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Popular movement demands rights for central Yemen

There are four rebellious popular movements in Yemen, named for their locations: the Southern Movement, the Dessert Alliance Movement, the Tihama Coast Movement and the Central Plateau Movement. The latter was launched in Shabwa last week. These movements are all demanding the same thing: equal citizenship.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

TAIZ, Sept. 6 — The latest popular movement, the Central Plateau Movement based in Taiz, will be formally launched in the coming days, according to Sultan Al-Samie, head of the launching preparation committee.

Al-Samie, who is also a member of the parliament and of the Yemeni Socialist Party political office, said that the movement has risen from the sufferings of Yemenis in Taiz, Ibb, Al-Baidha, Raima and Dhamar governorates.

"We have been having our meetings regularly and we feel ready to formally launch the movement and declare ourselves," he said.

This will be the third large-scale movement of its kind declaring itself since the Southern Movement two years ago, and the Dessert Movement in May this year. Members of a fourth smaller group in the Tihama coast have been reluctantly talking about their movement for the past three months, although nothing formal has been declared yet.

"We are collaborating with the Tihama movement and we agree with most of the other two movements' demands- although for us the Yemeni unity is not negotiable," he explained.

The launch will include public awareness sessions in which members of the movement will lobby the public

to learn about their rights and demand change. Petitions, demonstrations and sit-ins will be carried out. Protests will escalate and civil disobedience will be the last resort if the state does not react favorably to the people's demands, he said.

According to Al-Samie, the Southern Movement was successful in raising the issues of the people, and all Yemenis should demand their rights.

Last week, members of the Shabwa intellectual and social community declared the establishment of the Shabwa Council for Just Development, in an attempt to present and demand for their community's needs.

Shiekh Saleh Fareed Al-Suraima, head of the council, said that the group demands at least 70 percent of the governorates' resources be invested in the welfare of people of Shabwa.

"All we are asking is for a fair, decent life, knowing that our governorate has been providing the whole republic with oil and gas. It is only fair that some of our own resources be used for the benefit of the locals," he said.

It appears that elected officials and traditional leaders, such as sheiks, local community leaders, tribal sheikhs, local councils and even parliament have failed to attend to the people's best interest. This, he said, explains the rise of the popular movements.

"The parliament is a joke, and its



In the past few years Yemenis have used public protest and demonstrations in order to convey their demands to decision makers. For instance, every Tuesday there is a protest in front of the cabinet in an area that has been known as Freedom Square for the past year because is an outlet for popular protest.

decisions are ready-made elsewhere," Al-Samie said. "We, as parliamentarians, can't even demand our own rights let alone the rights of the people whom we represent. This is why such popular

movements have succeeded as an alternative to demanding people's rights."

The Central Plateau Movement, according to Al-Samie, is not affiliated with a political party and it includes

social and tribal figures. But he did not exclude the possibility of the launch turning violent.

He added that the state has failed in its duties and resorted to violence against opposition movements in the past. The movement, he said, is prepared to take the chance.

"We can't lose more than we are already losing today, and all we want is to be treated as equal citizens and enjoy the wealth of our own country," he said.

The dessert movement includes Hadramout, Shabwa, Al-Jawf and Mareb governorates. Al-Sharif Abdulrab Saleh bin Soud, head of the movement's general assembly preparation committee, confirmed the seriousness of the situation and the movement's demands.

"This will be the real change that the people in this area have been waiting for," he said.

Continued on page 1

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Yemen steps up H1N1 action plan

By: Alice Hackman

SANA'A, Sept. 6 — Muslims who sleep at the mosque during the last ten days of Ramadan should lie at least two meters apart and not face each other, says the Ministry of Public Health and Population.

The ministry's latest advice comes as the World Health Organization (WHO) braces itself for a second wave of the H1N1 or swine flu pandemic worldwide.

On Sunday, the H1N1 strand of the influenza virus had been diagnosed in 37 cases in Yemen, of which one was fatal.

Yemen continues to monitor the health of pilgrims returning from Saudi Arabia, and stands ready for further action if required, according to the Ministry of Public Health and Population.

"So far we haven't detected any cases returning from umra [Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina]," said Abdul Hakeem Al-Kuhlani, director of combating diseases and epidemic observation at the ministry.

About 11,600 Yemenis have registered for umra so far this year, he said.

Health workers are stationed at the airport in Sana'a and the border with Saudi Arabia at Haradh to scan people returning to Yemen from Mecca and Medina for signs of the virus, he said.

International travelers to Sana'a have however expressed their doubts as to the efficiency of the screening for H1N1 as

they enter the airport.

Ahmed, 21, from Sana'a, recently returned from umra with his sister, mother and aunt. He said his temperature was measured and he filled out a short health questionnaire when he stepped off the plane, but doubted whether the methods would have detected swine flu if he had it.

Health ministers from around the region this year have imposed restrictions for performing the umra and the hajj, the yearly pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina due in two months' time.

Pilgrims should be older than 12 and younger than 65, and not suffer from any form of cardiovascular, kidney or liver problems, or extreme obesity, among other conditions, according to Al-Kuhlani.

"This is the minimum accepted," said Al-Kuhlani. "For the moment, we are focused on monitoring the situation. We may decide later for a tough decision."

The Supreme National Committee for Combating Bird and Swine Flu met on Sunday afternoon to discuss the beginning of the next school year, as well as the presence of crowds in the mosque during the last few weeks of the holy month, said committee head Al-Kuhlani.

I'tikaf, a period of extended prayer in the mosque recommended to Muslims during the last ten days of the fasting month of Ramadan, starts on Sept. 10.

Notably to prevent the spread of the H1N1 influenza during this period, the

Ministry of Health is talking to the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Guidance to start addressing Yemenis about H1N1 prevention through Friday sermons at the mosque.

The Yemeni government has already printed about 700,000 pamphlets and aired informative programs on state-owned television and radio, said Al-Kuhlani.

Radio is probably the most effective means of raising awareness, as it reaches even the villages and women often listen to it while preparing iftar, the meal at the end of a day's fasting, according to Al-Kuhlani.

H1N1 vaccines

The Yemeni government has approved a budget for purchasing H1N1 vaccines, said Al-Kuhlani, but so far they are not available in the country.

"There is a long list of rich countries before us who have already paid for them," he said.

In the plan Yemen has submitted to the WHO for the second phase, Yemen has planned for the purchase of 1,750,000 H1N1 vaccines.

Yemen has a population of over 22 million, according to the World Bank.

Health workers, officials and high-risk groups will be given priority, said Al-Kuhlani, who added that the plan was still in the development stage.

Although Saudi Arabia initially said it would require that all pilgrims have a

seasonal flu vaccine shot before entering the country, it has not been strictly enforced, according to Al-Kuhlani.

Ahmed said his family did not get vaccinated before performing the umra.

This probably would not have prevented swine flu, but might have helped to determine if a case was H1N1 or the seasonal flu, explained Dr. Ahmed Ali Kaid, infectious disease consultant at the WHO in Yemen.

As symptoms are similar for both, it can be assumed that someone who presents the symptoms, but has been vaccinated against seasonal flu is a likely case of H1N1, he said.

Not seasonal flu

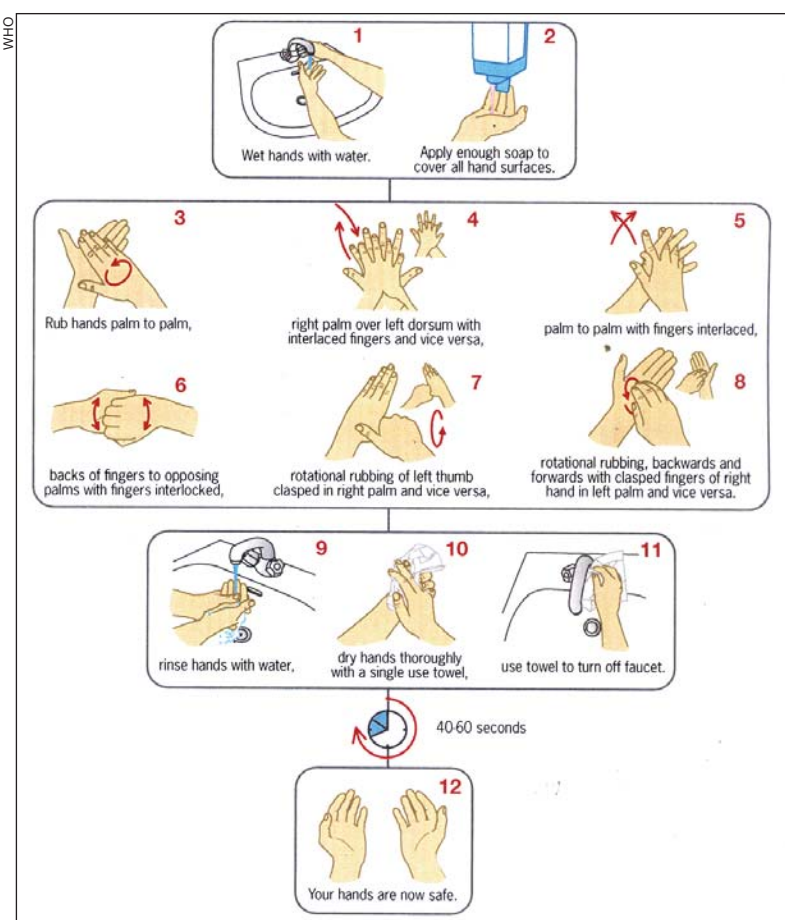
H1N1 and seasonal flu generally do not affect the same population group as the age groups affected by the pandemic are usually younger, according to the WHO.

To date, most severe cases and deaths have occurred in adults under the age of 50 years old, with deaths among the elderly comparatively rare, notes the WHO.

"This age distribution is in stark contrast with seasonal influenza, where around 90 percent of severe or fatal cases occur in people 60 years or older," according to Kaid.

It is too early to compare the pandemic with others, he added.

There are over 209,000 cases of the H1N1 strain of swine flu worldwide, of which 2,185 have died, according to the WHO.



Washing hands with water and soap, especially after sneezing or coughing, is still one of the best precautions against swine flu, says the WHO.

Humanitarian situation worsens after short-lived truce

SANA'A, 6 Sept. (IRIN) — Conditions for thousands of displaced families in northern Yemen continue to deteriorate as a 4 September truce between government troops and Shia rebels to allow relief items in lasted only four hours.

The government decided to suspend its military offensive against Houthi-led rebels in response to calls by international and local humanitarian organizations so that they could reach affected citizens, according to Yemen's defence ministry.

Aid agencies said they would distribute more food and essential relief items to uprooted civilians in Saada and neighbouring provinces on condition that both warring parties remained committed to the government-announced truce.

"The decision to halt its military campaign was a welcome move since it would facilitate our role in reaching displaced families and delivering food



A UNICEF aid conveyer in Yemen. Unsafe roads are complicating the process of delivering aid to uprooted civilians

rations to them," Maria Santamarina, World Food Program (WFP) advocacy officer, told IRIN.

Mohammed Abdussalam, spokesman for the office of rebel

leader Abdulmalik al-Houthi, said the government's decision was a positive step "however, the government should have rather announced an end to the war. We are more committed to peace

than the government... we consider the suffering of IDPs [internally displaced persons] in camps who lack the basic necessities to survive."

Truce broken

While both sides of the conflict appeared to be committed to the truce, it did not last long.

The government's Supreme Security Committee (SSC), comprising senior members of the defence and interior ministries and chaired by President Saleh, said that dozens of soldiers and Houthi gunmen were killed in clashes initiated by the rebels on the evening of 4 September, just four hours after the truce began.

Abdussalam admitted that their fighters in Harf Sufyan district in Amran province had not heard about the truce decision, and said that the SSC was too hasty in accusing Houthi followers of breaking the truce.

WFP implementing partner Islamic

Relief had been seeking safe corridors to distribute some 935 metric tonnes of WFP food stock, pre-positioned in Saada city, to IDPs scattered there in camps and with host families, according to Santamarina.

"WFP is stockpiling commodities in Saada and is preparing to dispatch additional food supplies, pending secure conditions," she said, adding that more food trucks were ready to be dispatched from the capital Sanaa to Amran Province as soon as IDP registration lists were verified. "However, we were shocked to hear that the truce was broken."

Saada inaccessible

People trapped by intermittent clashes in Saada city — including 35,000 IDPs — are the most in need, Andrej Mahecic, spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told the media.

Journalists have not been able to get

accurate information on what is happening in the volatile city due to government-imposed media restrictions, including the disruption of mobile and Internet networks and blocking of roads leading to the city, Mahecic said.

Since 12 August, Saada residents have had no water or electricity. "Food reserves are running low and the situation is becoming untenable for families, many of whom are hosting friends, relatives or neighbours displaced by the street battles," the UNHCR spokesperson said.

According to UN agencies, high temperatures during the day and heavy rains at night have compounded the problems faced by civilians in Saada, many of whom are fasting during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

UN agencies estimate that 150,000 people have been displaced by the northern conflict since 2004, including those forced from their homes by the latest round of clashes.

Migration studies with a Yemeni twist

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

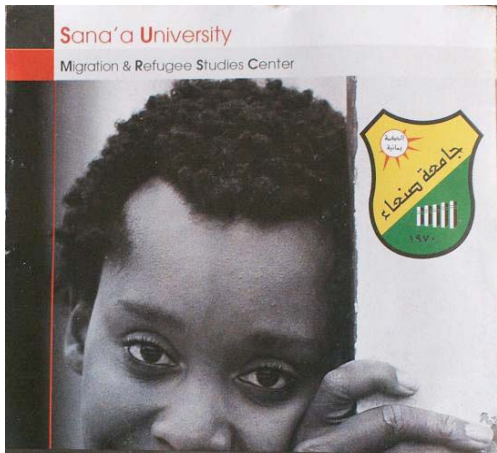
SANA'A, Sept. 6 — For the first time in Yemen, a center for migration and refugees studies on Wednesday opened at the Faculty of Law at the University Sana'a.

The center is the third of its kind in the Middle East, as similar centers exist in Jordan and Egypt at the University of Yarmouk and the American University of Cairo.

The Sana'a University Migration and Refugee Studies Center (SUMRSC) is to conduct research into the needs of refugees and highlight their needs, as well as provide statistics to the government and concerned international organizations to provide appropriate solution to their plight.

"The center will not only be for conducting studies, but also to spread awareness of refugee issues in society," said Khaled Tamim, head of the University of Sana'a.

"We don't want refugees to be marginalized, as this affects society negatively," said Tamim. "We need to help refugees acquire skills to find an income and [...] an appropriate job [to support] their families."



The new center is to address migration from a Yemeni perspective.

He said that the center has started preparing a list of professors from different specializations like sociology, psychology and medicine to conduct research into related issues.

"The more we have awareness of this issue, the more we limit the suffering of refugees," he added.

Ali Al-Awaj, head of the center, called for organizations concerned with refugee issues to suggest topics for study. He also called on academics to participate in approved research for the center.

He said migration and refugee studies are of special concern to Yemen because so many refugees use the country as a route to neighboring countries. Its geographical location near the horn of Africa makes it a destination easy to reach for refugees.

Samer Haddadin, from the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) protection unit, explained how Yemenis are well-known for migration and know more than others about the subject.

"The center can study the tragedies of refugees during the journey from their countries to Yemen like being beaten or thrown into water," Saleh Ba-Surah, Minister of Higher Education.

"It can study the education of refugees," he said. "There are thousands of Somalis in our schools and universities, and scholarships given to them from government or the UNHCR are limited."

"The name of the center contains two words: migration and refugee," said Ba-Surah.

The center can study the issues of refugees and internally displaced persons, he said, as well as suggest solutions for the government.

Yemeni seagulls
It can also study reasons



Huda Ali and her two daughters fled war in Somalia to Oman and then to Yemen, where they live in the street having been denied refugee status,

behind the migration of Yemenis abroad and internal migration from rural areas to the main cities, according to the minister.

Yemenis are like seagulls, he said. They have been travelling for thousands of years, and there are thousands of Yemeni immigrants in east Africa, East Asia, Arabian Peninsula, the UK and USA.

The center can conduct studies and find reasons for the migration of Yemenis around the globe.

About 8 million Yemenis are living in 80 countries around the world, including 1 million in Saudi Arabia and a half million in India, according to the Ministry for Expatriate Affairs.

Yemen receives on average USD 1 billion in remittances from Yemenis abroad, according to the ministry.

The new center at the University of Sana'a could also connect Yemeni expatriates to their country, such as those from the sixth or seventh generation in East Asia, East Africa, and Saudi Arabia, said Ba-Surah.

African refugees

The UNHCR has said that, in the last past five days of August, a total of 17 boats carrying 835 people arrived in Yemen.

Somalis, Ethiopians and Eritreans have long been making the perilous voyage across the Gulf of Aden from the Horn of Africa, escaping conflict, political instability, famine and drought in the area, it said.

"In order to be able to respond to a potential massive influx of new arrivals, UNHCR has developed, together with other partners and local authorities, a plan on how to provide protection and assistance to as many as 20,000 new arrivals," said the UNHCR.

Since the beginning of this year, some 36,000 Africans reached the shore of Yemen, an increase of 33 percent over the same period last year.

In 2008, over 50,090 people arrived in Yemen on smugglers' boats. Some 590 people drowned, and 359 others were reported missing at sea and presumed dead.

SNACC accuses mobile phone companies of illegal tax-exemptions

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Sept 6 — The Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption has accused the General Investment Authority and two mobile phone companies, SabaFon and MTN (formerly known as Spacetel), of illegally obtaining tax exemptions. On Sept. 2 the authority passed the case on to the prosecution.

"The two mobile companies obtained tax exemption licenses from the General Investment Authority that gave them exemptions from profit taxes for two extra years," according to SNACC.

"According to investment law No. 22 for 2002, investors in main cities are exempted from profit tax and customs fees for seven years from the date of establishing the project," said Thyab Saleh Obad, Manager of the Statistical Department at the GIA.

"Investors in rural areas are exempted from profit tax and customs fees for nine years from the date of establishing," added Obad.

SNACC considers the extension of the tax exemption to be corruption because it deprives the government budget of revenues estimated to be millions of dollars.

Falsely extending tax exemption is also crime, under a 2006 anti-corruption law and a 1999 tax law, according to SNACC. SNACC also said that the prosecution was responsible for seeking punishment for the GIA and the two companies, if they are found guilty.

The authority said the two companies obtained the tax exemption licenses when they launched, and that the licenses excuse the companies from income taxes and customs fees.

Additionally, the authority said licenses allowed the companies to bring into the country equipment without paying customs fees. The value of the equipment also exceeded the value that was allowed in the license.

SNACC said that the two companies purchased additional equipment worth

YR 97 billion (USD 485 million) even though the exemption licenses allow them to purchase equipment worth YR 14 billion (USD 70 million) or less.

The authority also said that it will also continue investigations on the legality of MTN company entering Yemen, and its replacement of Spacetel.

It asked the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology for change of ownership contracts and Spacetel's dissolution papers.

"We condemn such practice from the anti-corruption authority that expels investment in the country," said a statement released by SabaFon and MTN Yemen.

"What SNACC accused us of is merely lies, and the fact that they leaked to the press violates the anti-corruption law," added the statement.

The press statement went on to say that source of news regarding the cases against the two companies would be subjected to questioning and legal penalties. The companies plan to demand compensation from the sources for consequences of the publicity.

SabaFon is a Global System for Mobile Communications company, and was founded in July 2001. It is operated by Yemeni funds and owned by Yemeni shareholders. Eighty-five percent of the company is owned by the Yemen Company for Mobile Telephony, 5 percent by the Hayel Saeed Group, 5 percent by Consolidated Contractors Company and 5 percent by the Islamic Bank.

Spacetel launched its mobile service in Yemen in February 2001, and was sold to South Africa's MTN group in April 2007.

SNACC is a public corporation that was established in 2007 in accordance with the 2006 anti-corruption law. Its task is to investigate public institutions for corruption.

So far this year the authority has referred five cases to prosecutors. The cases are all currently under investigation, although no one has been formally charged in a court.

In Brief

SANA'A
Somali refugees still flow to Yemen

About 108 Somali refugees have arrived in Thubab coast of Taiz governorate, Interior Ministry has said.

The security authorities in Taiz governorate have sent all the arrival refugees to Kharaz camp in Lahj governorate.

Yemen expected that over 3000 Somalis have arrived in the country last August as a result of deteriorating the security situation in Somalia.

The fighting between Islamic militias and government forces in Somalia makes thousands of Somalis are ready to risk their lives on a rickety boat to be smuggled into Yemen.

Yemen, a gateway for Somalis to the Middle East, recognizes all Somalis as refugees on a "prima facie basis," meaning they are automatically granted the right to stay. But many of those who cross the Gulf of Aden move on to Yemen's neighbours Saudi Arabia and Oman in pursuit of jobs.

The escalating numbers of refugees place increasing strain on

Yemen's limited resources and pose more challenges to the government's efforts to balance its obligations under international law with the need to protect the country from illegal entry.

Yemen to export first zinc, lead shipment in 2010

Yemen is expected to export the first shipment of zinc, lead and silver in 2010, the Geological survey and Minerals Authority (GSMA) reported on Saturday.

The GSMA said that a mining project at Nahm area of Sana'a province would provide several direct and indirect jobs to Yemenis, noting this project is one of the main strategic projects in the field of minerals in the country.

The percentage of the project implementation is 50 percent and it is expected the construction works of the project would be finished by the end of 2009.

In a press release, the GSMA said that the Yemeni government's economic strategy had allowed investment companies to work in this field, offering a wide range of facilities to investors.

The oil and minerals resources increased up to 60 percent over last two years.

Till 2008, the number of companies working in the field of mining in Yemen reached 24 companies while mining

institutions reached 2065 and Yemeni labors working in this field reached 11,800.

Furthermore, the GSMA revealed that the government had decided to review the necessary information of geological and mineral studies made in 1980s by international geological missions, including Germany and Czech missions, in the two Yemeni provinces of Shabwa and Abyan.

The 200 km square survey had divided the two provinces to 20 blocks in order to promote the mining companies to invest them.

The government is ready to make a study of zinc and lead mineralization at Sadarah and Ya'both areas of Shabwah province as well as an exploratory study for minerals and rocks in Maharah province, east of Yemen.

The GSMA pointed to the explorations of copper and nickel in the two northern Yemeni provinces of Hajjah and Amran are continuous.

Yemen is featured by its great potentials of minerals and even more encouraging is the accessibility of exploiting these options.

Along with Yemen's strategic position in relation to big international markets, geological studies have confirmed that Yemen is rich with various natural elements: silver, platinum and uranium.

There are also indicators showing the availability of gold, copper, iron, titanium and minerals ores.

Over and above, there are constructional and decorative rocks which could be exploited and manufactured to produce cement, bricks, paints, etc.

Gulf official due in Yemen
Secretary-General of the GCC Abdul-Rahman Al-Attiyah is expected to arrive in Sana'a on Friday on a short visit to Yemen for meeting with senior Yemeni officials.

Well-informed sources said that the Gulf official will hold talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the outcomes of the 112th meeting of the GCC ministerial council which affirmed the full support to security and stability in Yemen.

In a meeting held recently in the Saudi city of Jeddah, the GCC ministerial council directed Al-Attiyah to visit Yemen for holding talks with Yemeni officials on the situations in the northern Yemeni province of Saada.

The GCC ministerial council also agreed to Yemen's accession to the GCC

ministerial committee of post and telecommunications.

Due to rainstorm, ACT out of order
The strong rainstorm hit Yemen's port city of Aden last Monday has made the Aden Container Terminal (ACT) is out of order for some days.

Director General of Dubai Ports World (DP World) – Aden Aref al-Muhairi said that a technical and engineering team from DP World will be in Aden in coming few hours to make a prompt maintenance for ACT damaged equipment.

100 Km-hour winds damaged the feeding electricity cable, al-Muhairi said, affirming that no casualties were reported.

"We have coordinated to shift the direction of the coming ships to al-Mo'alla port and the nearby ports until the ACT being re-operated in the coming days", he expected.

A strong rainstorm has hit Aden governorate causing damages to homes, with some houses burned due to electrical faults, and uprooting trees and light posts.

Floods swept through the streets, but no casualties were reported.

The newly-built Al-Tuwahi Mall was badly affected. Losses have been estimated at YR 3 million.

The Civil Defense rushed and returned electricity, controlled fires that broke out at homes and cleaned the streets.

Police arrest 40 Ethiopian illegal migrants

Some 40 Ethiopian illegal migrants including three women have been arrested while they reached coastline of Yemen, Interior Ministry reported on Friday.

The media center of the ministry made it clear that the Ethiopian illegal migrants reached Thubab coast of Taiz governorate. Security bodies seized the immigrant to take legal measures, the center said.

On the other hand, the center said that about 108 Somali refugees have arrived in

Thubab coast of Taiz governorate, Interior Ministry has said.

The security authorities in Taiz governorate have sent all the arrival refugees to Kharaz camp in Lahj governorate.

Yemen expected that over 3000 Somalis have arrived in the country last August as a result of deteriorating the

security situation in Somalia.

Yemen discovers new gas resource in Marib

The Ministry of Oil and Minerals announced on Thursday the first exploration of gas in block No.18 in Marib Governorate.

The Minister of Oil and Minerals Amir Salim al-Aydarus clarified on Wednesday that the quantities detected are currently under study and evaluation.

During the Ramadan evening session attended by the minister, the attendees presented three work papers on the activities of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority (PEPA) and what has been achieved in the field of oil.

The papers included strategy of encouragement of global investment in the oil block, updating the institutional building, developing the local petroleum cadres, strengthening the scientific concept on the geological oil and encouragement of scientific researches.

General Corporation for Oil and Gas representative talked about the role of GCOG in the exploration of oil and production of gas to the Yemeni local market, raw materials and petrochemical and GCOG's revenues going up during 2000 until 2009 at around \$222.919,000.

MAHRAH

Police capture weapon with Somali fishermen off Mahrah coast

Coastguards Authority has captured weapons with five Somali fishermen off al-Ghaidah coast of Mahrah governorate.

A source at the Interior Ministry said that the five Somali, aged between 21 – 35, were arrested while they were in their fishing boat, possessing machine guns, RPG shells, explosives and ammunition. The Somali fishermen were sent to the competent prosecution to complete the legal procedures.

On the other hand, security bodies have arrested about 107 African immigrants from Nigeria, Chad and Sudan

The immigrants were sent to jail in Hodeidah governorate, security sources said, adding that two of them were normally died.

Worth mentioning is that the island has received last month more than 500 African immigrants most of them are

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Sudanese. Investigations revealed that they were attempting to sneak to Saudi Arabia.

TAIZ

Yemen arrests nineteen Ethiopians

Security bodies in Mocha district of Taiz governorate have captured about 19 Ethiopian immigrants entered Yemeni territories illegally, Interior Ministry said.

The immigrants, all of them are men, were handed over to the Immigration and Passports Authority to take the required legal actions, according to the Interior Ministry.

Security men have managed last August to arrest more than 100 Ethiopians in different governorates, and sent them to the competent authorities.

A security source said that Yemen hosts over a million Somali refugees,

and has no capability to receive other displaced people from the African Horn, according to the Interior Ministry.

The source added that all the Ethiopians would be deported to their homeland.

HAJJAH

200 Eritrean people caught on Yemen border

Police at the border crossing of Haradh have seized 200 Eritrean people who illegally entered Yemen territory.

The caught were sent to the Central Prison in Yemen's western province of Hodeidah and soon to be investigated to know what their destination was.

On the other hand, six Eritrean people were killed in the district of Al-Dhuha, 30 km north of Hodiedah, www.news-yemen.net reported, giving no details including the cause of their death.

Their News

MA Democracy & Human Rights in Bosnia / Italy

The MA program European Regional MA in Democracy and Human Rights in South East Europe is housed in the University of Sarajevo at the Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies. In total, 30 students will be accepted. The program will take place in Sarajevo, Bosnia Bologna, Italy

How to apply

- Please submit the following:
- [1] application form
 - [2] Curriculum Vitae (CV) (in English)
 - [3] 2 letters of recommendation (in English)
 - [4] certified copy of your official degree or diploma
 - [5] transcript or mark sheet
 - [6] TOEFL scores (or other certificate of proficiency in English)
 - [7] birth certificate
 - [8] citizen certificate
 - [9] photocopy passport
- send it all to the address below.

The deadline to apply is September 7, 2009

More information:
<http://www.cps.edu.ba/>

2009 Emerging Leaders for Democracy

Conference Series

Amman, Jordan: October 7 - 9, 2009
Beirut, Lebanon: October 26 - 28, 2009
Cairo, Egypt: November 4 - 6, 2009

The Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED) in cooperation with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Georgetown University's Center for Democracy and Civil Society, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF) are now accepting applications for our 3rd annual regional conferences in the Middle East. The 2009

Conferences will be hosted in partnership with the Center for Strategic Studies at Jordan University, the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies. The conferences will examine political reform dynamics in Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt and the impact of U.S. foreign policy. The purpose of the conferences is to generate recommendations for U.S. policymakers for how to improve its impact and to effectively encourage democratic reform.

The conference will include panel discussions featuring Arab and American experts on U.S. foreign policy initiatives, progress of political reform in the region, and the role of the U.S. and Europe in assisting this process. The conference topics will include:

- Elections & Political Processes
- Religious Freedom & Inclusion
- Women's Rights & Empowerment
- Human Security & Development

The conferences will take place in Amman, Beirut, and Cairo. American and local young professionals residing in those respective countries aged under 35 are encouraged to apply. Each conference will include 15 Middle Easterners and 15 Americans and Europeans. Since the number of spaces is limited, participants will be chosen by competitive application. We seek an ideologically and geographically diverse group of participants.

Meals during the conference will be covered for all participants, as well as hotel accommodations for international participants, and modest travel/accommodation n scholarships for local participants not residing in the capital cities.

To apply to participate in one of the conferences, please fill out and submit the online application by following the links to the application in English or

Arabic. Applications must be received no later than the following dates:

- Amman conference:** September 11, 2009
- Beirut conference:** September 20, 2009
- Cairo conference:** September 25, 2009

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, but *early applications will be given priority*. If you have any questions, please e-mail 2009conferences@pomed.org.

World conference on HIV/AIDS eradication

Global Health organization upholds the international agreements to protect lives, the most important of which is the 1998 Convention on the Rights to Live. The Convention recognizes a range of rights related to human protection, and calls upon countries to honor their obligations to uphold these rights.

The Convention is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in the world. To make further progress on these commitments, Global Health Organization invites. Youth organizations, Socio-Cultural Organizations, Community organizations, Educators, Scholars, Researchers, Health Organizations, Professionals, Business Organizations, Decision makers in the public and private sector, Representatives of Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs), Religious organizations, Human Right Organizations & Women Groups, to the Global conference on.

Date: 27th-30th September, 2009
Venue: Royal suite Hotel Hall, Birmingham, United Kingdom .

Theme: "Stop Stigmatization on people with HIV/AIDS - A Global perspective"

This conference will bring together 2556 representatives of NGOs/CBOs and numerous numbers of interested individual participants from all over the world. The conference will be conducted on participatory bases with satellite plenary and simultaneous sessions followed by general and small group discussions

Sponsorship:

The conference receives financial support from Bank HSBC and the United Nations Health Commission. This sponsorship covers the following:

- (1) Return airplane travel ticket for selected delegates from their home country to venue of event in United Kingdom and back to their home country.
- (2) Medical insurance cover for delegates throughout the entire conference duration.

Global Health Organization will not assume responsibility of any other cost, other than those listed above. Participants will bear responsibility for their own accommodation cost nomination and selection of participants: Intending participants are requested to nominate between two (2) to five (5) active members to participate, age bracket between 21 years and above. In order to foster gender balance, we would appreciate if your delegation includes one or two female participant(s).

Registration/inquiries:

For purpose of registration to participate in this Conference, leave a return email at :secretarygeneral@global-healthmail.com

Internship/training program on promoting police reform in Africa With pressure from civil society, politi-

cal opposition, donor agencies and multilateral institutions, many countries in Africa have in recent years began the implementation of various forms of police and policing reform programs, aimed at making the police more effective in their service delivery functions and accountable to the community they serve. These reform programs have ranged from community policing development projects, Human rights education for police officers, establishment of internal and external oversight mechanisms on policing, to wholesale rebuilding of police forces devastated by decades of wars in post conflict societies within the region. The success and sustainability rates of these reform programs have remained a mixed basket of advances, reversals and mounting challenges. Among the missing links are firstly lack of serious political support for accountable police forces within the region; secondly control of reform processes by foreign consultants with little knowledge of local contexts; and thirdly and perhaps most importantly, absence of civil society involvement in the implementation of the reform programs.

Without an active involvement of civil society organizations with requisite expertise and knowledge of concepts, issues, challenges and strategies in police reform, ongoing efforts at transforming the police and policing in the sub-region is doomed to fail. Civil society groups by their nature play the important roles of mobilizing popular support for reform programs as well as bringing local knowledge and context to bear on formulation of reform programs in order to make them acceptable to the people. However, civil society groups can best play these roles if they themselves are trained on the key issues that inform the reform efforts and involved in formulating and implementing such reform programs.

Therefore, there is a need for an internship/training programs within the region that would expose civil society actors to police reform efforts as well as the large issues of public safety, security and accessible justice in Africa. Hence, CLEEN Foundation's internship/training program on police reform in Africa.

The internship/training program is intended to:

- * Increase interns understanding of concepts, issues and strategies in police reform work in Africa from civil society perspective;
- * Expose the interns to work of CLEEN Foundation on promoting public safety, security and accessible justice in Nigeria
- * Network interns with civil society actors, government agencies and donors involving in supporting police reform work in Nigeria and Africa.

Who Can Apply?

* Program level staff of nongovernmental organizations based in Africa who are fluent in written and spoken English;

* Nominees of NGOs working or interested in justice sector reform work in Anglophone West African countries with proven ability to adapt to new environments and to establish and maintain good working relations with individuals of different cultural backgrounds

* Applicants must possess a minimum of first Degree or its equivalent.

Application procedure

Interested applicants who meet the above requirements can download and fill the application form from the website of CLEEN Foundation (www.cleen.org) and forward the form with the following documents to the e-mail address cleen@cleen.org, interns@cleen.org, onyinye@cleen.org



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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:	Second:
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.	Special services offices (VIP)-Al-Siteen Road A- From Saturday to Wednesday First shift: From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Second shift: From 9 p.m. to one after midnight. B- Friday: working hours First shift: From 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Second shift: From 9 p.m. to 12 midnight.
Third	
Eid Al-Fitr Holidays (Al-Siteen Road Office) First shift: From 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Second shift: From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.	



Yemenia For more information or enquiries call (454545 – 250800)

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Yemeni students in Germany

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Twelve of Yemen's best German students have returned from a 20-day trip to Germany to practice the language, discover the culture, and make new friends from around the world.

In the framework of the initiative "Schools: Partners for the Future," the German Goethe Institute selected seven girls and five boys by test to attend its summer language training program in three different German cities between July and August.

Three female students from the Rabi'a Al-Adawiyya School, three female students from the Arwa School, one female student from the July 17 School, and five male students from the Bilal Bin Rabah School packed their bags this summer for a unique taste of German culture.

The high school students returned enthusiastic at having practiced the language with so many people and motivated to capitalize on their new skill.

Ismail Al-Hadhiri, 16, student at the Bilal Bin Rabah School in Sana'a said that he learnt as much German in 20 days in Germany as he studies in three months in Yemen.

"Lessons were all in German and started from 09:00 am to 12:30 pm," said Al-Hadhiri. "My listening skills have improved and I learnt new



phrases in German during my stay."

Al-Hadhiri's ambition in life has changed after this course in Germany, as he is now giving more attention to study than before. At home, he has started watching German television channel DW and looks up new words

in dictionary.

"The goal of the course was to let students know about modern Germany and its culture, in addition to strengthening their German language skills," said Kathrin Fietz, German language teaching expert at the Goethe Institute.

"Their confidence has increased and they have become ready to make the first step to know people from other countries," she added, explaining that the annual program also aims to establishing a network of students of different nationalities whose communication tool is the German language.

Another important aim was to promote tolerance far from stereotypes, she said.

Students returned from the course enthusiastic and they want to continue their university studies in Germany: "The course made them have a vision for their future so that they became more interested in working hard to obtain scholarships to Germany," she said.

"This course gathered excellent students from different parts of the world to study German together and exchange knowledge," said Saba Al-Qawsi, German Teacher.

Respect for time

Eman Al-Maqhafi, 17, eleventh grade student at the Arwa School in Sana'a, was more attracted to Germans respect for time and to the teaching methods in the class rooms.

During the course, Al-Maqhafi was interested in getting to know each of the 58 participants in the course.

"To know about other people cultures and make new friends were the best things of the course," she said.

Al-Maqhafi tried to make the best out of being in Germany. She tried riding a bicycle and she still

communicates with the participants through email.

Before traveling she had some fears about being far away from her family, meeting people she did not know, and speaking not enough German, but then she found that all her fears were unjustified.

"My parents agreed to let me travel because they are confident in the kind of upbringing I have and they know this course is useful for my future," she said. "They also knew that our teacher Saba would be with us in the trip."

Friday sermon in Germany

"The course has opened my communication horizons with the world," said Edees Al-Shaibani, 17, in twelfth grade at Bilal Bin Rabah School. "I became eager to study

university in Germany"

He has been studying German at school for two years, but he said that spoken language in school is very limited, as it is only with the teacher.

"In Germany, I talked in German with classmates and also with people in the street," he said. "In the classroom, the lesson was interesting because teachers use games to make you practice the language."

Al-Shaibani attended the Friday sermon in Germany when he visited a

mosque.

He was amazed with the system in street, the cycling, and punctuality in the train system, as well as Germans respect for foreigners. He believes that Yemen can reach what Germany has achieved through discipline and respecting others.

"I felt like I was leaving my family," said Al-Shaibani of his group's farewell to the other participants from around the world on the last day.



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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and **International Labour Office (ILO)** invite **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with its **Joint Project □ Support to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in Labour Market Information and Employment Policy**.



Post Title: National Economist

Duration: one year renewable
Duty Station: Sana'a

Responsibilities:

- ✦ The National Economist will ensure the effective provision of inputs and delivery of outputs under the project and provide technical advice towards the development and execution of the project under the guidance of the CTA. He/She will ensure that the objectives stated in the project document are attained within the stated times and ensure compliance with ILO financial and operating procedures;
- ✦ Identify and liaise with national and international experts/consultants to support activities relating to labour market information and analysis in Yemen.
- ✦ Draft, edit or translate documents, including briefing notes, technical and non-technical reports, news releases, official correspondence, statements and speeches and other public information material;
- ✦ Review, analyze, summarize or translate information on employment and labour markets and their wider context in Yemen, including technical and non-technical reports, statistical information, media reports, background information and official correspondence;
- ✦ Undertake research and prepare analytical reports on selected subjects within the area of technical competence, in particular on employment, skills development and youth labour market issues in Yemen;
- ✦ Brief ILO specialists, project experts, and visiting consultants and officials and provide relevant information on project related matters; assist in interpretation between Arabic/English for the CTA and visiting missions (if required) and participate in policy dialogue and technical consultations on labour market and employment issues;

Qualification:

- ✦ Advanced university degree in economics or another quantitative social science with an emphasis on statistics and econometrics.
- ✦ At least three years of professional experience in a relevant occupational area.
- ✦ Excellent command of Arabic and English.
- ✦ Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel and Internet.

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.

Only Online Applications will be accepted

Interested candidates are requested to apply online via our website at <http://jobs.undp.org/> Response will only be made to short listed candidates. The deadline for receiving applications is Thursday, 24 September 2009.

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

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR)
Project Management Unit (PMU)
Higher Education Development Project II (HEDP II) (P110733)
PHRD Grant No. TF 093102 & PPF Advance No. Q-682-0

Request for Expressions of Interest

Technical Assistance (TA) for Establishing Accounting System for the Higher Education Development Project

The objective of this consultancy is to provide for an accounting system of financial management and reporting for the Higher Education Development Project (HEDP). To the maximum extent possible. The system will be designed to comply with requirements of World Bank Procedure 10.02 dated August 1997 and Financial Monitoring Reports (FMR) guidelines issued November 30, 2002 (now the name of Financial Monitoring Reports- FMRs becomes Interim Financial Reports- IFRs). It will include records, procedures and supporting internal controls to cover all activities in connection with accomplishment of the objective of the Project operations as agreed with Bank. It should be founded on pc-based accounting software to be acquired by the Project. The software and adequate support and maintenance service should be available in the Republic of Yemen.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR), Republic of Yemen has received a PPF grant from the International Development Association (IDA) and a PHRD grant from the government of Japan and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the contract for the above —consulting service.

The Project Management Unit now invites eligible Firms to indicate their interest in providing the service for Establishing Accounting System for the Higher Education Development Project. Interested Firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service, profiles, description of similar assignments, experience in similar assignment, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc. and experience in Yemen.

The selection of the Consulting Firms will be made in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004 and revised in October 2006. Interested consulting firms may obtain further information during working days Sat. —Wed. From 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by September 19, 2009.

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR)
Higher Education Development Project II
Alriadh St., next to Alroni Building
TEL: 00967-1-471196 - 468466, FAX: 00967-1- 471195 or to
Email: The Project Director: info@hepyemen.org

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION
YEMEN SCHISTOSOMIASIS CONTROL PROJECT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government of Republic of Yemen has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Schistosomiasis Control Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds to cover the cost of the contract for recruitment of **Project Administration Unit Administrator, Financial Officer, Procurement Specialist, and Accountant**.

The Ministry of Public Health and Population now invites Yemeni qualified applicants for the position according to the job descriptions and qualifications specified below:

Project Administration Unit Administrator

Duties and Responsibilities include:

The Project Administration Unit (PAU) Administrator reports directly to the Director General of Disease Control and Surveillance Department (DCSD), and works closely with the National Schistosomiasis Control Program (NSCP). He/she is responsible for the administration of the project funds in compliance with the provisions of the Grant Agreement, the Project Implementation Plan and Project Implementation Manual.

Qualifications:

- Qualifications would be the following. However, experience and performance in prior assignments would also be a key factor in the selection process.
- (a) Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Management or related fields.
 - (b) Minimum of 5 years of professional experience in project administration/ management or in coordinating technical and development programming.
 - (c) Experience in international agencies is a plus.
 - (d) Health Sector Experience is a plus.
 - (e) Good understanding of international procurement, financial management and accounting procedures.
 - (f) Proficiency in the use of computers.
 - (g) Fluency in both Arabic and English.

Project Financial Officer

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the general direction of the PAU Administrator, the Financial Officer (FO) is responsible for the financial management of the project in close coordination

with the MOPHP Finance Department. He/she ensures that an appropriate financial management system is in place, with internal controls, records, and books of accounts; and that the procedures and reports are reliable, timely, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and government regulations; and that financial and other reports as needed are maintained and prepared on a timely basis, communicated to the appropriate users, and properly filed at the PAU.

Qualifications:

- Qualifications would be the following. However, experience and performance in prior assignments would also be a key factor in the selection process.
- (a) A minimum of a Bachelor's degree with at least Yemeni CPA/CA designation;
 - (b) A minimum of seven years of private and public sector financial management experience, preferably with an auditing or accounting firm.
 - (c) The ability to translate planned activities into concrete budgets, establish standard unit costs, and analyze and report them for the purpose of recommending improvements in operations;
 - (d) The ability to supervise accounting and other financial functions and report financial information usable to the various stakeholders: Government, World Bank, and auditors;
 - (e) The ability to supervise accounting work and motivate the Project Accountant to achieve positive actions and results;
 - (f) General understanding of procurement concepts;
 - (g) Proficiency in the use of computers, accounting and other software applications.
 - (h) Fluency in both Arabic and English.

Project Accountant TOR

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the supervision of the Financial Officer, the accountant is in charge of recording all financial transactions, retaining the supporting documentation, preparing the financial reports of the project as required by government regulations and the Legal Agreement, and preparing annual and interim project financial statements to reflect the financial position of the project and for auditing purposes.

Qualifications:

- Qualifications would be the following. However, experience and performance in prior assignments would also be a key factor in the selection process.
- (j) A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in accounting;
 - (k) A minimum of five years of accounting experience, preferably with foreign companies;
 - (l) The ability to operate accounting software, keep updated accounting records and books of accounts, and generate project financial statements and other reports as needed by the Project management; and
 - (m) Proficiency in Arabic and English.

Project Procurement Officer

Duties and Responsibilities

Under the general direction of the PAU Administrator, the Procurement Officer (PO) is responsible for:

- (n) Developing and maintaining well-defined tools to manage and track procurement activities; and assisting in the procurement of all goods and services for the project;

Qualifications:

Qualifications would be the following. However, experience and performance in prior assignments would also be a key factor in the selection process:

- (a) A minimum of Bachelor's degree in engineering, business administration, or related fields;
- (b) At least 5 years experience in managing procurement of goods, and consultant services.
- (c) Good experience in selection and management of consultant contracts (especially international firms) is a plus.
- (d) Familiarity with Government and World Bank/UN Agencies procurement procedures;
- (e) Fluency in both Arabic and English; and
- (f) Strong computer skills.

Interested applicants, who meet the above requirements, may submit their applications with their CVs and supporting documents to the address below by 15 September, 2009. Selection will be processed in accordance with IDA (World Bank) guidelines for selection and employment of consultants and the IDA Financed Project Management Units (PMUs) Guidelines for Establishment and Operations.

Attention: Dr. Majed Yahya Aljunaid
Deputy Minister of Primary Health Care
Ministry of Public Health and Population

Information note on Sa'ada

By: United Nations country team

Fighting between Yemeni Government forces and Al Houthi groups has continued to escalate in the Sa'ada Governorate, impeding humanitarian access to population in need. Government took control of Harf Soufian in Amran governorate.

Anecdotal information suggests that the humanitarian situation in Sa'ada is worsening, as coping mechanisms of civilians population caught in the conflict are getting exhausted.

Humanitarian access is urgently required to prevent the humanitarian situation from deteriorating further. Outbreaks of many epidemic diseases are likely scenario as most of the public health programs and facilities are non-functional.

The humanitarian community has finalized a Flash Appeal, which will be launched on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, to address humanitarian needs of approximately 150,000 internally displaced persons (IDP) and tens of thousands of people indirectly affected by the conflict.

1. Political/Security Update and Situation in Town

Fighting between the Government of Yemen and Al-Houthi tribal group has intensified in recent days resulting in additional displacement of population and straining the coping mechanisms of populations caught in the conflict. Available information suggests that as many as 35,000 IDPs live in Sa'ada city and surrounding areas, in addition to tens of thousands of residents, who also reportedly need assistance. Reports from humanitarian actors indicate that there is no water and no electricity in the city. There is also a shortage of fuel and it is becoming increasingly dangerous and hard for the people to reach the market to buy commodities and prices are soaring. Many health facilities are non-functional, and public health activities are not delivered to populations, which raises concerns over the risk of disease outbreaks.

Humanitarian actors are increasingly concerned over the deterioration of the situation in Sa'ada, as fighting intensifies and there is no indication that confrontations will subside in the near future. A commitment from all parties is needed to facilitate immediate, safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian actors to Sa'ada to allow for urgent needs assessments and the provision of humanitarian assistance to those in need.

In the meantime, some progress has been made in terms of getting access

to displaced populations in neighboring governorates. Following a first mission of the Resident Coordinator and WHO Representative to Hajjah Governorate with the Minister of Health on August 22, UN agencies' and INGO's representatives traveled to Amran Governorate on Monday, August 24. The mission reached Khaiwan, some 90 kilometers south of Sa'ada, where newly arrived IDPs were found living in public facilities or with host families. The presence of IDPs was also reported in surrounding areas. The authorities informed the mission of their intention to open a new IDP camp of an initial capacity of 500 families.

As of August 27, agencies operate humanitarian programs in Hajjah Governorate and Amran Governorate. In Sa'ada, UN agencies resumed distribution of assistance this week after activities had been on hold following the outbreak of fighting. However, insecurity is restricting movements of humanitarian personnel, which severely hampers implementation of activities. Humanitarian program has also started in Baqim in the north of Sa'ada Governorate. In Hajjah Governorate, a humanitarian program has been underway in Haradh and Al Mazrak since August 14. Assistance includes the distribution of food and relief items to displaced populations. Agencies are also helping local authorities establish a camp. In Amran Governorate, and following the mission of August 24, humanitarian partners are preparing to provide humanitarian assistance in Khaiwan as well as to scattered IDPs. Al Jawf

Governorate has been a no-go area for a few years for many humanitarian agencies due to tribal conflict. Government officials announced that there are about 4000 IDPs in Al-Jawf Governorate.

Humanitarian agencies estimate that a total of 150,000 persons have been displaced by conflict in the northern part of the country. This estimation is based on information from the Sa'ada authorities that 120,000 persons from the Governorate are currently displaced and that, in Amran Governorate, fighting in the Harf Sufyan region has forced close to 30,000 persons to flee from their homes. However, in addition to the IDPs, it is estimated that several thousand other civilians are also affected by war and may require assistance.

2. Humanitarian/Relief Assistance

Protection: In Hajjah Governorate some incidents were registered in Al-Mazrak transit area, involving IDPs carrying weapons. Accordingly, UNHCR requested the local government to make sure that IDPs be without weapons upon entering the area in order to ensure safety of beneficiaries and humanitarian personnel. In Sa'ada Governorate, where distribution of assistance had been on hold since August 10, agencies were able to register beneficiaries from August 22, in view of distributing assistance. Reports indicate that the delivery of humanitarian aid is complicated by the fighting. There are also concerns over the depletion of stocks.

Camp Coordination and Camp

Management: In Sa'ada, humanitarian partners helped relocate some 5,000 IDPs from Al-Anad camp just outside the city, which was caught in the line of fire, to safer places. Some were moved to the camps of Al-Ihsa' and Sam within the city and Al-Talh outside the city, others elsewhere in the city. Reports indicate that the three camps shelter over 4,200 people. As IDPs continue to arrive in the city, their capacity of the camps is being stretched to the limit.

In Hajjah Governorate, UNHCR provides technical support to the Government, in partnership with the Yemeni Red Crescent Society, to establish a camp in Al-Mazrak. The camp will initially accommodate 500 families. At least 166 tents have already been erected and are being occupied. In Amran Governorate, the authorities informed the recent interagency mission of their intention to open a new IDP camp in Khaiwan. The camp will initially accommodate 500 families. Priority will be given to displaced families, who are currently living in schools, hangars and other public facilities in the governorate. UNHCR will assist the local authority to set up the camp.

Shelter and Non-Food Items: Distribution of non-food items (NFI), kerosene stoves, mattresses, blankets, tents, plastic sheets and soap is taking place for IDPs in- and outside camps in Haradh and Al-Mazrak (Hajjah Governorate) and Sa'ada. In Sa'ada, UNHCR has registered 700 families. However, they only have NFIs for half of this population due to the impossibility of replenishing their stocks. The agency is preparing to

dispatch NFIs for 300 families to Amran. UNHCR's relief assistance provided so far has been from a contingency stock for refugees. UNHCR placed an order to procure 25,000 blankets, 6,000 kitchen sets, 6,000 plastic sheeting and 300 tents.

Food: In Hajjah Governorate, distribution of food aid is ongoing since 14 August. As of August 29, 7,574 IDPs had benefited from distribution of a full food basket, totaling 76 mt. In Sa'ada, WFP resumed food distribution on August 26, following an interruption of nearly two weeks due to insecurity. The agency distributed more than 46 mt of food to 2,513 IDPs in Al-Ihsa and Sam camps - including 1,078 newly displaced persons; families received full food rations in addition to dates (in kind contribution). WFP currently has 935 mt of food commodities in Sa'ada town positioned and ready for distribution pending completion of registration. The delivery of humanitarian aid is complicated by fighting, and insecurity is currently hampering access of agencies to Al-Talh camp. Food is being stock piled in Sana'a ready to dispatch to Amran and Al-Jawf. On 30 August WFP staff traveled to Amran in order to meet with local authorities and to identify a field office and storage capacity; distribution to IDPs in the governorate should begin in the coming days.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): UNICEF has distributed 1,025 water filters, 2,000 jerry cans, 10 tanks of capacity 2,000 liters each, 1,000 hygiene kits and 300,000 water purification tablets to 1,000 displaced families in Haradh.

Health: WHO mobilized one trauma kit to Amran to support 100 surgical interventions. One diarrhea kit was also sent to the same place for treating 500 severe cases. In addition, locally purchased medicines were sent to health units in Amran and Haradh (Hajjah Governorate). A WHO local staff conducted an assessment of the health situation in Al-Jawf. The assessment report indicates that there are around 4,000 IDPs scattered across four districts. The Ministry of Health and WHO will send one mobile clinic to Al-Jawf in order to enhance the capacity of local health authorities. Some 700 long-lasting insecticide treated bed nets were distributed on August 25, to IDPs in Al-Mazrak. Rapid diagnostic testing has begun for all suspected cases of malaria and treatment is given accordingly.

3. Cooperation with the Yemeni Government

The Yemeni Government has taken a proactive step and established a High-Level Inter-Ministerial Sa'ada Relief Committee to coordinate assistance to affected populations, which is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Local Administration AT the local level local Governors have been instructed to establish local coordination committees. This is a positive step and hopefully will help speed up action and eventually help find a quick resolve for humanitarian access in Sa'ada.

Media reports on Sa'ada are based on unconfirmed secondary information, and should be read as such.

روضة وحدة الأطفال
JUNIORS' OASIS KINDERGARTEN

وحدة الأطفال
الآن
سجل أطفالك
ابتداء من 5 سبتمبر 2009

رعاية على مدار اليوم
- تعليم - تربية - فرع - صداقات - استكشاف
- مجالسة الأطفال حسب الوقت المطلوب

شارع نواكشوط المتفرع من شارع بغداد،
خلف مدرسة رابعة العدوية
تلفون: ٤٧٠٢٥٠
موبايل: ٧٣٤٥٢٢٢٢٥

Extension for the Submission of the Deadline for the Prequalification of Contractors for Amran Aden Highway Project Section-I, Sana'a-Dhamar-Bait Al Komani, (6-lane, Dual Carriageway, 95 km)

The Ministry of Public Works and Highways, Roads Sector, wishes to extend the submission deadline for prequalification documents for Amran Aden Highway Project Section-I, Sana'a-Dhamar-Bait Al Komani, (6-lane, Dual Carriageway, 95 km) Until 11:00 AM Wednesday, Sep 30, 2009 instead of the previous deadline of Sept 6, 2009.

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نرفعا للزميل العزيز/
نصري أبو بكر السقاف
بمناسبة ارتقاء المولود البكر والذي اسماه
أبو بكر
فإنك أله مبروك ..
وجعل الله لقره عيه والديه وانبه نبأاً حسناً
المصطفى
جميع الاهل والاصدقاء

DOVE ENERGY LIMITED
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Position Title : Operations Planning Specialist
Location : Field- CPF
Deadline Date : 30th September 2009

Responsibilities:

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- Asset work management processes & systems for effective asset & maintenance management
- Integrated work planning and scheduling for work affecting producing assets
- Planning leadership for Operations projects and turnaround activities
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- Should be Yemeni Nationality
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- Experience in developing and managing physical asset operational and maintenance strategies, and strong understanding of effective maintenance and integrity programs.
- Good oral and written skills in both English & Arabic languages
- Multi-disciplinary team work
- Good IT skills including Microsoft applications

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: hr@doveyemen.com. (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V

CARE
CARE International in Yemen
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CARE International is looking for a qualified Projects Support Manager to provide programmatic and administrative support to the CARE Yemen Country office in Sana'a

1. Core responsibilities

- Supports the Country Programme in monitoring projects, to ensure progress against objectives and compliance with CARE and donor guidelines;
- Works with Project Managers in project compliance, progress reports, and builds their capacity in project cycle and budget management.
- Coordinates staff training and development
- Supports the development of donor proposals
- Ability to travel extensively around the country

2. Required Qualifications

- Degree in development or related fields.
- Experience in education
- Hands-on experience in design, M&E of development projects, ideally in an international organization.
- Experience with evaluation instruments, results based management, work planning, budgeting and reporting
- Excellent writing skills in English. Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.

Qualified applicants should forward CV (in English) and cover letter (motivating your application) by email to care_vacancy@yahoo.com with the subject heading "Projects Support Manager", from which address detailed Job description may be requested. Application deadline is 27 September 2009. only short listed candidates will be contacted.

Words of Wisdom



The Government has been dished out a lot of talk on how important is the economic reform program it is implementing. That is actually true. The reform is very important, and its success is quite vital for the future well-being of the nation. Yet, in my opinion, the present reform and the people managing it will not lead us to the results we want.

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



OUR OPINION

Power cuts and a new lifestyle

The regularity of power cuts has risen to such an extraordinary level that Yemenis have started planning their day's activities around the availability of electricity.

In offices, computer batteries have to be replaced more than once. At home, some Yemenis are using pottery to cool water, a pestle and mortar to prepare sahwuq, and a broom to sweep. Others constantly have to replace their electronic appliances with new ones.

Despite the tragic circumstances of not having even the very basic utility of electricity, we have to adjust and carry on with our lives.

The downside is that everything has become slower and less effective. Work productivity is at its lowest, especially since we are already living a lazy month of fasting, in which Yemenis pray, watch television and eat, without getting much sleep or work done.

The upside is that these power cuts have made us value the resources we have and think more of time and resource management in a way that we have not before. It has created business for some -selling everything from candles to generators, and new social practices for others.

During iftar, the breaking of the fast at sunset, in times with electricity, Yemenis gather around the television to watch special Ramadan programs while they eat. But when there is no electricity, they eat by candlelight and talk to each other in a way they would not have had the television been on.

Many people are slack in their praying during Ramadan as they are glued to the television screen, but now when the screen is black, they get up onto their feet and pray more regularly.

In my family, we discovered the joy of eating in our garden because of the power cuts. We now have an alternative dining table in the garden and, when the electricity is out, we simply shift outside to eat under the stars, while our seven cats purr between our legs demanding their dinner too.

Perhaps it is about making the most out of a bad situation, and Yemenis over the course of history have learned to adjust, compromise, and look for alternatives.

Daily lifestyles change. New cultural practices and anecdotes have emerged. We have even created new jokes about the power cuts. These days, it is very common to find a Yemeni who starts his or her sentence with, "Once, when the power was off..."

But what this does to the overall development of the country is a different issue. These power cuts define the future of Yemen's development. The story is one of economic losses because of the lack of power and irresponsible management.

But it is another story. For now, maybe we can enjoy natural light and gossip for a while.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Local community institutions: Symbol of decentralism

By: Eng. Wahid Ali Rashid
newsyemen.net

Today Yemen is striving to recover from its turbulences, the most dangerous aspect of which is that some are using violence to realize what they want. All of us who are eager to preserve this country's security and stability can see the huge disparity between those who wish to bring Yemen out of its impasse healthier and with fewer injuries and those who insist on pulling down our house stone by stone.

In the midst of this conflict, our vital institutions are standing in harm's way. They belong to civil society and include schools, hospitals, mosques, charities, universities, administrative offices and so forth.

The essential work of these institutions is to serve and preserve order in the society. Their existence is a symbol of the existence of a society. When they properly assume their duties, they promise services and cooperation for all people and their success in performing their mission means there is progress and prosperity in the country. In addition, NGOs contribute enormously to the tenacity, solidarity and harmony of society.

School in particular is a major sign of

success for every family. When parents watch their children leave home each morning to that edifice we call school, they know that their children are receiving the basic knowledge on which their future is based.

When the community preserves, sponsors, develops and promotes its schools, it is, in reality, preserving its children, because symbolically school can be considered to be the mother of all institutions. Without school, there is no education or learning. Without education, our children are lost and given away to ignorance, superstition and other blights that plague society.

Talking about school reflects the significance of other institutions. A school is not stones cemented together, yards, furniture or even an isolated teacher or a book. It is rather the sublime concept that makes all the neighborhood children sit in the same line, listen to the same teacher and drink from the spring of knowledge together.

In school, children learn that a word is merely a number of letters connected together, and thus their life is based on love, friendship and fraternity. The school is the essence of a society's success and we can gauge any society's attainment only through its schools.

The question here is this: How do we

found this institution? How do we develop it? How do we preserve what has been achieved? And who should take responsibility for the above? Would it be the school administration, the teachers, the students since they are the major beneficiaries, or the parents because of the experience and awareness they have?

I say that it is a joint responsibility of all the neighborhood components in the local community to create, develop and preserve its schools because society as a whole should realize the important symbolism of such an institution. The same should be realized by concerned authorities.

As said above, the same talk about school applies to other community institutions as well. It would not be mistaken to say that all facets of the local community are connected to public establishments because they include doctors, engineers, administrators, mosque imams, educators, philosophers and decision-makers to name but a few. Ethically, everyone should take it upon themselves to create, protect and develop community institutions.

Community establishments, regardless of rank or significance, have one common connection: they all form the basis of the community and the symbol of its development. Therefore, conserving these foundations should be at the heart of our ethical obligations. Society must work to

establish other supporting foundations, prevent anybody from undermining them and solve any problem that may come in their way.

We have to break away from the passiveness of leaving each institution to deal with its problems by itself, especially since problems keep increasing, often going beyond the resources of any institution. As such, it should not be the responsibility of the limited number of people working in these institutions alone to care for and protect these structures. People keep talking about the local community's capability of managing its affairs, but I say it is time to act.

Competent people should organize themselves and they should be creative in doing what should be done. We need local community leaders who can deal competently with problems that affect their children, families, brothers and sisters in school, offices, hospitals, mosques and other community institutions.

When we speak about decentralism, it is the community foundations that are then relied upon. However, all talk is meaningless if such establishments remain in the same state we see now.

Our expectations fade away when we see that competence is granted to institutions that boast only the minimum success and active structure.

Tourist development in Yemen

By: Abdalrazak Al-Shipami
HERTZ RENT A CAR
abdualrazag@universalyemen.com

Tourism could be considered to be one of the main financial resources for the government's public budget. These days, Yemen has become a target country for numerous tourists who come from different parts of the world to enjoy the magical beauty and nice weather of Yemen. Such people visit Yemen either for tourist or business purposes. But whatever the purpose of those visitors is, they participate in promoting the Yemeni economy.

Hence, we as Yemenis should prepare important services they are in need of, such as hotels, rental cars and so on.

As an employee of HERTZ rental car company, I realized how visitors are in need of cars to rent during their time in Yemen. HERTZ provides those visitors with modern cars in order to help them visit most of the magical places of Yemen or to achieve their business easily. I feel happy when I serve those guests who visit Yemen for a specific period of time, and I do my best in order to give them a good impression of Yemeni people and Yemen as a whole.

Some of those visitors who rented our cars before come again during the

tourist season and rent other cars from us. This is because they felt a true sense of comfort and happiness when they rented our cars in previous years. I take pride in my colleagues as they are participating in promoting our prosperous Yemen by serving its guests.

To conclude, Yemen is our beloved country, and we should invest our time and efforts to develop it. Every Yemeni should serve this country, no matter what position he finds himself in. If he is a teacher, he must build a good generation to run this country in the near future. If he is working or dealing with foreigners, he must reflect for them the beautiful face of Yemen.

Veiled or Unveiled

By: Afrah Nasser
afrah.nasser@yahoo.com

It is a custom for Yemeni women to cover their faces with a thin black piece of cloth whenever they are in public or when they are in the presence of strange men for religious and/or traditional reasons. As always, the veil color must be black. However, sometimes it could be white, but that's rarely found. It's not comfortable to wear a veil, but once a girl is used to it, she no longer seems to feel any discomfort. In fact, if she really got used to it, she'd feel extremely uncomfortable without it.

For me, I don't wear it. A long time ago I wanted to, but I was completely opposed by my mother. I don't know why, but I'm glad she did. I'm glad because I really find it uncomfortable now. Even though being unveiled has its advantages and disadvantages, I'm still glad that I don't wear it.

Societal perception of a veiled girl varies from one individual to another. Some common perceptions are that the veil is a religious duty upon every girl to follow, it preserves the girls' beauty and honor and it's a social necessity so girls could avoid harassment. Here is the debatable perception: it enables girls to get away with whatever they want to do.

But that's not what matters to me. The stories that happened to me in respect to being unveiled are what impressed me. They made me ask myself: am I less Muslim or less Yemeni when I'm not veiled?!

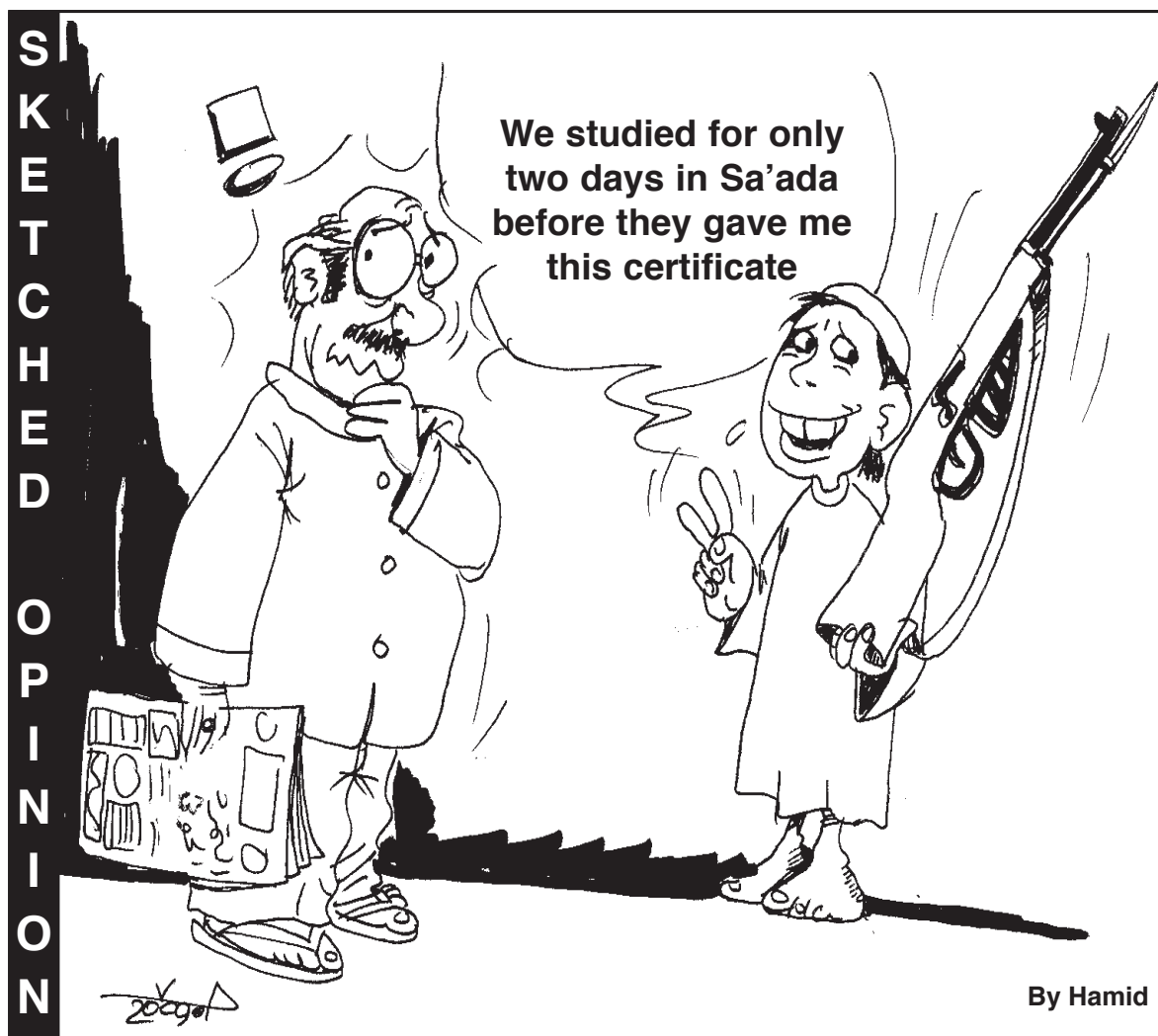
Months ago, our neighbor's little son told me that I was going to hell. Laughing, I exclaimed, "Why?" He answered, "Because you are not veiled." He comes from a very conservative and religious family and all the women in his family are veiled, so he can't see any other point of view. Anyways, I didn't take it personally at all.

Another incident that happened to me was really funny. My best friend's little sisters, ages 4 and 8, were gossiping about me. My friend happened to hear their conversation and she later told me about it.

The younger told the elder that Afrah was coming to their house later on. The elder asked, "Who is Afrah?" The younger replied with surprise, "How could you forget her! She's the one who goes outside without a veil!" Then the elder remembered. For me, that was hilarious. So now I'm easily distinguishable by being unveiled!

Yet another incident was very weird for me. I went to attend my best friend's celebration of finishing memorizing the whole Quran at a Quranic teaching center. When it was over, I went to go home. Then, a girl I didn't know asked me loudly in surprise, "Aren't you going to wear your veil?" "I'm unveiled," I replied in the same tone of hers. We both were as equally surprised as the other. It was the most surprising look I've ever seen coming from a stranger.

In short, I don't think I'm any less Yemeni or Muslim when I'm unveiled. No matter what the perception might be, I won't wear it, even if I want to get away with anything! I can't help but laugh whenever I recall these incidents.



By Hamid

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Yemen Press Review



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009

Main Headlines

- President Saleh and his Libyan counterpart confirm strengthening bilateral relations
- Yemeni-Saudi-Jordanian discussions focus on current developments in Yemen
- Vice-President welcomes Chinese investments in Yemen
- Many rebels hand themselves to the army, another 11 killed in Damaj area

An official military source confirmed that units of armed and security forces successfully destroyed several strategic positions, once used by Houthi rebels in the northern areas of Manzallah, Hamazat and Nushour, the weekly reported. It added that army personnel also destroyed a car loaded with arms on its way to the rebels.

It continued that military and security forces took control of five strongholds, belonging to the elements of rebellion and terrorism, in Dhu Sulaiman village where Saleh Suwaidan exists. According to the weekly, Suwaidan is one of a group of rebel leaders, who were forced to flee their strongholds. The army also took over some farmlands, once used by Houthi rebels in the volatile province.

"The army forces also struck other

mountaintop positions, where rebels and outlaws were entrenching, in areas of Al-Mashtal, Al-Anad and Sanabl. As a result of the heavy aerial shelling, the rebels suffered big losses," the weekly quoted the same source as saying.

The source confirmed that 11 Houthi rebels were killed in Damaj area, adding that rebels resorted to killing innocent civilians and injuring another two in Bani Muadh area.

According to the weekly, Salem Saleh Mohammed, Advisor to President of the Republic, confirmed that the armed rebellion in the north is merely a miserable attempt to fragment Yemeni society and generate chaos in the unified homeland.



Al-Wasat Independent Political Weekly
Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2009

Main Headlines

- Prolonging the Saada war makes Yemen a ground for external conflict
- Salafis in Yemen urge Hamas to repent
- Interior Ministry confirms that the number of Somali refugees exceed one million
- Authority rejects Houthis' initiative, army continues striking their mountaintop positions.

Amid escalating clashes in the restive Saada province and Harf Sifyan of the neighboring Amran province, and intensified aerial shelling by the army on Houthi strongholds, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, Houthi field leader, announced that the war ceased from his side as part of an initiative to stop bloodshed, the weekly reported.

The initiative covered ambiguous and unclear points, some of which is quitting armament and restoring peace to the volatile province. However, it contained no satirical address, which was usual to be made by Houthis.

The authorities, however, announced their rejection of the initiative, according to the weekly, which quoted Abdulmalik Al-Houthi as saying, "As we care about security and stability, paving atmospheres for stopping bloodshed, restoring security and order to the province, and helping displaced people return home, we offer this initiative to cease the war."

"All the roads to and from Saada should be unblocked and mobilization of arms should be stopped," he added.

The initiative, announced by Al-Houthi while GCC member states were holding a ministerial meeting on the developing situations in Saada, is above all the disagreements since it contains workable solutions to the crisis, he maintained.

According to the weekly, an official source at the Supreme Security Committee (SSC) confirmed that the Yemeni government has been caring about

peace and prevention of bloodshed since the very beginning by appointing many social figures to persuade the outlaws to quit their irresponsible actions.



Al-Ahale Independent Weekly
Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009

Main Headlines

- President Saleh: We will clear Saada of outlaws like we did in central areas
- Electricity: corruption under lights
- Former Electricity Minister Mustafa Bahran didn't bring nuke energy but stopped frequent power cut-offs
- Iran reveals regional mediation in Saada conflict, Gulf states discuss situations in the volatile governorate

Foreign ministers of Gulf Cooperation Council state members are due to reach a consensus on what is taking place in the war-ravaged province of Saada. This is the agenda of their meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday Sept. 1, following announcement by GCC Secretary General Abdurrahman Al-Attiya that those ministers will discuss developing situations of Yemen amid escalating clashes in Saada and the neighboring province Amran, the weekly reported.

According to the paper, the US Embassy in Sanaa declared in a press

release that "the U.S. admits Yemeni government's responsibility for maintaining national peace, urging Yemen to live up to the responsibility in reducing risks of the fighting on the civilian population."

The US renewed its call for both warring parties to ensure safety for local and international aid workers in the area and ease roads for delivery of essential relief items to camps that shelter thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs).

The weekly continued that Iranian official media quoted their country foreign minister Mino Shahr Matki as saying that his government is concerned about the situation of Shias in Yemen.

Receiving Yemeni Ambassador to Iran Jamal Abdullah, Matki said that Iran supports any kind relations between the Yemeni government and Houthi Shias in the north. He added that both conflicting sides should stop the fighting and support each other to coexist peacefully in the Yemeni territory.

Al-Ghad Comprehensive Independent Weekly
Monday, August 31, 2009

Main Headlines

- 5000 citizens in Sukhna area suffer thirst
- Socotra local councils reject aids offered by Al-Saleh Charitable Foundation to Poor families
- Aid agencies concerned about difficulty reaching IDP camps
- A Houthi field leader killed, other Houthis lay down their arms

An official military source announced on Saturday that a Houhi leader was killed in Bani Muadh area of Saada province, the weekly reported, adding, "In the meantime, the government forces are conducting negotiations with Houthi leaders in their mountaintop positions in the districts of Shada, Malahidh, Saqain and Mahadhir, which were targeted by heavy aerial shelling by the army."

According to the weekly, the army intensifies military operations against Houthis to surrender in exchange for guarantees that they will not be subjected to attacks.

In the neighboring Amaran province, the weekly quoted other military sources as saying the government troops, through hit-and-run tactics in Harf Sifyan area, managed to carry out an ambush against groups of Houthi followers in three main positions. According to the source, dozens of Houthis were killed or injured in the ambush while another 35 Houthis surrendered.

The weekly went on to say that preliminary investigations with those Houthi loyalists, who surrendered to the government, revealed that they back Houthis in their fight against the army in order to get money. "It is their need for money that compelled them to join Houthis," according to the investigations.

Local sources said that Houthis assaulted a site where volunteer tribesmen, backing the army, gather, killing nine of them and injuring another 16. The sources added that the assault occurred before both conflicting sides were engaged in a gunfire.

De-mystifying the Middle East

By: Jennifer Hayes

West Bank - Sitting in my Tokyo apartment two years ago and planning a worldwide trip, I only considered travelling through Lebanon, Syria and Jordan as a means to get from Turkey to Egypt. The thought of travelling through the Middle East both terrified and intrigued me.

The majority of the news I heard from Tel Aviv, Damascus or Beirut concerned terrorism, civil war, kidnappings and suicide bombings. I couldn't help but wonder if it really was an angry sandbox full of radical Muslims, repressed women and terror like it appeared on television. I was sure that I was going to experience hatred, whether towards my country or myself as an American.

So, why go? I wanted to see what life was really

like in the Middle East and grasp the regional politics that affect us all. In my own naive and idealistic way, I wanted to build a greater understanding between the Western and Muslim worlds.

I was genuinely—and repeatedly—surprised by what I found. No matter how open-minded I thought I'd been, I quickly realised that there were still some deep-seeded notions I had about the Middle East and it wasn't until I travelled through it that I realised they were unfounded:

- 1) The Middle East is a hot, barren desert.
 - 2) The Middle East is full of Qur'an-wielding radical Muslims.
- There are many areas in the Middle East where Muslims are angry, and I honestly believe that they have the right to be so (I am neither endorsing terrorism, nor taking sides). However, I didn't personally experience anything beyond a heated discussion in my travels. Religion is inseparable from daily life here. Whether it's a man prostrated over a prayer rug in the middle of the dairy

Another surprise was that the "hot" desert I imagined could also be snowy and freezing! In the Syrian desert I wore every layer I had to fight off frostbite. I even went snowboarding in Lebanon, although it was still too cold to live the Lebanese cliché: hitting the slopes and taking a dip in the Mediterranean on the same day.

"This is the Middle East?" I kept asking myself. The beauty and diversity of this region astounded me.

- 3) The Middle East is dangerous and

they hate Americans. As a seemingly helpless American girl on her own, I thought that entering this "Axis of Evil" would make me a prime target for kidnapping or hate crime. In fact, I was held hostage, but only as a result of people's hospitality. I felt safer travelling here than I had in many countries in Asia, Europe or America.

I have been in the Middle East for over a year now and I haven't heard any stories of fellow travellers being victims of anything more than a bad bargain or a conniving taxi driver. Actually, many locals and other travellers I talked to expressed their fears of going to America, which seemed to them a land of school shootings, street gangs and violent crime.

And what of being an American? Most locals I met were very straightforward in telling me how much they disliked the policies of my government, but this was rarely held against me personally. In fact, I've

felt much more disdain and discrimination as an American from Europeans and people from other Western countries. I know I have only scratched the surface of what the "real" situation is here. I don't profess to have any knowledge other than that which I have experienced first-hand as a traveller and an outsider. But I am eternally grateful that I had the opportunity—and the courage—to ignore these myths and experience this mysterious land for myself.

Jennifer Hayes is a writer and photographer currently volunteering in the West Bank. This abridged article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) with permission from Altmuslim.com. The full text can be found at www.altmuslim.com. Source: Altmuslim.com, 17 August 2009, www.altmuslim.com Copyright permission is granted for publication.

An unusual sight in Ramallah

BY: Daoud Kuttab

Amman - I had to rub my eyes a few times to be sure that what I was seeing was real. The setting: downtown Ramallah. The event: International Youth Day. The participants were wearing white T-shirts with logos on the front and back, and red hats.

Palestinians from all over the West Bank were participating in the event organised by a network of youth non-governmental organisations called We are Palestine. The theme this year was "We will be as much as we can dream".

The day's activities began with a carnival, starting from the well-known Manara Square, passing through the streets of Ramallah and

ending at the Orthodox Club.

The day included discussions about drugs and unemployment, a basketball game for disabled youths and various concerts. In addition to performances by the troupe Bailasan and the Tagareed Ensemble, the evening ended with two rap performances, one by a group called G-town and the finale by Blood in Street.

What surprised me was not the event or the enthusiasm or the number of youth participating in it. After all, Palestinians under 25 years of age constitute the majority of the population in the West Bank.

My big surprise was the public sponsor of the event. The red, white and blue logo of USAID with the words "From the American people" appeared everywhere including on the

back of participants' T-shirts.

The fact that USAID was sponsoring a youth event might not be totally strange in itself. But to have the American logo brandished all over the streets of Ramallah, on outdoor signs and the back of a moving sea of people was really a sight to see.

It was only a few years ago that young people, possibly many of the same ones celebrating International Youth Day this week, were demonstrating in the same Manara Square in Ramallah against Israel and the United States.

Anti-American slogans used to be the norm at almost all Palestinian youth-led demonstrations.

So what's changed? Have Palestinians become less politicised or has anti-American sentiment mellowed?

I decided to conduct my own unscientific poll among the hundreds of youths gathered for this year's International Youth Day.

My question was simple: Has it become acceptable among Palestinians to wear a hat or a T-shirt praising Americans?

Most respondents' answers could be summarised in two words: Barack Obama.

The newly elected president has done more to change America's image among Palestinians than any policy declaration or political activity.

People carefully noted that they were not blindly supporting the United States all of a sudden. Nor did they believe that everything the new American president said would be carried out. But it was clear that the presence of the son of an African

immigrant in the White House had its effects on the psyche of Palestinian youths.

Other reasons were stated. Young Palestinians have had it with the constant and intensified political rhetoric. While no one I spoke to was any less nationalistic, many said they were not willing to wait forever for political change and that there was more to life than following the never-ending political discourse.

While some expressed disillusionment with many in the Palestinian leadership, others had words of praise for the current Palestinian prime minister, Salam Fayyed, and still others expressed hope for the newly elected Fatah leadership.

It is not clear whether my observations reflect a change in the

thinking of Palestinian youth or whether it is an isolated incident, but I don't remember a day in the last 20 years (or more) that I could see American symbols being worn without those wearing them, or people around them, batting an eyelid.

Daoud Kuttab is an award-winning Palestinian journalist and a former Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton University. He is general manager of Community Media Network Radio Al Balad. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) with permission from the author. Source: Jerusalem Post, 24 August 2009, www.jpost.com Copyright permission is granted for publication.

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The history of flu: Tracking the deadly virus through centuries

By: Tina Peng and Kate Dailey
Newsweek Photo Stories



Hippocrates (460-370 B.C.), the ancient Greek physician (left) is commonly referred to as the father of medicine. In his writings, he sometimes described flu-like symptoms. But there were no recorded flu pandemics until 1580, during King Philip's reign in Spain. Scientists believe King Philip's military troops were largely responsible for spreading the deadly virus to other parts of Europe.



In the 1700s, the world saw three flu pandemics and two major epidemics. Although doctors tried to do their best by their patients — as in this illustration of an 18th century hospital — they lacked an understanding of the influenza virus (some summarized that it was spread through sexual intercourse) and made little headway in effectively dealing with the outbreaks.



Influenza outbreaks continued through the 19th century as cities grew and worldwide shipping increased people's movement and exposure. One pandemic, in 1837, was so severe that flu deaths exceeded births in Berlin that January. And public businesses completely ceased in Barcelona. Pictured: a supplemental tent hospital in 1890, during the Russian flu pandemic, which is thought to have spread from southern China to Europe and the United States by way of Russia.



1918 saw the onset of the world's most devastating flu pandemic to date — and what some call the most devastation pandemic in global history. Worldwide, it claimed the lives of around 50-million people, include 8 million in Spain. This staggering statistic is why the pandemic is often referred to as the "Spanish Flu". By comparison, 19 million people died during the entire First World War. In this picture, influenza patients pack an emergency hospital near Kan where the virus was first observed.



A technician uses a dental drill to grow an Asian strain of the influenza virus using fertile hen eggs. Later this diluted virus will be injected into people as a vaccine. In 2004, Science magazine reported that researchers had managed to reconstitute the Spanish flu from lung samples taken from an almost century old body of an Inuit woman buried in Alaska's tundra, along with preserved samples from American World War I soldiers. They analyzed the viral genes to determine how the disease had spread so rapidly and devastatingly, and used the reconstituted virus to help develop new vaccines.



As time passed, scientists learned more about the influenza virus — how to isolate it and grow it in a laboratory — and came closer to a vaccine. But some efforts to contain the virus were still ineffective: in this 1941 picture, a school nurse oversees a class of World War II evacuees at a school in Buckinghamshire, England as they gargle, ostensible, to ward off the flu.



Despite its devastation, the Spanish flu failed to leave much of a cultural impact, perhaps because it was overshadowed with the First World War. Few works of literature addressed it or its impact in any way, although cartoons — like this 1923 drawing by Charles Dana Gibson — helped spread awareness and attempted to help stem the spread.



Seattle policemen wear protective gauze face masks during the 1918 epidemic.



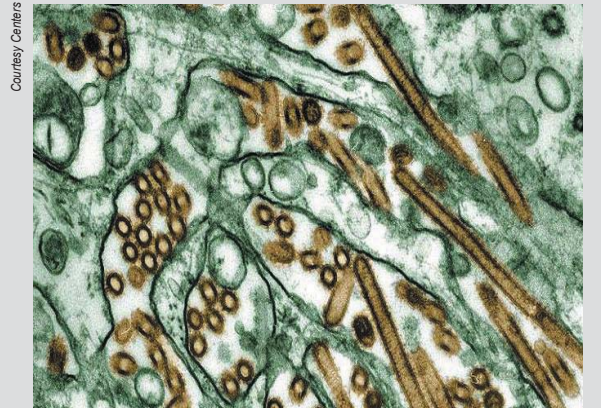
1957 marked the onset of the Asian flu pandemic. In this outbreak, scientific advances meant that it was quickly identified, health officials were able to respond rapidly and make limited quantities of vaccines available. Still, the global death toll was about two million. In this picture, Danish influenza patients rest in temporary sick quarters in a gym at Copenhagen's naval shipyard.



In 1969, the Hong Kong flu, the world's last recorded flu pandemic killed almost 34,000. London had to rely on volunteer nurses, as the number of victims climbed and hospital doctors and nurses succumbed to the virus as well. Many office workers wore masks every day as a precautionary measure.



Swine flu broke out among soldiers stationed at Fort Dix, N.J., in 1976, causing one death. Health officials worried that they would see a resurgence of the Spanish flu, but as the virus circulated among American pigs, a vaccine was made and a quarter of the American population was inoculated. There were 25 deaths from complications with the vaccine, but no one else died of swine flu.



This electron micrograph captures the avian influenza A (H5N1) virus. Although this type of virus rarely affects humans, several outbreaks have been recorded since 1997, when bird flu killed 18 people, most of who had direct contact with infected poultry.



Experts say the swine flu outbreak of 2009 probably won't be as bad as the 1918 pandemic, thanks to medical advancements made during the past 90 years. But the toll has been heavy in Mexico. Here, a woman helps her ill husband enter the emergency room at a Mexico City hospital on April 2009.



Health officials donning protective suits carry a victim on a stretcher through Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur International Airport during a pandemic-influenza simulation exercise in January 2008.



Almost 400 cases of bird-flu infection have been reported since 2003. Vietnam was particularly hard-hit; every one of its 64 provinces reported outbreaks in 2004, and tens of millions of chickens were killed. In several Asian countries, bird flu has become as feared as HIV/AIDS, and many people now refuse to touch poultry dishes.



In 2003, the bird-flu virus was discerned on a few South Korean farms. The country's government responded by slaughtering almost a million chickens and ducks across the country. In this picture soldiers and veterinary personnel bury hundreds of duck carcasses in an attempt to contain the virus.

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What's hot and what's not on Yemeni television this Ramadan

Although Ramadan is not yet over, many Yemeni viewers have already determined which of this season's Yemeni soap operas are worth watching.

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

In Ramadan each year, Arab television channels launch exclusive series for the month. This year, Yemeni television channels have introduced more entertainment programs than last year.

Their features programs showcasing religious, historical and social issues from around the region, but the Yemeni soap operas come under particular scrutiny for reflecting the society their viewers live in.

A survey conducted by the Polling Center at the University of Sana'a about the programs aired during Ramadan in 2008 revealed the importance of television, and in particular Yemeni channels, during the month of Ramadan.

Around 78 percent of the 2,500 participants in the survey, which covered seven Yemeni governorates, said that they watched Yemeni channels, while 22 percent said that they did not.

Up to 22 percent said that the Yemeni programs were boring, poorly directed or badly shot.

This Ramadan, about seven local television series -mostly comedy- have graced Yemeni television screens, compared to four last year. Al-Saeeda scheduled two home-grown series, while Al-Yemen claimed the lion's share with five.

Although Yemen boasts five different television channels, competition has peaked between state satellite channel Al-Yemen and private satellite channel Al-Saeeda. Both are racing to attract a broader audience, especially in



Ramadan, when television becomes the typical form of entertainment.

The channel's producers have been busy, but how do their creations fair in the eyes of the Yemeni public?

While some Yemeni viewers express their disappointment at "the poor performance of the Yemeni cast," others said that, this Ramadan, Yemeni series have shown notable progress in all of production, the cast's performance, and themes.

"No doubt, there is progress," said Samer, 23. "You can note the high cost of production, the good shooting, the proper selection of the locations where they shoot," added Samer.

Season 5 of *Kini Mini* [Nonsense], which is aired on Al-Saeeda channel, and *Elajak Andi* [I have your treatment], which aired on Al-Yemen, are Samer's favorite shows.

"These two series handle issues related to Yemeni reality," he said.

Majed Mahdi, 19, spends many hours in Ramadan watching television, but complained about the timings of Yemeni shows.

"Besides the daily power cuts, the schedule of these episodes is not con-

venient at all," he said. "Most of the episodes are shown between 19:00 and 23:00 pm, which is time of prayer for men and housework for women," said Mahdi.

Social critique

Mahdi and others commented positively on the Yemeni programs in Ramadan, pointing out that the screenwriters have become more daring in highlighting current social issues.

Kidnapping children and foreigners, tribal issues, women's rights, expensive dowries, family and social class conflicts were among many other topics he sighted that are tackled in the Yemeni drama and comedy episodes.

But boldly highlighting social issues is not enough for the Yemeni viewers, who can be a highly critical audience. The way these topics are presented is vital to either attract or deter more viewers.

For example, viewers pointed to the different dialects used by the cast in acting.

"It is very nice to hear different dialects in one show," said Lamis, 25. "In the past, the whole cast spoke one

dialect, mostly Sana'ani, as if they were addressing only the audience in Sana'a."

However others disagreed with Lamis, including Wasim, 31, who was upset by the badawi or bedouin accent of the characters in *Hami Hamak* [My concern is your concern].

"Yes it is the first Yemeni bedouin series, but the actors should rehearse more to be able to perform the badawi characters," said Wasim, who said that he did not like to watch this show anymore.

"Not just this show, when the actors do not talk their dialects they seem artificial and clumsy," he said. "I have started watching other Arab channels."

Overacting

A number of the Yemeni viewers also criticized Yemeni actors' overacting.

"There is not a single Yemeni actress who can perform her role professionally, it seems that they all are under stress," said Um Osama. "I guess Yemeni actresses are restricted by the traditions of our conservative society, and that is reflected in the performance," commented Osama.

All of the viewers that *Yemen Times* met agreed that the Al-Saeeda is more bold and critical in its programs and series than Al-Yemen. The show *Kini Mini 5*, aired on Al-Saeeda, seems to be the most popular among Yemeni spectators.

"They are more direct in tackling social issues," said Um Osama.

However, the character of a mother performed by a man in three episodes of the series irritated many Yemeni viewers.

In 2008, the Ministry of Information suspended a program because it featured a male character who pretended to be pregnant.

"I don't know why the director would do that," said Hamud Al-Korani. "If he aimed to make people laugh, he did not succeed. Instead the actor has insulted

his reputation as well as many other Yemeni women by his silly overacting."

Al-Korani added that the director might tend to use a man to play this role, because there is no Yemeni female comedian.

The criticism is not only directed at actresses but also at comedy performance in general, according to Aza Mohammed, 20.

"Yemeni comedians are silly," she said. "They overact and handle topics sketchily and shallowly. I prefer to watch the only drama series on Al-Yemen called *Ashwak wa Ashwaq* [Thorns and Longing], and then other comedies and dramas on other Arab channels."

Yemeni stars

Although most criticism focused on the performance of the Yemeni cast, few could actually remember the names of the actors and actresses. Instead, most viewers referred to the names of the characters played in the series.

"We see them on the screen only in Ramadan, so we hardly remember their names," said Kifah, 21.

However, most spectators were able to name some more famous comedians.

Mohammed Al-Adhru'i, Fahed Al-Qarni, and Mohammad Qahtan who were welcomed in the star roles of each series on both satellite channels.

These performers are well-known from graduation and wedding parties and other celebrations where they performed on stage, criticizing the government or social traditions.

Some, such as Al-Adhru'i and Al-Qarni, have been imprisoned for their publicly critical attitude towards the government. But this has only served to make them more famous.

Last year, Al-Saeeda took the first step in bringing these comedians from the stage to the screen and gave the chance to Al-Adhru'i and his group to perform their sketches on screen. Both the

Yemeni public and critics admired and approved the show.

This Ramadan, Al-Adhru'i and Qahtan are performing on Al-Yemen in *Elajak 'Andi*. As for Al-Qarni, he is to be found on Al-Saeeda as the main character in the bedouin series *Hami Hamak*.

"However these comedians, especially Al-Adhru'i and Qahtan, turn out to be less critical of the government," said a disappointed Osama. "I still watch them, though not all the episodes."

Yemeni television channels

- Al-Yemen: Yemen's first official channel started broadcasting in 1975 in North Yemen as local media, and joined other Arab channels via Intelsat-59 in 1995 and later Nilesat. The channel is state-owned.
- Al-Yamania: This channel was founded in 1980 in the South of Yemen as the Aden channel and was renamed after unification. It is not a satellite channel, and is state-owned.
- Al-Saeeda: This independent television channel was founded by Yemeni businessmen in 2007 and broadcast from Egypt via Nilesat.
- Suhail: This channel started its test programs in May 2009 on Nilesat and Arabsat, but after about two months was closed upon the government request to Kuwait, that claimed that the channel was broadcasting against the law. The station's website however said that it could broadcast again from an unknown location via Nilesat on the new frequency, 11595 MHz.
- Al-Iman: This Islamic channel launched its first programs in 2008 as a moderate channel against radicalism and terrorism.

The Quran and Me

"Bollywood had to wait; Jamila Fatah was reading the Quran"

By: Tarek Fatah
tarekfatah@rogers.com
The National Post
http://www.AverroesPress.com

My earliest memory of a book is a pirated reprint of nursery rhymes and a Jack and the Beanstalk pop-up book that Uncle Joe D'souza had given as a birthday present. Then there was a treasured Tarzan comic I stole from cousin Ayaz.

But in terms of a real book, a book with a hard cover and a spine, it was the Quran. Long before I got to touch, let alone read the book, it had already become part of my existence. I am told, within an hour of my birth, my father had recited a verse of the Quran into my infant ears. Mum claimed I stopped my wailing as soon as Dad had done so.

Today, Muslims worldwide welcome Ramadan, the Islamic calendar's holiest month, marking the time when, 14 centuries ago, the Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him) received the first verse of the Quran from God. The Archangel Gabriel approached the Apostle, who was meditating in a cave, and commanded him to "Read." As Muhammad hesitated, the archangel persisted, as described in Sura 96 of the Quran:

*Read in the name of your Lord who created -
From an embryo, created the human
Read, for your Lord is most Generous
Who taught by the pen
Taught man what he knew not ...*

They were words that changed the course of human history.

By the time I was four, this book had me intrigued. Every morning, I would wake up to the soft chant of my mother reciting verses in Arabic. Gentle whispers that flowed like silken rhymes through our Karachi home, uplifting the morning breeze. It was as if my ears literally tasted sweet honey, nudging me to wake up and lap up some more. No other sound has given me as much solace and warmth as the hum of a Quranic recitation.

Even today, as a hardened secularist, bruised and battered by never-ending skirmishes with my Islamist naysayers, I am still captivated by the reverberation of the Quran. For reasons unexplainable, if I hear the recitation, I have to stop what I am doing, often tearing up, embarrassed that I cannot rationalize the magical grip this sound has on my soul.

Back in the early 1950s, it would still be dark outside when Mom's soft recitation of the Quran would be gently drowned by the neighbourhood mosque's call to Morning Prayer. Through the open windows as half curtains fluttered, the voice of the Maulana would traverse through our home, gently nudging me out of sleep.

*"Haia al salaah ... Haia al falah... As salatus khairum minan naum..."
(Hasten to prayer ... hasten to success ... prayer is better than sleep...)*

Memories are foggy, but I do remember being by my Mum's side, as she would resume the reading of the Quran after her Fajr prayers. As she would sway back and forth, murmuring the verses, the book itself appeared huge as it lay open on a wooden holder, the rihal. Golden edged pages, leather spine with a green satin ribbon that was wedged tightly between those majestic pages.

I would pull at it and she would give a tight slap on the back of my hand. Her devotion to the Quran was absolute. I remember in later years, Dad would get upset, as no one was allowed to speak other than in whispers in its presence -- and she would shush him as he would fidget with the shortwave radio trying to catch early-morning Radio Ceylon and sing along with K. L. Saigal and Pankaj Mullick, before he went to work.

Bollywood had to wait; Jamila Fatah was reading the Quran.

In those years, Dad never prayed more than once a year, to celebrate the end of Ramadan. She, on the other hand, prostrated herself toward Mecca five times a day.

When she was done with the daily recitation, Mum would then call us kids, one by one, touch our heads, and lightly blow into our faces. Through her lov-

ing breath and caress, the magical holy verses were supposed to bless us and protect us.

To the non-Muslim, the dedication of the ordinary Muslim to the Quran is perplexing. Whether it is a Uighur in Xingjian or a Sufi in Mexico City, be it an orthodox cleric in Toronto or a secular humanist in Tehran, the Muslim will treasure his or her Quran as if it was a member of the family, not just a holy book. The Quran is, for some, the very embodiment of God himself.

At four

For the four-year-old Muslim child, a verse from Sura four (entitled *An-Nisa*, or "Women") is the most appropriate. Parents should take particular care to read to their kids, again and again, verse 135, which will instill in the child an ethic that could become their moral compass for the rest of their life -- the ethic of speaking the truth, no matter what.

*O you who believe!
Stand firmly in upholding equity
Bearing witness to the truth for the sake of God
Even though it be against your own selves
Or your parents and near relatives
Whether the person concerned is rich or poor
For God can best protect both.*

Mum might have felt that she did too good a job instilling this verse in me. As we passed through Canada Customs all those many years ago, we were asked: "Do you have any jewellery to declare." She said, "No." Whereupon, I whispered in her ear, "Yaa ayyuhallahina, ammanu ..." (O you who believe...) She hesitated, and then told the Canada Customs agent, "Oh yes, I forgot, I have a 24-carat gold necklace."

At fourteen

By the time a Muslim reaches the age of 14, he or she would have completed reading the Quran, but few understand what they have read. This is the age where youth should incorporate the values of pluralism and universality that they can find expressed in the holy book

of Islam, rather than fall prey to the forces of segregation and exclusivity.

To Muslims in high school, especially in the West, verse 62 of the second Sura of the Quran. (*Al-Baqarah*, or "The Cow") should be their guiding light as they navigate through the competing influences offered by a multiracial and multi-religious liberal democracy.

*Those who believe [in the Quran].
And those who are Jews,
And the Christians and the Sabians,
And whoever believes in God,
And the last day [of judgment]
And do good deeds,
They shall have their reward with their Lord
And no fear need they have,
Nor should they grieve.*

At forty

The number 40 has a special mystical significance in Islam. The Prophet was 40 when he received the first revelation from God. The Quran makes mention of this in Sura 46:15 when it says, "At length when he reaches the age of full strength and attains 40 years." The most respected translator of the Quran, A. Yusuf Ali, says the Quran suggests a human's "spiritual faculties gain the upper hand after the age of 40." For those who have "gained that upper hand," here is some wisdom from the Almighty that may help you navigate through our troubled times. Here is verse 13 of Sura Al-Hujurat ("The Private Apartments"):

*O mankind. We created you,
From a single pair
Of a male and a female,
And made you into
Nations and Tribes, so that
You may come to know one another
(Not that you may despise each other).
Verily, the most honoured among you,
In the sight of God
Is the one who is most Righteous of you.
And God has full knowledge
And is well acquainted with all things.*

Forever

As I approach 60, and on the last leg of my journey of life, I am drawn back to the beauty of two particular Suras. One



Yemenis reading the quran at the Great Mosque in Sana'a. Muslims are encouraged to read the quran regularly especially during the holy month of Ramadan.

is the very first Sura of the Quran, the *Fatiha*, literally "The Opening." It reads:

*In the name of God, the beneficent, the merciful.
Praise be to God, Lord of the worlds,
The beneficent, the merciful, Master of the Day of Judgment.
You alone we worship, and You alone we ask for help.
Guide us on the right path,
The path of those upon whom You have bestowed your favour,
not of those who have earned Your anger, nor of those who go astray.*

Over centuries, hundreds of millions of little boys and girls have memorized these seven sentences as their gateway to Islam and as the foundation of their lives as Muslims. The *Fatiha* is to Muslims what the Lord's Prayer would be to Christians. These seven verses constitute the Muslim prayer for guidance and are repeated at least 32 times a day.

As the scholar Michael Sells points out, "It is the most recited of all Quranic Suras, not only in prayers and liturgy, but also in everyday life. After business transactions, for example, 'The Opening' is recited by both parties as a

mark of good faith and a solemn affirmation of the responsibilities affirmed by each partner."

From the most orthodox conservative Muslims to secular liberals such as myself, the word *Bismillah*... (In the name of God...) is part of our psyche. I have witnessed hardened communists start their meetings asking "comrades" to come to order with the expression *Bismillah*.

The other Sura that comforts me as I approach the dusk of life is Sura 89, *Al-Fajr*, "The Dawn." Rather than explain its significance, I will merely quote from it -- and let readers understand its significance for themselves.

*By the dawn
By the nights ten
By the odd and the even
By the night as it eases away
Considering all this -could there be to anyone, endowed with reason
A[more] solemn evidence of the truth?*

Tarek Fatah is the author of *Chasing a Mirage: The Tragic Illusion of an Islamic State* (Wiley 2008). He is currently working on a book about the roots of Jewish-Muslim friction that will be launched in fall 2010 by McClelland & Stewart.

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This project was initiated by a group of students in Germany and is intended to break down stereotypes about other cultures.

How it works

Write about what affected you most on 09/09/09- something that made you feel weird, afraid, happy or sad. It is up to you to decide what story to tell. The more honest and personal your story is, the better our readers on other conti-



nents will be able to understand your life.

All the stories must be from the same day because the goal of this project is to have a book that portrays events from one single day. The read-

ers should get an impression of what happens around the world within the same 24 hours. The date 09/09/09 was chosen because it is easy to remember. But any other day would have been just as good because we are trying to portray a "normal day" on earth.

Roughly 500 stories will be chronologically arranged according to GMT (Greenwich Mean Time). No changes in content will be made to the stories during translation.

There are three simple rules:

- Your story must be about something you experienced yourself on 09/09/09.
- The text must be about one page

- long with a 12 point font size.
- You must include your name and age, the place name (town/city, region and country) and a fairly precise time with your story.

Submit stories on the Web site on 09/09/09 or in the days following. Photos are also welcome. They must be sent along with a short description and the most exact information you can about the time and place the picture was taken.

The rights to the story remain with the author. However, when sending in the story, each author consents to unlimited use in "A Day on the Planet."

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