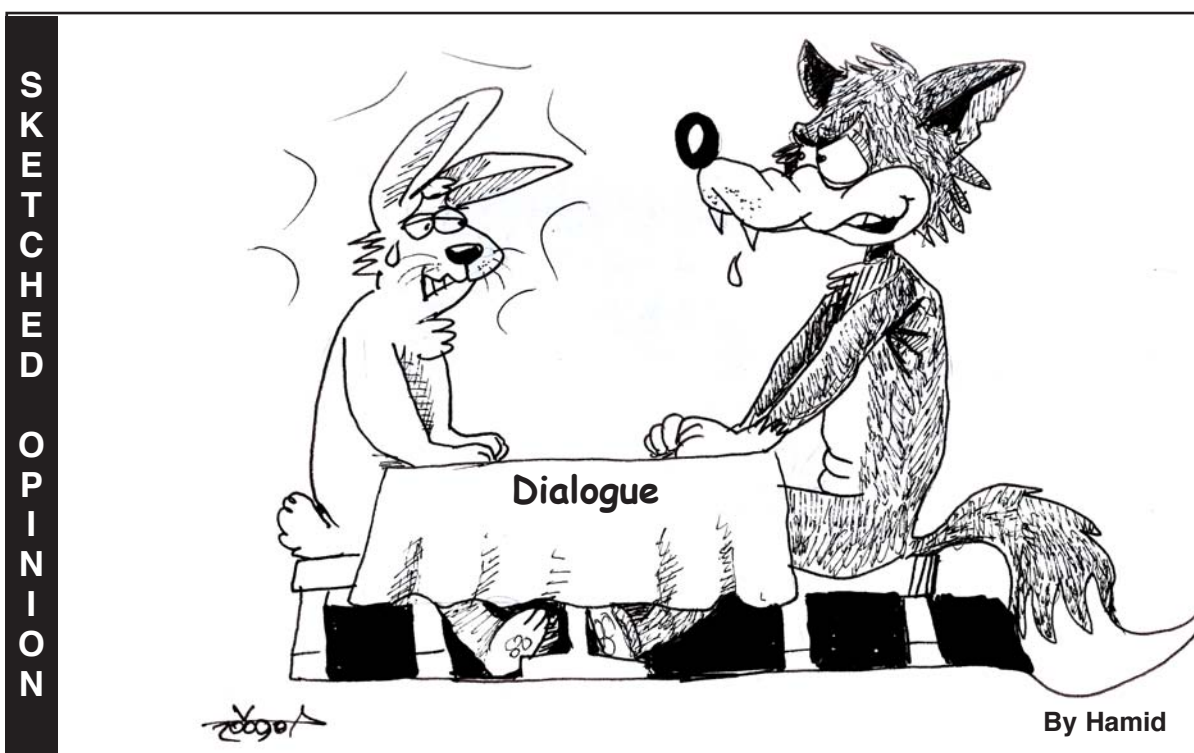
Muslim supporters of the Labour Party must be wondering why so many Pakistani and Bangladeshi children in UK still face poverty, low incomes, and less prospects of employment than the rest of society.

No-one has clear answers to this massive failure in British social policy or the failure of these large migrant groups to adapt to British conditions and integrate better into the economy and society.

The focus on a potentially disastrous long war against the Taliban and their Pushtu sympathizers in Helmand province in Afghanistan is already moving to negotiations and an exit strategy.

Maybe its more important, for security reasons as well economic and social justice, to fight and win the war against poverty in Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities in the back streets of Britain.

Terry Lacey is a development economist who writes from Jakarta on modernization in the Muslim world, investment and trade relations with the EU and Islamic banking.



By Hamid

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“Love in jihad” – myth or reality?

By: Nadeemul Wajidee
Translated from Urdu by Syed Raihan Ahmad Nezami

An endless debate and a lot of hue and cry have been raised by the media on the issue of inter-community marriages. The moment such a contentious incident takes place, communal Hindu organizations like Shiv Sena and Bajrang Dal begin poisoning the social atmosphere by provoking the innocent citizens of the country. This threatens to destroy the very fabric of national unity.

Recently a communal controversy arose in Saharanpur district, when a Muslim youth married a Hindu girl living in his vicinity. The girl converted to Islam. It is possible that the girl herself willingly converted to Islam for the sake of her love, but her parents and relatives created a great racket. The concerned people were arrested by the police. Thanks be to God, the girl was proved in the court to be of 19 years of age. She expressed her desire to live with her Muslim husband. This statement of the girl in the court went in favour of the boy and the court's verdict proved to be a soothing balm for the Muslim youth. Yet the plaintiff demonstrated in an anti-social and illegal way. He went on to loot and burn properties, shouting provocative anti-Muslim slogans even in the court of law. At present, the matter is under wraps due to the strict order of the court, but a new debate on the topic, “Love in Jihad” has been initiated by the communal forces.

Plural, inter-community marriages are of two kinds.

In the first kind - the parties may have different religions; in the second, one party should already be a Muslim and the second might have got married after converting to Islam. The first case is an open inter-community marriage, but the second can't be fully considered an inter-community marriage in the sense that both belonged to different religions before their marriage, although they were Muslims at the time of Nikah. In this way, both these kinds of marriages are of different nature and there are different norms for both of them.

The society is being adversely affected

by the negative impact of the unrestricted passionate relations of the youths of opposite sexes from different communities by studying in the co-educational system. The liberal culture has impacted them greatly. They don't hesitate even in developing physical relationship at certain hide-outs which are freely available in the present open and liberal culture. Some of them even elope with their lovers when they face opposition from the society or the law. If both of them are adults, they get protection by the law even if they belong to different religions. On the other hand, if they are not adults, the boy can be arrested and put behind bars whereas the girl will be sent to *Nariniketan* (a female children's home).

This situation has developed in both Muslim and Hindu culture. It's important to develop social values in order to check this trend well in time; otherwise our cultural values will also lose their shine the way it has happened with the western culture. In the West extreme brazenness is common, physical relations with mutual consent are not prohibited, the number of divorce cases has reached unimaginable proportions, and the number of illegitimate children is growing by leaps and bounds. Even after all kinds of liberties are given, sexual crimes are on the increase - sexual diseases like AIDS have become the distinguishing feature of the western culture. Earlier, the rise of this western trend was slow in eastern countries; but at present, it's knocking at our doors. In regard to this grave problem, the religious leaders and scholars, social workers, political leaders and educational experts must ponder over this grave situation irrespective of their community and religion.

The Indian identity

India is a multi-religious country with a mixed population with the similarity of culture, dress, language and food habits, different communities have come so close that the identity of a Muslim or a Hindu has shrunk at certain places - such as educational institutions, offices, markets, places of recreation and other public places. The identity has now become just a matter of having a certain name. In the same sense, a very small section of



Muslims has safeguarded its identity - some Muslim men are recognized with their beard and caps and the Muslim women with their veil “Burqa”. {But that is also under attack. French president Sarkozy and the western people in general seem not to like that and are not willing to accept these distinguishing features of Islam.} Rest of the Muslims have lost their religious identity in the milling crowd anyway.

This situation has developed a trend of mixed culture - to the extent that the present generation of youth is not being attracted towards the opposite sex of own community; rather they are getting interested in the young people of other communities. These are mostly the irreligious. Certain youth groups feel that religion should not interfere in their personal life so much that they are not even allowed to get married at their will.

Some old, traditional values are still alive in our society; so that a great ruckus is created whenever an inter-community marriage takes place. A section of Hindus are particularly worried when an inter-community marriage consists of a Muslim boy and a Hindu girl. They consider it a matter of great shame for the entire community. In the reverse situation, they don't have any objection; rather they feel pleased. Some youths do not hesitate even in changing their religion for the

sake of their love. There are some who want to maintain a balance in both love and religion; in other words, they don't wish to lose anything, so they convince the opposite gender to change the religion. In some cases, a Muslim boy is doomed to eternal misfortune for the sake of his blind love and temporary mental satisfaction - or a Muslim girl spoils her identity and religion accepting the Hindu religion “Nauz Billah” to get married with a Hindu boy and thus qualifies for the permanent torment of the hell-fire. The last two options are very happily accepted by the communal forces of our country. Generally, in such a situation, the Muslims are unable even to protest; rather they are pushed to the corner with their back to the wall to be a silent spectator of their misfortune. On the contrary, a section of Hindus create all sorts of disturbance if a Hindu girl changes her religion for the sake of love.

It can be understood by the way the Hindu organizations tried to create communal tension and spoil the atmosphere of peace and harmony - that they are absolutely not prepared to accept such cases in a positive sense anyway in the name of freedom to live; they can target the lives and property of the Muslims in retaliation. Right now, in the case of Deoband, the situation remained under control due to the impartial attitude

of the administration and the judiciary, to a great extent, because of the adulthood of the girl and the stability in her attitude; otherwise the communal tension of Saharanpur could have affected the peace and harmony of the whole country.

An impartial analysis of the facts would reveal that cases like the recent one in Deoband are quite rare. Inter-community marriages that create disorder are quite common. A notable point is that the Hindu organizations create a great furore as it happened in Deoband if the girl is a Hindu but remain mum in the opposite cases. The matter of Muslim youths going out of the pale of Islam is extremely unfortunate. It should be understood that worldly comforts, wealth and luxuries are of no importance in comparison to Iman (Faith) and Islam; today's young generation is unable to understand because the influence of western culture and education has erased the importance of Deen-e-Islam from their minds. Muslims make no arrangements for their religious and cultural education and training at home. The result is that while Muslim children maybe highly qualified in western education, even occupy high posts, but they are getting away from their religion. This tragic situation demands sincere thought as any more delay or negligence may result in a disaster.

Conversion to Islam is not a big problem. Every citizen has been given this right by the law and the constitution of the country. Islam is a perfect and divine religion. Anyone is welcome and can dip into the vast ocean of its blessings. In this way, it should not be objectionable to anyone. But there is a dearth of communal harmony and mutual understanding in our country which has created many social and political problems.

Of these conversion to Islam is a grave concern. Communal Hindus are unable to tolerate the conversion to Islam. Even so numerous people are converting to Islam in India and abroad having been impressed by the divine teachings of Islam. They sometimes, take help of the law and order machinery and the judiciary, and yet the newly converted have to struggle to get a proper place and respect in the society.

All said and done, I think religion should not be used as a tool in the process of marriage. Muslim youths should avoid such emotional decisions. If a girl changes her religion simply for the sake of marriage, she is hardly to be considered a true Muslim. We had recently had a bitter experience in the case of Chandramohan “Chand” and Anuradha Fiza who had converted to Islam simply to tie the matrimonial knot.

The Muslim youths should not put their innocent community members at stake for their silly marriages because the political and social condition of our country doesn't allow such things. So if they have any love for their religion - I slam, they should try to build their moral character and personality according to the tenets and the teachings of Islam.

By labelling “Love as Jihad” the phenomenon of Muslim boys marrying Hindu girls after their conversion to Islam, the communal organizations want to prove that the Muslims have started a new kind of “Jihad”, and are creating disturbance in the country by alluring innocent Hindu girls and marrying them by converting them to Islam. Those who are raising such issues, are either unaware of the meaning of “Jihad” or are deliberately doing this as they are creating mountains out of molehills. Incidents of Hindu girls marrying after converting to Islam are in any case pretty rare.

This is a crucial challenge. Islamic scholars and intellectuals will have to find the best way to meet this challenge and counter the poisonous effects of communalism.

Should we reply to this propaganda by speech?

- That we are not committing such un-Islamic crimes as there is no scope for the use of any kind of force in matters of conversion to Islam.

- Or should we reply by action?

Action speaks louder than words; we can do it by creating such a religious and pious atmosphere in our homes that no young Muslim can dare to violate the family standard by taking such a silly decision simply for the attainment of physical pleasure or to satisfy the lust of his love and emotion.

Source: *New Age Islam*

Can Muslim women work outside their homes?

By: Maulvi Waris Mazhari
Translated from Urdu by Yoginder Sikand

Some traditional ulema are of the view that Muslim women must not work outside their homes. They even argue that women can step out of their homes only under extreme necessity. Otherwise, they insist, they must remain within the four walls of their homes. Ironically, there are no Quranic commandments that sanction these prohibitions. Consequently, sharp differences among Islamic scholars continue to remain concerning these matters. In this regard, my personal opinion is reflected in a hadith report, according to which the Prophet is said to have declared that one should ask one's heart, no matter what fatwa a mufti might give on a particular matter. In other words, in such cases one must follow one's conscience.

I see no harm in women taking up employment out of their homes, provided, of course, their respect and honour are protected and their work does not

cause their children and husband to suffer or be neglected. In some situations, in fact, it may even be a dire necessity, rather than a matter of choice, for women to seek employment out of their homes. Such, for instance, may be the case for divorced or widowed women with no source of sustenance or for a woman whose husband does not earn enough to properly maintain the family. If a woman seeks to work out of the home with the intention of using her earnings to help the poor or for spending her income on pious causes, I feel she can do so, keeping in mind, of course, the provisos mentioned above.

Unfortunately, there is no unanimity or consensus among the ulema on the issue of women working outside their homes. There is, as I suggested above, no evidence that they can cite from the Quran and the corpus of Hadith to back the contention that such employment is absolutely haram or forbidden. From earliest times onwards, many Muslim women, particularly from poor families, have been working outside their homes, mostly because this was an economic

compulsion. The opinion of some ulema banning this has never been enforced anywhere in the Muslim world. That is why today, in many Muslim countries, even in those that style themselves as ‘Islamic’ states, such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, women can be found working in different spheres of the economy, in both the public as well as private sectors.

There is even early Islamic precedent for Muslim women working outside their homes. For instance, the Caliph Umar appointed a woman, Shifa Bint Abdullah, as the administrator of the market in Madinah. Obviously, for her work she had to regularly visit the market, inspect how people were conducting their businesses and interact with the businessmen, most of who must have been men. Today, in contrast, many ulema might balk at a woman taking up such a job. They might argue that a market is a centre of materialism, the very opposite of spiritualism, and that a woman working out of her house, and, that too in a market, would cause strife, and that she might even lose her morals. Yet, the Caliph Umar appointed Shifa Bint

Abdullah to this post although he could well have chosen a man for this purpose had he wanted to.

As I said earlier, I see no harm in a Muslim woman working outside her home, even if she has to interact with men in her workplace, provided, of course, the environment is decent and she can preserve her modesty. Even in the Prophet's time, interaction between the genders was never forbidden, contrary to what some people might think. In the early years of Muslim history, Muslim women would go out to purchase and sell things and even participated in battles.

Some people might claim that the Quran explicitly prohibits Muslim women from going out of their homes. To support this claim, they often refer to the following verses in the Surah Al-Ahzab of the Quran:

O ye wives of the Prophet! Ye are not like any other women. If ye keep your duty (to Allah), then be not soft of speech, lest he in whose heart is a disease aspire (to you), but utter customary speech. And stay in your houses. (Quran 33: 32-33)

What they ignore or forget is that the above-quoted commandment ordering the wives of the Prophet to stay in their houses was applicable precisely to them, and not to all Muslim women. According to some scholars of the Quran, Umar Faruq advised the Prophet to ask his wives to adopt seclusion within their homes because all sorts of people, good as well as bad, used to come to the Prophet's house to meet him. It was on this occasion, they say, that these verses were revealed.

Many traditional Indian ulema, however, continue to insist that Muslim women must not seek outside employment or even go out of their homes. Still, I would say, there has been at least some attitudinal change in some ulema circles in this regard. To cite an instance, some years ago a Mufti of the Dar ul-Ulum at Deoband issued a fatwa forbidding Muslim women from contesting elections. Shortly after, however, he rescinded this fatwa and issued a fresh one, declaring it permissible for Muslim women to participate in elections. I do not know why, and on what basis, he

changed his opinion, but this case illustrates the fact that, slowly, the views of some traditional Indian ulema on issues related to women are beginning to change. At the same time, it is true that probably the majority of the Indian ulema still remain wedded to their traditional opinions about women's employment. These are men who have been reared on traditional or medieval fiqh texts, and whose lives are restricted to teaching within the walls of their madrasas.

Today, however, we have an increasing number of younger ulema who are more socially engaged, have knowledge of contemporary issues and an awareness of the demands of modern world. They know the concerns and problems of the new generation—and this includes the issue of women's employment—and desire to provide appropriate leadership to it. I am optimistic that these ulema will come to play an important and more socially relevant role, including as far as women's issues are concerned, in the coming decades.

Source: *NewAgeIslam.Com*

Why a private television channel in Palestine

By: Elias Znanir

A state-run television channel and a few domestic terrestrial stations, which mostly re-run programmes from other satellite channels, are almost all that is on offer in the Palestinian Territories. Two other outlets - Al Aqsa, set up by Hamas in Gaza, and Al Quds, which many brand as Hamas-light - are partisan stations. The private sector, so far, has shown very little interest in television broadcast, probably due to the uncertainty that characterises the situation in Palestine and the considerably high risks involved in launching a private television channel.

Today, after years of state-run or partisan media outlets in Palestine, the time has come for a new satellite television channel that is entirely private: a channel that does not belong to a particular political party or governmental body but one that aspires to reflect the interests of the

overwhelming majority of Palestinians, those living in the Palestinian territories and in the Diaspora. Such a channel would also provide the Israeli enemy/neighbour with a unique window onto aspects of Palestinian society with which it is completely unfamiliar.

For years, Palestinians have been stereotyped all over the world as terrorists or religious fundamentalists, and accused of being incapable of coping with the changing world around them. And when the second Palestinian uprising against Israel broke out in 2000, images of death, wounded people, destruction and wailing women dominated the screens and came to represent Palestinian society in peoples' minds. But are these the only images? Do Palestinians live only one mode of life? These were the questions asked when deciding to launch the first truly private television channel in Palestine.

For all of their anguish, Palestinians know how to live a normal life. For the

overwhelming majority of them, life goes on, for the good and bad. And while people cannot change their past, they can surely shape their future, provided they have the tools. An objective and highly professional television channel can help provide at least some of these tools.

Such a station can also play a very significant role in bridging gaps and mending fences with the “enemy/ neighbour” next door. For years, the Israeli public has been subjected to one kind of Palestinian media discourse, one that focuses more on the conflict and less on its resolution. In my opinion, most of the efforts made over the past years to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict have failed only because of the lack of understanding between the two nations. Failure to understand the other exacerbates the conflict and makes it harder to achieve reconciliation.

A private television station that can show the Israeli public a different angle on life in Palestine can help counter many of the antagonistic perceptions that

Israelis have about Palestinians and vice-versa.

A modern, state of the art and open television channel in Palestine can open doors for a more civilised debate between the two nations, as well as within their own constituencies. Palestinians need a professional media outlet that tells their Israeli neighbours that across the Green Line, the Separation Barrier or the Israeli army checkpoints lives a nation that aspires to freedom and liberty no less than the Israelis themselves.

Palestinians living inside Israel are by default an integral part of the targeted audience of such a station. Their experience of life in Israel should, therefore, become part of the programme grid of any private television channel that strives to reach out to as many interested audience members as possible.

The station should strive to feature locally produced cultural, educational, arts, sports and entertainment programmes, covering various aspects of

Palestinian life in the Palestinian territories, inside Israel and abroad. It should also guide the Arab and Palestinian public toward a promising future by promoting a free, democratic, open and tolerant community, while at the same time advocating a culture of life, joy and promise, as opposed to a culture of death, tears and pain.

With 65% of the Palestinian population below the age of 25, a television channel should dedicate considerable programming time to a young audience. The youth factor is very important for every nation that looks towards a better future. This is why the Palestinian public needs programmes that address religious extremism and promote enlightened thinking, encouraging the youth to adopt a culture of open dialogue and acceptance of the other. Young Palestinians could also be encouraged to produce their own dramas and documentaries that address their interests and concerns which could then be aired on TV.

We have high hopes that our new private satellite channel, Palestine Tomorrow, will be capable of achieving these goals and attracting viewers from all over the world. For such a vision we require a self-sustaining and profitable business model that can generate revenues through the sale of advertising, public participation in television contests and other sponsorship, and sale of locally produced programmes and reports.

Setting up the channel is indeed an expensive endeavour, but doable and well worth the effort.

Elias Znanir is the CEO of Palestine Tomorrow TV Satellite Channel in Ramallah, Palestine. This article was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).

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Abdulrazzaq Al-Sururi, general manager of Industrial Zones, to the Yemen Times:

“Industry is a strategic choice to face future challenges.”

In 1996, the Ministry of Industry and Trade decided to establish industrial zones in some of Yemen's governorates to promote investment and push industry in the country. To learn more about the project and progress so far, Ali Saeed interviewed Abdulrazzaq Al-Sururi, general manager of Industrial Zones at the ministry.

What are the goals of establishing the industrial zones?

The project aims to bring about movement in economic development as it will provide motivation through attracting local and foreign investment.

The project also could assist in ending many problems such as illegal land appropriation, [lack of] infrastructure, pollution, lack of water resources, and unemployment, as well as encourage the role of the private sector [in this development].

The industrial sector is one of the government's priorities in its development plans, to transform a service-oriented economy into a production-oriented one.

Benefiting from the experience of successful industrial countries in the region and the rest of the world, Yemen launched its own specialized industrial zones project, after decree 79/2005 on the establishment, organization and supervision of industrial zones.

Industrial zones are becoming a reality, and until now plans have been drawn up for more than ten industrial zones according to feasibility studies. Many industrial complexes are also being set up to cut decorative stones in the governorates where they can be found.

What total area do industrial zones now cover? In which governorates are they being established and why?

The total area of these industrial zones is 4,221 hectares until now. The size of each zone differs from one governorate to another, and they can be expanded on demand. The project aims to gradually create nine industrial zones in Aden, Lahj, Hodeida, Hadhramout, Shabwa and Abyan.

To motivate investors from the Gulf, Yemen must fast join the Gulf Cooperation Council to facilitate trade between Yemen and the Gulf states.

Economic-industrial zones have been set up along the border with neighboring countries, such as in Al-Shehn in Al-Mahra [bordering Oman], Al-Wadi'a in Hadramout [on the Arabian Sea], and Haradh in Hajja [bordering Saudi Arabia].

Coordination is ongoing with the mayor of Sana'a to create a service-industrial zone in Bait Athran in Sana'a.

Moreover, we are planning to create industrial complexes for stone cutting in the governorates of Amran, Dhamar, Ibb, Taiz and Marib. We are doing this to benefit from these governorates' resources, and to better control stone cutting.

We decided to specify sites for stone cutting factories, to avoid wasting natural resources and to prevent harming humans and the environment, as well as to regulate water consumption and the location of stone cutting factories.

Zones were chosen based on certain promising features, such as their proximity to international ports and airports, as well as the availability of a qualified workforce, land, and infrastructure, and as well as location suitable to local and external markets.

Which industries do you encourage?

Our country is still a fertile environment for different economic activities. Because of globalization and our country being open to international trade and investment, it was necessary to adopt a clear economic strategy the main pillar of which is industry.

Industry is a strategic choice to face



Abdulrazzaq Al-Sururi

future challenges. It is a promising sector as other sectors such as the oil and agriculture sectors are threatened with the insufficiency of natural resources.

Industrial zones were set up to encourage investment and industry, and create job opportunities in the country. Have they achieved that?

It is early to judge the success of the industrial zones project, since it is still in its beginnings. We are still at the stage of acquiring the land for the industrial zones, documenting this officially, setting up borders for them, and starting to build roads.

After that, we will introduce them to investment through the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) system [that enables private-sector involvement in infrastructure projects via concessions].

Will it succeed in attracting local and foreign investment and in creating employment? We hope.

However, the project's beginnings seem encouraging, as we have received continuous requests to invest

in these zones, especially in the Aden industrial zone. We have dealt with around 22 investment requests until now.

Last year, on the occasion the Aden industrial zone's launch, you stated that the zone was expected to employ at least 9,000 workers. To what extent was this realized?

The industrial zone in Aden was offered to investors to develop, operate, and invest in through the BOT system.

Economic studies have shown that, were the industrial zone in Aden to attract investment, it would hire more than 9,000 people as direct workers [inside the zones], and multiples of the number as indirect workers [outside the zones].

We hope that these figures become reality very soon, especially since negotiations are currently being held with a foreign company to develop the zone.

To what extent are local and foreign businessmen interested in investing in these zones?

Local and foreign companies are interested in investing in these zones, but interest is still lower than our ambition. We hope that more people will be interested in investment in the future, especially after the world financial crisis, which has made Yemen a secure place for local and foreign investors.

Investors in Yemen from Gulf countries have achieved good revenues compared to investors in western countries, since in those countries some investments have become insolvent. We are expecting more investment from Gulf countries in Yemen.

What obstacles do you face now?

Infrastructure development in the industrial zones needs more funds than the state can provide. It was necessary to take steps to enable the private sector to contribute in managing and investing in infrastructure.

Government funds are not sufficient for the zones' infrastructure, even to build physical borders for them, conduct feasibility studies, or start with the first stage of road works.

We demand the government allocate more funds to develop infrastructure in these zones.

Has the recent violence in some parts of the country affected investment?

There is no doubt that insecurity has had a great effect on investment, as "capital is a coward." Capital always seeks a secure place, and there is competition worldwide to attract both local and foreign capital. If this capital does not find a safe place, it will definitely move on to another country.

A good investment climate comes from adequate laws, a stable economy, an efficient and transparent judiciary, and simplified investment procedures.

To encourage investment, double taxation should be canceled. Corruption and smuggling should be

controlled. State security is essential for a secure investment climate, and the state should deal seriously with all insurgents.

What facilities do industrial zones offer investors?

There are many advantages offered to investors, such as land and infrastructure at a competitive cost, and the one-stop-shop system.

Investors in the industrial zones enjoy guarantees, and do not pay customs fees or taxes. The state encourages local products for export, notably through the investment law. In addition, lands are offered to them for seven years without rent.

What industries are currently operating in the industrial zones?

Up until now there are no industries present in the industrial zones, but we are working hard to carry out several strategic projects such as an iron factory, a sugar factory and a boat factory in the Hodeida industrial zone.

An iron factory was established in the Lahj industrial zone, and we are working towards establishing an electrical cables factory and a cooking oil factory.

Are these industrial zones environment-friendly? How do you ensure that these industries do not harm the environment?

The environment is a prominent factor when granting licenses to projects in industrial zones. We work closely with the Environment Protection Authority [at the Ministry of Water and Environment], and it takes the final decision.

When we plan industrial activity, we take into great consideration environment protection, and ban any manufacturers that create radioactive waste from these zones. There is also a list of pollutant industries that are not allowed to enter these zones until protective measures are assured.

Fishery export revenues decrease



Price hikes of fish in the local markets were one of the factors behind the decrease in fish exports.

By: Ali Saeed

Revenues of fish exports decreased during the first half of 2009 to about USD 105 million in comparison to 2008 revenues. At this time last year, revenues had already reached more than USD 120 million.

According to a recent report issued by the Ministry of Fishery Wealth, the reason for this decline is a corresponding decline in the quantity of fish being exported. The amount of fish being exported diminished to 47,000 tons as compared to more than 53,000 tons of fish during the same

period in 2008.

"Price hikes of fish in Yemen in comparison with global prices, the ministry's decision to ban the catch of some kinds of fish, and the lack of experience in the needs of international markets' by Yemeni exporters are all factors behind the decreasing fish exports," said the report.

Exported fish are being shipped by land, sea and air. Aden port topped the list of maritime ports with 23,000 tons exported at a value of around USD 32 million.

Al-Tawal land based outlet ranked the first among outlets with a total quantity of 18,000 tons exported through its doors at a value of USD 58

million. Sana'a International Airport was the first among exporting airports at a total of 588 tons of fish with a value of USD 4 million.

According to the report, the fish were exported to 44 different Arab, Asian, African and European countries. Arab countries ranked first among countries importing Yemeni fish with 29,000 tons imported so far this year at a value of more than USD 68 million. Chief among these is Saudi Arabia who alone imported 17,000 tons of fish for USD 57 million. Oman followed Saudi Arabia with 7,000 tons with a value of USD three million. Egypt came in third with 6,000 tons and total value of USD one million.

Roughly 14,000 tons of Yemeni fish have been exported to 12 different Asian countries so far this year with a total value of USD 26 million. First among importing Asian countries is Vietnam who imported 3,108 tons of fish with a value of around USD eight million. China came after Vietnam at a quantity of 2,500 tons of fish valued at USD seven million. Thailand ranked third among Asian countries at 3,474 tons with a value of USD six million.

European countries imported around 2,435 tons of Yemeni fish with a total value of USD seven million. France ranked first among European countries with one thousand tons of fish at a total of USD four million. Belgium was the second after France with 520 tons valued at USD two million. Italy was the third among European countries with 442 tons imported at a value of USD one million.

Around 2,000 tons of Yemeni fish were imported to seven different African countries at a value of USD three million. Tanzania was the first among African countries, importing 875 tons of fish so far this year at a total value of USD one million. Cameroon was the second with 838 tons valued at USD one million. The third among importing African countries was Kenya with 80 tons at a value of USD 140,000.

Around 73 international companies managed the exportation of Yemeni fish. 19 of these companies enforce European standards and work in the governorates of Hadramout, Aden and Hodeida.

"Frozen fish ranked first in type of exported quantities with 18,453 tons," stated the report. Fresh fish was the second after frozen fish with 17,463 tons. Only 1,077 tons of dried fish was exported.

"In 2009, The General Administration for Technical and

Quality Affairs at the Ministry of Fishery Wealth granted 49 exporting licenses for companies and individuals working in the field of maritime products exportation," Abdurauf Bin Boraik, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Fishery Wealth, stated to the press.

"The ministry also completed

quality control regulations of maritime products to ensure the quality of Yemeni fish in the markets," he added.

The decline in value of exported Yemeni fish became noticeable during the past two years. In 2008, the value of Yemen's fish exports decreased to USD 120 million, an almost 40 percent fall in comparison to 2007.



Vacancy Announcement

AMI is a humanitarian, apolitical and non-profit French non-governmental organization created in 1979. Now present in 9 countries, for over 25 years AMI has brought medical cares to those most vulnerable populations excluded from all health care systems. AMI is established in Yemen since 2007, in Hodeidah governorate. AMI health projects are implemented in closed collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Population. The country representative office based in Hodeidah is seeking for:

An Administrator Officer

Job Summary:

The Administrator Officer works under the supervision of the Head of Mission. He/she is responsible for the cash-box; he/she keeps the cashbooks and checks all accountancy documents in accordance with AMI financial procedures. He/she is in charge of several administrative duties (follow-up of contracts, mails, human-resources, relation with local administrations and service providers). He/she provides appropriate translations on request. Finally, he/she supervises the team of translators, cook and cleaner.

Qualifications & Requirements:

- ✦ University degree or practical experience in financial, accounting and administration management, preferably with INGO, or public department or private sector;
- ✦ Languages: English (compulsory working language, spoken, read and written); fluent in Arabic (reading and writing);
- ✦ Good computer operating skills (Word and EXCELLENT command of Excel);
- ✦ Knowledge of SAGA is a plus;
- ✦ Knowledge of Donors' procedures;
- ✦ To be rigorous, well organised, trustworthy and to work in a full-openness.

Contract:

- ✦ One year contract with possibility of extension;
- ✦ Full time based in Hodeidah;
- ✦ Salary according to AMI salary scale.

Candidates should submit their application in English (C.V. and a covering letter detailing their relevant experience and their motivation) at one of the following address:

- ✦ AMI office, Al Haye Al Tejari Quarter, In front of Central Inspection Institution, PO Box 3940, Hodeidah, Republic of Yemen
- ✦ yemen@amifrance.org

Deadline for application: Monday, August 31st 2009 at 4.00 pm.

Applications that do not meet the minimum requirements listed above will not be considered.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

CAC BANK

بنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي
Cooperative & Agricultural Credit Bank

البنك الأول لعام 2008 م

The 2008 First Bank

According to the CBY Report



Increase of Assets

Most national banks achieved remarkable extension in their banking business during 2008. The total assets at national banks increased to become 1132.9 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2008 versus 940.8 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of 2007. The increase is 192.1 billion Yemeni Riyals and the average growth is 20.4%. The national bank's contribution to

the size of the uniform budget is 75.0% at the end of December 2008 versus 74% at the end of December 2007. Most

national banks achieved a big increase in total assets.

The CAC Bank achieved the biggest increase in its total assets. They increased to 56.4 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2008. It also achieved the highest average growth among the national banks altogether, and it was 45%.

Source: CBY Report

زيادة الأصول

حققت معظم البنوك الوطنية توسعا ملحوظا في نشاطها المصرفي خلال عام 2008 م وارتفع إجمالي الأصول لدى البنوك الوطنية إلى 1132,9 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2008 مقابل 940,8 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر عام 2007 بزيادة قدرها 192,1 مليار ريال ومعدل نمو قدره 20,4% وبلغت نسبة مساهمة البنوك الوطنية في حجم الميزانية الموحدة 75,0% في نهاية ديسمبر 2008 مقابل 74% في نهاية ديسمبر 2007.. وحققت أغلب البنوك الوطنية زيادة كبيرة في إجمالي الأصول..

وحقق بنك التسليف الزراعي أكبر زيادة في مجموع أصوله بلغت 56,4 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2008 وحقق أعلى معدل نمو بين البنوك مجتمعة بنسبة 45%.

المصدر: تقرير البنك المركزي اليمني



Growth of Deposits

Balances of deposits in Riyal increased to become 747.7 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2008 versus 587.1 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2007. The increase was 160.5 billions Yemeni Riyals and the average growth was 27.3%. Increase in balances of deposits in Riyal varied from one bank to another.

The CAC Bank achieved the biggest increase in Riyal. Its increase was 31.9 billion with 39.9% as an average growth.

Deposits in foreign currencies increased from 466.2 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2007 (equivalent to 2336.8 million US dollars) to 488.4 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2008 (equivalent to 2441 million US dollars). The increase was 22.1 million Yemeni Riyals with 4.7% as an average growth. The CAC Bank achieved the biggest increase of deposits in foreign currencies; equivalent to 21.5 billion Yemeni Riyal and 58.0% average growth.

Source: CBY Report

نمو الودائع

أرصدة الودائع بالريال ارتفعت إلى 747,7 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2008 م مقابل 587,1 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2007 بزيادة قدرها 160,5 مليار ريال وبمعدل نمو 27,3% وتفاوتت الزيادة في أرصدة الودائع بالريال من بنك لآخر

وحقق بنك التسليف الزراعي أكبر زيادة بالريال بمبلغ 31,9 مليار وبمعدل نمو 39,9% وارتفعت الودائع بالعملة الأجنبية من 466,2 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2007 ما يعادل (2336,8 مليون دولار) إلى 488,4 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2008 (ما يعادل 2441 مليون دولار) بزيادة قدرها 22,1 مليون ريال وبمعدل نمو 4,7% وحققت أكبر زيادة لودائع العملات الأجنبية بما يعادل مبلغ 21,5 مليار ريال وبمعدل نمو 58,0%.

المصدر: تقرير البنك المركزي اليمني



Development of Credits & Finances

Balances of credits, advances and finances offered by banks to different economic sectors increased to become 418.4 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2007 versus 359.7 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2007. The increase was 58.7 billion Yemeni Riyals and the average growth was 16.3%.

The CAC Bank achieved the biggest increase in offering credits and finances. Its increase was 20.9 billions with 46.5% as an average growth.

Source: CBY Report

تطور أرصدة القروض والتمويلات

ارتفعت أرصدة القروض والسلفيات والتمويلات المقدمة من البنوك العاملة للقطاعات الاقتصادية المختلفة إلى 418,4 مليار ريال نهاية ديسمبر 2008 مقابل 359,7 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2007 بزيادة قدرها 58,7 مليار ريال ومعدل نمو قدره 16,3% وحققت أكبر زيادة في عملية الإقراض والتمويلات بمقدار 20,9 مليار ريال ومعدل نمو قدره 46,5%.

المصدر: تقرير البنك المركزي اليمني

Interfaith dialogue is the essence of Islam

By: Mohammad Yousuf Naqash
ipj2007@gmail.com

Human Being is the crown of all creations because Allah Almighty has given him the faculty of intelligence and other inborn powers to utilize for Human welfare. Dialogue is the one inherent capacity and trait to listen to, argue, agree to disagree, negotiate on almost anything without losing self-confidence, temper, patience and dignity, as it is the only, peaceful, tolerant, civilized and humanistic and most importantly religious way and approach towards negotiation and solution of all divergent issues, conflicts and disputes confronting the world.

Dialogue is a conversation among the persons or groups to understand one another. Since Plato, a Greek Philosopher time's dialogue has made an impact upon the later forms of dialogue, and it variedly expresses the intellectual and philosophical attitudes of the people. Dialogue among people of different faiths or religions marks the happy development in the history of human civilization. It is the characteristic feature of reverence, understanding, cooperation, social peace, and stability. Islam not only enjoins dialogue but promotes it in good deal so that a humanistic and spiritual truth of the former is understood along with the noble concerns of the other faiths. In this essay the nature and significance of the dialogue will be discussed in the light of the Islamic View Point.

At the outset it can be said that Islam believes in the unity of creation.

All men are creation of Allah Almighty and His revelation is of universal nature. The book of Allah Almighty declares:

O human kind! We have created you male and female and made you nations and tribes that you may know one another. Surely noblest among you in the sight of Allah Almighty is the most virtuous of you. [Al Maida 48]

So the difference in terms of nations, tribes, and cultures is recognized by Islam. But it is not to belittle or degenerate any group or tribe but to understand and acknowledge by different valued names. It seeks the goodness and right consciousness among the human beings and it sets the criterion for humanity.

Secondly Islam itself is a revealed religion and acknowledges the revelation given to other prophets of other religions. To it the source of all is the same -Allah Almighty. Islam accords to both Judaism and Christianity a special status. First each of them is the religions of Allah Almighty. What they have conveyed, in the Torah and Bible is revelations from Allah Almighty. To believe in these, prophets, in the revelations they have brought is integral to the very faith of Islam.

To disbelieve in them is apostasy, In the Quranic Verse it is stated;

Our Lord and your Lord, the one and only God [Al-Ankabut 46]

While describing Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his followers it is mentioned

Believing all that has been revealed from Allah Almighty; as believing in Allah Almighty and His angels in His revelation and Prophets as not

distinguishing between His Prophets. [Al Bakarah 285]

Islam accords due respect to all religions and teaches safeguard of their concerns, followers and worshippers and their religious places not out of courtesy but acknowledgement of religious traits. It sees them in the world not as otherwise, but as truly religions from Allah Almighty. Islam identifies with them. It does not present itself, in exclusive way but as reaffirmation of the same truth presented by all the preceding Prophets.

Islam identifies categorically with the people who possess the earlier revelations and promulgates, that to each nation has been sent the Prophets. It is said that Allah Almighty has sent one lakh thirty five thousand Prophets unto earth at different periods of human history for reformation. Although the nations or people disassociated with such teachings cannot remain away from it altogether in their collective consciousness. So Islam seeks to acknowledge both the apparent good and the hidden one among people, to live in peace and harmony.

Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) conduct at Medina is the best example of this co-existence and plurality of religions. It was a place where people of various religions lived together.

What the Prophet did, he made a covenant with them, particularly Jews and Christians. Each of them had the religious freedom and social security and was called federation (Ummah). All together constitute one Ummah under the leadership of Prophet (PBUH).

One more important thing about dialogue is that Islam makes it

obligatory upon its believers that they should pursue it in godly manner. Dawah—calling towards the way of Allah Almighty's teachings of reformation and piety—is not in vacuum but with specific traits. According to the Quran it typifies wisdom (Hikmah), goodly council, and best arguments;

Invite (all) to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious.

It clearly emphasizes upon rationality in dialogue. The other people are to be revered and talked to in a rational and reasonable way, to exchange the ideas. Irrational cannot work. Similarly the attitudes and methods must be in best way to appeal and attract the people of other faiths and cultures. It highlights the honesty and egalitarianism of Islam where humans irrespective of faith are revered on equal footing.

Islam teaches us diversity of humanity, acknowledging unity and only ultimate authority of Allah Almighty and need to harmonize our relations and adhere to the principle of peaceful co-existence of all human beings irrespective of their faiths, religions and ideologies.

Let us all resolve to do away with the politics of hate and diplomacy of revenge and commit to communal harmony and composite culture interest, which is linked to the agenda of transformation of world society to usher in an egalitarian and just society where all human beings irrespective of caste, creed, color, sex, religion, region and nationality enjoy the benefits of peace, security and socio-political economic justice and religious freedoms.

Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com



To marry educated or uneducated women?! (Part 3)

Having shed sufficient light on the aspects of marrying uneducated women, it is time to shed light on the aspects of marrying educated women. Again, this is not my personal point of view, but the opinions of others as supported with some real examples taken from our society.

Some men look at the educated women as better than uneducated because of their way of thinking and style of life. Educated women, according to some men, are well behaved and more rational than uneducated ones. "Educated wives are not narrow in their thinking and look at life from a more rational perspective," said an educated young man.

As a matter of fact, educated women do not need orders to do things for her home. She is more careful to do her duties at home and outside home as well. "My educated wife always does everything without tasking her to do so and that makes me feel rest, and saves my time", said a husband of an educated wife.

Educated women, according to some men, deal with life with a sense of responsibility. They realize how life is difficult especially for those who have children with a limited source of incomes. Such wives feel a sense of responsibility and tries as much as possible to offer something for her home and children. "An educate wife tries as much as possible to make the marriage life better and suitable", said that man.

Educated women know the importance of raising children properly. This makes them take it as a matter of duty to do their best. They, subsequently, pay attention to the children's educations, behaviors, relations etc. This helps the man, and contributes to establishing a more stable life.

Educated women also help their husbands in their financial responsibilities. That is to say, some educated women work and help their husbands with home expenses. "My educated wife works as a teacher in a one of the governmental schools, and though her salary is not too much, she offers many things which are required for home," said a husband.

Educated women can be good wives since they look at life from a wider point of view. They, for example, do not make problems if the husbands talks to or contacts another women because they understand that men's relationships with other women can be that of colleagues, friends and so on.

In contrast, uneducated women never believe that there are normal relations between men and women. Subsequently, they may move earth and heaven if they know that their husbands have any kind of relationships with other women. Because of this, husbands of educate women can talk about their relationships with other women, knowing that their wives will not create problems or even ask any question about the relationships.

Of course, there are more positive aspects of marrying educated women. These are only some cases, I hope, dear readers, you shed light on some other cases. Such cases are to be compared with the aspects of marrying uneducated women, so that men can realize which one is better to select for future life. Finally, I hope this topic is interesting for you so that you react and send responses to my personal email or the email of the newspaper's editor.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinion writer from Taiz. He holds an MA in English, and is the former editor of Taiz University's English-language magazine.

Short Story: The Hungry Jaws Series

Invest in Yemen (2)

By: Kais Al-Eryani

I have a plan to establish my own business. I have many great ideas, and the first step is to get the license. I leaned about the experience of my friend, and decided that I would not invest in anything related to education. After all, I'd heard about the Ministry of Education before and how bad things are going over there. One new thing I learned from my friend was that the Local Councils do not play any role except to make things more complicated. They just make you repeat the same licensing process until you get to the center.

Another friend of mine told me that I should go directly to the Office of Trade and Industry, and so I asked for directions and made plans to go. The first trip was to know the place and the requirements. I was very enthusiastic. After all, this will be my first new registered business.

I was not surprised when I saw the

building. It was a four or five storey building, like many rented government buildings. Many cars were parked on the road in front of the building and there was an exceptional amount of dirt. The entrance was small and dark, the reception nothing more than a few soldiers chatting with each other. I went up the dark and dirty stairs and started to ask at every floor where should I go. I received many different conflicting responses.

I finally met somebody who was very pleasant and invited me to the proper room. The room was full of desks, empty ones. He told me that I should get a temporary license. All I needed, according to him, was my ID card, two pictures and to pay the fees, around 7,000 riyals.

"Great," I thought, but at the same time I realized that I had better make sure that this is what I want and need to do to start a business. The man tried to convince me to do it at once, but I told him that I didn't have any pictures or money with me. I promised to come back, as usual. I was sure that the man

wanted me to pay him, although I knew he was an employee there.

The second time was two days later. This time I was accompanied by a friend who claimed to know somebody there. We met his friend at the gate and we told him what we wanted, so he guided us to the right floor and showed us the right office. I started to explain what I was planning to do and asked about the licensing process and requirements to a man who was sitting behind a damaged desk. He grabbed a piece of paper, and showed me a list of things.

"How much are the fees?" I asked.

"What type of business are you planning to have?" he responded.

After explaining my plans, the man said, "The fee is about 7,000 riyals." I said, "OK, how can I start?" The man replied, "Just pay 18,000 riyals and we will take care of it." At that point the office was full of other people. There were two other desks in the room. Everybody was listening to our conversation carefully.

"No, No, that is too much - it is only

supposed to be 7,000," I said.

"It is only for you we take much more," the man replied. "But how about 15,000?" he added.

I turned around to see the other people. It was as if they were watching a match, and waiting for the result. One of them said, "Give him 12,000." I turned towards the man at the desk to see his response. "OK, 12,000, and it is only for you, we usually take 15,000," he said with a sigh. I did not know what to say. "12,000, that is all? It is only 7,000, so why should I pay more?" I asked. The man told me, "OK, go and do it."

I left his office angrily while I was talking to my friend, asking about the director's office. I met a few people on the stairs and explained to them my problem. They told me that even if I see the director, this man I just had a quarrel with will stop my papers! I knew they were telling the truth.

I decided to leave without getting the license. Maybe there is some other way; maybe I should register somewhere else.

Absolute control begets anarchy

By: Najj Gazali

Every accomplishment our government has claimed is due to the genius and creativity of the president. Every failure and misery it produces on the other hand is blamed on coincidence or bad weather! Lately and without any hesitation, the separatists and the Houthis are blamed for the government's problems.

Sometimes I wonder if having these forces working against the government is benefiting the government more than advancing their own causes. The government always shows the public that they are in consistent in their fight against nature, famine, separatists, the Houthis and whoever else dares to criticize them.

When the government gets nice and feels that it can no longer use their usual tactics and trickery, they pretend to be transparent by creating an agency to investigate corruption and abuse. They hire a respected public figure to

head such an agency, but in the end the guilty party never gets slapped with jail time or fines. In fact, have we ever heard of an arrest made against anyone due to corruption?

I am baffled how the corrupt people are going to be punished when the idea of fighting corruption is just an act that consumes funds and wastes paper. Reports, after all, never seem to get any further than the desk drawer of the head of the anti-corruption agency. To analyze the effectiveness of such an agency, one must understand that most agencies are created by corrupt people themselves, even agencies that are supposed to fight corruption, and only serve conceal the identities of the real perpetrators.

We must have checks and balances in our government like the rest of the world has, where each branch is making sure the other is working properly. This is a much better system than all employees working for only one branch, not daring to say anything against it. For example, the executive branch, or the

presidency, makes sure the judges are doing their job properly, and the legislative branch, or the parliament, can pass any law that it wants instead of creating laws that serve only special interest groups.

If you haven't noticed, elections are certainly manipulated. How else in God's name have we continued now, not as a monarch but rather as an elected official! Go figure!

We must have a separation of powers, not in name only but real separation that is reflected in the behavior of each branch of government. This will make each branch and each employee pay attention to their own actions, fearing impeachment or any other legal consequence. Absolute control on the other hand will merely create anarchy; only God should have such absolute control over us.

People will say I am dreaming by comparing Yemen to civilized nations, citing that we the people are not ready for such a government. They will

say that our government resembles us anyway, referring to the saying 'as you are, you will be governed.' I disagree completely with this saying and believe that if I actually had any control over who is presiding over us, I would have voted the current authority out a long time ago.

For those who think it is not the time to ask for transparency and accountability in the government because the union will be jeopardized, I ask them: Would you allow your family to go astray, making mistakes right and left? Would you wait for the situation to get better by itself, fearing the disintegration of your family in the meantime? I bet you would not wait one single second.

We are created to be free and no one deserves to be followed unless he or she treats us with respect and dignity, working for us, the people. Leadership is a duty and not a privilege. Until then, will we see a new agency to investigate the Yemeni airline crash, or will natural elements be incriminated, as has been the case in the past?

Thank you President

By: Mubeen Esam
Mibo_time@yahoo.com

In this simple article I'd like to sincerely express my thanks to our honor his Excellency the president Ali Abdullah Saleh in a few simple words, because 'brevity is the soul of wit.' I would like to thank our president who could establish Yemeni unity, improve the country and build a strong base quickly although when he reigned over the south, all the banks there were empty.

Our president wisely built a fruitful base for Yemen, prevented secession and avoided bloodshed. Also, many hospitals, roads, corporations, companies, factories, schools, universities, colleges and institutes have been established during his rule.

He brought technology into a lot of different fields in Yemen and encouraged the private sector as well as foreign investment in the country. What has yet to be fulfilled is upon the next president who must complete the projects and build the road to the shining future.

His Excellency the president Ali Abdullah Saleh is the best leader in Yemen history without any rivals. Please, Mr. President, go forward

without despair or caring about the malicious people's speech. Continue to make the light shine for every child, give hope for every youth, and provide security for every old person as you usually do.

There is no comparison at all between the white Yemen after unification and the black Yemen before it, because if any one wants to compare, they won't be able to count the accomplishments that have come up since unification.

I really hope your Excellency will be our president and our father forever. I'm proud of our president and I'll always be so because the lovely man, President Ali Abdullah Saleh, is the man who created a country full of freedom.

Even if problems, corruption or mistakes exist, we must ask Allah to help our president to solve them. We are Muslims and we must obey our ruler as the Qur'an and Islam says. The people, the oppositions, the parents, the institutions, the imams, the teachers, and all who are in charge must work together.

We must develop and improve our country of Yemen and solve the problems as one people and not as separate factions. All of us as Yemenis must be constructive, not destructive, as much as we possibly can.

My Country

By: Basheer Al selwi
basheeromaralselwi@yahoo.com

Poverty and diseases in my country, Make people die soon and quickly Unemployment generates frustrated youth.

Makes them cannot even move. Absence of justice makes people weep, They lose even the beauty of sleep Even mad people so much increase! I do not why? They must decrease! I figure out why mad people increase, Perhaps they could not find something to eat.

Education system moves from bad to worse!

People became illiterate sitting in streets. Hospitals around the country became sick and weak! They call someone to cure them again. Even infants die in their mother's wombs!

Realise, they will come and find every thing false

Oh people think and think, Realize, realize before taking the new step

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Efforts to revive tourism sector in Yemen

By Mohammed Ghoath
For the Yemen Times

Despite the challenges facing tourism in Yemen, the rate of tourists increased seven percent so far this year as compared to 2008.

According to statistics published by the Tourism Promotion Board, more than 1,022,737 tourists were recorded as visiting Yemen within the past two years. 60 percent of the tourists come from the Gulf region or are domestic tourists, while the remaining 40 percent of the tourists come mostly from Asia and Europe.

The number of European tourists visiting Yemen sank over the last two years following the European Union's warning to its citizens against travel in Yemen due to the recent terrorist attacks and kidnapping of foreigners. The warning advised against all travel to the governorate of Sa'ada while limiting travel to the rest of Yemen to essential travel only due to the threat of terrorism and tribal violence.

Due to these the exceptional circumstances, Yemen's Tourism Promotion Board, chaired by Minister of Tourism Nabail Al-Faqih, adopted a new tourist

program to promote the country as an enticing tourist destination. The program has focused on how to promote tourism in Yemen through modern audiovisual means.

Tourism Promotion Board Executive Director Ahmed Al-Biel said that Yemen will not disappear from the world's tourism map. He said that the Tourism Promotion Board recently built four rest areas for the convenience of travel on the road from Sana'a to Hodeida. The rest areas cost a total of YR 48 million, or USD 240,000.

We are now studying a new idea about hosting an international travel market in Yemen, related Al-Biel. In addition, we will host the Sana'a International Expo in 2010, but we still need time to find companies to run the showroom and the festival activities as well as organize the marketing strategies. All of this will surely serve the tourism sector in Yemen, he said.

Outside of Yemen, the Tourism Promotion Board adopted a new tourist program two years ago. It launched many promotion campaigns abroad about Yemen and issued thousands of tourist brochures and booklets. The board also



Sana'a Tourism Summer Festival has been scheduled from July 17th to August 17th.

established many web sites like YemenTourism.com, SanaaFestival.com and YemenTravelMarket.com.

In addition to this, the board created thousands of tourist promotion CDs about Yemen and produced many documentary and tourism movies. These movies were

broadcast in several languages on multiple TV stations throughout the world in places like Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland, Japan and other countries.

The Tourism Promotion Board recently participated in tourism events in Tokyo, Paris, London, Berlin, Lebanon, Turkey, Madrid, Milan, Dubai and Hong Kong this year alone.

Locally, the board is sponsoring the fourth Sana'a Tourism Summer Festival which will take place from July 17 to August 17. The festival will include a variety of events such as the sale of traditional costumes and handicrafts, a playground for kids, a circus, shopping exhibitions, carnivals, parades, artistic performances, motorcycle shows, and religious bands.

Mohammed Al-Nosily, owner of a tourism agency in Sana'a, said that the Yemeni people respect all visitors wherever they may go in Yemen. Yemenis are good people and the actions occurring in Yemen these days against foreigners are considered to be odd incidents that do not belong to Yemeni culture. As result of these incidents, there are fewer tourists in Yemen, but nevertheless Yemen will stay on the world tourism map whatever it may cost.

The Tourism Promotion Board was established in 2003 on the basis of recommendations by the European Union to promote tourism in Yemen.

About two million of Yemen's 23 million citizens work in the tourism sector, including in hotels and travel agencies. About 400,000 tourists and 690,000 Yemenis living abroad visited Yemen in 2008, a year when tourism revenues reached USD 460 million, according to the Ministry of Interior.

During the first two months of this year, state security escorted 221 tourist groups traveling around Yemen.

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