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Drawing to set Ahmed free



A club where children kick-box



Dr. Ibrahim Omar Hugari

Yemen condemns Iran and Iraq's stance on war Situation in Sa'ada worsens

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Sept. 2 — Tribal sources said that war between the government army and the Houthis has expanded to include all the districts of Sa'ada, in addition to Harf Sufian, an Amran district adjacent to Sa'ada.

"Government forces reinforced their fighting mechanisms to a great extent," said the sources. "They mobilized hundreds of tanks, armored vehicles and Catoosa rocket launchers. In addition, they intensified the air raids launched by fighter planes and bombardiers against the Houthis' sites.'

The sources said "The two sides talk about victories they have gained. The Houthis said that they controlled many military sites last Monday, including a Taiban area in Al-Malahidh district and Al-Magash site located south of Sa'ada city and seized weapons and ammunition in the sites."

A military source within the leadership of the northwest area mocked the allegations of the Houthis controlling a Taiban military site.

He said that the Houthis circulated this news to hide the defeat that they sustained and raise the spirits of their supporters. He said that the air force had destroyed many Houthi strongholds and fortresses.

The Ministry of Defense's website reported that the air force launched strikes against the Houthis in the areas of Saqain, Yasnam, Soudan, Al-Anad and Marran and Sa'ada.

The source said that military has developed new tactics against the Houthis, who sustained huge loss in Souq Al-Lail, Al-Amara, Al Abyan, Azzan, Mahdha, Sunbul and Al-Ghalit

He pointed out that military destroyed a number of transportation means and weapons belonging to the Houthis, and cleared a number of places where the Houthis were stationed. He added that the army raided gatherings of Houthis in areas of Al-Majda'a, Al-Dhahra, Shada, Al-Rawn and Al-Matalla hill.

Media war

For the first time since the conflict began in 2004, the Ministry of Defense began issuing public statements about conflict, which is being called the Sixth War. The Houthis have broadcast video on a number of Iranian and Iraqi channels depicting what they say are captured goods, weapons and military camps

Last week, the office of the Houthis' leader issued a video, which was broadcast by the Iranian Alalam channel about a number of military sites in Sagain, Al-Malahidh, Al-Hasama and Al-Mahather. In the video, Houthis wandered inside military camps after the army withdrew. The video also shows artillery, which the Houthis said they have seized. A number of Houthis were seen on tanks and armored vehicles chanting slogans against the US and Israel.

A military source denied allegations that the Houthis had taken control of Military Division 105 and seized its ammunition. He said they were fabrications for the media.

The state-run Saba News Agency said that military units continue chasing the Houthis in Mahdha area, causing a huge loss. The army had already cleared farms in Al-Husaini, Al-Kubri and Al-Anqara of Houthis entrenched in the area, according to the military source.

He confirmed that the army plans to continue attacks on Houthis in Al-Dhaher and Al-Tabab areas near Al-Mashabih area.

The Houthis said last Monday that "all the military sites belonging to Infantry Division 105 located in Asfal Marran area and Al-Malahidh surrendered to the Houthis.

"The military division surrendered after a tightened siege and military and logistic supplies were cut by the division's leadership," said the Houthis. "After the military division surrendered, its members were allowed to withdraw, carrying with them their personal arms only, without ammunition. They left behind seven tanks, heavy artillery and machine guns, ammunition and supplies which they have been collecting since the fifth war ended.'

The statement said that the Houthis controlled Al-Madraj military site in Harf Sufian district and seized its sup-

The father also announced that he

"He said: 'I will kill you when you

Khulood took the threat seriously,

and petitioned the UNHCR for refugee

status. The agency moved quickly

because they also believed the threat to

her life was credible. But her applica-

tion for refugee status- which would

have given her the legal right to stay in

Yemen- was not completed as fast

planned to murder Khulood when she

get to the Emirates," said Al-Ahmadi.

to lawyer Nazar Al-Ahmadi.

plies and equipment including a tank. It said that "the number of tanks seized by the Houthis is eight.'

The Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Iranian and Iraqi ambassadors to Sana'a and gave them letters of official condemnation for their countries' official and media stands toward the war in Sa'ada. Yemen accuses Iran and Iraq of offending Yemen through their support of the Houthis in Sa'ada.

Rejected truce

Mohammmed Abdul Salam, official spokesman for the Houthis, said that Houthis' leader, Abdul Malek Al-Houthi, announced early this week an initiative to stop the war. He said that the initiative aims to "spare blood, protect the country against instability and make use of its economic resources.'

Abdul Salam added in a statement to Al-Jazeera channel that "the initiative includes a cease-fire by the Houthis in all fronts of war, unblocking roads for delivery of humanitarian aid for displaced people and citizens of Sa'ada and Amran, end entrenchment and restore situation as it was in the past."

He said the Houthis aimed to apply the initiative immediately after it was announced.

"Success of the initiative will be measured through the government's response on behalf of the country's stability," added Abdul Salam. He said that the local mediation committee knew about it, and denied any foreign pressure or intervention.

The government rejected the initiative and demanded that the Houthis abide by the six conditions announced by the government, and circulated by media last

Mohammed Al-Dhaheri, professor of political science at Sana'a University, called upon the government to make use of this initiative and accept it, adding that the war cannot be resolved militarily. He said that the initiative came at an appropriate time because thousands of people have been displaced and the situation in the battlefield has reached an impasse.

Humanitarian situation

Human Rights Watch called on the two warring parties in Sa'ada early this month to facilitate access for humanitarian aid, journalists and human rights activists in areas of conflict.

"Anecdotal information suggests that the humanitarian situation in Sa'ada is worsening," said HRW. "Outbreaks of many epidemic diseases are likely scenario as most of the public health programs and facilities are non-functional."

The organization added that there are 'approximately 150,000 internally displaced persons and tens of thousands of people indirectly affected by the con-

The US Agency for International

Development or USAID announced its plan to offer \$2.5 million in aid, including 3440 tons of wheat and 460 tons of beans for IDPs. The first shipment of wheat is expected to arrive soon, according to a statement issued by the US Embassy in Sana'a.

"While the United States recognizes the responsibility of the government of Yemen to defend its national territory against armed rebellion, this responsibility must be exercised in a manner that minimizes risk to the non-combatant civilian population," said the statement.

"The United States calls on both parties to the conflict to ensure the security of international relief workers in the region, and the safe passage of emergency relief supplies to camps housing internally displaced persons.

Humanitarian organizations said that thousands of displaced people suffer shortages of food and basic needs in IDP camps. They said that IDPs in Al-Mazaraq camp in Haradh near the Saudi border also suffer from overpopulation as the war continued to drive people from their homes.

IDPs said that Al-Mazraq camp is short of food, and they have only bread. In addition, they lack utensils for cooking, which prompts them eat one meal a day. They also said he camp is short of bathrooms and women can use the bathrooms once every 24 hours, at night. And, situation for displaced people continues to worsen due to rain.

Marriage declared illegal in Yemen, wife deported

Despite public death threats made by her father in court, a 20-yearold woman was deported back to the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday, after her father challenged the legality of her marriage to a Yemeni man.

By: Heather Murdock

SANA'A, Sept. 2 — Turki Al-Awaleqi pressed the back of his hand to his chapped lips as he sat in the jail's front office on Tuesday afternoon. His bloodshot eyes welled with tears.

His wife had been deported at 10 a.m. that morning.

There is no justice in the government," he said. "Where is my wife



Earlier this week, a Yemeni court declared Turki's marriage to Khulood Rashad Abdullah Al-Hibsi invalid. The decision came after her father, who had not approved of the marriage, traveled to Yemen to challenge its' legality.

At the trial last week, the father demanded that his daughter be returned to the U.A.E. by force because he did

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A few days after the UNHCR began working on the case, Khulood was deported. In a last-ditch effort to stop the deportation, a UNHCR representative went to the Sana'a Airport on Tuesday morning to ask the authorities to let her stay in

> Yemen. "We tried to stop her, but we got to the airport too late," said UNHCR spokesperson Leen Al-Mugahed.

Khulood is now in custody in Abu Dhabi, according to Al-Ahmadi. On the phone Tuesday night, she begged him help to her get back to her husband in Yemen before she was released her father.

Her father is on his way back to the U.A.E. now, according to the lawyer.

And while Khulood was being detained in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, Turki shouted through the chipped metal grates at the jail's intake desk in Sana'a. Meanwhile, his lawyer, brother and cousin arranged his release.

"He is angry. Why should they take his wife?" said lawyer Nadia Al-Khaleef.

Fathers' rights trump brides' rights

not approve of the marriage, according Before his release on Tuesday, Turki said Khulood's father refused the marriage because he had an older daughter that he wanted to marry first.

But Turki and Khulood defied the father, and married in the U.A.E. in October 2008, before they moved to

Turki pulled a folded blue government document out of his wallet. To be safe, they had married again in Yemen.

Khulood's father, however, followed them to Yemen through the Oman border in order to retrieve his daughter, cording to Al-Ahmadi. He said the father is a well-connected man who located the couple by bribing leaders of

Turki's tribe in the Shabwa governorate. According to the sheiks, however, they have no connection to Khulood's father.

Al-Khaleef said the marriage contract would have held up in an Emirati court, but since they were in Yemen, the father had legal grounds to challenge the mar-

riage. Yemeni law gives more rights to the father-of-the-bride than to the bride, she added.

The two countries have similar marriage laws, based on Islamic law. A legal marriage requires the approval of the bride's guardian, which is usually the father or a close relative. When there is no relative available or willing to sign the contract, the bride petitions a

In both Yemen and the U.A.E., a representative of the court can then sign the contract. In Yemen, however, the father can challenge the marriage after the

Swift decision under movable law

Turki was incarcerated in a temporary jail in Sana'a for 25 days before his release. Khulood was held at Al-Amel Delinquency Juvenile Home for the same

amount of time before her deportation. Their trial, and the appeal, took 17

Originally they were sentenced to 100 lashes each- the standard punishment for unmarried sex- and two years probation. A higher court overturned this ruling and ordered Turki released, and his wife

The speed of their trial, particularly according to Al-Ahmadi.

Both he and Al-Khaleef said connections and corruption accounted for the fast pace of the trial, and the outcome.

Al-Khaleef said the father knew a powerful Yemeni sheik that supported his cause. The order to decide the case quickly, in favor of the father, came from as high as the office of the Prime Minister,

But the Shabwa sheiks vehemently denied having any relationship with the father on the News Yemen Web site yesterday. They called the accusation "an insulting campaign of defamation."

They also, however, condemned

Turki's marriage. They called it kidnapping, and a denial of the father's rights.

"Our customs do not include the idea that love between two partners is justification for kidnapping other people's daughters," they said, "If it is their custom to encourage kidnapping, we in Shabwa refuse."

But according to Al-Khaleef, the decision rendered was not the act of an independent judiciary.

"Judges are not free in Yemen," she

She also said that law in Yemen fluctuates based on who is enforcing it, and

"Today it seems different," she joked.

Seeking safe return

Khulood's lawyers are now working to get her back to Yemen before she is released to her father. They are seeking help from the UNHCR, and plan to visit the Ministry of Human Rights on Saturday.

Because Khulood is in her home country, the UNHCR said there is little the agency can do. But they are concerned for her safety, and have contacted their offices in Abu Dhabi.

"We aren't giving up on the case yet," said Al-Mugahed.













Electricity bills to increase

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, Sept. 2- The government will increase electricity rates for houses, mosques, shops and the agricultural sector, say the media and parliamentarians.

The decision will be implemented as soon as the new Marib 1 power station starts operating, reported News Yemen.

The increase rate will be YR 1 a kilowatt for houses and mosques and YR 2 a kilowatt for shops.

Houses and businesses in rural areas are not included in the new decision.

The current rate for electricity for a private home or mosque is YR 4 per kilowatt, unless consumption exceeds 701 kilowatt a month, in which case the rate goes up to YR 17 a kilowatt. For shops, the rate is a fixed YR 17.

"The news of the government's decision to increase the price of electricity is true," said parliament member Sultan Al-Samiee, however explaining that such decisions are not run through parliament.

"The government refers to the parliament when there is a new law to be discussed." he said

"The new increase for electricity bills is not justified," the Al-Sahwa opposition website quoted member of parliament Mohammad Al-Hazmi as

He added that citizens are waiting for a solution to the darkness they live in, not for people to line their pockets with what little money they have left. They already spend all their money on candles because of repeated blackouts, he said.

However, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy denied the increase.

"There is no increase in electricity bills," said the ministry's spokesman

Muhareb Abu Ghanem. "If there were an increase agreed on by the government, this would be based on a previous suggestion made by the ministry to the cabinet."

Marib 1 still not operating

Despite repeated promises made by the government and Ministry of Electricity and Energy to operate Marib 1 -most recently last Thursday, a concerned engineer told the Yemen Times that the station is not yet ready to operate.

"There are problems with the transformer stations constructed by Iranian Persian Company," said the engineer who is sometimes authorized by the ministry to inspect the station. "The stations still need to control the system and to receive experts from the company."

Government spokesperson Abu Ghanem, however, said that Marib 1 is still waiting for German experts to operate it.

German company Siemens is the one which is constructing the generating stations while Iranian Persian Company is constructing transformer stations.

"The ministry is exerting great efforts to operate the station," said Abu Ghanem. "The minister himself is always busy travelling between Sana'a and Marib to inspect the station."

Parliamentarian Al-Hazmi accuses influential people of being behind delaying the station's operation.

"These influential people only consider their own interests and receive commissions from the owners of private power stations to keep these stations operating."

Late 2008, the government took similar decision to increase the price of electricity.

Yemeni fishermen released, boats remain in custody

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Aug 31 — Eritrean authorities released 34 Yemeni fishermen after one day of detention, but seized boats and equipment were not returned, according to the Ministry of Interior.

The fishermen arrived at the Al-Mukha seaport in Taiz on Thursday, August 20, said Eritrean authorities who arrested the fishermen in Eritrean territorial waters near Jabal Al-Tair Island.

Fishermen said the Yemeni government does not back their claim that Eritrean authorities regularly subject them to violence, unlawful detainments and extortion when they are stopped on what they call international waters.

In 2007, the Eritrean authorities seized 42 fishing boats belonging to Yemeni fishermen. Ten of the boats were released. In 2008, this number increased to 75 boats, and nine were released. Since the beginning of this year, 30 boats have been seized, and five have been released, according to Adel Al-Ghuri, general manager of the Fisheries Cooperative Associations at the Ministry of Fisheries.

"The boat costs between YR 5 million and YR 16 million, in addition to the fishing tools, food and the motor which costs no less than YR 500,000," he explained.

Yemeni fishing boats have also been seized in Sudan and Saudi Arabia. In 2008, Saudi authorities seized six Yemeni boats and did not release any of them. The same year, two boats were also seized by Sudanese authorities and were not released.

"The Ministry of Fisheries contacts the Ministry of Foreign affairs regarding the case of Yemeni fishermen and their boats in Eritrea. The Yemeni ambassador in Eritrea makes great efforts to help," said Al-Ghuri.

"Fishermen enter the territorial waters of other countries- of them is Eritrea- without having licenses. The first fault is theirs," he said.

Al-Ghuri believes the Yemeni territorial waters are rich with fish, evidenced by the many foreign companies that request to invest in the waters.

"But some Yemeni fishermen are ambitious," he said. "The Ministry of Fisheries compensates them with new boats, although it their fault that they cross into the other neighboring countries for fishing."

In seasons abundant with certain kinds of fish, like Thunnus Albacore Tuna, Yemeni fishermen enter Eritrean territorial waters on purpose. But sometimes, fishermen find themselves in the other country's waters because their boats break down and they drift into foreign waters, Al-Ghuri added.

"The Eritrean territorial waters are a

heaven for all types of fish and in abundant quantity, which attracted foreign fishing boats of various nationalities, including Arab and Asian fishermen," said the Eritrean Ambassador to Yemen, Mousa Yasseen.

"Some fishermen, including Yemenis, insist on fishing in Eritrean waters without Eritrean permission," he added. "Temporary detention is the last resort applied."

He explained that detention is not exclusively applied to Yemeni fishermen, but to all boats found fishing in the Eritrean territorial waters without licenses.

"These fishermen are usually ultimately released after a brief interrogation," he said.

"Some Yemenis say they have been fishing on these waters for hundreds of years and they probably do not want to realize Eritrea became officially independent in 1993," said Yasseen.
"Eritrea's and Yemen's territorial waters have been clearly delineated."

Yasseen believes that such matters between neighboring countries are better are solved through "understanding and not by a fait accompli of irregular and unlawful practices." He said both the Eritrean and Yemeni governments have been discussing establishing a fishing company owned by both countries that will allow free fishing in territorial waters of both countries.

He referred to licenses as an alternative to make it easy for fishermen to work in the territorial waters of the other country. Licensing may include provisions to regulate the fishing areas allowed, the types of fish caught, the method of fishing, equipment allowed and the fishing season.

"We should, at last, stress that relations between Yemen and Eritrea have remained strong historically, especially as it emanates from the strong mutual understanding of the leadership of both countries and therefore will not be affected by small incidents of any kind," Yasseen concluded.

"Eritrean fishermen enter Yemeni territorial waters and nobody stops them, but the Yemeni fishermen are detained or killed and their boats are seized by Eritrean authorities," said Mohammed Awadh Salem member of Fisheries Cooperative Association.

"Before 2007, the number of boats seized reached hundreds, the number now is less because fishermen became more cautious," he added.

Fishermen are subjected to extortion and suffering at the hands of Eritrean authorities, according to Salem. Communication with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Yemeni Ambassador in Eritrea and sometimes personal relationships with Yemeni fishermen with their friends in Eritrea can help, he said.

Drawing to set Ahmed free

By: Nisreen Shadad For the Yemen times

SANA'A, Sept 1 — Yunis used drawing to defend the right of his uncle to be free.

Ahmed Al-Mahfali, a 15-year-old juvenile, has been held in prison since Feb. 23, 2009. Al-Mahfali's family confirmed that he was kidnapped by security forces and is being held as a 'hostage' at the Political Security detention facility (PSO) in Sana'a. He has not been charged with any crime.

Yunis, a 7 year-old boy and Ahmed's nephew, was strong enough to stand in Freedom square in Sana'a in front the cabinet to describe his drawings to people, hoping these little drawings may set his uncle free.

In kidnapping the teenager, security forces brandished their weapons, broke into the Al-Mahfali family's residence, fired into the air and shot up the house and walls. Security personnel failed to properly identify themselves and rounded up the family members inside the house.

"They were looking for hostages in order to put pressure on a family member who is wanted by security to hand over himself," Yunis's father Abdulilah explained.

"Unfortunately, they picked up Ahmed," Abdulilah said, adding that two months later they found out that Ahmed has been detained at the PSO. They only found out when the family received a phone call from their



kidnapped son telling them where he was being held.

When the family went to visit him, the PSO told them that they are holding Ahmed as a government hostage in order to pressure his wanted 18-year brother, who disappeared before Ahmed's arrest, to turn himself into police security. His brother is wanted under suspicion of terrorism.

"Two months ago the head of the Yemeni national security apparatus, Ghalib Al-Qamsh, promised the family verbally to set Ahmed free because he is innocent," said Abdulilah. However, up to now Ahmed is still being detained.

Yunis has kept drawing after Ahmed was kidnapped to express the traumatic event which creates mixed feelings of anger, fear and longing inside him. "This circle you see means I live in a spiral," Yunis said as he described his drawing. "I thought my uncle would come in the morning, but he didn't. I was waiting for him until the afternoon, but he didn't come, then in the evening,

hasn't come."

Yunis used art, which he used to practice with Ahmed, to defend his uncle's freedom. "He taught me how to draw. We used to play with each other,"

but he didn't come then either. I keep

waiting until today, but until now he

Yunis said

Yunis 's mother revealed that her son has been wetting the bed at night since his uncle was kidnapped. "I can't sleep after 3 a.m. because it was the time my brother was arrested. I feel unsafe because anyone in this country can be arrested arbitrarily," she said.

Juveniles in prison

Ahmed Al-Qurashi, the head of SEYAJ organization for Childhood Protection, said, "We don't have the statistics of children who are imprisoned with adults.

"Ninety percent of the security officials, and even society as a whole, don't consider those who are between the ages of 15 to 17 to be children or teenagers. They are considered as adults," he commented.

"Moreover, we don't have enough shelters or centers for qualifying juveniles. Therefore the normal place for the accused is prison," Al-Qurashi added

Ahmed Al-Mahfali, who is a third grade student in elementary school, was prevented from attending his exams because of his incarceration. His family is traumatized by the events.

The Yemeni Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, also known as HOOD, has sent several letters to the general prosecution seeking his urgent interference to set Ahmed free. HOOD urges that an official committee investigate the illegal arrest

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of the Consular Section in the British Embassy are able to offer advice or information on services available.

HM Consul British Embassy Sana'a

Wells to supply Aden with water

By Amel Al-Ariqi and Abdulwahed Abdulla

ADEN, Aug, 30 — After more than two weeks of demonstrations, residents of Aden finally have access to government water supplies.

Water shortages in the southern city of Aden have fuelled violence. One person was shot and killed and three were wounded, two of them police in Aden, where several districts have gone days without water.

Aden was among others southern governorates including Abyan, Al-Dhala'a and Lahj which have witnessed a wave of outrage due to the dire water crisis, prompting citizens to hold mass demonstrations.

The violent actions forced the local council in Aden to hold an exceptional meeting to discuss the water issue.

The south has been witnessing an expanding industry sector as well as an increase in population, creating a larger demand for water. As a temporary solution, the Ministry of Water and

Environment announced that it has generated 15 wells to supply these governorates with water.

Moreover, the Water Authority in Aden is concerned about the depletion of water wells in the area amid strong competition among citizens and the private sector to randomly dig more wells. Such wells make the authority unable to stop the over-consumption of water.

The Vice-Director of the Water Authority in Aden Hassan Saeed Qasem says that the crisis will potentially increase due to a decrease in the water level of wells in the area. The authority says that overconsumption of water is behind the problem as 3,000 wells were dug randomly, resulting in the depletion of water in all wells located in the suburbs of Aden.

People don't construct ground tanks under their houses to save water as is the case in Sana'a and Taiz, which basically depend on water-wagons to provide water due to an absence of governmental water projects. He added that this situation has encouraged the development of private businesses delivering water to houses on water wagons throughout the southern governorates. "These water wagons are filled with water from random wells and are sold for high prices," he

In Dar S'ad district located on the road from Aden to Lahj, water wagons line up by the well where the cost of filling the wagon is YR 200. The water is then sold for YR 3,000, 15 times the original cost.

Citizen Sami Abdul Karim said that although the water crisis in the area is getting worse and less water is flowing to his home, he is surprised to see his water bill increasing

Al-Memdara, Al-Qahera, Al-Mansura and Dar S'ad neighborhoods in Aden suburbs recently witnessed an expansion in construction. However, this expansion wasn't accompanied by the establishment of basic infrastructure projects, including water.

According to previous reports issued

by the water authority in 2008, the water crisis in Aden can be solved through a presidential decision to prevent wasting water wealth.

"We have talked for a long time about the water crisis here, but nobody listens or responds," said Qasem. "The authority here exerts its own efforts, but the government should undertake its role because this problem hinders investment and harms citizens."

According to the UN Development Program's water governance program in Arab countries, Yemen's water share per capita is less than 100 cubic meters a year as compared to the water poverty line of 1,000 cubic meters.

Since the 1970s, Yemenis have turned from rain-fed farming to irrigation using water pumped from new tube wells. These wells were encouraged by the government and foreign donors keen on expanding production.

International and local water experts said that mismanagement of water resources is one reason that could make Yemen's plight worse.

In Brief

Yemen produces over 100 million oil barrels in 2008

Yemen has produced about 107,415,000 oil barrels from 12 oil blocks in 2008, the GPC-run al-motamar.com reported on Monday.

A report issued by the Ministry of Oil showed that the minimum monthly production reaches 8,384,000 barrels in November 2008 and the maximum monthly production was 9,653,000 barrels in January.

Al-Masillah block No. 19 ranked the first in oil production with 34,663,000 barrels (32 percent) and followed by block No. 18 in Marib and Jawf governorates.

Oil production reduces in an average reaches 10 percent yearly.

The government expects to complete the Liquefied Natural Gas LNG project and to export the first gas shipment before the end of 2009.

Oil and gas production started in Yemen in 1986 with production levels remaining within the region of 320,000 barrels per day in 2008.

The proven gas reserves in Yemen are sufficient to produce and export 6.7 million metric tones of LNG per annum (mmtpa) for at least the next 20 years to its long-term customers in the North American and South Korean markets and potentially also to new customers in the future.

The reserves within the Marib area which are currently dedicated to the project include 9.15 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of proven reserves with 1 TCF allocated for use in the domestic market, and an additional 0.7 TCF of probable reserves.

The project, which is 40 times greater than the average Yemeni large-scale investment, will be one of the top contributors to the macro-economic growth and industrial development of Yemen over the coming years.

Yemen, Somalia to implement higher education deal

Yemen and Somalia held talks on Sunday in Sana'a about ways to implement an agreement the two countries singed last year for cooperation in the field of technical education.

Yemen's minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training Ibrahim Omer Hajri and Somali minister of Higher Education and Culture Ibrahim Hassan Ado discussed measures taken in the light of the deal granting 50 scholarships for Somali students at Yemen technical education institutions and community colleges.

The talks focused on Somali students to be enrolled for the academic year **IBB**

5 killed in Ibb land dispute

Five people have been killed in a land dispute in the district of Radhma, Ibb. All those who were killed were from one family.

The dispute turned into gunfire with people from the Bani Sa'ad tribe firing on their relatives from another tribe after they built a house at the disputed land.

Three died immediately, the fourth died from his injuries while going to hospital and the fifth was pursued while going home and shot dead.

The fifth victim was unaware why he would be killed.

Three security patrols were sent to the site, with one of the attackers reported to have handed himself in to the authori-

Last year, a mosque rector was killed in the area while he was on his way to Aden coming from Sana'a.

The killers, from the district of Shar'ab, Taiz, surrendered and they are now serving jail terms.

Land disputes are common in Yemen with many people reported dead and others injured as such conflicts grew to gunfire.

The government is doing its utmost efforts to limit the phenomenon and its effects on the public security and prop-

YR 16 bln tourist projects to be set up soon in Aden

Tourism office in Aden province is preparing for constructing 19 tourist accommodating projects at a total cost of YR 16 billion, General Director of the office Ali Naji has said.

Naji told Saba that the projects would provide more than a thousand rooms, pointing out the total number of hotels currently working in Aden city amounts to 150 hotels including 4000 rooms.

Those projects comes within preparing for the Gulf 20th Football Championship and International Economic Investment Conference scheduled to be held next November, Naji indicated.

He also called on the investors participating in the economic conference to invest in al-Aziziyah island located near Amran area and the other areas as the climate is suitable for setting up tourist

Piracy to be tackled in investment conference

Head of the Media Committee of the Economic Investment Conference "Aden...Yemen World's Gate" Imad Mahdi said on Friday that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden has added a new hub over piracy in the Gulf of Aden to be discussed in the confer-

The conference is scheduled to be held on November 11, 12, 2009 in Aden city with a wide ranging international cooperation.

Mahdi pointed out to Saba that a special committee would be formed for this issue to discuss it as piracy has negatively affected the international marine navigation.

SANA'A

Democracy School organizes Child rights session

Democracy School organized on Saturday an awareness session on the rights of children for 100 poorest children in Sana'a governorate.

In a statement to Saba, Director Assistant of Child Protection against Discrimination and Violence Project Akraam al-Shami said the session is aiming to introduce children to their rights and introduce the international and national laws with regards to child

Al-Shami pointed out that the project is implemented by the Democracy School in collaboration with European Union and in partnership with the Yemeni NGO's Coordination Authority to protect child rights within the program in each of Taiz, Hadramout and

He pointed out that the school has

already carried out, during the past two months, an awareness session targeting 1500 poor children with the aim to improve the importance of cleaning and protecting the surrounding environment.

Al-Shami pointed out the project will last for four months including a study carried out on samples of children from the governorates of Taiz, Hodeidah, Hadramout, Hajjah, Aden and the capital Sana'a on the discrimination phenomenon based on gender.

Slackness set behind houses collapse

Chairman of the General Authority for Historical Cities Protection (GAHCP) Abdullah Iysa referred on Friday the cause which rendered two houses in Old Sana'a to fall due to negligence though warnings of the authority to owners of the houses.

The two houses collapsed earlier this week coinciding with heavy rain fall.

Iysa made clear to Saba that the specialized department in the authority is reporting requests for houses renovation, submitted by owners or the local authority, after a field visit conducted by a team from the GAHCP and consequently estimates costs required for refurbishment.

He noted that there are 8 thousand houses in Old Sana'a and they need continuous renovation, specially before monsoon.

Their News

Journalists to set up information hub on children: UNICEF urged to facilitate

Senior journalists of India have pledged to set up an information hub, with all data and other information relating to children's issues. These journalists, associated with 'Media for Children' - a joint initiative of Media Nest and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) - have asked the UNICEF to use its converging power to bring together different agencies on this internet community. This centre will help scribes writing more in depth stories on development issues.

"This should be a converging platform for governments, UNICEF, development agencies and media," said senior BBC journalist Ramdutt Tripathi, who mooted the idea. Mr Tripathi said that very often journalists have to run around unnecessarily for reliable information that can be available on the click of a button.

The journalists made this demand at the bi-monthly Media Hour interaction at the UP Press Club on Friday, 28 August 2009 afternoon, where issues concerning children are taken up.

UNICEF The officials, Communication specialist Augustine Programme Veliath and Communication Specialist Ms Rachana Sharma, present on at the accepted the demand in principle. "We will work out the details before Novemeber 2009, which marks the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Rights of Children charter," Mr Veliath promised the scribes.

Earlier at today's Media for Children, Ms Sharma through an audio visual presentation talked to the media about how socially relevant issues have been weaved into a UNICEF led entertainment education serial "Kyunki... Jeena Issi Ka Naam Hai" on Doordarshan Kendra - DDK (state owned national TV). The UNICEF is celebrating the completion of 200th episode of the

serial with all the emotional and dramatic twists and turns that make soaps so popular. At 8.30 pm on Monday, 24 August 2009, this serial completed two centuries. "Kyunki..." has emerged as an innovative and effective agent for behavior change communication amongst Indian television viewers. Watched by over 125 million viewers across India, the gripping social drama promotes lifeenhancing, life-saving messages, critical to the welfare and survival of children and mothers everywhere. From safe motherhood to HIV prevention, infant feeding to girls' education, "Kyunki..." promotes prosocial attitudes, behaviors, and practices that contribute directly to the reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates.

UNICEF programme Communication specialist, Ms Rachana Sharma, shared this information with members of the Fourth Estate at "Media for Children," a bi-monthly media interaction organized jointly at UP Press Club

jointly by UNICEF and Media Nest. Ms Sharma said that such television serials are a positive way of heralding behavioral and social changes in society.

Sahba, Programme Naysan Communication Specialist at UNICEF India Country Office, who conceptualized the serial said in a statement issued from New Delhi. 'When we began to work on the show's concept about four years ago, at the height of the popularity of the "saas-bahu" sagas, everybody said impossible, there's no audience for this. Well, we went ahead, carefully if courageously, and you can imagine our delight in that not only is our show doing well but a new wave of socially conscious TV serials, serials tackling hard-hitting issues effecting women and children, have followed suit and are taking the country by storm."

"Kyunki..." has a rather unique viewership including unexpected regulars in the form of youngsters and men. A favorite of many across India, the serial is one of the top rankers in its primetime spot of 8:30pm to 9pm and is the leading daily soap on DDK

Not shying away from taking up socially sensitive issues such as the ill effects of child marriage and early pregnancy, gender equality, proper use of contraceptives and prevention of HIV/AIDS, "Kyunki..." has been a catalyst in encouraging dialogues amongst young girls and families in rural India about things that they earlier had next to no say about.

Concurrent audience research shows that there has been a consistent increase in the number of viewers who say they intend to take action as a direct result of watching "Kyunki...", including informing others about the importance of education, motivating children to join school, immunizing one's own children and regularly washing hands with soap .

The serial has also become a helpful tool and an excellent reference point for frontline workers who promote positive changes in social and health behaviors through interpersonal communication. In depth interviews with health workers, teachers and other influencers has shown that "Kyunki..." in fact reinforces many of the same ideas they work with and introduces contemporary issues in an interesting, entertaining and practical

Global Arts Integration Into Education Initiative

Url: www.unarts.org Twitter: unarts

"Time to Kick Some Ass" **Streaming Online**

Country Goes Global: Crossover We have two songs in the international humanitarian spotlight: "Rock The World" and "Time to Kick Some Ass," with streaming available on Airplay Direct (Broadcast quality digital downloads accessible free of charge for radio and television stations).

Sponsors can still get involved with the "Rock The World Campaign," that has expanded a focus of business/household level community assessments to support economic

emergency efforts across the United States. In the context of the current national economic emergency, DisasterAssistance.gov provides online access to a pre-screening questionnaire and application for emergency assistance.

Additional information on the "Rock The World Campaign," is available through the Humanitarian Resource Institute Arts Integration Into Education Initiative:

Internet: www.unarts.org. Twitter:

Proceeds from Soundtrack "Special Forces Prayer" to support Veterans and Wounded Warriors Advocacy

National Community Support for Armed Forces and Wounded Warrior Project: Humanitarian resource Institute, 27 July 2009.

The soundtrack "Special Forces Prayer" from the album compilation Country Goes Global" is dedicated to the men and women of the Special Forces, that includes all those serving in our military, working for the preservation of human freedom, to defend the defenseless and to free the enslaved. The words were written in 1961 for William Pelham "Bill" Yarborough, by SF Chaplain John Stevey, the 7th SFG (ABN) Chaplain.

"Special Forces Prayer" can be purchased through Snowcap on MySpace Music.

"When campaigning, be swift as the wind; in leisurely march, majestic as the forest; in attack, like fire; in standing, firm as the mountains. As unfathomable as the clouds, move like a thunderbolt," to protect the weak -Adapted from Sun Tzu. "The Art of War" - The Ultimate Objective: Humanitarian Resource Institute

IISD's Global Search for President & Chief Executive Officer

For 20 years, the International Institute for Sustainable Development has been advancing change toward sustainable development. As an independent, non-profit policy research institute dedicated to effective communication of our findings, we engage decision-makers in government, business, NGOs and other sectors in the development and implementation of policies that are simultaneously beneficial to the global economy, the global environment and to social well-being.

IISD is registered as a charitable organization in Canada and has 501 (c)(3) exempt status in the United States. Its annual budget is in excess of CAD\$15 million. IISD receives funding from a broad base of more than 70 international donors. Its Board of Directors is drawn from all regions of the world. IISD is headquartered in Canada, and has offices in Winnipeg, Ottawa, New York and Geneva.

IISD is looking for a full-time innovative and energetic President & CEO to continue the growth and expansion of the Institute as a global leader through the implementation of its new five-year strategic plan. The President & CEO will lead and inspire a global network of over 110 staff and associates.

The ideal candidate will have:

- a personal commitment to sustainable development;
- effective communication skills; advanced university degree in a

relevant field;

- at least 15 years experience in a related field, including international development; an understanding of the policy
- environment of sustainable development; proven ability to provide
- inspirational and strategic leadership; senior international management experience and the ability to
- network internationally; fundraising demonstrated

achievement with governments, foundations and the private sector; cross-cultural sensitivity;

- experience
- corporate/institutional governance; and fluency in English (both verbal

and written) and must be fluent in

at least one other language (French

preferred). The initial term of office will be five years. This position involves extensive international travel. IISD is committed to equal opportunity. Compensation arrangements will be comparable with

other similar international non-profit organizations. Applicants should forward a cover letter and curriculum vitae by e-mail

to Stephanie Cairns, Wrangellia Consulting,

iisdsearch@wrangellia.ca by September 30, 2009. Candidates must currently hold or be eligible to obtain authorization to accept employment in Canada. All applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

An Executive Brief with more detailed information about this position is available on request. Please email iisdsearch@wrangellia.ca using the subject line "Please send IISD President and CEO Executive Brief."

Although we appreciate receiving all applications, only those candidates we wish to interview will be contacted.

International Finance Corporation World Bank Group

International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, promotes sustainable private sector investment in developing countries as a way to reduce poverty and improve people's lives. To complement its growing investment, technical assistance and advisory activities, the IFC is looking to recruit one Short Term Consultant in Sana'a, Yemen

About the Project:

As part of its interventions to improve the business environment IFC AS-MENA launched in Yemen a Business Start-Up Simplification Phase 1 project in early 2007. The main aim of the project was to improve business start-up procedures and processes, namely: reduction of time and cost of registration and licensing of businesses. This will in turn have a direct impact on creating a better business environment and consequently, a potential increase in local and foreign private investments in the country.

During IFC's AS-MENA Phase 2 the project will continue to support the Government of Yemen (GoY) in its efforts to simplify and improve the country's business start-up regulations by working with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to improve and streamline the registration procedures and the Ministry of Public Works to improve the building and operational licensing process.

Short Term Consultant

For the purpose of managing the Business Start-Up Simplification project in Yemen under the supervision of the Project Officer, IFC Advisory Services-MENA intends to hire an STC with experience and knowledge of business start-up procedures. The candidate should ideally have both best practice and developing countries' experience to manage the delivery of the afore-mentioned technical assistance activities. His/her immediate responsibilities would focus on implementing the Start-Up project in Sana'a.

Within the framework of the Business Start-Up (BSU) Simplification Project, the STC shall:

- 1. Conduct a mapping exercise for the three components under the BSU project in selected governorates. 2. Make recommendations for simplification/improvement of the mapped processes, in consultation with the concerned public employees. This will include conducting workshops.
- 3. Implement the recommendations in coordination with the concerned public employees.
- Report on project development.
- Maintain strong relationships with senior government officials; and the Private Sector to increase their "buy-in" and their constant understanding and support to the project's objectives.
- 6. Collaborate with the client to ensure that the necessary data for our Monitoring & Evaluation purposes is available. 7. Represent IFC with all clients, and abide by IFC's professional standards and regulations.

Qualifications

- Advanced academic degree in Business Administration, Economics, Law or related field;
- 5 to 7 years relevant technical assistance working experience, preferably in the field of investment climate activities in developing countries
- Knowledge of and practical experience in similar technical assistance projects
- Preferably, previous experience in working with Yemeni senior civil servants
- Preferably, knowledge and understanding of the Yemeni private sector Excellent oral and written communication skills in English, fluency in Arabic is a must
- Capacity to deliver high quality work under pressure.

This position is based in Sana'a with extensive travelling to other governorates.

Interested applicants are requested to send their Curriculum Vitae to WBYemen@worldbank.org by OCT 1st, 2009. No telephone inquiries will be entertained. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.







Congratulates Yemeni people and political leadership on the advent of Ramadan, and would like to inform passengers and clients of the new working hours during Ramadan and Al-Fitr Eid holidays as follows:

First:

Al-Siteen, Hadda, Zubairi, Beer Obaid and Al-**Hasaba Offices:**

A- From Saturday to Wednesday

First shift: From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Second shift: From 9 p.m. to 12 midnight.

B- Thursdays: Al-Siteen office:

First shift: From 12 noon to 3 p.m. Second shift: From 9 p.m. to 12 midnight.

C- Thursdays: Hadda office:

First shift: From 12 a.m. to 3 p.m. Second shift: From 9 p.m. to 12 midnight.

D- Fridays: Al-Siteen office

First shift: From 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 after midnight.

Second:

Special services offices (VIP)-Al-Siteen Road

A- From Saturday to Wednesday

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. First shift: Second shift: From 9 p.m. to one after midnight.

B- Friday: working hours

From 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. First shift: From 9 p.m. to 12 midnight. **Second shift:**

Third

Eid Al-Fitr Holidays (Al-Siteen Road Office)

From 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. First shift: From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Second shift:**





For more information or enquiries call (454545 - 250800)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the UN Fever Clinic

Position: Medical Officer **Duration: 6 months**

Responsibilities:

- Provide medical support and direction for management of clients attending the Fever Clinic for assessment including medical assessment requested by nursing staff
- Provide a consultancy and advisory service for the management of influenza including diagnosis, treatment, contact tracing and investigations
- Contribute to the epidemiological surveillance of influenza in Yemen
- Perform medical examination of clients attending the Fever Clinic as appropriate Supervise the administration of antiviral medication for prophylaxis and post exposure
- Collaborate with the Fever Clinic staff in the overall administration of the Fever Clinic
- Other duties as directed by UN Physician

Qualification

- Bachelor degree in general medicine (MD)
- Minimum 5 years experience in respiratory medicine, general medicine or infectious diseases
- Sound knowledge in assessment and primary care Knowledge of respiratory medicine.
- Fluent in English and Arabic
- Demonstrated computer literacy

Position: Nurse

Duration: 6 months Responsibilities:

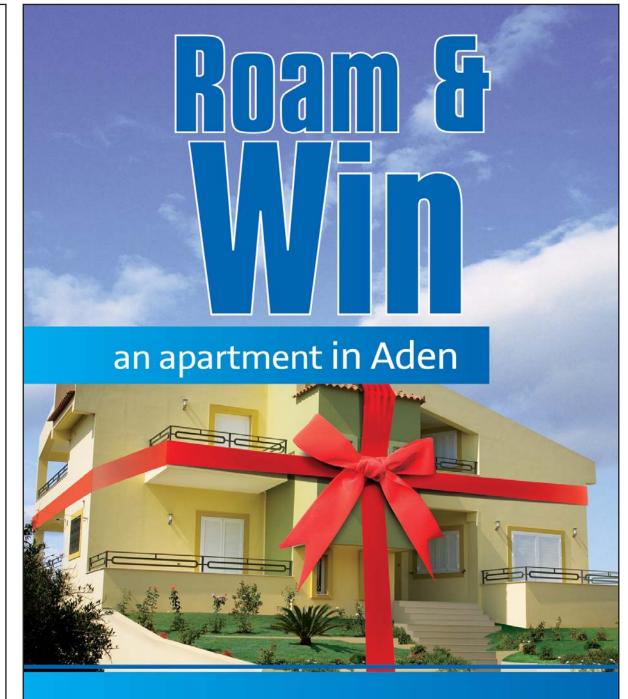
- Manages and directs the provision of care to patients attending the Fever Clinic
- Supports other staff at the Fever Clinic and monitors their care of clients attending the Fever Clinic In consultation with the Medical Officer, oversees the provision of case management planning and facilitates appro-
- priate follow up and contact tracing Responsible for the operation of the Fever Clinic in line with the agreed policies and procedures for clinical management and infection control
- Applies knowledge and skills in the assessment of clients attending the Fever Clinic according to the agreed clinical
- Oversees the data collection and epidemiological surveillance on influenza associated with the operation of the Fever
- Responsible for ensuring, as far as practicable, the provision of a safe working environment in consultation with staff under their supervision
- Practices within infection control guidelines and monitors use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Monitors and ensures availability of supplies and equipment
- Coordinates the shift activities of the Fever Clinic. Responsible for coordinating the timely management of data management and record keeping as required.
- Other duties as directed by Medical Officer
- **Qualification**
- Diploma in nursing
- Minimum 3 years relevant nursing experience
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of methods for controlling and preventing communicable diseases including current infection control principles and practices
- Demonstrated effective communication and interpersonal skills
- Experience in managing a small clinical team environment
- Demonstrated computer literacy
- Basic knowledge of English

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana a/E-mail: (hr.ye@undp.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is Sunday, 20 September 2009

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





- 1. Make sure that you select SabaFon network as your roaming operator when you arrive in Yemen
- 2. Make calls for 20 minutes or send 40 SMS messages during your roaming with SabaFon 3. Be careful not to switch from SabaFon to any other network whilst you are in Yemen lest you will lose
- every chance of entering the draw. 4. If you entered the draw twice, you get the third chance for free from Sabafon.



A club where children kick-box

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

oys and girls aged four to 13 gathered in the gymnasium, giggling in anticipation. As they showed off their moves, two professional trainers divided them into two groups according to age.

The first group of 10 to 13-year-olds easily arranged themselves into a line starting with the shortest and stood to attention. Saleh Ga'afar, main trainer and president of the Yemeni Gymnastics Federation, inspected his athletes.

The second group of younger children slowly organized itself at the instructions of trainer Ibrahim Nasr, the youngest scurrying around like little chipmunks with the trainer at their heels.

The older children started their warm-up exercises, their movements in sync with Ga'afar's barking. That day's training at the International Center for Fitness and Self Defense had begun.

Serious fun

Khairallah Omar is a 13-year-old boy who lives near the center. The moment it opened, he spotted the sign and ventured inside demanding details.

"I want to be a world champion," exclaimed the boy excitedly, untying his shoes to enter the gym. He told his friends about the gym, but not all managed to convince their parents to enroll them.

His friend Sa'ad Khaled, 12, responded to the invitation and joined the group of 20 children enrolled at the

"I told my father to register me, it costs YR 3,000 [USD 15] per month for three days a week," he said. "Each day, we train for two hours, and my father has decided that it is better than playing in the street, especially in summer when there is no school.'

Other than the twenty children enjoying gym classes, another slightly older group of 15 boys and girls are into more serious fun, kickboxing.

The cost of training is kept at a mini-

during the morning hours.

Yemeni culture is not yet open to sports activities for adults, especially women. As the instructor put it, "it takes time."

Rana Abdullatif Al-Suraihi, 11, found out about the gymnastic course and soon she enrolled with her brother and two of her cousins.

"I love sports," she said. "We don't have many activities to do, and especially for girls it is even more difficult. I know that a few years from now, I will not be allowed to come to the gym and play as I do today."

"I wish that there were something similar only for girls," she said.

There is no clear chronological history of Yemeni gymnastics, although a turning point in North Yemen's history was when the minister of youth and sports brought a few Chinese gymnastics coaches to work in Yemen in 1986. South Yemen, being a British colony, was quicker at embracing sports in the early 70s.

"I believe there would have been no



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China: Tel: 00862081367815 - Fax: 00862022374180 - 00862081369937

لبيع الأخاث المكتبي والمنزلي والمدرسي والطب والسيارات وقطع غيارها



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"The center is a place where we spread the spirit of sports among youth, and provide providing an opportunity to identify talents," said Ga'afar, waving his arm around the gym.

"One day I or one of my two colleagues, second gymnastics coach Ibrahim or kick-boxing trainer Ali Al-Swadi will produce world champions from right here."

The center provides training in gymnastics and aerobics for women in the

morning and sessions for children and teenagers and in gymnastics and kickboxing on alternative days three times a week.

It is the first time for the trainers to establish such a center in Sana'a, although the trainers have experience in similar projects in both Algeria and Turkey.

"We therefore know people's needs in this

field," said Ga'afar. "We are gymnastics and kickboxing coaches who came to the center with a high level of expertise.'

mal because the purpose behind the center is to encourage the culture of sports and nurture young talents.

Although the trainers are well renowned in Yemen and around the world, they don't mind training with young children at very low wages.

"I was impressed that my 10-year-old daughter's trainer is a world champion," explained the mother of Nadia Bamoshmoosh who joined the gym for the summer holidays. "You will not

gymnastics in Yemen if it hadn't been for Mohammed Al-Ahgary Secretary General of Yemen's Olympic Committee," said Ga'afar.

Great aspirations

The trainers hope that they can expand the center to become a club. Ga'afar said he hopes that one day the club will be seen as a champion's factory, identifying talents and nurturing them to become world champions.

Next year the plan is to have other branches for the center across the city, prior to expanding to other governorates. The challenge next will be to find qualified and committed coaches, and inform the public about the opportunities the centers offer.

"We are even considering having branches in other countries, hence the name the International Center for Fitness, not the Yemeni or national center," added Ga'afar. "And we will bring gymnas-

tics equipment better than anyone can expect."

Today the main concern for the center's sustainability is lack of external financial support, as the center relies entirely on membership fees.

Notably through a simple monthly

newsletter, the Yemeni Gymnastics Federation is changing Yemeni culture in order to educate Yemenis about this sport and integrate it into their daily lives. The problem with most Yemeni's attitude towards sports, explains Ga'afar, is that they think of it in terms of competitions only and not as a regular habit of daily life.

"You will not find people running in the early morning," he said. "Even outside the cities, you will find them sitting and chewing gat."

The center was a lifebuoy to some parents who wanted their children to enjoy an active healthy life.

Abdulraouf Al-Rubasi is the father of Hamza, 9, who joined the center recently. He saw the sign on his way to work one day and decided to seize the oppor-

"Hamza has become less hyperactive at home. I don't allow my children to play in the streets and they have so much energy at home during the summer. Now, with this center, my son is learning healthy habits and using his energy in a constructive way."

Al-Rubasi commented that the hall needs better ventilation especially when the number of children increases, and hoped that more branches are opened so that more people can access this facili-

A word of advice

'If we need more healthy people we need to spread the importance of sport," emphasized Ga'afar.

He added that the sports industry in Yemen is underrated and over looked. News on sports in the newspapers, radio or TV talk about material gains whether money or titles and do not talk about the importance of sports and its value to the society.

"Open a club, close a hospital," says Ga'afar, explaining that if Yemen had

more gymnastics and sports, people would be healthier and not need hospitals. He encouraged Yemeni youth to let go of the sedentary life style and look for places where they can professionally learn how to take part in sports. As for those who aspire to take part in championships, his advice was two words: hard work.

"You must be persistent and work hard because nothing comes easily, but you must also avoid injuries by doing sports the right way and under supervision of a professional trainer," he explained, adding that good nutrition and good sleep are also essential.

Parents who see talents in their children should enroll them in professional sports clubs even as early as four years old, so that they can absorb the sport from an early age, said Ga'afar. He however warned that the trainer should be prepared to deal with children at very young ages.

About the trainers



Saleh Ga'afar was the first Yemeni gymnastic professional to participate as a judge in the World Gymnastics Championships. He has been a gymnastics judge in Yemen since 2006, two years after he obtained his diploma in gymnastics coaching from Hungary. Last year he was elected as the president of the Yemeni Gymnastics

Federation. Not only has he worked with Yemeni teams, but he has also worked as an instructor in Turkey. In addition to Arabic, he speaks English, French and Turkish and has used his language skills to translate international publications on gymnastics into Arabic in order to benefit the Yemeni sports community. He is the creator and manager of a website on gymnastics, www.gombaznet.com



Ali Dawod Al-Swadi won the second place in the World Kickboxing Championships in 1999. He won the Algeria's National Aerobics Championship, and held the title of Kickboxing Champion in Algeria three established kickboxing in Yemen. Today he is vice president of Yemeni Boxing and Kickboxing Federation and a representative of the World Pan-Amateur Kickboxing Association.



Ibrahim Nasr has black belt in kickboxing, black belt in taekwondo and a black belt in judo. He was a member of the Yemeni national gymnastics team and he is the kickboxing expert in the Yemeni Boxing and Kickboxing Federation.

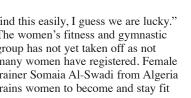


Somaia Al-Swadi has been a gymnastics trainer for seven years. She availed her diploma from the Gymnastics Union of Algeria where she is from, and has participated in various aerobics and gymnastics training courses in many clubs in Algeria. In Yemen she has trained women police officers in the special guards and is personal train-

times. He coached for six years in ers for some of the prominent families in Yemen. Along Algeria. He was a member of the with gymnastics she teaches various dancing techniques, Yemeni national gymnastics team and weight loss and aerobics.



find this easily, I guess we are lucky." The women's fitness and gymnastic group has not yet taken off as not many women have registered. Female trainer Somaia Al-Swadi from Algeria trains women to become and stay fit













Sa'ada Thoughts is a series of reflections on life and people in Sa'ada from an independent perspective, written by a nurse from the Philippines who had been working in Sa'ada for two years. He could be reached at levy9ph2000@yahoo.com.

Ramadan in Sa'ada

By: Marion Patrick T. Lavilla, R.N.

inally, the long wait is over; Ramadan knocks on every Muslim's door. Normally, the streets would be filled with stalls selling candies, dates, nuts, t-shirts, tokens and so forth. Hotels and lampposts would be decorated with colored lights, blinking and entertaining the young and old. In the morning, most people would be staying indoors to rest and prepare for the festivities at night. The temperature also starts to drop because the "-ber" months come and greet both the Muslim and Christian holidays. Winter clothes would also be available in shops.

These are only a few of the things I can remember when Ramadan comes. Although I don't usually go out and spend all night walking with friends during Ramadan, I enjoy the dinner following the cannon fired when people initiate the meals around a quarter to seven in the evening; but that was

This year, it is gloomy and depressing. We can't go out because of security reasons, I haven't seen colored lights other than the occasional lamp post emitting a reverie of the old days, and the saddest story of all, people are bringing rechargeable flashlights to light their path because they don't have electricity. It is sad indeed when you are supposed to initiate the first meal without cold water to quench your thirst or eat that delicious meal with a bright light together with your family.

Anyway, a candle could be a romantic symbol against the darkness creeping outside your garden or veranda. You should only be careful to blow it out or put it in a safe place because otherwise you might spend all of Ramadan in the hospital or even lose a loved one because the curtains caught fire while everyone was asleep. While some can afford a motor for electricity, most people in Sa'ada would be spending their fasting and feasting in total darkness according to the news, over 120,000 refugees are scattered all over the city inside tents, trucks and automobiles or crowded in their relative's houses.

Ramadan is all about suffering and finding happiness. In Sa'ada, although people are cramped up in their homes or automobiles, the meaning and value of this holy month is still present in the hearts of these people. The moment the cannons are fired to indicate that fasting is over, people gather in a corner and share their blessings.

In Yemen, economic status is not thought of much while feasting, and most people are very generous. The government should campaign about unity during this holy month because people think less of themselves while sharing a common interest – fasting and feasting. Sa'ada as a city and province would celebrate Ramadan in a different

The lavish preparations in Sana'a and Aden can be exciting. In Sa'ada, the simplicity and their genuine touch can be both sentimental and moving. Especially during evening duties, Muslim employees would bring homemade food and brag about their mom or aunt's cooking. It is exciting to taste Yemeni dishes made in households because I always believed it is different compared to fast food. And in most places in Sa'ada, the restaurants are closed because their employees travel back to their towns to celebrate the holy month together with their families.

I miss going out and chatting with my friend who owns a mataam, or restaurant. He knows how to speak English and I enjoy the evenings talking about politics, my hospital life and work with shahi and basil. Sometimes he would concoct guava juice from his sole tree in the garden. I haven't been able to meet him since my closest friend left for Malaysia to study.

Ramadan won't be the same without these people. My nightly watch outside of the window is my moment to reflect about the things happening to my life in Sa'ada. When I see lights moving from a distance, I imagine men accompanying their pregnant wives towards the hospital or an elderly lady being accompanied by her children because of rheumatism, or worse, an acute problem that needs immediate treatment. The fickle minded and doubtful might ask, "Where is God when you needed him?" But for most people in Sa'ada, it is all part of Allah's machination. And what would Ramadan be if there were no challenges?

An ICU doctor

By: Sami Ghaleb

he family of the late Dr. Derhem Al-Rashedi did the right thing when they decided to bury him next Friday. The case is now entrusted to the judiciary and has become the focus of many Yemenis both in Yemen and abroad as well as the focus of national and international human rights and civil society organizations.

More importantly, the move is consistent with the family's civilized, discreet and steadfast attitude since the crime occurred last December when a deceased patient's relatives broke into the University of Science and Technology Hospital's ICU and assaulted Al-Rashedi. One of the assailants stabbed Al-Rashedi in the

The attackers left the hospital, whose management did nothing to defend one of its best doctors, while the slain man dragged himself to the operations section on the same floor, where he might have been saved.

Midway to the operations section, the doctor fell and his heart almost stopped. When his coworkers finally moved him to the operations theater, he had lost considerable amounts of blood, and despite undergoing open heart surgery, he died two weeks later.

Killing a Yemeni doctor is a serious loss for society. In Al-Rashedi's case, the murderers killed and are still killing many values this man embodied in his personal and professional life. They killed a success story of a self-made, diligent, noble and patriotic man.

In a society that flounders in the swamp of fanaticism and ignorance and where immunity is for the knights – the knights of robbery, forgery, kidnapping and smuggling – punishing the killers of an ordinary man is a controversial

For eight months the martyr's family withstood cheap maneuvers and haggling from all sides while grasping at their right to bring the murderers to

However, killing in Yemen is a matter of point of view. As the superiors of the state say, killing is an ordinary thing and "a lifestyle." Therefore, the government considers claims for rehabilitation and defense as mere provincial bias and partisan

Al-Rashedi's family had to issue some 20 statements to the feeble public, whose opinion constantly succumbs to ignorance and chauvinism, as a means to tell us the obvious: that security should perform their duties!

And because the concept of citizenship is strange in a country that is decomposing into tribalism, the victim was named "Al-Qadasi" (Al-Rashedi is from Qadas, Taiz). This was a preliminary step to distribute his blood among the murderers' tribe and, if necessary, among the brotherly and supporting tribes.

During a certain phase, it seemed that some parties in the authority decided to invest in the citizen/doctor's blood out of politics and popularity and not out of justice. Instead of seizing the main suspect and the people who covered for him (and these are known well to security forces), a security detachment went to his village and blew up his house in order to silence the dead man' relatives.

For eight months, the doctor, in his capacity as a martyr, continued to diagnose the diseases of his society and the management of his hospital that

held back from defending one of their workers. They had even turned a deaf ear to previous offenses in the hospital.

Al-Rashedi's case exposed the flaws of the Yemeni elites and showed that calls for urbanism, rights and change are nothing more than words, or at best, modern weapons in the hands of tribes.

It was deeply shocking when some members of parliament, human rights activists and tribal sheiks from Al-Baidha, Mareb and Ibb convened for the strangest of purposes: confronting Taizi invasions in response to the government's loathsome procedure of blowing up the main suspect's house.

Al-Rashedi's case proved the brittleness of Yemeni partisan powers and the absence of differences among them. Those who have the dead man's blood on their hands are in the government and the opposition alike.

It is important to note that the main suspect has sought refuge with a prominent Islah leader. Despite the fact that this information is mentioned in the interrogation minutes of the captured accomplices, the Ministry of Interior settled for warning against any solidarity events supporting Al-Rashedi's family. This is because, they said, any such gatherings might scare the felons away and prevent them from turning themselves in. However, at that time the ministry officials were in the process of negotiating with the killers!

What is amazing is that the powerful Islah sheikh mentioned above issued a statement last May expressing his solidarity with the independent newspapers being repressed by authorities, upon which newspapers and web sites belonging to the JMP hurried to polish his image as a supporter of freedoms.

Source: Newsyemen

What we wish the government to say

By: Naser Taha Mustafa

he speech made by Prime Minister Dr. Ali Mujawar in front of parliament last week came from the depths of his soul. It showed sincerity and a deep perception of the dangers posed by the calls for division made by some southern movement elements in governorates in the south. The same honesty could be seen in his talk about the Houthis and Al-Qaeda. However, I would like to review the part about the southern movement, whose discourse could only be described as destructive. They are not demanding their legitimate rights within the framework of our constitution and law. They refuse to operate under the umbrella of the united country fought for by our father and forefathers alike.

The importance of Mujawar's speech stems from the fact that it presents a realistic image of the eastern

and southern governorates that tasted the bitterness of division and came to appreciate unity in the long term, even if they suffer from hard conditions at present. Mujawar spoke out of familiarity of the past and not out of courtesy. For those who don't know the man, he is upright and honest with firm noble values and principles in addition to having a good-natured personality. Therefore, he does not need to play the hypocrite or say what he does not believe in to anyone. Moreover, Mujawar is not politicized so to speak, because he is an academic of the technocrat category who is fond of literature, particularly poetry. He was also a man who while preparing his doctorate degree in France had witnessed efforts among the 'comrades' in the former south before unity long enough to realize their disastrous consequences. He came back to Yemen and started teaching at Aden University during the first year of the foundation of the Republic of Yemen.

He went up the academic and administrative hierarchy to the top of executive power thanks to his competency and good reputation.

The prime minister was right when he said that those who want to secede from the unified nation in the name of rights and land extortion cases are the same people who sought secession back in 1994 when none of these cases were discussed. This means that the whole issue is in principle the desire to divide and tear up the nation. Nevertheless, we should not put all separatists in the same boat. Some people seek to claim their rights while holding to unity, and some demand those rights while playing the unity card as a means of political pressure, although this is not permissible. There are even some people to whom rights are of no importance and they use them as a pretext to divide the country and turn back time to 1990 and

I believe that it is very crucial to employ transparency when dealing with cases that caused the current situation in the eastern and southern governorates in order to stop and silence those who are inciting people against unity.

I also believe that land extortion cases have been – and still are – more like a mystery for most people. Most are unable to differentiate the truths from the lies because such information spread through gossip, just like the so-called compulsory retirement of military personnel following the 1994 war. Therefore, many of our issues are spread by rumors and they are judged by people who are not sure of their authenticity. Transparency may defuse mines, reassure people and silence those who have misled people and presented false notions.

I wish that Mujawar's government would give this matter the attention it deserves, because, and I can swear to this, instigation among people is far more harmful and dangerous than what is published in newspapers and websites. Isn't it time we realized this



Tourism in the Age of Terrorism: Malaysian ideas to Yemen

he dawning of the Age of Terrorism presents a serious multifaceted problem to the tourism sector in the Middle East. In fact, the repercussions of the hysterical post September 11 world were strongly felt not only in activities directly associated with tourism, e.g. Airlines, hotels and catering, but also in all sectors of national economy in many countries in the region. Because tourism is strongly connected with a large number of other socio-economic activities, attacks on tourism sector may wipe out a group of secondary industries. For the following two main reasons, terrorism often targets the tourism sector to pursue its politico-ideological interests. First, tourists are easy targets. Second, tourism is highly media oriented and terror groups seek publicity. It is worth mentioning here that from a historical point of view terrorism is much older than modern mass tourism. The latter requires stability and tranquility, while terrorism seeks public disorder, instability and violence.

In Yemen, the economic ramifications of terror attacks, domestic political violence and tribal kidnapping have damaged many local communities, shake the fragile tourism industry, and deprived Yemen's central government from badly needed foreign exchange earnings. In addition to its important role in reducing Yemen's balance of payments deficits, tourism revenues have a positive impact on employment, diversifying the national economy, and on reducing the heavy reliance on the declining oil production. Bearing in mind that the Yemeni state's capacity for revenue-raising is so limited to the extent that tax revenues form less than 10% of GDP, and that the private sector is underdeveloped, losses in Yemen's tourism sector carry with them a high degree of damage to economic growth. What to do in order to stimulate tourism in Yemen under the current unfavorable security, political and economic conditions?

With this question in mind, I went to meet the representative of the Malaysian government in Sana'a, Ambassador Abdul Samad Othman. My choice of Malaysia as a teacher for Yemen's tourism sector is obvious-it's a successful multi-ethnic, multicultural, multi-religious Muslim country, which is in the list of top popular travel destinations. On its independence from British colonial rule in 1957, Malaysia was grouped in the category of least developed countries. But today, as they celebrate their 52nd anniversary, Malaysians have every right to take pride in the progress and development that their country has achieved. Malaysia's model of modernization and prosperity in all sectors, including the tourism one, has been considered a 'miracle'. However, Ambassador Abdul Samad prefers to see it as the result of shedding sweat, and a well elaborated long term strategy that took into consideration the international, regional and national factors in promoting a diversified package of tourist activities. For instance, the Malaysian government was the first to make use of international media in marketing the colorful and exotic image of the country. On the other hand, at the regional front, Malaysia succeeded in turning itself into an affordable attractive site for golfing and medical treatment for Japanese and Korean tourists. A recent press release by the Malaysian Ministry of Tourism shows that tourist arrivals in the period from January to May 2009 totaled 9.4 millions. According to Ambassador Abdul Samad, there are four main factors behind such an impressive success of Malaysia's tourism sector: visionary leadership, political stability, security and infrastructure.

One of the very interesting ideas I heard from the Malaysian Ambassador regarding the activating of tourist flows to Yemen is the promotion of religious tourism, either as an independent activity or as a part of the pilgrim package to Mecca and Medina. Such a type of tourism, which is primarily motivated by religious reasons, is indeed not tapped in Yemen. The idea makes sense to me. Today, travel for faith is growing into a new niche, and many people are attempting to escape, for a while, from the materialist reality of their everyday activities. According to the World Tourism Organization, more than 330 million pilgrims visit the world key religious sites every year. A good example of An Arab country that fully realizes the importance of the market for faith-based tourism is Jordan. As a place that is featured prominently throughout the Bible, much of Jordan's tourism is based on famous biblical locations and figures. Pakistan, on the other hand, is an example of a Muslim country that is attempting to cash in on tourist arrivals from India. The Pakistani Department for Tourism and Resorts Development is currently promoting religious tourism across the Punjab Province due to the increasing number of religious pilgrims visiting Sufi shrines and Hindu temples.

As one of the experts on international tourism put it: Living with terrorism in the 21st century is a given these days, and while many travelers may appear more cautious, most are continuing with their travel plans. The government of Yemen has increased security in the form of armed escorts for foreign travelers. It is even planning to develop a satellite system to track tourist vehicles. This is not enough though to attract tourists to Yemen. What is required; however, is a long-term successful strategy that should be inspired and guided by successful strategies such as the one adopted by Malaysia.

Accepting bribery in the broad day of Ramadan? No Pay me a visit at night! By Hamid

YEMEN TIMES

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Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company (SEPOC)



Leadership program graduates to lead the company forward



As part of its drive to boost the talents of its employees, Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company (SE-POC) last year enrolled 45 promising managers in the first-ever executive leadership development program in the

The program was led by international management consulting firm Franklin Covey, founded by leadership trainer and author of The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Dr. Steven R. Covey, and tailored to meet the specific needs of Yemen's first national oil and gas

Key components of the course focused on being proactive, setting long-term goals, learning from bad decisions, communicating effectively, prioritizing, and increasing effectiveness.

"We are building on the most important assets of the company which are vou," said SEPOC Executive General Manager Mr Mohammed Al-Haj at the program's graduation last Wednesday. "You are the real assets of the com-

"Nothing can be more important to our future than preparing the

the right skills, at the right time and in the right place," he wrote in the company's August newsletter.

staff and lead the company to success after success," he said. "By you, the company will succeed. By you, it will

Manager, first heard he and fellow managers would go on a week-long retreat We are now determined to build the course, he had nightmare visions of the

The Franklin planner, an efficient diin Mukalla as part of the leadership ary, takes into account the whole person, said Cozzens, health, sport and the family. Although each participant was company collapsing in their absence. But it did not. given this planner, they now mostly use the same system on a computer with



tance within that plan as the workplace.

fail. It is up to you to make it succeed." "One of the most enjoyable things in life is to see the development of other human beings," said trainer Mr Ali Bouhouch, who commuted from the Franklin Covey Middle East offices in Dubai to see his students discuss new ideas and blossom throughout the pro-

Mr Bouhouch particularly praised Deputy Executive General Manager Mr Abdulruhman Al-Akwaa for his continuous presence throughout the program as an

lenged by his colleagues. Between speeches and the screening of a short inspirational film by leadership guru Dr. Stephen R. Covey, SEPOC's first 33 graduates stepped up onto the podium to re-

equal, his desire to learn and ask

questions, and even to be chal-

"I would like to thank SEPOC for the opportunity to enhance my and my colleagues' skills," said Production and Operations Manager Mr Khaled Amer, who had been with the company for 19 years.

ecive their diplomas.

Another graduate, Production Superintendent Mr Mohammad Al-Tholaya, said that the most useful tip he had learnt during the eight-month development program was how to organize his time, something he now applies throughout his

Building trust

When Mr Hasan Al-Kohlani, Quality, Health, Safety, Security, and Environment

Instead, he came back feeling that he had learnt to know his colleagues better and invigorated with new ideas. The course was well-constructed and, throughout, he gathered his colleagues and explained to them all he had learnt,

He gave his fellow workers the key he was rated in what they words for the concepts he had been in-Iroduced to and they looked up the rest on the internet themselves, he said.

It was all in the spirit of transparency and trust. In Yemen if a man is honest and respectful, he will earn your trust, explained Mr Al-Kohlani, but the course shone new light on the concept. Trusting someone, suddenly, was making him competent.

"Trust your colleagues, and they will trust you," added Mr Abdullah Al-Hashedi, training specialist at Safer, as well as graduate and coordinator of the

At work, and in the family

But the concept of trust also applies to one's private life. As a leap of faith, Mr Al-Hashedi left his house key with his neighbor and landlord when he went away on holiday with his family to Taiz this year, something he had never done

"He was very surprised," he said. When the landlord went on holiday later on, he in turn left his key with Mr Al-Hashedi. Trust built up between them, and his landlord now jokes about them being one happy family, he said.

"Before it was all work, work, work," he said. "But now family is one of the big rocks in life."

Organize your time carefully, said Mr Mel Cozzens, Human Resources and Workforce Development Adviser, but make sure that your family and your health are given just as much impor-

Microsoft Outlook.

Going dot-com

To make sure that each leader-in-training received faithful feedback on his trustworthiness and leadership skills at the beginning and end of the course, SEPOC is moving forward: "I promise

called a "360 degree assessment" by all of his boss, peers, and subordi-

All assessment was done online, which pushed the company's senior managers to grapple with computers to master them once and for all. They can now lead their subordinates into a new era of training and skill development online, said Cozzens. When a new program is installed, the old videos previously used for training will he tossed in the bin, and the company can surf into the 21st century modern digitalized information sharing, he said. "It's paradigm

shift for

in the

do online technical training," said Mr Cozzens, who explained that employees can now surf the net and download the information they need to perfect and update their skills.

Taking good decisions

The leadership course with its various online exercises will pave the way for the implementation of the company's new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, something IT Director Mr Ronnie Arnold describes as "the computer system that will run the heart of the company."

"The leadership program has given the management team a set of tools and methods, the ERP gives them a solid set of data to take good business decisions," said Mr Amold.

"The overall aim of SEPOC's executive leadership development program is to provide SEPOC with a pool of highlymotivated all-rounded leaders to meet the future challenges of the organization's changing environment," said the company in a recent press release.

you, we will succeed," said Executive



Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training Dr. Ibrahim Omar Hugari to the Yemen Times:

"When a plumber or an electrician earns more than someone who holds a PhD and still not many Yemenis want to learn vocational skills, you know there is a mentality problem."

The standard rule is that, for every academic, there should be twenty vocational professionals. But in Yemen, we have the opposite, as the number of Yemenis with academic qualifications is at least ten times greater than those with vocational training or technical skills. Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training Dr. Ibrahim Omar Hugari for more information on the situation of technical education in Yemen.

here are more than 200,000 Yemeni youth registered with the civil services who are waiting for government jobs, but each year only 11,000 job opportunities are available. Some have been waiting for more than nine years.

At the same time, there are thousands of Yemenis graduating from secondary schools and heading off to the universities or vocational institutions for further study in order to enhance their chances in the working world. Last year 160,000 students graduated from high school. However, universities can only accommodate 55,000 new students every year, and the various vocational education and community colleges can take on less than 9,000 students. This leaves more than 96,000 school graduates with no working skills and no opportunities for further education.

Even those who enroll in universities are not guaranteed a place in the job market. Unemployment in Yemen exceeds 47 percent of the popultation of productive ageß, and is increasing every year.

"There are degree holders, even people with masters and PhD degrees, still waiting for government jobs. A total paradigm shift needs to happen in Yemeni labor and career development

encourage young people to look beyond government jobs.

"With regards to attracting the youth of Yemen to choosing a career in the vocational and technical sector, we are working on three fronts," Hugari stat-

"First, we are showing them the real life experiences and unemployment records which prove that almost all those with vocational skills are getting good jobs or are generating better income than those with university degrees. The other issue is promoting available jobs in the Gulf market and especially in Saudi Arabia, as we know that there is a demand for skilled labor from Yemen. And finally, we are creating a partnership with the private sector in order to identify their needs in terms of manpower. From there, we arrange for employment from our graduates," he said.

The ministry has created a website in which the data and contacts of all graduates since 2007 are registered so anyone interested in finding qualified professionals can access the data and contact the graduates. The ministry also organizes regular tours for companies from the private sector to visit the various technical and vocational institutions in order to help businessmen identify their needs directly from the available workforce.



Hugari: The low level of general education and high unemployment rate among its graduates only proves that there is an urgent need to reform the educational sector. But it also proves that vocational education is an attractive alternative, especially since those who enroll in this field are there for the skills and not for degrees or certificates.

first time ever, the ministry has created a sector for girls' education and training with the purpose of increasing women's enrollment in technical and vocational education.

"You would be surprised at the success we achieved in this issue. We started a vocational training center for girls in Nuqum area, which is a very conservative and traditional part of Sana'a. Now we can't catch up with the applications for studying at the center," Hugari said.

The ministry has five projects to enhance women's integration in this sector in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Lahj. This year there were 1,559 girls enrolled in the technical education sector, compared to 10,056 male vocational students which makes girls enrollment 13.4 percent of the total students.

Moreover, the ministry works closely with the local councils and private sectors around the country in order to bridge the gap between technical educational products and market demand. There is a national consultative council headed by the minister himself which includes members from the chambers of commerce, labor unions, business companies and local councils.

The consultative council meets once every three months to identify better means for cooperation and how to better cater to market demand. It also has branches at the governorate level, but these are headed by the local councils instead of government.

"The purpose of the council and its branches is to relate technical education to real life," said the minister. "You will notice that a school in Sana'a is very much the same as a school in Taiz or Hodeidah but a technical or vocational institute is special and has to be designed according to the local needs.

"For example, we will establish a vocational training center in Aden focusing on fisheries and ships maintenance, but in Hadramout we will provide education relating to bee hives and making honey. This is why we consult with local councils and businesses before we start on any new project, and this is why we have been quite successful in promoting girl's vocational education so far."

Before the start of any new project, the ministry carries out a feasibility study in coordination with the consultative council on the national and especially on the local levels. The feedback from the community directs the establishment and syllabus taught, and shows the kind of teachers and students needed to make the center a success

Quality assurance

One of the main concerns of the ministry, explained Hugari, is ensuring that the education provided through the institutes is of high quality.

"It is a complete cycle including buildings and equipment, teachings materials and curricula and finally the teachers themselves," he said. "For example, we have to make sure that the

people teaching at the institutes are qualified. If the teachers don't understand the workings of vocational training, how can they produce good graduates?

"We have a saying that academics are '2H,' standing for head and heart, while vocational professionals are '3H': they work with their head, heart and hand," he noted.

The ministry controls the quality of syllabi taught, which is the responsibility of the training department inside the ministry.

"We have more than 400 reference materials for the various disciplines, and we keep updating them in order to ensure our students learn skills at international standards," Hugari said. "Vocational technology advances so quickly, and so instead of having books for the various subjects we have chapters. When we need to update the subject we just change the chapter and not the whole book, which saves us money and is more efficient."

There are local and international inspectors that visit the various centers on a regular basis to assess the level of education as well as the teachers and students' performance. The issue with vocational education, explains Hugari, is that you can't have any sort of overload in classrooms because it is practical training and not theoretical, like in schools and universities.

"You have to have a certain number of machines and a certain number of students learning to operate these machines," he said. "It's not like a classroom where you can have 20 or 60 students but the same lecture and the same effort from the teacher regardless of the number."

This practicality, in his opinion, is a positive point in terms of quality assurance in the vocational education sector. Therefore, there is an almost 100 percent guarantee that those students will find jobs or even start their own businesses.

Some of the students have had offers to work in other countries, especially in the gulf. "I know that there is demand for Yemeni skilled labor because the job applicants come to the ministry to endorse their certificates," Hugari confirmed.

This is why there is an even stronger desire to improve the level of education and give the students various skills so that they can compete in international markets.

In lieu of this, the ministry has many programs where it cooperates with donors such as the German, British or Japanese governments. In cooperation with the British Council, a new program called "Skills for Employability" was established this year in which vocational education students learn basic computer and English skills to be able to perform their job better when they graduate.

"Students understand that it is not enough to learn the 'know-how' – they also have to know enough English for the terminology and computer skills to efficiently communicate with people in other countries. This is why we intro-

duced these two subjects in the syllabus and we appreciate the support we get from the British Council in this issue," said Hugari.

International Organization also supported the ministry through the Small & Micro-Enterprise Promotion Service Agency to introduce the subject 'Know About Business' in the syllabi of some of the vocational centers. KAB is an entrepreneurship development training program launched by the International Labor Organization (ILO) for teachers of vocational education and secondary education. The program consists of 120 hours of coursework for young students between the ages of 15 to 18 years old. KAB is currently being taught in three centers in three gover-

Further expansion

According to the minister, the demand to join the vocational sector is increasing significantly, and currently only one in three applicants can be accommodated in the existing 87 centers and seven community colleges.

There are 70 projects for creating either new vocational establishments or expanding existing ones. Eleven community colleges are currently under construction and 34 new vocational training centers are almost ready for use. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

scholarships of these students. Last year 166 students were sent on scholarships as compared to 187 in 2007.

This year 169 students have been given scholarships to study various vocational education disciplines abroad.

The ministry is working on expanding the number of vocational education establishments as well as increasing the number of specializations. Some gilr-specific specializations have been created in order to encourage the community to let girls into this sector. These include multimedia, kindergarten and child day care, interior design, cosmetics and hair dressing.

However, the minister emphasized that despite its importance, technical education is not enough to solve Yemen's employment problem.

"No matter how much we expand, there are only so many students we can take. We need to make sure that the quality of general education is improved so that Yemeni youth become more resourceful in their career development," Hugari said.

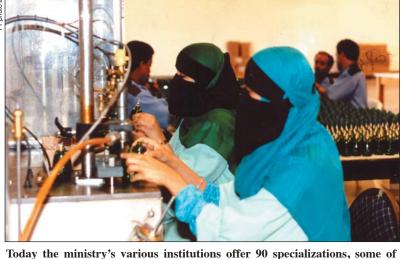
He insisted that students should be taught related skills in their main curriculum in schools. "After twelve years of learning in schools, other than knowing how to read and write, young people graduate with no marketable skills at all. This is a problem we need to rectify urgently," he said.

Skills he suggested include languages, computers and secretary or office organizational work. Students enrolling in the vocational sector could join after finishing the ninth grade and then study for two years to get a prehigh school vocational education diploma, or for three years to get a secondary education degree in vocational education. The other option is that they join a vocational school after completing high school. Instead of going to university, they either study for two years for vocational education diploma, or study for three years in community colleges.

Hugari commented that for both technical and university education, good basic education is key to the success of students. "If you have a strong basic education, you ensure an efficient educational system at all levels and disciplines," he said.

The low level of general education and high unemployment rate among its graduates only proves that there is an urgent need to reform the educational sector. But it also proves that vocational education is an attractive alternative, especially since those who enroll in this field are there for the skills and not for degrees or certificates.

We are proud of our students and



Today the ministry's various institutions offer 90 specializations, some of which are dedicated to women. For the first time ever, the ministry has created a sector for girls' education and training with the purpose of increasing women's enrollment in technical and vocational education.

culture," said Dr. Ibrahim Omar Hugari, Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training.

There are 87 vocational institutes and centers and seven community colleges distributed across 19 governorates in Yemen. A total of 24,691 students, mostly men, are enrolled in these educational establishments. In addition, there are around 416 students on government scholarships studying abroad. Every year this sector sees around 8,500 vocational professionals graduate

The ministry has a plan, according to Hugari, to change the mentality towards technical education and to

"It often happens that a businessman discovers a solution to one of his problems right here in the vocational sector. Many times students sign job contracts even before they graduate," said Hugari.

Encouraging women

Not only does the ministry work on changing the general mentality towards technical education in Yemen, it also has a specific component regarding women's integration in the vocational training job market.

Today the ministry's various institutions offer 90 specializations, some of which are dedicated to women. For the

In order to prepare qualified teachers for the newly-established center, 416 scholars are currently studying abroad on grants from the Yemeni government and will become teachers in these new establishments.



The demand to join the vocational sector is increasing significantly, but currently only one in three applicants can be accommodated in the existing 87 centers and seven community colleges.

has funded 18 of those centers located in various governorates.

"We realized that the new centers would need new qualified teachers and so we hope that the 416 scholars currently studying abroad will come back and fill this need," said the minister.

These students are being educated in fourteen countries, mainly in Lebanon, Syria, Algeria, Malaysia, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, China, Morocco and India. Fewer numbers are sent to European countries such as Germany, Britain and Holland. Both the Ministry of Technical Education and the Vocational Training and Ministry of Higher Education are sponsoring the

see the future of the country in their hands. For the 2007 graduation celebration, we held a competition for the best project proposal and we were impressed at the ideas that our students proposed," Hugari said.

He is hoping to be able to carry out a similar completion where the best five projects from each governorate compete for an award. So far it's only an idea, but with the required support and resources he is sure the projects will create a buzz. "Yemenis are smart and have great talents. They need a good environment to nurture them and this is what we are trying to do," Hugari said.





Al-Saleh Social Foundation for Development



قال تعالى

(لَن تَنَالُواْ البِرَّ حَتَّى تُنفِقُواْ مِمَّا تُحَبُونَ)



Ramadhan the month of kindness and giving

Food Support Project

Account number 42 Al-Tadhamun Islamic International Bank

Short Story: The Hungry Jaws Series by Kais Al-Iriani

Publicized, not hidden

By: Kais Aliriani

ublicized corruption! How can you publicize corruption in any country? How can you publicize corruption in a country like Yemen, where we have so many democratic institutions that are supposed to correct this? It is happening in

You could take a walk or ride in a car down Hadda Street, Zubeiry Street or any other main street in Sana'a. It is crowded, yes, but not just the streets. The walls are crowded with hundreds of signs, and every day there

project I established. I thought it was

a good way to attract attention to it, and I thought of this as a good way to market it. What stopped me? It was the cost. The sign would cost about 1 million rivals per year in advertisement fees. I decided not to do it.

Now let's go back to the streets. Let's take another walk down Hadda I once wanted to put up a sign for a Street. WOW, how much is the government making from just these signs

alone? 100 million riyals, or a billion even...? The profits must be huge.

But this is wrong! Just go and check government records. But it is not only that. You need to know that these ugly and annoying signs and billboards are not even allowed, yet they are there, hundreds of them. Publicized corruption.

Keep it shut! (Part II)

By: Mohammed Aish Hejash

he small kid felt relieved when he saw his mom and knew that the reason for

his terror was the big cat.

She made her way back to her room, recollecting what had happened. The father of the house was still outside working to make a buck because the family was used to living from hand to

The candlelight was fading moment after moment, which made her decide to save the light till her husband got back home. She blew out the candle regardless of what was coming next...!

The room went dark and the only thing visible to her was the dead light coming from the window. The clock was ticking away, "tick tock tick tock." A glimmer of lightning broke through the room, then another thunderclap gave her the creeps, filling her with fear and horror. Her eyes started overflowing with tears of loneliness and helplessness. "Tick tock tick tock"

(Previously on Keep It Shut!)

It was almost midnight when she heard her son s screams crying out for help. Then a clap of thunder exploded, making the poor mother run towards her son 's small room. The house was getting darker as she moved upstairs holding a small piece of lighted candle which broke through the darkness and lit her way to the source of terror. She stepped into the room trying to find out what was going on. Her son was rolling right and left under his comforter and calling her when she entered his room, but then she saw the big furry cat playing on the floor. She was amazed by the ridiculous scene, scolding him and telling him to stop acting like a baby.

were becoming annoying and unnerving sounds at that time. "Are these someone's footsteps?" she fearfully

Second after second and minute after minute, and the man of the house was nowhere to be found. Another glimmer of lightning reflected the shadow of the big tree outside the house, which made her think deeply of being haunted by evil spirits.

She began cracking her cold small fingers and impatiently glancing at the window. As soon as one more glimmer flashed, the man of her dreams dashed in and the fear of the unknown was smashed. It was a flash of hope, a source of protection and a sign of completion. It was simply that her man returned home so that she would no longer feel alone.

The hard working man brought dinner with him and kindly asked his wife to heat it up because it was already cold. He also told her that he had got a pretty amount of money that day which allowed him to buy a new cell phone. He kept her company on the way to the kitchen and then told her that he wanted to take a bath and freshen up. He left his cell phone on the kitchen table and went to the bathroom.

The night was dim and the only light was the candlelight. As she finished heating up dinner and started shutting the door of the kitchen, she heard

strange voices coming from inside. "Hahahahahahahaha," was heard - a terrifying sound. It was the sound of terrible laughter which made her feel like a chicken with its head cut off. Again the same laughter was heard, "Hahahahahahahah."

"Hahahahahahah." This time, the terrible laughter accompanied by fading lights was coming from the kitchen's window. "They're inside the kitchen!!" she fearfully thought. As the sound kept resounding in her ears, a strong clap of thunder broke the silence of the house into a terrible scream and a call of helplessness echoed throughout the whole neighborhood. "Help! Help!"

Her husband rushed to the scene to find out what on the earth had happened. He saw her standing in front of the kitchen, shivering and saying, "There is an evil spirit inside our kitchen! Come on and hear it yourself!" The sound of laughter came again and when he heard it, he said, "Mmmmmm! Evil spirit! This is my new cell phone's ring tone. It's beautiful, isn't it?" he asked with a smile.

A teacher's point of view Qualification: **Bachelor degree from Thamar University**

graduated with my B.A. from 2. Lack of help from the Ministry of Thamar University some years ago. I have been teaching primary school for two years and have worked in many different places as a teacher of math, science and English. All of my time and energy these days is almost completely consumed with responding to the needs of students, planning curriculum details and tending to administrative issues.

Two years in this career force me to admit that the teaching process faces many obstacles which can be listed as

1. Lack of good curricula and 7. educational materials that respond to the student's level and needs.

- Education to its schools and low community participation.
- Low levels of teachers training and qualification, despite the fact that teachers are over-loaded with classes but are not paid enough money.
- Inefficiency in management. Lack of parental support.
- Over-crowded classrooms. We have to realize that fewer students make for better classroom management and that the students will be quieter and more accessible to the teacher.
- Most students do not have the required English level to absorb the learning process well,
- especially in English classes. Time and duration of classes and school courses. These obstacles can easily cause the

downfall of the educational process. As a teacher, knowing well that my role is to assist students in achieving their personal study goals and to ensure that students have a positive learning experience, I suggest the following:

- 1. Curricula and educational materials are to be improved and should respond to the students' The Ministry needs. Education's capacity implement new programs and resources needs to strengthened to do this.
- Development of new courses and teaching materials.
- 3. Teachers must be well-qualified and experienced enough in the subject they intend to teach.
- 4. Planning and preparing lessons or seminars must be done by the
- Correct supervision of practical work, work placement or field
- 6. Parental support is essential; there must be some meetings between the school and the parents at least twice a year. The parents must be not indifferent and must respond to the school's calls and meetings.
- 7. The social specialist of the school

- has to be in contact with the parents and give reports about the student's background.
- Tests, exams and assignments must be given regularly by the teacher.
- Monitoring and assessing student's progress should take place throughout the school year.
- 10. Interviewing prospective students by school administration.
- 11. Implementation of programs that award students for thinking, writing, reading, and even inventing things with the participation of supervisors and teachers.
- 12. Conversations with inspired high school teachers and forming seminar groups must be done to encourage the students and help develop their levels.

All these above solutions will help to improve schools and will make the teaching process go well.

In addition to the above, schools must have specific rules clearly outlined in the entrance paperwork. The parents and students must sign the list indicating they understand and will follow them. Subsequently, the school should take action when one of the rules is violated by the student or the parents to ensure that the educational process goes well for

Through The Mind'S Eve By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy majed_thabet@hotmail.com



A second letter to the president

am writing this article to comment on Afrah Nasser's article entitled, "A Letter to the President," published on August 13. Afrah's article addressed the president, and complained to him about the continual and everyday cut-off of electricity in most of the cities- especially Sana'a, Taiz, and Ibb.

I liked the article, but I think electricity is not the only problem that Yemenis suffer from. Many other things make life in Yemeni horrible. Actually, we need to write many letters to the president about these things. Writing one letter for only one problem, however, requires writing many letters and the problems are increasing daily. At the same time, I think, the larger the number of letters sent to the president, the less care they will

In this article, I want to complete what Afrah started in her letter to the president. I will not complain that I have only one letter, but about the most important problems and essential needs that we, as Yemenis, require to lead only a mere normal life.

Dear President,

First of all, congratulations on the holy month of Ramadan. Yes, you are the president of Yemen. We respect that, and we respect you so much. Because of this, we have nobody to complain to except you. So please give us a chance to express our needs, and please do something to provide us with what we need. Our needs are not luxurious, but they are basic things for people to lead only a normal life. Our needs do not exceed our dreams because we no longer dream as other nations dream.

We need, first of all, peace all over the country. We want you to deal with matters that disturb the peace seriously. Clashes are in many areas of the country, including many southern governorates. I know, dear president, you will say that it is the leaders of the movements which disturb the country with the support of foreign entities. You could be right. But, what is the end of such problems? Can't you find a solution? We feel too disturbed and unstable to move forward when we hear about these problems.

So, please, take the matter seriously and settle them down in a way that ensures the stability and security of the country. Otherwise, the country will be driven into a mysterious danger.

Dear President.

Do you know that people, especially in Taiz, get water only once every 30 days? The situation in the villages is worst because they do not have any connections of water, but it is brought from other far away places on donkeys and other animals. Some villages have no source of water and they have to buy from other nearby centers and towns. They get 400 liters for YR 2000 and they need at least 1,600 liters per a month.

Is this a life dear president? Is this the Yemen which you promised in your propaganda in the last presidential elections? Of course not, so where is the Yemen with "better future" as you said? We need an answer, but not with words but actions that can help us meet our needs.

Dear President.

Corruption is another problem that eats into the backbone of the country. Corruption should not be allowed, with no exceptions. What is the role of any president if he sees and hears about corruption in almost all of the governmental institutions? Do you know, dear president, that more than half of the governmental incomes go into the pockets of those who run the government offices in all the fields?

Do you know that when somebody attacks or criticizes the people working in these governmental offices, they immediately say, "We have instructions from the president to exhaust the government, and the nation too."

I think this does not require a big budget to solve, as it is in the case of electricity and water. But, it needs firmness and restrictive orders which can be achieved only if there is real intention from you to solve the problem.

We always hear about education, but we never touch on how it really affects learners, especially in the schools where education has become a matter of selling and buying. This is a part of corruption. Solve corruption, and many other problems will be solved. Education alone no longer warrants an entire paragraph.

I know and I am sure, dear president, that you know there are also many other problems and needs that make life in Yemen unacceptable. But, these are most common and people feel fed up with promises, without seeing real actions to provide needs and to solve problems. So, it is time to take serious procedures to calm down the people, so they can continue to stand with you.

A Yemeni dreaming only to live in peace with essential needs

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 Englishlanguage magazine.

Who are the real defenders of the unity?

By: Muaamar Al-haddad alhaddm@uwindsor.ca

he remarkable event of Yemen unity in 1990 is indisputable. Yet, the historical event has been a hot topic debated everywhere. Since 1994, we have not only observed strong emotions toward the unity, but have also seen many deriving away from the actual meaning of the unity.

Of course, the fundamental principle of unity has been subverted by the current regime while blaming and labelling others to be separatists. The physical aspect of unity can be as slightly important as its mental and emotional aspect. What benefit would Yemeni society gain from a symbolic and territorial unity while still being divided mentally and emotionally?

While Yemeni people are expected to obey the laws of the country, these same laws and the use of military are there to oppress them at all cost. Even as Yemeni people exercise one of their basic rights, expressing themselves through demonstrations, the government in place along with its supporters is quick to label them a threat to the nation's unity and stability.

Oh, our great apology Mr. President—or should we call you our majesty-for not asking your permission to express ourselves freely in your so call "democracy."

Which history are the poor and innocent people trying to betray? Do they even exist, may we ask, on the pages of a phony history that was and is being written through a biased perceptive. Nonetheless, people's history will not disregard the courageous and brilliant individuals whose first and foremost priority is and will always remain the nation and its "true" unity.

Yemeni people from south to north and from east to west are not so desirably attractive to any foreign intervention, but would rather welcome a path of reform and change from within; a grass roots movement for equality and social Demanding fundamental rights does not make those who are fighting against corruption, in one way or the other, collaborators with the enemy.

How unfortunate of Those who hold weak, if no real arguments at all but to manipulate the words of those who have legitimate claims to defend their position.

However, "We," those who have shown loyalty to the nation and its people, will stand firm for better or worse in its defence, unlike the "We" who have exhausted a nation along with its people and resources, and showed nothing but corruption leading the country to what it is now. After all, our future is not in their hands, but instead their hands are in the way of our future, the future of a united Yemen.

Many thanks Yemen Times

By: Hussein Naji Almehdar halmehdar@hotmail.com

would like to present my deep thanks through this first and modest writing to a newspaper dear to my heart. It is the Yemen Times, the first Yemeni English newspaper.

The Yemen Times is represented by its great staff who are doing a noble job presenting varied topics in their newspaper, such as politics, economics, society and education. This tradition of excellence started with the founder, the late Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Sakkaf, may his soul rest in peace, and continues with journalists Hassan Al-Haifi, Nadia Al-Sakkaf, Alaghbary, Alshmay and others with their great efforts to bring out such amazing work.

I am one of the Yemeni youth who have found in this newspaper a most important source for the development

of English skills. I started reading this newspaper regularly several years ago when my reading ability was better than any of my other English skills. I made sure to read most of the articles published in spite of not fully understanding each topic, particularly the articles by Dr. Al-Sakkaf and Al-Haifi. They used to write extremely professional articles, using classic and complicated language more than the native English speakers themselves. This created an excellent challenge for

I followed up on stories in the newspaper in general, particularly the series of educational courses offered by the Indian professor Ramakanta, which was issued with every edition and then shortened to one lesson every two or three weeks.

The Yemen Times has become the most preferred English newspaper in Yemen by all educated Yemenis as well

as foreigners working in the country. This is due to the credibility and enrichment of its themes, the reliability of its reporting on local and international events and the diversity of its contents. It is also distributed appropriately and on time throughout Yemen.

The newspaper meets the needs of all readers' different orientations and cultures. Some are concerned with politics and news while others look for cultural activities and to practice English. Everyone appreciates the published job vacancies that all job seekers can trust. There is something in the Yemen Times for everyone.

Any observer can easily note that the Yemen Times has not been interested in profiting as much as delivering a noble press message to the nation. This can be particularly noted via an article that described the financial situation of the newspaper written by the journalist

Hassan Al-Haifi. I think these are the main factors that have created a beloved and successful newspaper like the Yemen Times. This is the sense of many people

from different ages and classes that I meet on a daily basis in Sana'a as a taxi driver. I have had discussions with them who praise Yemen Times and start telling their journey with it as soon as they see the newspaper stored at front of the taxi cabin that I always have with me. In the end, we come to the conclusion that the Yemen Times Newspaper is the best English newspaper in Yemen. It has delivered its mission properly and consequently dominates a huge part of its readers' hearts. As one of them, I owe much to the Yemen Times in improving my English skills as well as raising awareness towards environmental, social, and cultural issues here in



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الإطفاء ۱۹۱، طوارىء المياه ۱۷۱، الشئون الخارجيه ٢٠٢٥٤٤/٧، الشئون الداخليه ٢٥٢٧٠١/٧، الهجرة ٢٥٠٧٦١/٣ وزارة المواصلات (تلفون) ٧٥٢٢٢٠٢، الإذاعة ٢٨٢٠٦١، التلفزيون ٢/٢٠٠١، ورسسة الباصات للتنقل داخل المدن ٢٦٢١١١/٣، وزارة المواصلات ٣٢٥١١٠/١/٢/٣، السياحه ٢٥٤٠٣٢، الصليب الاحمر ٢٠٣١٣١/٣، تليمن ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

البنوك

بنك اليمن والخليج 🔵 فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤ ت: ٢٦٠٨٢٣ –٩٦٧ . فرع عدن :ت/ ۲۳۷۸۲۹ - ۲. فاکس/۲۳۷۸۲۶ بنك التضامن الإسلامي ت: ١١/٦٦٦٦٦٦ البنك التجاري ت: ٢٧٧٢٢٤ فاكس : ٢٧٧٢٩١ مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ۲٦٤٧٧٥,٢٦٤٧٠٢ فاکس: ۲٦٤٧٠٣,٥٠٣٣٥٠

> ت: ۲۰۷۰۳۰ -۱۰ بنك اليمن الدولي . البنك العربي رت: ۲/٥٨٥/٧ -۱٠ ت : ۱-۵٦٣٨١٣ - ۱۰ بنك التسليف الزراعي ت: ۲۷٤۳۱٤ -۱۰ البنك المركزي:

تأجير سيارات

اویه (Budget) ت: ۳۰۹٦۱۸۰۰۰۳۷۲ فاکس: ۴٤٠٩٥۸ یورب کار ت: ۲۷۰۷۵۱ فاکس: ۲۷۰۸۰۶ ىيرتز لتآجير السيارات صنعاء ت: ٤٤٠٣٠٩-٠١ فرع شیراتون ت: ٥٤٥٩٨٥ عدن ت:۲۲۵۵۲۰۰۰

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر

آبتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر(تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية)

صنعاء ت: ۱-٤٦٨٣٠٥-١٠ فاکس : ٤٠٧٤١٩ - ٠١



الحديده ت: ٢٢٦٩٧٥/٤

نبوه ت: ۲۰۲۳۲٦ سیئون ت: ٤٠٧٢١٩ ت:۲٦٠٥٠٠ بلحاف ت: ۲۲۲۸۸۷۷۷۷ مقطری ت: ۲۲۰۶۹۸

مطعم ومخبازة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني) تلفون : ه۲۲۲۲ – ۲۹۰۰۰ فاکس : ۲۲۷۲۱۹

العالميه للسفريات والسياحه ت: ۲۰/۹۸۵/۱۰

عدن ت: ۲۲۷۱۹۹ تعز ت: ۲۵۰۳٤۳-۴۰ لمكلاء ت: ۳۰۷٤۹۲-۰۰

Infinit Education T:444553 NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر ت: ۲۰۷۳-۱۳۵۹ د/۸۱۵۵۹۹

البريد السريع

صنعاء ت: ۲۳۰/۲۲۸/۲۳۰ع عدن ت ۲٤٥٦٢٦

كوبون للاعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل) عنوان التواصل:

قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت ٢٦٨٦٦١/٢/٣)





Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper

Damoon Al-Hajrein, town of Aad and poets

ne of the most beautiful villages in all of Yemen, Al-Hajrein is an important archeological village located in Wadi Hadramaut in eastern Yemen. Its name was derived from the word 'Hajran 'town' in the ancient Yemeni language.

Roughly 100 years before the Islamic calendar began, the town of Al-Hajrein was in its glory as the center of the state of Kinda. Kinda is famous for being the home of the famous 6th century poet Imru' Al Qais, who was the last king of this tribe

Al-Hajrein is situated at the corner of one of the curves of the Hadramaut valley between Saqa Al-Kasr and Wadi Dawan. It is divided into adjacent sections on the banks of the curve overlooking a forest of

It is one of the oldest villages of Wadi Hadramaut, where the ruins of the ancient state of the people of Aad can be observed on the peak of a mountain that looks down on this village

Al-Hajrein is bordered by Wadi Dawan in the east and Wadi Al-Ghabr in the west. Both valleys slope into the huge Wadi Hadramaut.

Al-Hajrein is known as one of the most heavily fortified regions in Hadramaut. On top of its mountain, one can easily keep watch for the arrival of invaders from every direction.

along coastal roads leading to the cities of Shabwa and Tamna.

Al-Hajrein is known for being one of the locations from which the advent of the month of Ramadan can be announced through observation of the crescent moon's appearance in the sky.

The visitor to this town will undoubtedly be attracted by the magnificent style of architecture. Among the ancient buildings that differentiate this city from other areas are the old mosques, of which there are 11.

Al-Hajrein Mosque is the most significant of these mosques. It was built in the center of the city as early as the year 1200, 600 years after the hijra, and was expanded several times in the 16th and 17th centuries.

This particular mosque is not only a place for worship but is also a center for studying Sharia, or Islamic Law, embracing scholars and students alike from different regions.

Other mosques are located in the center of the town, most notably Ba'a Feef Mosque, Al-Qadi Mosque, Al-Sheikh Taher mosque and Omar Mosque.

The city of Al-Hajrein is known for the traces of ancient history left by the people of Aad. On top of Al-Moneiysor Mountain, one can observe traces that left indications of the type of life the Aad people once lead

Fireplaces still remain in this area as well as special stones called 'marahi' that were surely used by those ancient people for grinding grain. In addition to undergone deterioration caused by natural forces, and now they are difficult to recognize.

On the western side of the mountain there remain the ruins of houses of Al-Hajar, the tribe of Wael Ben Hajar Al-Kendi who was a companion of the prophet Mohammed.

In this area there is also the remains of a water stream named Ghail Ahmed which was severely destroyed after Hadramout was invaded long ago by Ma'an Bin

Al-Hajrein in total encompasses a number of eight main villages which are Ghar Al-Sudan, Saiyla, Khareghar, Al-Ghaza, Al-Gadfara, Nahawala, Mekh and Al-Mashahad, in addition to other outlying villages.

The results of a Yemeni-Russian expedition that carried out excavations in this area confirm that Al-Hajrein is an archeological city comprising a lot of traces of ancient civilization. Some remains in caves located there are proof that the Aad people once dwelled this area. The story of these people was mentioned in the Quran, as they used these caves as their shelters and homes

To get to Al-Hajrein, one must take a mountain pass called She'eb Al-Qazza, which was earlier



Al-Hajrein is one of the oldest villages of Wadi Hadramaut, where the ruins of the ancient state of the people of Aad can be observed on the peak of a mountain that looks down on this village.

that are difficult to transport. However, concerned authorities have to play their role to protect these inscriptions.

In a place called Al-Sharma situated at the top of a mountain in the west of the city, there is a mine for material resembling gunpowder. This was used for the purpose of stuffing old guns known as Abu Fateel.

The town of Al-Hajrein is known for its craftsmanship and light manufacturing activities. Handcrafts like carpentering, construction, blacksmithing, and sewing are among the most famous. In addition to this, activities related to gold and silver smithing are also found throughout the city.

Other work like beekeeping and tending goats and sheep while working on farms are among the sources of livelihood for today's villagers.

One of the most striking features of the town is its architecture and the style of the construction of houses. It is part of the Hadramaut governorate after all, which is famous for its unique skyscrapers built with mud and stones. The favorite meal in the city is porridge made out

of wheat flour and often mixed with dates. Al-Dugr is also popular, which is made from legumes which used to be cooked long before the use of rice. These days the dish of rice and fish has become one of most famous dishes served in Hadramaut.

Al-Hajrein is well-known for its sources of pure water spread across the city. It is worth mentioning that the town of Al-Hajrein, being located on the route of trade, has been known for its stations supplying water for travelers and visitors.

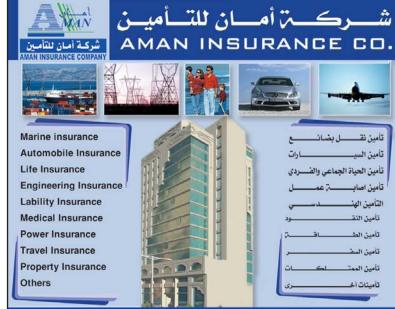
These water stations were called 'sakkayat,' whereby water was made available for anyone to drink and was meant to be supplied for charity. Such sakkayat are available along caravan routes and in entrances and outlets of the town. The most famous sakkayat in the area are Al-Gabali, Nakheel, Badmoon, Harshaf and Shawoosh.

The city of Al-Hajrein in Hadramaut is also known for its famous poets. Of these lyrical poets, the deceased poet Salem Ba'abood Basaeed was famous for reflecting the happenings of daily life in his poetry. He expressed the conditions of people, hard and happy times alike.

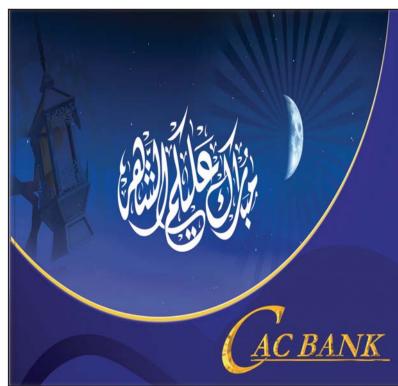
In addition, the poet Mohamed bin Saeed Al-Sayyari came from Al-Hajrein. His poetry is characterized by a richness of content, wise implications and love of nature and its beauties

Al-Hajrein, as such, has all the best features of a historical town. It has a picturesque collection of various landscapes and a richness of folkloric scenery Any visitor to Al-Hajrein will perceive the magnificent traces of a unique heritage that has survived over





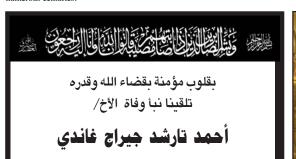
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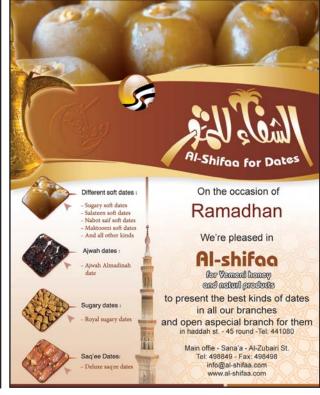
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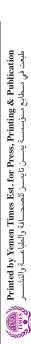
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته ومغفرته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته و يُلهم أهله و ذويه الصدر والسلوان ... إنالله وإنا إليه راجعون

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