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Inside:  **5** Celebrity speaks out for Sa'ada children  **12** Climate control- not a challenge  **14** Arab Culture and Yemeni Arts in the City of Lights

Ministry announces swine flu pandemic in Yemen

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Oct 25 – The infection of the influenza virus A (H1N1), also known as swine flue has become an internal epidemic, according to the Ministry of Health.

Yemeni officials have recorded 921 swine flu cases and 13 fatalities. The ministry has enough medicine to treat 96,000 people, according to Dr. Abdul Hakim Al-Kuhlani the General Director of Disease Control and Epidemiological Surveillance with special focus on H1N1 virus at the ministry.

"The virus became an inland pandemic in the country and we have adopted new strategy for that," he said.

Because there are so many cases of H1N1, the new strategy includes saving time and resources by relying on

clinical diagnoses, rather than giving every patient expensive medical tests. It is based on World Health Organization recommendations, said Al-Kuhlani

"We have partially stopped testing cases that came in the past two weeks. Instead, we directly give them the medicines after we make sure that the person does have the H1N1 symptoms," Al-Kuhlani said.

However, he said that small children, people over 60 and other at-risk groups are an exception, and have to be examined.

"The number of people who come to have tests is on rise. Among them are children under the age of 2, pregnant women, students and elderly," he said. "So instead of having a test for every

one, we decided to just give medicines and test the four groups in addition to those who suffer from cardiac diseases."

But giving medicines to people is not done randomly, he said. The patient has to sit with the doctor who looks for H1N1 symptoms. If the patient's symptoms are consistent with the H1N1, he or she is supposed to be given the medicine, according to Al-Kuhlani.

He also said that the medicines that the ministry gives to people have no dangerous side effects.

"It is better to treat people, and save their lives by giving them medicines than letting them die fearing of side effects, which every medicine in the world has," he said.

YT Photo by Khaleel Al-Hilaly



Students, children under the age of 2, people over 60, pregnant women and those who suffer from cardiac diseases will still be chemically tested for swine flu, while others will be given medicine after a clinical diagnosis.

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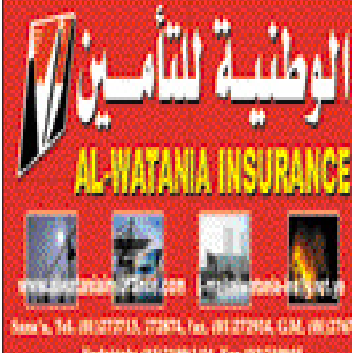
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Government, Houthis expected to reach ceasefire within next days

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SAADA, Oct. 25—A new truce between the government and Houthi fighters is expected to be reached within the next few days, said a party leader, who requested to remain anonymous.

He told the Yemen Times that "Some senior politicians and tribal leaders are expanding great efforts to reconcile between Houthi field leaders and the authority, and both warring parties are due to have the truce in effect within this week, given that the government has a true intent to stop bloodshed."

Regarding the security situation in both Saada and Amran governorates, media reports indicate that fierce clashes between Houthis and troops are taking place on more than one front.

In the district of Ketaf on the road from Saada city to Buqaa city, near the Saudi border, government troops attempted to open the road, which is

blocked by Houthis, but failed to do so despite casualties on both sides.

The Malahidh and surrounding areas still witness ongoing clashes with Houthis using hit-and-run tactics, and each party claims to have scored victories.

Brig. Omar Ali Al-Esi, Commander of 103 Infantry Division, was killed along with many of his men in an ambush set by Houthis while the military leader was scrutinizing strategic positions used by his troops.

In Amran's Harf Sufyan district, media reports say the area is calm following fierce clashes between army personnel and Houthi supporters.

From their side, Houthis accused the government's air forces of striking civilian-populated areas. "Fighter jets hit the areas of Safia, Haidan, Takhia, Al-Amashia, Baqim, Majaz and Razih on Friday and Saturday, as well as a camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) in Yasnim district," the Houthi-

affiliated website menbar.net reported.

The same source added that the army's fighter jets also struck a popular market in Saqain district and another two markets in Shaara and Talh districts. Many citizens were killed or injured inside these markets.

Progress

The army forces made progress in various fighting fronts in both volatile governorates, a government source said to the Defense Ministry-affiliated 26september.net. "The army destroyed several strongholds and hideouts used by Houthis in the Katarf district, and many Houthi supporters were killed in the operation," he noted.

The source added that the army continues advancing with the aim of taking control of some strategic positions in the area of Waela, pointing out that Houthis resort to damaging government facilities, schools and healthcare centers.

According to the same source, army units have seized large quantities of arms and fighting equipment in former Houthi positions in areas of Karn Demam, Tashmala, Shabariq, Shaqraa, Tabba Hamraa of Harf Sufyan.

He continued that an engineering unit from the army opened the main road in Al Uqab area, which leads to Jabal Al-Samaa that overlooks Saada city after Houthis attempted to block it to prevent supplies from reaching military positions on top of the mountain.

The source confirmed that some Houthi fighters dissented from their leaders, some of whom surrendered to field military leaders and local authorities. He attributed their surrender to heavy shelling by the government of Houthi fighters in the area.

Security wall

In a relevant context, clashes between

Saudi troops and Houthis have resumed over the latter's rejection of a security wall currently constructed by the Riyadh-based government.

Saudi media sources reported that the clashes renewed after a previous fighting between both sides broke out last Tuesday in the Hasama district. They attributed the clashes to Yemeni citizens' rejection of a security wall constructed by Saudi authorities at the border with Yemen. The wall is expected to have negative economic impacts on Yemeni citizens near the Saudi border and will not allow them to keep in touch with their relatives inside Saudi territory.

"Culture of Hatred"

The Yemeni Islah Party's Shoura council warned against what it called promoting "Culture of Hatred," blaming the authority for producing and feeding this culture.

The council called for stopping

the ongoing fighting in Saada and establishing a national dialogue to bring both warring parties together. It expressed deep concern about what is currently taking place in Saada and Amran.

According to a recent statement, issued by the council, the Saada war continues to expand over time and becomes more dangerous. "A comprehensive national dialogue, involving all the political parties concerned about security, stability and unity of Yemen, must be held to end the escalating turmoil of Yemen," the statement noted.

Through the statement, the council urged all local and international humanitarian organizations to dispatch more assistance to war-afflicted civilians, asking the government to fulfill its obligations for those civilians.

Security Prevents Political Gathering

By: Imad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, Oct. 24 — Security forces from the Republican Guard and the Central Security Apparatus carried out intensive security procedures in order to prevent the official inauguration of the Central Plateau Movement based in Taiz.

The launch was supposed to be held on Thursday at the Tourist Club Lounge in Taiz, however, participants were prevented from reaching the venue and the security apparatus arrested dozens of them as well as members of the Preparatory Committee. They were released the same day.

According to eye witnesses, the security tore down posters and confiscated journalists' cameras.

"The intensive security procedures that lead to stopping the inaugural ceremony of the movement is because it is illegal and unauthorized, the movement's supporters should form a party and get a license from the Parties'

Committee at the local council or form an authorized organization licensed by the Ministry of Social Affairs," said a security official to Yemen Times, explaining the state's position on the event.

However, representatives of the movement expressed their surprise at the level of aggression on the part of the government and the detaining of members of the Preparatory Committee.

They claim that the movement does not need a license because it is not a party or an organization, but it is a temporary popular movement with the goal of representing the people's best interest.

"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," explained Sultan Al-Samie, head of the Preparatory Committee.

"All we want is equal citizenship and justice for all," he added.

According to the movement's representatives, one of the most important goals for it to achieve the rule of law and a governing system that sponsored all rights and equality and to share authority and wealth. The movement calls for a national dialogue to solve crises and conflicts.

Al-Samie added that the committee will tackle basic services such as electricity, water, education, and health. "The attitude of Joint Meeting Parties is positive and the movement will support them in solving different problems."

The posters indicated that movement is a peaceful one and it supports the Yemeni Unity and the national dialogue to stop the war in Sa'ada.

It calls on the General People's Congress and all political parties to participate in a national dialogue, far from violence and armed confrontation.

Swaziland Seeks Economic Cooperation with Yemen

By: Mahmoud Assamie

SANA'A, Oct. 25- King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland held, during his three-day visit to Yemen, a series of talks with Yemen businessmen to discuss possible investment opportunities in both countries.

The king, who arrived in Yemen last Wednesday during a regional visit to the Middle East, asked Yemeni businessmen to look for investment opportunities in his country and pledged to help his country's businessmen to find equal opportunities in Yemen.

"We have come to this beautiful country to seek investment opportunities," said the king. "We ask Yemenis to come to invest in my country and to work together. We have come here to see this country, as well as the whole region."

He said his country is rich in minerals and has investment opportunities in several fields, including industry, tourism and mining. "We can build business between the two countries. My country is considered a trade center for the whole region. We extended our work to the Middle East and have come to Yemen to see what we will find."

He said his country has attracted business and investment from Africa, Europe, and America and the opportunity has now been extended to the Middle East.

Secondly, he said his country has a team here in Yemen to find more information about the country and study

the business sector to decide to invest here.

For his part, Yahia al-Mutawakel, Yemen's Minister of Industry and Trade, who chaired the Yemeni businessmen in the session, congratulated the king on signing a treaty for establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. He considered this treaty a basic step to strengthen new relations between the two countries.

"During my search for information about the country (Swaziland), I was surprised to find that there was a past trade exchange amounting to USD 7 million," said al-Mutawakel. "Consequently, there is a chance to enhance relations between us."

He affirmed that the Ministry will follow directions of the president to strength economic and trade relations between the two countries. In this regard, he added, an expanded meeting between investors from the two countries will be held.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Abdu Saeed, the Chairman of the General Union of Chambers of Commerce affirmed that Yemeni businessmen will organize a visit to the kingdom to inspect investment opportunities there.

He said that there were trade relations between the two countries 25 years ago when Yemen was importing lemons and oranges, but for political reasons this trade stopped. "We want to expand trade relations between the two countries," said Saeed, who hoped this visit will produce

good results. He said that signing a trade treaty with this country will add another country to the 15 African nations with whom Yemen currently has similar trade treaties.

Dr. Suad al-Matari, a Yemeni businesswoman who owns an animal farm in Ethiopia affirmed her desire to invest in the Kingdom of Swaziland if there are promising investment opportunities in the field in which she works.

Earlier, the two countries signed a treaty of establishing diplomatic relations. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Muthana Hassan and Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Kingdom of Swaziland Hon Lutfo Dlamini signed the treaty in the Presidential Palace in the presence of King Mswati III and President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Swaziland is a small monarchy situated between South Africa and Mozambique. With an area of 17,000 square kilometers and a population of more than a million people, the country is quite rich. It produces sugar, diamonds, gold, and wood pulp, which is used for the production of paper. It is landlocked, but has many traditions which attract tourists. The official religion of the country is Christianity, and English is the state language.

People in this country are polygamous; a man can marry more than five wives, and the King himself has 14 wives and more than 20 children although he is just 38 years old.

Network for Yemeni Development Journalists Established

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Oct. 20 - Over thirty five Yemeni journalists started the first circle of development journalists in Yemen last week. In a session organized and hosted by The Yemen Times, the journalists from various fields and media discussed the obstacles they face in reporting on development issues, and what they can do to overcome them.

Some of the challenges they face included lack of cooperation from sources, whether it is national or international development organizations who do not think journalists are either sincere or capable of reporting on development issues.

"They think we are after the transport allowances when we ask them for the working papers for an event, or the original reports behind a press statement. I don't blame them, because some of the journalists do that, and have given others a bad name. But then again, how are we supposed to work?" exclaimed journalist Rashad Al-Shar'abi.

Another factor that hinders Yemeni journalists is lack of funding to do investigative reporting. They complained

that their media organizations do not support investigative reporting, and that they cannot do it on their own. "Even the simplest investigative reporting requires traveling at least within the city, and days for it to be completed-if not weeks. We need financial support to help us carry out our work," said journalist Abdulwahid Al-Bahri. Despite the various obstacles, development journalists know that they can still make a difference. Journalist Bushra Al-Amiri described her personal experience helping a lost child find her family. "Using social networks online and through our personal contacts as well as print and radio and other media, we were able to lobby to fix the little girl's problem and get the word around. It was exciting, and very rewarding," she said.

Another problem journalists face is misunderstandings between the management and the reporters in almost all media organizations. In many media outlets there is no clear policy for development issues, and the reporters have a hard time selling their stories to the editors who are generally more interested in political news. "Still, there is a possibility to convince the editors. Journalists must try to structure their

story in a way that does not jeopardize the paper or the journalist him or herself. Objectivity is important, and so is fact checking and all those are important to convince the editors to publish the stories," said Editor Mohammed Al-Assar. Journalists launched a temporary blog for the network so that they are able to communicate with each other. Although the blog is in a simple format, it needs to be upgraded so that they can post their issues, exchange information and best practices and advocate for development issues and campaigns.

"This blog, when created in a sophisticated way, will be a valuable source for the development journalists to seek information and find training or career development opportunities. It will also be valuable for the development organizations and donors who seek to help concerning development media in Yemen," said editor Nadia Al-Sakkaf.

4U

Tentative blog for development journalists in Yemen
<http://dmyemen.blogspot.com>

Lawyers argue over age, mental health of Nusiba's killer

By: Imad Al-Saqqaf

TAIZ, Oct. 25 — West of Taiz Primary Court held its fourth session to consider the case of murder of Nusiba Nader, whose body was found last August.

Her family accused her neighbor, Akram Al-Samawy, of kidnapping, raping and murdering their 5-year-old daughter, before throwing her from the fourth floor of his building.

During the four sessions, the defense lawyer offer a vaccination document to the court, stating that the defendant received vaccination against polio until 1994, in an attempt to prove he was under the age of legal responsibility at the time of the murder.

The plaintiff's lawyer replied that it is easy to obtain documents from health centers, and to put a date on it. To prove his point, the plaintiff's lawyer, in the

third session, produced a vaccination document saying that the accused was still receiving polio vaccines in early October 2009. The prosecuting attorney said that the document was not definitive evidence under criminal law.

The defense focused on the young age of the accused, and argued that he was also mentally unstable. Lawyers provided copies of documents stating that the accused had not yet reached the legal age of criminal responsibility, including a certificate of vaccination and a copy of a birth certificate.

The court compelled the defense lawyer to bring his documents to the Saturday session. The prosecuting attorney argued that the defense lawyer was aiming to prolong the legal conflict.

"The absence of defense counsel can be explained only that he did not find anything to refute the charge against

his client," said the prosecutor Abdo Mohammad Saeed.

The plaintiff's lawyer, Ali Saeed Al-Sedik, requested the court expedite the proceedings because the victim's body still lying in a morgue at the hospital and delay means an emotional burden and psychological pressure on the victim's family.

He said the prosecution had sent the defendant to a forensic doctor who said that the defendant had reached the age of adulthood, which makes him responsible before the law for his actions.

The defendant may face the death penalty if his lawyer failed in his defense.

Taiz residents and NGOs concerned with children's affairs flocked to the court as well as the streets during the four sessions to show solidarity with the victim's family.

New regulations for motorcycles

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Oct. 21- By releasing the new government policy, motorcyclists will find it difficult to put themselves in danger by adopting a "You can't catch me and I don't care about my safety" attitude.

The cabinet approved new regulations for motorcycles suggested by Ministry of the Interior on Tuesday. These included numbering all roadworthy and non-environmentally harmful motorcycles currently in the country.

Motorcyclists have three months to register their vehicles at the Custom Authority and obtain plates. After this period all motorcycles without numbers will be confiscated and destroyed, according to the Ministry of Interior.

All traffic police units in the country were requested to take action to force the implementation of the traffic regulations which compel motorcyclists to abide

by the traffic rules, such as the wearing of helmets while driving. In the case of violation of traffic rules more than five times, the motorcycle will be confiscated and destroyed. Motorcycles are not allowed on streets between 8 pm and 6 am. All security authorities are liable to seize motorcycles during this period.

Mohammad Yafuz, the Deputy Manager of the Traffic Authority said that Yemeni traffic law covers all subjects related to motorcycles. "Like any other vehicle, motorcycles should abide by traffic regulations," he said. "Now is the time for these regulations to be implemented."

Yafuz explained how currently it is hard for traffic police to register traffic violation tickets for motorcycles because there are no numbers on them. "I advise motorcyclists to go and have plates for their vehicles, and stop disobeying traffic lights." He said, "It is better for

their safety and for the flow of traffic in streets."

The Cabinet has instructed both the Finance and Industry Ministries to prevent the importing or selling of motorcycles and their spare parts.

Monthly 30 to 40 motorcyclists are killed and 100-120 are injured in traffic accidents in Yemen. The Traffic Authority has reported 297 traffic accidents involving motorcycles throughout Yemen last month. The accidents included 186 motorcycles crashing into cars, 78 running over pedestrians, 30 motorcycle to motorcycle crashes, and 3 crashed into fixed objects, according to Ministry of Interior. In the first half of this year, there were 806 traffic accidents involving motorcycles. The highest number was 325 in the capital followed by 177 in Taiz, followed by 85 in Hodeidah accidents.

Traffic authorities attributed the causes of motorcycle accidents in September last year to motorists' speed, neglect, non-compliance with traffic laws and chewing qat.

ILO launches training to empower rural women

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Oct. 25 - The International Labour Organisation is training government representatives to support rural women and their business cooperatives.

Twenty trainers have been selected from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agriculture Cooperative Union, the National Woman Committee and the Directorate General of Women Workers in the Ministry of Labour to be trained by the ILO in delivering support to rural women's cooperative enterprises utilizing ILO's "Get Ahead Gender and Enterprise Development" training package.

An ILO 2009 assessment on the role of rural women's cooperatives in Yemen indicated that the majority of rural cooperatives are male-only or mixed cooperatives in which there is little managerial participation by rural women

producers.

Of 427 cooperatives registered with the Agricultural Cooperatives Union, only ten are women-only. None of these women-only cooperatives are currently active due to a lack of resources, management skills, government support, finances, marketing skills and other necessary services such as agricultural guidance and agricultural credit services, said the assessment.

Although rural women comprise the majority of the agricultural labor force, with 88 percent of women in Yemen working in the agricultural sector, most are informal unpaid workers. Consequently, these women are discriminated against through stereotypes that reduce them to reproductive roles, denying them access to resources that would enhance their social and economic conditions.

"This training will focus on imparting entrepreneurial skills to women

from poor backgrounds and will be followed by direct training to rural women cooperatives in selected rural governorates of Yemen," said Lara Uhlenhaut, the ILO Gender Equality Project Coordinator for Yemen.

The trainers will learn to educate rural women on how to access financial and credit services, in order to initiate or expand income-generating activities, and to build their own savings and credit associations.

The training began Oct. 25 and will continue until Oct. 29.

This activity is part of a set of initiatives, launched by ILO to target unemployed women and rural women producers. Efforts under this initiative also include the development of demand-oriented training programs in non-traditional skills areas, and the promotion of a dynamic entrepreneurial culture among young women.

In Brief

SANA'A GCC health official arrives in Yemen

Head of the GCC Executive Council of the Health Office Tawfiq Bin Ahmed Bin Khouja arrived in Yemen in Friday for the meeting of the Fund to Free the Arabian Peninsula of Malaria.

The two-day meeting, 24-25 October, will focus on several topics related to activating the functions of the fund and implementing plans designed for completely eradicating the diseases by 2015.

The meeting will review the general framework of the strategic plan drawn up by the ministry of Public Health and Population in Yemen to handle current changes and set out a future plan and a mechanism for implementation phases and performance indicators, he said.

The meeting will, furthermore, deal with the shares of the founders of the fund in an attempt to know about the sums already transferred into the executive office as well as other financial topics.

Malaria-Free Arab Peninsula Fund to hold first meeting

The fund formed to free the Arab Peninsula of malaria by 2015 is to hold its first meeting on

Saturday in Sana'a.

Member of the Executive Authority of the Gulf Cooperation Bloc Health Council Ahmed al-Nomani said the two-day meeting, which would be attended by representatives from the Arabian Gulf States and Yemen, will launch practical steps to implement its foundation goal: to free the Arabian Peninsula from malaria.

The meeting will review the general framework of the strategic plan drawn up by the ministry of Public Health and Population in Yemen to handle current changes and set out a future plan and a mechanism for implementation phases and performance indicators, he said.

The meeting will, furthermore, deal with the shares of the founders of the fund in an attempt to know about the sums already transferred into the executive office as well as other financial topics.

Workshop on female prisoners programs to be held Monday

Minister of Human Rights Huda al-Ban will launch on Monday a workshop on evaluating training and rehabilitation programs implemented for female prisoners in different governorates.

The weekly 26 September has reported chairman of Prisons Authority

Ali Nasser Lakhsha as saying that the workshop is aiming to review the training programs implemented by Prisons Authority in partnership with civil society organizations, international organizations, ICRC and Yemeni Yemeni Red Crescent Society. He affirming the importance of the workshop in evaluating implemented programs.

Lakhsha pointed out this workshop comes within the international effort and electoral program of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to develop mechanisms of prison authorities, noting that they will hold a special exhibition to show the handicraft made by female prisoners.

197 Somali refugees reach Yemen's coastline

Some 197 Somali refugees including 41 women and 23 children reached Yemeni coastline, a media center of interior ministry reported on Thursday. The refugees arrived to coastline of Taiz, Abyan and Hadramout, the center added.

Recently, the Interior Ministry revealed that the number of Somali refugees, who arrived in the Yemeni territories during September 2009, amounted to about 3615 refugees among them about 1000 women and

100 children.

Meanwhile, Abyan police arrested 65 Ethiopians who entered the country via sea illegally.

FM: Arab leaders reject foreign intervention in Yemeni internal affairs

Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi said on Thursday that leaders of Egypt, Syria and Libya have rejected any foreign intervention in the Yemeni internal affairs.

Upon his arrival from his visits for these countries, al-Qirbi said that these leaders confirmed their support for unity, stability and security of Yemen as well as a call of President Ali Abdullah Saleh for dialogue with all Yemeni political parties under an umbrella of the unity of Yemen.

During his visits, the foreign minister handed over letters to the leaders of Arab countries from president Saleh.

The letters expressed appreciation of the Yemeni government and people for the positions of these countries in supporting the Yemeni unity and efforts of the government to offer helps for displaced people who left their homes because of rebellion in the north, the minister said.

Their News

British Council workshop builds confidence in vocational education in Yemen

Leading UK expert Alison Muggridge is this week (25 - 29 October, 2009) helping key individuals working in technical and vocational education in Yemen to build long-term confidence among students and employers in the quality of the country's vocational education system.

During a series of two, two-day British Council Workshops organised in partnership with the Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education (MOTEV), over 40 delegates from the MOTEV's new quality inspections department and Heads of Quality Control in vocational education and training institutions from across Yemen will look at driving forward with improvements the overall inspection system that will ensure a strong quality inspection system for the country.

These workshops build on the support the British Council is giving to MOTEV under its regional Skills for Employability Program, to ensure that young people in Yemen have the right skills to compete successfully

for jobs in an increasingly national and international marketplace and employers have the confidence that they are recruiting young people with qualifications that have value.

Alison has over 20 years experience of working in education from practitioner level to senior management. In all of her roles she has taken a key lead for quality and raising standards for students and the education establishment.

In her most recent full time role as Director of Quality and through her knowledge of raising standards and the external inspection Alison was able to assist the organization to achieve an overall 'good' grade with 'outstanding' awarded for quality assurance & equality and diversity - both of which were within her strategic remit.

She has more recently been accepted as a part-time Ofsted inspector which involves visiting colleges across the UK and making judgments on their performance and highlighting key areas for improvement.

Melanie Relton, Regional Manager for the British Council said:

'High quality vocational education qualifications that are internationally

benchmarked give students and employers confidence that they have the right skills to be successful in the marketplace.

'High standards for Quality Assurance and a precise inspection framework are at the heart of this.

Dr. Ebtihag Al-Kamal (Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training) said from her side, "The ministry is determined to make improvements in its different departments. We are working hard to identify the right partners who can help in making this change. Part of the ministry's agenda is to start with Inspection which has a great improvement impact in all other departments and this is where we started."

This week's workshops are a really exciting and crucial next step for driving forward skills education reforms in Yemen with so many key individuals getting together who are working to provide quality education opportunities for young Yemeni in Technical and Vocational systems.

Nawaf Shamsan who is the project manager at the British Council said that

and the Arabic speaking countries, contributed to the development of a vaccine to help eradicate the cycle of Schistosomiasis.

Schistosomiasis is a disease caused by parasitic worms. The parasitic worm, found in fresh water, comes in contact with human skin, penetrates it and causes infection. The Egyptian river Nile is contaminated because it is populated with a certain type of snail carrying the living schistosomes.

Worldwide more than 200 million people are infected.

The Schistosomiasis (also known as bilharzia, bilharziosis or snail fever) is a disease with a low mortality rate. However, the same disease may damage internal organs.

Prior to that respected award, Professor Rashiqa El-Ridi was excluded from an Egyptian honor incentive award.

Voice of the Copts congratulates Professor Rashiqa El-Ridi and wishes her the best in her scientific research and service to humanity.

One would hope that the Egyptian regime begins to recognize citizens who deserve awards based upon merit and not upon relationships with high ranking regime officers.

Call for Participation "Let's Talk!" international seminar

Adwar Initiative, in cooperation with the Arab Reform Forum, is pleased to invite you to attend its international seminar on intercultural dialogue on the 4th and 5th of November 2009 at bibliotheca Alexandria, Egypt.

Candidates are required:

- to be between 18 and 30 years old from anywhere around the world.
- to have an excellent command of English.
- to be resident in Alexandria, or ready to be in Alexandria during the 4th and the 5th of November.
- to be motivated to engage in discussions.

* No fees are required.

Kindly find attached the concept paper of the seminar and the application. Please send your application and a motivation letter, of 100 to 200 words, on the following e-mail address: advargroup@yahoo.com

PS: Adwar Initiative and the Arab Reform Forum are not responsible for any previous or subsequent calls for participation of any relevant activity that is to take place on the 4th and 5th of November.

Three-star cuisine on board Jean-Georges Klein creates menus for Lufthansa

Menus from one of the world's most celebrated chefs hold out delicious culinary prospects for First and Business-Class passengers on Lufthansa long-haul flights out of Germany in November and December. Jean-Georges Klein from Lorraine, one of France's top three chefs has created exclusive menus, to which discriminating passengers can look forward with relish when they are served in the aircraft cabin.

As appetisers in First Class, passengers will savour pink-roasted beef filet with apples and gelée of tabbouleh and yoghurt, smoked tuna with crab-meat on lemon crème fraîche with walnuts as well as beetroot and comté cheese with thyme served on an étagère.

After clear oxtail soup with cheese sticks or a choice of salads with pumpkin and mushrooms, the main course runs to a choice of shoulder of veal simmered in hay with savoy cabbage and bakers potatoes, sliced halibut under a nut crust with anise beurre blanc, spinach and puréed pumpkin, or gratin de légumes d'Anton on, a casserole of fine vegetables and spinach with parmesan sauce.

As every year, a traditional alternative menu in November is roast goose

with red cabbage, potato dumplings and mixed herbs. As a finale, the gourmet in-flight food features fig purée with enzian sauce, quark cream and butter milk ice cream, textured chocolate with plum gelée or tonka bean ice with an assortment of French cheese specialities.

As starters in Business Class, passengers can choose a mosaic of scallops and salmon served with fennel salad and crème fraîche with keta caviar, venison pâté with Waldorf salad and fig purée, or mixed salad with pumpkin, chanterelles, pine nuts and French dressing.

The main course consists of fried halibut with herb crust, carrots, courgettes and pearl barley or penne noodles with vegetable ragout and parmesan.

Alternatively, roast goose will be served in the November tradition. The dessert is an unusual dish: an almond sandwich of mandarins and plums with rosehip sauce.

Dinner will also be offered on long daytime flights: venison ham rolls stuffed with fresh cheese together with red cabbage salad, as well as Münster cheese with caraway seeds and marinated onions or spiced salmon on chives sauce and Alsatian salad of cheese and sausage. Dinner culminates in a dessert of orange sand cake Hotel



Lufthansa

K. Jean-Georges Klein, whose star-studded restaurant "L'Arnsbourg" in Baerenthal is set in the Lorraine national park at the foot of the Vosges mountains in Alsace, is a confessed autodidact.

After studying hotel management, he worked from 1970 as maître d'hôtel in the family-owned restaurant, founded as a humble eatery for coal merchants and loggers by his grandmother about a century ago.

He only began working in the restaurant when his mother, who won a Michelin star in 1988, retired in 1989. It was then that he began developing his own culinary art, which now attracts gourmets in droves to his Alsatian restaurant.

He was awarded his second star in 1998 and his third in 2002. An experimental spirit, Jean-Georges Klein reinterprets dishes from traditional local produce in a cuisine deeply rooted in the local region.

Even his avant-garde creations primarily bring out the harmony between individual aromas. As the star chef

himself gladly emphasises, he owes the finishing touch of his gourmet menus to inspiration from the culinary greats: Pierre Gagnaire and Ferran Adrià.

Lufthansa Star Chefs Programme

Lufthansa passengers have been on a high in the world of haute cuisine since the launch of Lufthansa's Star Chefs programme in January 2000.

Imaginative menus in the skies from chefs at the pinnacle of the world's cooking fraternity have turned their flights into truly heavenly delights.

To date, such international celebrities as Harald Wohlfahrt (Baiersbrunn), Dieter Müller (Bergisch Gladbach), Daniel Boulud (New York) or Paul Bocuse (Lyon) have been engaged to provide savoury star-chef menus in the aircraft cabin.

Additionally, since early 2005, internationally renowned chefs from elsewhere on the world map have been serving special in-flight fare, focusing on regional specialities on selected long-haul routes to Germany.

Erratum

Yemen Times apologizes for mistakes that occurred in the TV and Radio General Corporation advertisements.

The cost for buying the bid documents were published in Yemeni Riyals while they should have been published in United States Dollars. These mistakes occurred in bid numbers: 10,11,16 and 17 for year 2009. On the issues as follows:

- Issue No. 1279, page No. 8, dated 23/07/2009
- Issue No. 1280, page No. 12, dated 27/07/2009
- Issue No. 1289, page No. 9, dated 27/08/2009
- Issue No. 1290, page No. 3, dated 31/08/2009

The correct costs for buying the bid documents are as follows:

- Bid No. 10 is USD 300.
- Bid No. 11 is USD 250.
- Bid No. 16 is USD 200.
- Bid No. 17 is USD 100.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by the unintended mistakes.

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Celebrity speaks out for Sa'ada children

Popular Egyptian actor Mahmoud Kabil visited Yemen last week as a part of the UN children's agency's (UNICEF) campaign to raise awareness- and funding- for the thousands of children displaced by the war in Sa'ada. He said the tragedies he saw unfold at the Mazrak camp in Hajja were worse than what he witnessed in Gaza and in Darfur.

"It's terrible to look at a baby who is only months old who already looks like an 80-year-old man in the face and the body. It's just terrible," Kabil told the Yemen Times in an interview after his visit to Mazrak. The following is a transcript of that interview.

By: Yemen Times staff

How does one become a goodwill ambassador for UNICEF? What does your position as such require you to do?

Prior to being offered the position of regional goodwill ambassador for the Middle East and North Africa, I had just come back from a long journey in the United States- it was 14 years. As soon as I came back I got involved with the Egyptian authorities, especially the High Council of Motherhood and Children, doing anything that touched the children.

I took part in campaigns that benefit children, like child labor and campaigns against drugs and smoking. Then I was invited by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce as a guest of honor in a celebration called, "The Month of Giving." UNICEF was taking part in the conference- so it was my first contact. We worked together as a team during that time.

A couple of months later I was approached by UNICEF and they asked me to be their regional goodwill ambassador. I was honored by the offer and I accepted it. That was in November 2003.

The idea of a goodwill ambassador came in the early 50s, at the beginning of UNICEF. UNICEF had a lot of messages for the children around the world. It had a lot to accomplish, like nutrition and health. They had the brilliant idea of looking for someone who could deliver that message. And that's when they had the idea to look for a goodwill ambassador came about.

At that time, British comedian Danny Kaye was very, very popular with children and they offered him the job as the messenger for UNICEF. This is how the concept of goodwill ambassadors got started.

Since then, there has been a long series of goodwill ambassadors for UNICEF like Audrey Hepburn, Roger Moore- It's a long long, long list of people who have contributed. The latest one is Mia Farrow, who I had the honor to meet in Gaza.

The last time you visited Yemen was for the second ISPCAN conference in 2007 about child abuse. What progress has been made in this regard since then?

I'll be honest with you, I haven't had the time to check on that. But I'm sure that there was progress because I was very impressed by the children of Yemen during my first visit- how spontaneous, how powerful and how responsive they are. They have a high level of awareness. I'm sure that things are getting better.

I had a meeting with the responsible minister and we talked about the children. But I came because of the crisis for the children in north Yemen.

What is your assessment to the humanitarian situation in the Sa'ada, Hajja and Amran governorates? Should Yemen announce an international humanitarian emergency situation?

Oh yes, definitely. Definitely they should. There is a lot to be done, and as I mentioned before: this is the tip of the iceberg. Still there are a lot of displaced people whom we are not even able to locate. We have a total number of 150,000 but there are much, much more. And we don't know what is going on inside the governorate of Sa'ada, so we have no idea how many. This is why I made an appeal that we should be prepared for emergencies because the situation is very serious.

Can you describe the situation of children in the camps and places you visited in Yemeni distraught areas?

We saw children on the verge of dying. We saw parents unable to do anything to save their children from malnutrition. It's terrible to look at a baby who is only months old who already looks like an 80-year-old man in the face and the body.

It's just terrible. They live in very difficult conditions. They left their homes and they live in tents. They are trying to provide enough water and enough food- but it's never enough.



As the population of the Mazrak camp swells, doctors fear an outbreak of diarrhea and malaria, which can be life-threatening for malnourished children. As many as 14,000 people now live in the camp and about 40 percent are under 5 years old.

never enough.

How can we reintegrate these children back into normal life once peace is - hopefully - restored? Are there any plans for psychological or emotional treatment for the children affected?

I know that UNICEF had a lot of plans and I think that psychological care is one of them.

You used your role as an actor to advocate for issues of social justice in Egypt. Do you think this sort of media could be successful in advocating for rights in Yemen?

Have you met with any Yemeni performers and discussed the role art can play to fight suffering in Yemen?

I know there is a lot of suffering in the camps, and I know that an artist is a very sensitive person. And I suggested to actors that we try to do a production together in order to help the children, not only in Yemen, but all around the Arab world.

[I am thinking of a] movie or something like we just did in Beirut. We prepared a short message. A lot of actors took part in sending that message to the children, and to the world.

What would you say to Yemeni activists and interested youth who want to become goodwill ambassadors or international advocates for peace and justice?

The only thing I would say is follow your heart. Don't go for the position- you are doing this for the children. I never thought, or dreamt of being a goodwill ambassador. I never tried or approached anybody about being a goodwill ambassador, because this is a position.

I am the one that adds to that position. The position doesn't add anything to me if I'm not really honest, or what I'm doing does not come from the heart.



Mahmoud Kabil has been featured in more than 50 films and TV series. A regular advocate for social justice issues, Kabil visited Yemen last week to draw attention to the civilian victims of the Sa'ada war.



Kabil at the Mazrak camp for people displaced by the Sa'ada war. Doctors have found that almost one third of the children at the camp are malnourished. About 10 percent need of emergency medical care.

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Vacancy Announcement

1- JOB TITLE

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3- ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

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3. Ensure data integrity and database efficiency
4. Ensure data security
5. Analyze and Develop auxiliary applications as required by users
6. Create interfaces between different applications as needed

4- REQUIREMENTS & PREFERENCES

- **Education:** University Degree in Computer sciences or Engineering
- **Experience**
 1. Databases, Oracle & Software development
 2. Oracle DBA.
 3. Have experience in at least 3 programming languages (i.e. Delphi, Power builder, Visual Basic, Developer, Jbuilder...) including one visual language
 4. Fast learner and have the ability to follow up with newest technologies in software development.
 5. Software Analysis Skills.
 6. Have good back ground in web applications development.
 7. Teamwork.
 8. Communication skills.
 9. Problem Solving, Analytical Thinking
 10. Adequate professional experience on a similar position of at least 2 to 3 years.
- **Languages: Arabic & English**
- **Other Skills:**
 - The ability to implement and understand unit Employees requests, according to work priorities and on time.
 - Creative
 - Patient and diplomatic when dealing with Employees
 - Logical and quick solutions provider
 - Excellent Coordination with other SFD units and departments.

Interested candidates should submit their application by email to:
manam@sfd.yemen.org, Mhg2000@gmail.com before the deadline of **5/11/2009**.
Applications received after the closing date will not be considered. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews

Request for Expression of Interest

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

Technical Assistance (TA) for Prepare The Project Operation Manual For HEDP II

The objective of the consultancy is to design and produce a detailed Operations Manual (OM) for the implementation of HEP II. The OM will serve as the main reference for project staff and other stakeholders on project-related management, implementation, procurement and financial administration. Specifically, the OM will describe the system and procedures for project planning, implementation, supervision of activities, financial and administrative management and evaluation of impact at both at the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) and University levels.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR), Republic of Yemen has received a PPF advance 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 qualified individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the service for **Prepare The Project Operation Manual For HEDP II**. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service, description of similar assignments, experience in similar assignment, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.

The selection of the Consultants will 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 consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat. –Wed. From 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered not later than November 4, 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 Manager: mohammed_srh@yahoo.com

وظيفة شاغرة في الهيئة العامة للإستثمار (اليمنيين فقط)

تعلن الهيئة العامة للإستثمار عن رغبتها في الحصول على طلبات لشغل وظيفة في الهيئة العامة للإستثمار. تعني الهيئة العامة للإستثمار في تحسين البنية التشريعية والمؤسسية للإستثمار والأعمال بغية تنقية بيئة الإستثمار والرقي بها إلى معايير دولية تساهم في وضع اليمن في خارطة الإستثمار العالمية كوجهة جاذبة للإستثمارات المحلية، الإقليمية والدولية، وهذا يندرج تحت المهمة الأولى للهيئة وهي "مناصرة السياسات". أما فيما يخص المهمة الثانية للهيئة فهي تعني بتحسين صورة اليمن في الخارج من خلال تنفيذ حملات إعلامية وإعلانية تهدف إلى عرض المنجزات والإصلاحات الحكومية التي أحتوتها كلا من برنامج فخامة رئيس الجمهورية والخطط الحكومية والتي بدورها ستقوم بإعطاء المهتم في العالم معلومات دقيقة عن الخطوات الإيجابية المتخذة على أرض الواقع، وهذه المهمة تدعى "بناء الصورة الإيجابية لليمن". أما فيما يتعلق بالمهم الثالثة وهي "إستقطاب الإستثمارات"، فهي مبنية على الترويج للفرص الإستثمارية المتزايدة في القطاعات الواعدة في اليمن. وتعتمد هذه المهمة في تنفيذها على إستراتيجية وطنية للترويج للإستثمار التي أعدت بناءً على دراسات قطاعية وتنافسية اليمن مع دول المنطقة في إستقطاب الإستثمارات الأجنبية، حيث ستقوم الهيئة بتنفيذها عن طريق استهداف مستثمرين معينين في الدول المستهدفة أهمها دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي وذلك لتوطيد العلاقات الإقتصادية لتمكين اليمن من الإضمام للمجلس. والمهمة الرابعة هي "تسهيل الإستثمارات"، تعمل الهيئة العامة للإستثمار على أساس النافذة الواحدة حيث أن كل الجهات المعنية بالإستثمار وإحتياجات المستثمرين والقانونية والإجرائية ممثلة في الهيئة وذلك بهدف تقليص الفترة والجهد للبدء بتسجيل وشم تنفيذ المشروعات الإستثمارية.

مهام الوظيفة الشاغرة:

- التنسيق مع الجهات الحكومية المختلفة بهدف تنفيذ المشاريع والبرامج الحكومية المشتركة كالبرنامج الانتخابي لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية، برنامج الحكومة، أولويات الحكومة العشر، مصفوفة الإصلاح الوطنية.
- التنسيق مع الجهات المانحة المختلفة مثل: World Bank, IFC, FIAS, GTZ, JICA, Dutch Embassy, AFD, DfID لتصميم المشاريع التي تنفذ في الهيئة العامة للإستثمار وتنفيذها بما لا يتعارض مع مشاريع أخرى تنفذ حكومياً أو من خلال مانحين آخرين.
- إعداد الخطط والبرامج والمشاريع السنوية التي تصب في صلب مهام الهيئة بهدف ضمان قيام الهيئة بمهامها وتحقيق أهدافها السنوية.
- إعداد تقارير الإنجاز لكل مشروع على حده أو لبرنامج شامل أو تقارير شهرية، ربعية وسنوية.
- تزويد إدارة العلاقات العامة بمدخلات كل مشروع والتتائج المرجوة منه ومن ثم ما حقق من تنفيذ هذا المشروع وهذا بهدف تعميمه على الجهات المعنية الأخرى ووسائل الإعلام.
- إعداد الخطط والأنشطة الزمنية المنتجة من أهداف الهيئة السنوية بشكل عام، وأهداف الإستراتيجية الوطنية للترويج للإستثمار بشكل خاص (ترويج، تسويق، علاقات عامة، إعلام...إلخ).
- البحث أول بأول عن التقارير الحكومية التي تنطبق للإستثمار بشكل خاص والإقتصاد بشكل عام، وعن التقارير الدولية (منظمات، دور إستشارية، حكومات...إلخ) وتحليلها وتقديمها للإدارة لإتخاذ اللازم.
- مهام أخرى تصب في مهام الهيئة الأربعة: مناصرة السياسات، بناء الصورة الإيجابية، إستقطاب الإستثمارات، وتسهيل الإستثمارات.

المؤهلات الأساسية المشترط توفرها في المتقدم:

- قدرة على التحليل وإقتراح الإجراءات اللاحقة.
- مهارات إدارة فريق.
- مهارات التواصل مع الآخرين
- ان يكون حاصل على درجة البكالوريوس على الأقل
- إتقان ممتاز للغتين العربية والإنجليزية (كتابة تقارير، التوصل مع المستثمرين والمنظمات...إلخ).
- إتقان إستخدام الكمبيوتر (Word, Excel, Power Point, Explorer).
- القدرة على العمل تحت الضغط

على المهتمين إرسال السيرة الذاتية والوثائق والشهادات السابقة على بريد إلكتروني: invest@investinyemen.gov.ye قبل 21 / نوفمبر / 2009م.

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT CIVIL AVIATION & METEOROLOGY AUTHORITY

SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Improving Air Traffic Management System of Yemeni Airspace.

CONSULTING SERVICES Expressions of Interest

The Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority (CAMA) intends to apply part of its budget proceeds to make payments under a contract for consultancy services to improve the existing Air Traffic Services (ATS) in order to meet the International air traffic demands through the implementation of new technologies related to the air traffic surveillance systems for Sana'a Flight Information Region (FIR).

The Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority, CAMA, now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Typical skills would include experience in placement and study on such systems in developing countries.

This consultancy would cover detailed study of the existing systems and recommend most appropriate option for improving Air Traffic Management (ATM) for the Yemeni Airspace.

The anticipated duration of the services is 6 months from the date of contract signature with the awarded consultant.

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Yemeni High Tender Board's Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below from 09:00 to 11:00 (local time) Saturday to Wednesday.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by Monday, 18 January, 2010

Civil Aviation & Meteorology Authority, CAMA
The chairman's office,
Building No. 28, Zubairi Street,
P.O.Box 1042 Sana'a
Tel: +967 1 274717
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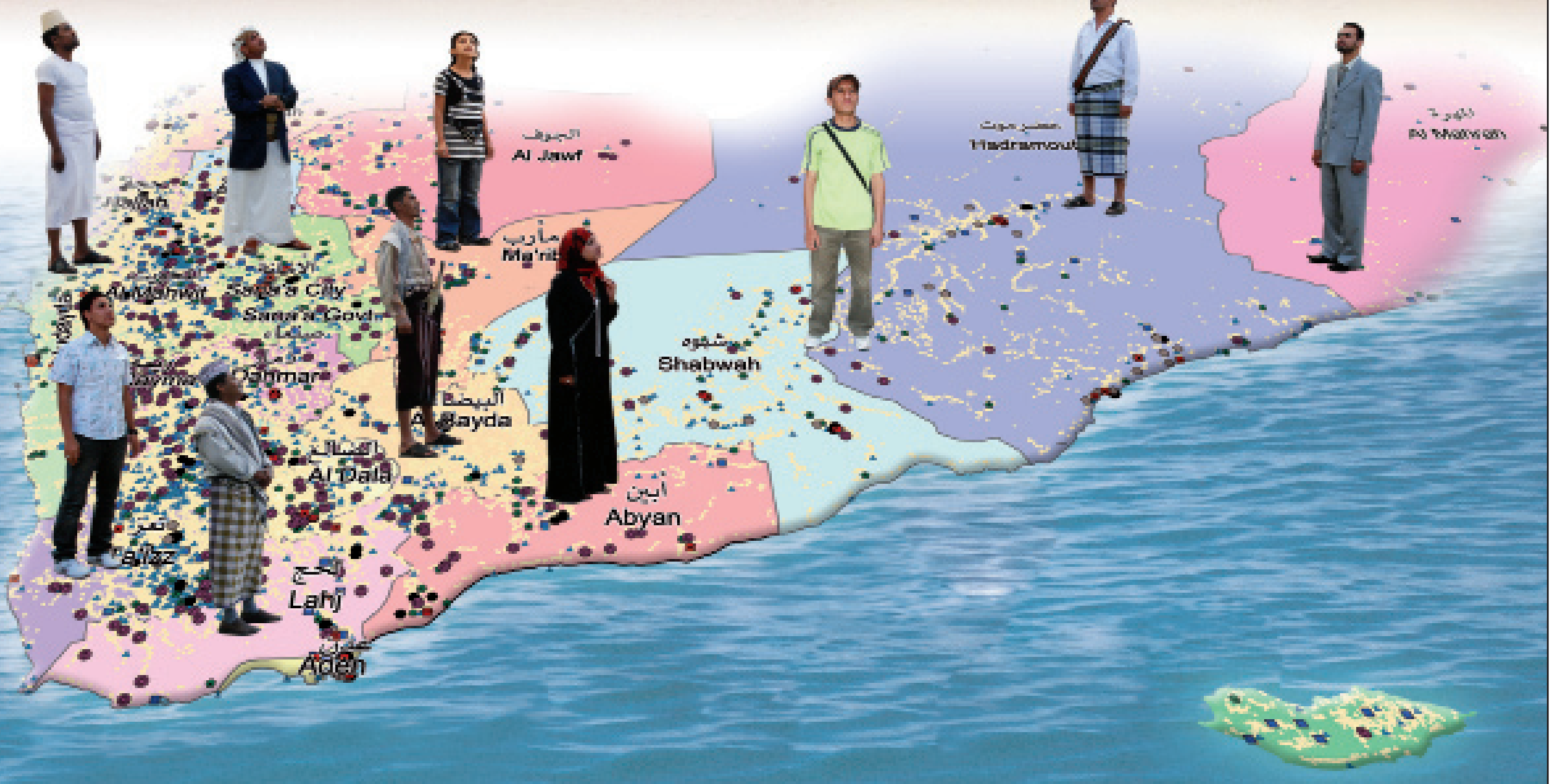
Development of Credits & Finances



Growth of Deposits



Increase of Assets



Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, it is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial. Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize some new values.

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

OUR
OPINION

Happy birthday UN

The United Nations marked its birthday on Oct. 24. It was created 64 years ago to facilitate cooperation in international law, security, economic development, social progress, human rights, and the achieve world peace. It was founded by 51 member states after World War II and it replaced the League of Nations in its mission to prevent war.

Today the UN has 192 member states and agencies all over the world. After more than six decades of operation, the organization has gone through many changes and has received much critique and applause. And despite its shortcomings, the UN can be as good as its members are. The UN is, in essence, a composition of countries who are supposedly trying to work out their differences together and achieve world peace.

However, like many initiatives that exist for a long time, idealistic objectives and fundamental purposes are lost in the details. Over time, people start thinking of the UN as an independent body and blame it for mishaps around the world.

In his latest speech on UN a few days ago Barack Obama said: "The UN sometimes struggles to live up to its founding ideals, as it can only be effective if its member states choose to meet their own responsibilities." And this, coming from the United States government, a country that did not ratify many international conventions, is a good sign.

But then again, what does ratifying a convention do if the country does not respect its signature or endorsement? This is the situation in Yemen, which has jumped to ratify almost every international convention it could.

The UN has been accused of corruption, hypocrisy and double standards. Some of its actions confirm these accusations, but then again the UN is only as pure as its members are. Perhaps this is a time to reflect on our own national policies and start reviewing our commitments as a member state to its original objectives. The UN has done many good things for the world and its people have worked hard to make this world a better place. And hopefully on this occasion its member states, employees and volunteers will take the opportunity to renew their vows and remember why the UN was created in the first place.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Is Yemen turning into Somalia?

By: Mohammed Al-Sammak

The Holy Quran describes believers as "tough on infidels, compassionate to each other". But the events taking place during Ramadan in Somalia tell a different story: although Ramadan is the month of fasting, late night praying and mercy, killing in that country intensified, once in the name of the Muslim mujahideen, another in the name of Muslim youth, and occasionally in the name of the Islamic government. Tens of innocent people who were gathered around tables, waiting for evening call to break their fasting, died. In the name of Islam, the wait for the call became the wait for death, and body-tearing bullets or missiles accompanied by the call, "Allah is the greatest!"

The world has become weary of counting the Somali victims, and of providing relief to the displaced who have left their destroyed towns and villages. The world's only concern now is joining hands to collectively confront the gangs of pirates that have made shipping difficult between the Red Sea and Indian Ocean.

The state has collapsed in Somalia, and its fall became a humanitarian disaster. It provided the impetus for terrorism in the name of religion. We do not know a militia, old or new, that has not inserted Isalm in its name or mottoes, and it is constantly held up as the reason for their actions and crimes. The breakdown of the state has provided a safe haven for terrorists whose governments have cornered them, and thus they found in East Africa a place to gather, strengthen their forces, upgrade their programs, and reconsider their plans.

What is happening in Somalia is very serious, but what is even more

serious is the possibility of Yemen becoming another Somalia. If this were to happen, the danger would be within Arabs' homes, not beside them. This is the time for an Arab joint movement in the face of this looming threat.

The first sign is the development of protest in the south of Yemen, starting with calls for reforms, which become calls for secession. The bloody demonstration in the south and the accompanying clashes between anti- and pro-unity sides give way to serious fears that such riots may ignite civil war, as was the case in Somalia. The hazards of such negative development of this kind, and at this level will not be restricted to Yemen alone, but may affect its neighbors as well. This peril will not be warded off by merely non-intervention, expression of good faith, or prayers. Prevention is better than a cure.

The second sign is that the war between the Houthis and the government that broke out in 2004 has reached the point of no return. The violence and counter violence in a tribal and sectarian society like Yemen would not allow for compromises.

Zaidis form about 30% of the 20 million Yemen population, and theirs is the Shiite sect that is closest to that of Sunnis. Therefore, the problem has no essential sectarian dimension, something that should have facilitated a conciliation. Unfortunately, this never happened, and what makes it worse is the revenge tradition that is found in any tribal society. This is the problem that Somalia faces now.

There is also the foreign interference that is recorded by the Sana'a government. Sectarian differences, no matter how slight they are, are utilized in political struggles in the Arab world, especially after the American invasion of Iraq.

Bureaucracy and lack of prevention exacerbate national healthcare problem

By: Abdullah Al-Sa'afani

As it does with other laws, the parliament is treating the health insurance law like a prisoner in provisional detention. In this case, parliament has stalled for over a year. The status quo focuses on curative medicine, treating patients after they develop disease as opposed

to preventing the disease from developing.

The government's bureaucratic management of healthcare and economic weakness exacerbates the issue. Meanwhile, parliament members' self-interests impedes legislative progress. For example, one rumor insists that the Health Committee is stalling the bill at the request of a private insurance company.

Bureaucracy adds to the problem. Minister of Public Health and Population Abdul-Karim Rase'a explained that unequal prices between hospitals creates disparity between Yemenis. For example, Al-Jomhori Hospital charges only YR 500 for one bed but Al-Thawrah Hospital costs double that. Thus patients paying for beds in one hospital are also paying for other patients' bed in another hospital.

Poverty, ignorance, and disease are a cycle. Lacking access to critical health information and regular medical care, as well as the mental burden of stress puts the poor at higher risk for disease. Yemen faces a brutal climate without access to clean water. War threatens the population with physical violence and political instability imposes undue stress.

Is focusing on existing health issues ("curative", as opposed to "preventative"), the most sustainable form of medicine for either our budgets and health.

Yemen's challenges explain why the Ministry of Health has refocused on preventative medicine: the exorbitant costs and inadequacy of curative medicine will not provide sustainable healthcare for our country.

In order to eradicate polio and other preventable diseases, we must pass the Health Insurance Law and increase Yemenis' access to healthcare. Parliament members should consider their trips to Tunisia and Jordan before they put off passing this legislation any longer.

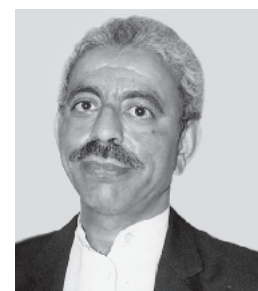
Source Al-Ghad Newspaper

COMMON
SENSE

The Humanitarian Situation in Sa'ada

By All Standards,
Unforgivable

It is simply deplorable that 23 million people should sit idle and apathetic while a sizable number of their Yemeni brothers, sisters and children have no shelter over their heads, stand to lay down for the night with their stomachs empty of any nourishment to keep them warm on these cold mountain winter nights or even blankets to keep that cold away from their shivering cold pale skins. No way can the Al-Mighty be forgiven of a people who have been blinded by the fairy tales of politicians and thugs, who have forgotten that they will be accountable eventually to their people for not fulfilling the minimum requirements of the Social Contract they have forcefully captured from their people. Never mind that the latter's capture of the reigns of authority is not driven by any sense of national responsibility or even care as for the social welfare of the people they have held it upon themselves to be divinely blessed with the right of perpetual authority over their necks. On the contrary, it has become apparent as the decades go by that the people of this land are the last thing in the frigid minds of these thugs and war lords. It is the latter, who have filled the valleys and plateaus of this once happy country with the blood of its very own people, using the very resources that God Al-Mighty has bestowed upon the people of Yemen to further their livelihoods.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

How can one remain silent when even the icons of the Arab cinema (<http://weekly.alahram.org.eg/202009/969/re62.htm>) are absolutely appalled by the unforgivable plight of the IDPs (internally displaced persons of the Sa'ada War).

How can a government that allows its people to face such inhumane conditions have any credibility among the international community, let alone among the rest of its own people, who themselves are the victims of the most horrible manifestations of governance in existence today.

When the ICRC - or the International Committee of the Red Cross - (which is supposedly working in partnership with the Yemeni Red Cross - a supposedly local civil society organization under the tight control of the political security organization, as most of the so called civil society organizations that are supposed to safeguard the public interest are) is complaining that its much appreciated humanitarian work is being hampered by local government red tape, intentional obstacles or Saudi Arabian Government reluctance, the observer cannot help but wonder in awe: "What has this world really come to?"

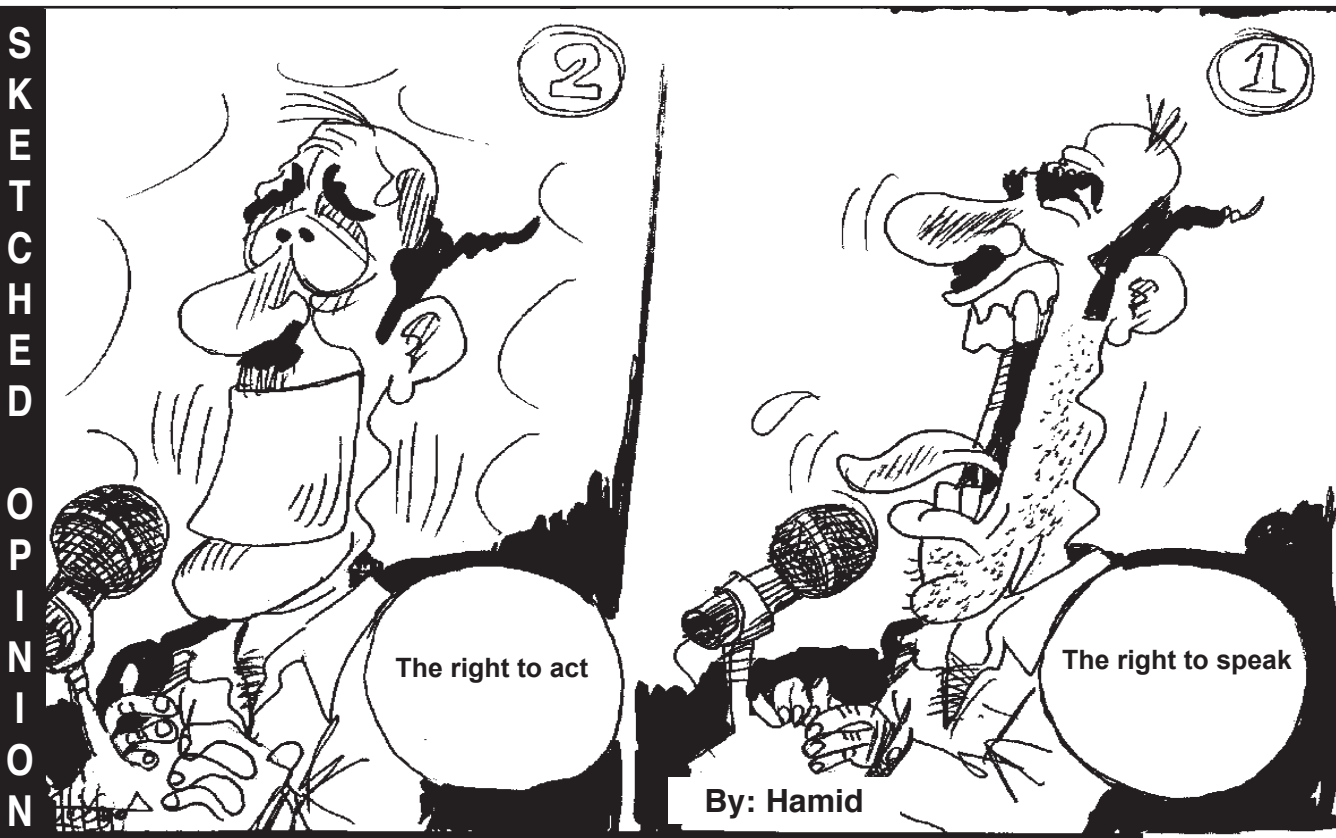
It is no mystery to the observer that there are now close to 200,000 IDPs (why the number remains stuck at 150,000 - which is the same number at the end of Round V - is in itself a mystery who are mostly out of the care of any reasonably acceptable humanitarian assistance and a substantial number of whom are on the borderline of death from the menacing negligence of government officials, fed by greed, selfishness and sheer contempt for any sense of human justice.

Time and again, most of the people and pens of conscience of Yemen and elsewhere have sought to remind the President of the Republic, Ali Abdullah Saleh, that it is he who can restore some semblance of sanity to those, who are seeking to tarnish his record with incompetence, repression and misgovernment and all the ugly traits that have made this country the classic example of failure in governance in all manifestations of public administration. Moreover, it is the President who will in the end be accountable to history and the Lord Al-Mighty for every transgression that arises in his administration of affairs of state.

It should also not be forgotten that anyone here and abroad, who views all the melancholy of governance one is witnessing coming out of Sana'a, and the tragedy unfolding in Sa'ada are bound to be also accountable to history and to their siblings for the inexcusable apathy they displayed as this tragedy in Sa'ada continues to unfold.

The sooner this war in Sa'ada comes to an end, not necessarily as others want it, but in a way that reminds us that the Yemeni Government understands the awesome responsibility it shoulders under the Social Contract, the better for all concerned, especially those who insist on not relinquishing any of the tight helms of authority at their disposal, led by the President of the Republic himself.

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



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Yemen Press Review

الاحدوي

Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist People Organization (NUPO)
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009

Main Headlines

- Senior Nasserite leader holds government accountable for worsening turmoil
- Basondwa informs Musa about dialogue committee's efforts to solve the turmoil

As part of its efforts to rescue Yemen from the current crisis, the National Dialogue Committee (NDC) has arranged for a broad meeting to involve all the active political parties on the ground, as well as senior politicians available in various Arab and foreign states, the weekly reported.

Members of the committee flew last week to various countries and dialogued with active political leaders abroad, the weekly added. It quoted an informed source as saying that "Many Yemeni politicians available abroad welcomed the National Dialogue Document, announced by NDC last month.

According to the weekly, those leaders agreed to engage in a national dialogue, scheduled for the next couple of weeks and due to be held in one of the Arab states' capitals, most probably in Damascus or Beirut.

According to the weekly's source, former Yemeni President Ali Nasser Mohammed is one of those who wel-

comed the national rescue document and the dialogue due to be chaired by NDC Chairman Mohammed Salem BanSondwa, who is also a political advisor to President Saleh.

On a side note, the weekly reported that Basondwa, who is currently available in the Egyptian capital Cairo, met Arab League Secretary-General Amro Musa and gave him a copy of the document. He also briefed Musa on efforts so far exerted by NDC to resolve subsequent crises in Yemen.

المصوة

Al-Sahwa Weekly, mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, Oct. 21, 2009

Main Headlines

- Government keeps media under its control

The government keeps the media under its control. Censorship is frequently applied to subjects such as the presidency, state security and religion. But the most sensitive issue of all remains the rebellion in Saada, a region 200 km north of the capital Sanaa, the weekly quoted Reporters Without Borders as saying.

The French organization added that the Saada province has since 2004 been the theatre of fighting between Shiite rebels and government forces leaving thousands dead or displaced.

In the turmoil, the government has

slapped a blackout on news, banning access to the area for journalists and publication of any news on the issue, the organization continued.

"Despite Qatar-sponsored negotiations that opened in 2007, the fighting continues and the area remains off limits to Yemeni journalists. The government considers those who defy the blackout to be "collaborating with the rebellion".

Such was the case for Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani who was sentenced to six years in prison on 26 January 2009 for "collaboration with the rebellion in the north", by a special criminal court created to try terrorism cases.

The journalist, a former editor of the newspaper Al-Shura and a contributor to independent media, was pardoned by President Ali Abdallah Saleh on 14 March 2009.

This was the second time the journalist had been accorded a pardon, following a first one in September 2008 after his conviction in the lower court.

Against this background, most Yemeni journalists tend to resort to self-censorship to spare themselves legal proceedings and other problems with the government.

Foreign journalists are only permitted to move around the country when accompanied by a guide appointed by the information ministry. Any who fail to observe this rule are expelled and their assistants imprisoned.

A British freelance journalist and two Yemeni fixers were arrested in July 2008 while trying to get to Saada.

الوسط

Al-Wasat Independent Political Weekly
Wednesday, 21, 2009

Main Headlines

- Open protests in the south against continued detentions
- Houthis take control of Razih Airport, army scores victories in other fronts

The fact that two Saudi border guards were killed in clashes with Houthis will help expand scope of the fighting, and therefore may lead to regionalizing the conflict, the weekly reported.

It quoted Houthi Spokesman Mohammed Abdussalam as saying that Saudi forces attacked the Hisam Market near the Yemeni-Saudi border, which was overcrowded with citizens and shoppers.

According to the weekly, Houthi's control of the Razih Airport along with arms available there is a serious indicator of their growing power and consequential threats to both bordering states of Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

According to the weekly, official media reported that the top leader of Houthi rebels in Sa'ada Abdulmalik al-Houthi was allegedly injured and arrested after an air strike on Ketaf district on Saturday.

The army arrested Abdulmalik al-Houthi after he and some of his followers were wounded in an air strike on a Houthi stronghold in Ketaf district, local sources were quoted as saying.

The Security Department in Sa'ada and the governor's office declined to confirm or deny the information.

The Houthi's spokesman denied that Abdulmalik was injured and arrested. "These are allegations and false reports being circulated by some media that are close to the regime," said the spokesman.

From its side the army claimed it scored victories in various fronts in Saada. Spokesman for the Army, who is also a field commander in Saada said a few days ago that the army got information on the movement of Abdulmalik Al-Houthi.

الميثاق

Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress (ruling party)
Monday, Oct. 19, 2009

Main Headlines

- This is the last war against rebels, Saleh confirms

President Ali Abdullah Saleh emphasized on Sunday that the government has a strong determination to make this war, presently fought by the armed forces and the security against Houthi rebels in Saada and Harf Sufyan, the last war, according to the weekly.

In this regard, he drew the attention to the great victories the armed and security forces are achieving at various fronts, adding that rebels are experience the worst situation as a result of loss of

their equipment, weapons, ammunition, fuels and supplies.

During his interview with MBC Satellite TV Channel on Sunday, Saleh pointed out that under these victories the citizens have restored their morale and are backing up the army in besieging and tightening the grip around the Houthis.

He said that delaying end of the war is attributed to the state's concern about the lives and properties of citizens, as well as the hope that rebels may return to the right direction. "They were fox like and liars. Whenever we declared ceasefire and set free their detainees they have prepared themselves anew for fighting."

Saleh said the so-called Southern Movement in some southern provinces is not as dangerous as the al-Qaeda organization that threatens the national economy, security and stability nor is it as dangerous as the rebellion in some districts of Saada province.

According to the weekly, the Yemeni leader confirmed that Houthis are in fact terrorist elements violating the law and order, subservient to foreign powers and implementing foreign agenda.

With regard to the Iranian support for Houthi rebels, he affirmed that they receive funds from some religious sources in Iran, "as documents we obtained have disclosed the cells that are now standing trial. They are, regretfully, Yemenis receiving money from some institutions or religious bodies, maybe in Iran, but we do not accuse the authority."

Educating for tolerant thinking within a conflict zone

By: Catherine Rottenberg and Neve Gordon

Educating children in a conflict zone is no simple matter. More often than not, those responsible for the curricula succumb to the masters of war and adopt a pedagogical approach that exacerbates rather than diffuses strife. Israel, unfortunately, is no exception.

Consider the way Jewish and Palestinian children are educated. Segregation in the classroom is the rule so that Jewish and Palestinian children only rarely mix. This strict segregation exists despite the fact that the Palestinians are citizens of Israel, comprising 19.5 percent of Israel's population—around 1.37 million people—and 25 percent of all school children. Unlike the Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, these Palestinians vote and pay taxes like Jewish citizens.

Notwithstanding their incorporation into the citizen body, Palestinian citizens do not enjoy full equality. In comparison to their Jewish counterparts, Arab schools receive half the per capita budget. It is therefore not very surprising that Palestinian students have the highest dropout rates and lowest achievement levels in the country.

Equality in education is limited to the uniformity of the school

curriculum, particularly the texts dedicated to teaching the history of the Israeli state. The existing history textbooks adopt the Zionist historical narrative, erasing all trace of the Palestinian nakba (Arabic for "catastrophe", referring to the events of 1948, when approximately 750,000 Palestinians out of a population of 900,000 either fled or were expelled from their homes). Furthermore, these textbooks emphasise the significance of the Land of Israel for Jews and attempt to prove that the State of Israel could only have been created in historical Palestine, while simultaneously portraying the connection between the Arabs and Palestine as purely incidental. Along similar lines, the study of literature in the Arab schools is oriented toward Zionist portrayals and is conspicuously lacking in any patriotic or nationalistic Palestinian sentiments.

It is, no doubt, a truism that public schools in modern liberal democracies inculcate their students with the dominant national worldview. In the US, for example, children still recite the pledge of allegiance and in France children sing La Marseillaise. But while the public schools in these democracies are today more willing to provide students with a multicultural curriculum that includes the historical narratives of those who have been oppressed and marginalised over the centuries, Israel is arguably becoming

less tolerant to any pedagogy that challenges the dominant Zionist national narrative.

This increasing intolerance does not bode well for the future of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship. It has therefore become more urgent than ever to consider alternative educational models.

Since educating for tolerant thinking within a conflict zone is no easy task, there are very few such projects in Israel. The bilingual Arab-Jewish Hagar School in Beer-Sheba is the only one of its kind in Israel's southern region—a region that is home to over half a million people, 25 percent of whom are Palestinian citizens. While Hagar is a public school supported by the Ministry of Education, it is also the exception that proves the rule.

Hagar's uniqueness stems from the fact that it has created a venue in which Jewish and Arab children not only mix (each ethnic group makes up 50 percent of the student body) but learn together in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Currently 67 children, nursery through first grade, attend this bi-lingual school, whose commitment to equality informs every aspect of its educational agenda.

To ensure that Hebrew and Arabic are awarded equal status, for example, two teachers, one Jewish and the other Arab, are present in every classroom. By creating a bilingual space that encourages direct contact with the

heritage and customs of the different cultures, Hagar promotes tolerance, while being sensitive to nurture the personal identity of each child and each tradition. Thus, by the time the children are old enough to learn that there are two conflicting national narratives, both of which will be taught, they already have the necessary emotional and intellectual tools to deal with conflict through dialogue.

Hagar is an educational island that is expanding against all odds. Indeed, the school's achievements within the current political context—especially following the assault on Gaza and the sporadic missile attacks on Beer-Sheba—are astonishing. But ongoing local support and international financial assistance are necessary to guarantee the future success of this educational space—a space that is actively translating a pedagogy of mutual respect into practice within a conflict zone.

Catherine Rottenberg is a founding member of Hagar and sits on its pedagogic committee. Neve Gordon is a founding member of Hagar and is the author of Israel's Occupation. This article is part of a special series on nationalism in the Israeli educational system and was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).

Source: Common Ground News Service (CGNews), 22 October 2009.

The third Mideast option

By: Ephraim Sneh

The difficulties surrounding preparations for the Obama-Netanyahu-Abbas meeting in New York last month should bring the US administration to one conclusion: There is no sense in pressing for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks now. That is not because there is no urgent need of a negotiated agreement—there certainly is.

It is because the political constraints of both leaders, the Palestinian Authority's Mahmoud Abbas and Israel's Binyamin Netanyahu, prevent any progress at the negotiation table. Abbas, without substantial achievements, cannot explain to his people why he made substantial concessions to the Israelis. Netanyahu, given the political composition of his government, cannot provide Abbas with such achievements.

We have to remember that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement is not an a la carte menu. It's more like a business lunch. You can't pick the courses that you like; they are already fixed.

The agreement will include two capitals in Jerusalem and the relocation of 100,000 settlers.

The slightest Israeli manifestation of flexibility that leaks from the negotiating room will spark an offensive manoeuvre against Netanyahu by panic-stricken hard-liners within his own party and his own cabinet. There is no majority there willing to support something that might satisfy the Palestinians.

The inevitable collapse of the talks would be another blow to the fragile peace process and to the two-state solution. Hamas and the regime in Tehran would celebrate. The cynics would say, "We told you so." The prestige of President Obama would be damaged, especially after winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

If talks are not a viable option, only two options are left for the American president. One is to put his own plan for a two-state solution on the table; this undoubtedly would resemble the plan that his predecessor Bill Clinton proposed in his last days in office.

Obama could invite Abbas and Netanyahu to Washington and tell them to take it or leave it. If one party rejects the president's plan, he will lose the support of the United States.

If both parties reject it, they will get the phone number of the White House (as Secretary of State James Baker provided), and the Israeli-Palestinian

conflict will be erased from this president's agenda.

There are other troubles in the world for Obama to worry about. I doubt that the current administration can absorb all the risks of this option.

The other option is to promote the plan of the Palestinian prime minister, Salam Fayyad. His detailed plan is designed to build a de facto Palestinian state in two years.

The plan is based on improvement of governance, improvement of government services, economic development and effective law enforcement by a strong, unified security force. This is a pragmatic plan, without too much rhetoric.

Since the prime minister of Israel accepted the principle of two states, Fayyad's plan does not contradict any interest of Israel. The United States can vigorously support Fayyad's plan and insist upon its implementation in two years.

Israel would be asked to facilitate the plan and to rein in militant settlers. It would be rewarded by the bolstering of its indigenous capabilities to fend off and thwart the Iranian threat.

After two years of implementing Fayyad's plan, the Israeli-Palestinian talks could be started in a different atmosphere. Success of the plan in the West Bank would eventually shorten the rule of Hamas in Gaza, especially if Egypt acted to totally cut the flow of arms and money to the terrorist movement.

International as well as American support of this plan would improve life in the West Bank while keeping alive, and bringing much closer, the political horizon of an independent state.

In this third option there are no fire-works or fanfare of peacemaking, but it could bring about real progress toward a two-state solution, to which President Obama is committed. This is probably the only option that can work.

Ephraim Sneh, a retired general in the Israeli Defense Force, served in the Israeli government as minister of health, minister of transportation and deputy minister of defense. He is chairman of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Strategic Dialogue at the Netanya Academic College. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) with permission from the author.
Source: The Washington Post, 11 October 2009.

The politics of protest

By: Shayna Zamkane

Prim Minister Ehud Olmert has been called many unflattering things. Yet from his recent talk at the University of Chicago, he can now add "fu**ing snake!", "piece of sh*t!" and a slew of other vulgarisms to his repertoire.

What is shocking is not necessarily the language itself, fuelled by passions and legitimate grievances against the former Prime Minister, but the context.

Registration to attend the talk was mandatory days in advance. Upon arrival, attendees were given question cards, reminding them of proper decorum and the university's commitment to the sharing of ideas, however controversial.

Nevertheless, Olmert's scheduled twenty-minute speech stretched into

an hour-and-a-half, as members of the audience—many of them university students—interrupted with obscenities his every attempt to speak. It took the police over an hour of locating the individual disruptors in the hall and escorting them out of the auditorium, before Olmert was able to speak ten words consecutively.

What is so tragic about this event is not only the exclusive resort to obscenities to voice political dissent, but the fact that within an environment that prides itself in freedom of thought and the pooling of ideas, there was an absolute refusal to listen to the opposite side. How fortunate and ironic, it seems, that Palestinian and Israeli political leaders seem better able to listen to each other than these university students training to be, well, professional "listeners" and critics.

I am not contesting the right to dissent, but the means. Had the

students listened to the talk, their "cause" would have been more credible. Instead, their behaviour was at best crude and infantile. Furthermore, they carried out the very dehumanisation that they accused Olmert of doing, by refusing to listen to his speech and by degrading his status as a human being.

But given the very real and legitimate sources of the students' grievances of Olmert's political past, which contributed to the deaths of over one thousand Palestinians, how might the students have expressed their dissent?

First, they should have remained until the end of the talk. Second, they could have, as a united body, carried out a "silent protest". This could entail wearing a particular slogan or piece of clothing, from a keffiyeh or a Palestinian flag (as some did), to a clown nose signifying the

ridiculousness of Olmert's explanations, to statements plastered onto people's shirts.

Instead of reducing political protest into a contest of who could yell the loudest and swear the most, the silent protest would have broadcast the loudest message of them all: that the ability to protest, disagree and grieve is not incompatible with the ability to listen.

Shayna Zamkane is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of Chicago. She has worked for think tanks in North America and the Middle East. This article was written for the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).

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"The Halal Trend Is Unstoppable"

The ritual slaughter of animals for religious reasons is basically permitted in Germany, although management of the practice is complicated and controversial. But the enormous potential of and demand for 'halal' foodstuffs here in Germany is leading to an increase in production. Daniela Schröder has researched the issue

Gehlenberg is a sleepy village in the south of Oldenburg-Land in the state of Schleswig-Holstein. It has just over 1,600 residents, there's a community center, church and war memorial, the local pub is called "Paraplu", the restaurant "Hüttenbernd". There are several crucifixes along the roadsides and a tiny chapel, the region is staunchly Catholic. But for three days a week in a factory hall on the outskirts of the village, it's the Prophet Mohammed who lays down the rules.

This is where the family business Meemken produces a wide variety of sausages according to Islamic specifications. The company delivers almost 100 tons of Koran-approved salami, sausage and boloney every week to grocery stores in Germany and abroad.

The appeal of a new market

For years now, international food giants such as Nestlé or Unilever have had a range of halal products on the market. "Halal" in Arabic and "hala" in Turkish means "that which is permitted" or "that which is allowed". The term is applied to the Muslim way of life as a whole, a lifestyle in which the correct diet plays a major role.

Now German businesses are also gradually realizing that there is good money to be made from the religiously informed buying habits of Muslims. And in economically uncertain times like these, the idea of tapping into a new market is an appealing one.

Immense growth potential

This new market in Germany is much larger than previously thought. According to a recent study, between 3.8 and 4.3 million Muslims live in the Federal Republic. And because

they have on average more children, Muslim consumers are seen as one of the most interesting markets with great future potential. The World Halal Forum in Malaysia says that already, 'halal food' represents some 17 percent of the global food market.

Industry watchers say the potential is a long way off being exhausted, and that no other food market segment is growing as fast as halal. They say that in 2004, global revenue from halal products totaled 587 billion US dollars, and that in 2010, this figure will have risen to 641 billion dollars. The experts predict a turnover in the coming year of 67 billion dollars for Europe's halal market.

Countries with larger Muslim populations have already made provisions for their particular consumer requirements. In France, supermarkets run by the Casino chain offer meat and sausage products manufactured according to halal standards, in England such products are available at Tesco and Sainsbury's. French delis stock halal goose liver pate, the British drugstore chain Boots sells halal baby food and encouraged by the success of its halal fast food in London, McDonalds plans to serve halal chicken in other locations in Europe in the near future.

In German supermarkets however, the range of halal products on offer is meager. Many traders are especially reluctant to stock products that have been made from animals slaughtered according to halal methods, due to fears that animal rights activists will make trouble.

In January 2002, Germany's constitutional court struck down the country's former ban on ritual slaughter, after this ban was appealed by a Turkish butcher. It ruled that Muslim butchers were allowed to slaughter livestock with a cut to the throat and without



Industry watchers say that no other food market segment is growing as fast as halal; so now German businesses are gradually realizing that there is money to be made in this segment

anesthesia, if their faith demanded it. Most Muslims regard an anesthetized animal as already dead, meaning to eat it would contravene the Koran's ban on carrion. In a bid to side-step the problem, many German halal producers buy their meat abroad.

What is 'halal' in contemporary Europe?

The subject of ritual slaughter is even controversial within Islamic circles. "You have to appreciate in what era the Prophet's rules were written, and you can't just blindly follow traditional standards," says Yusuf Çalkara from the European Halal Certification Institute in Hamburg. Other certifying bodies are more categorical in their assessment.

"Industrially manufactured meat is never halal," says Mahmoud Tatari of Halal Control in Rüsselsheim. According to Islamic standards, he says, animals must not suffer any stress or agony, and mass production cannot meet these requirements.

The various certification authorities also have differing views on the requirement that the name of Allah

should be called out by the butcher as each animal is being slaughtered. Some are happy if that call is emitted by a tape recording, although the play button must be pressed by a Muslim. Until now, Germany's devout Muslims have been unable to agree on a uniform halal standard, due to these differing interpretations of the Koranic rules.

Because Germany's Muslims are affiliated to a range of different organizations, there is no overall monitoring entity carrying out a general certification procedure. The number of halal certifiers controlling raw materials, production, standards of hygiene and suppliers is also large and unstructured.

Painstaking removal of pork residues

Sausage manufacturer Meemken has just passed its halal audit with flying colors. The company's 60 halal products already account for half of its entire output. Up to now, the business has been supplying retailers in other European countries, but now its order books also include German branches of the supermarket discounter Netto.

The trigger for this was when Turkish wholesalers approached the Gehlenberg concern with a request for halal goods.

The machines are still painstakingly cleaned to remove any traces of pork on halal production days. The production processes will be separated when the company installs new machinery, something it plans to do soon. "We are definitely going to expand this area of our business," says managing director Rolf Meemken. "We are seeing disproportionately strong growth in the halal sector."

Poultry concern Wiesenhof has had its products certified as halal for years now. But it's up to the wholesalers and supermarkets themselves whether or not to label the goods as halal.

"German companies are too cautious," says Levent Akgül of ethic marketing agency Akkar Media in Hanover. "They are not familiar with the other culture, and cannot assess the risks involved." According to Akgül, German retailers worry that non-Muslim customers will be scared off by shelves stocked with halal goods. This is why advertising halal products in Germany is still taboo for many German companies, he says.

Greater revenue than organic products

But that looks set to change. "The halal trend is unstoppable," says Peter Groethues, head of the food industry sector at Cologne's trade exhibition company, due to host more than 800 halal food producers at the ANUGA trade show later in October. Most of the exhibitors are foreign companies that have been exporting to Germany for years.

The products they sell are still mostly restricted to Muslim corner shops across Germany. But the Federal Association of German Food Retailers says "halal is set to become an increasingly significant pillar of business." This is no surprise when you learn that the annual purchasing power of Germany's Turkish community is an estimated 25 billion euros.

There is good money to be made here, with Nestlé's halal products

already generating greater revenue than its organic lines.

After all, this is about more than just meat and sausage. Halal is a term that can be applied to all foodstuffs, from cheese without animal enzymes to cookies, condiments and coffee, as long as manufacturers clean their machines with alcohol-free detergents. Haribo recently introduced a sweet made with beef instead of pork gelatin, and these days you can also find apple juice that has not been filtered with pork gelatin.

"But the halal market is far from saturated," says Derya Altay from the German Federation of Turkish Wholesalers and Retailers. "Where German consumers can choose from a large variety of products, the Muslim consumer has just two or three."

For industry as a whole, thinking outside of the box could well pay off. Cosmetics made without animal ingredients and animal testing are just as important to Muslims as fashion, hotels and financial products that adhere to the teachings of the Koran. Public health is also still an undiscovered market.

A global economic trend

Mahmoud Tatari has just certified the first two hospitals in Germany. As well as halal food, they offer patients treatment by doctors and nurses of the relevant sex and a chauffeur service to the nearest mosque.

The halal market is huge, and the boom it is currently experiencing is not just a global economic trend. The growing significance of Muslim consumers also represents a shift in self-perception. Adherence to Islam is about more than religion and politics, a Muslim lifestyle is also about making consumer choices.

"Muslims would rather spend their money on halal products than attaining political goals," says Zahed Amanullah, European head of the consumer portal zabihah.com. In other words: Islamic identity can also be defined via the shopping cart.

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Climate control- not a challenge

By: Ramlah Merchant
For the Yemen Times

“We live in a time in which we need to identify the challenges in our world” said Dr. Yasir Hameed, a researcher of climate change, in a presentation to the British Council. According to Dr. Hameed, the carbon dioxide concentrations present in the atmosphere today are the highest ever recorded. The earth is getting warmer by the day, so in medical terms we say that the earth has a fever.

Recent studies have found that the Arab region experienced an uneven increase in surface air temperature ranging from 0.2 to 2.0° C between 1970 to 2004. Yemen's climate and geography make this country most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. There has been a large change in temperature, despite official sources' claims of figures which may seem rather small to us, said the studies.

Hameed further emphasized that people are changing the composition of the atmosphere by polluting it to a large extent. The atmosphere is very thin. One scientist has compared it to a coat of varnish on an orange.

As told by Mr. Hameed, on Venus, carbon dioxide is confined to the atmosphere, whereas the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in Earth is deposited on the ground in the form of



Only 43 percent of the population used improved sanitation, implying connection to a public sewer, connection to a septic tank system, pour-flush latrines, simple pit latrines or ventilated improved pit latrines.

oil and coal. The average temperature of Earth is 15° C as compared to 457° C on Venus. However, Venus is not hotter than Earth simply because it is nearer to the sun. This is proved by the fact that Venus is three times hotter than Mercury, which is closer to the sun. In light of these facts, imagine the fate of Earth.

Mr. Hameed says that if we lose the northern polar ice cap, which is often described by scientists as the great mirror, because it reflects a great deal

of the sun's rays, then a great amount of water will be delivered to oceans which will contribute to the ongoing sea level rise. Even West Antarctica is vulnerable to melting as a result of global warming, and would contribute to a sea level rise of at least 6 metres. The Himalayan glaciers are also melting at an unprecedented rate. All this flooding has had its impacts on countries such as Yemen, India and Brazil.

Yemen is not an exception

Sea level rise is a significant result of climate change, and a grave worldwide danger. It is very probable that 20th century global warming has contributed considerably to the observed sea level increase, through thermal expansion of sea water and extensive loss of land ice (IPCC 2001b). The rate of the global sea level rise was observed to be 1.8 mm per year between 1961 and 2003; it should be noted that the observed rate between 1993 to 2003 was significantly higher, at about 3.1 mm per year. The total 20th century rise is estimated to be 0.17 m (IPCC, 2007b). The city of Hodeidah and its nearby areas were chosen for a detailed impact evaluation. The city is the largest on the Red Sea coast, with substantial economic and trade activity, and it's the second largest port in Yemen. Some easy solutions have been recommended after the study was published. For example, partitions and breakers for waves. The increase in the height of sea water will cause coastal flooding in many places. Al-Hodeidah will be in danger of plummeting into the ocean, like some roads near the sea, some buildings, schools, and part of the port.

After flooding at the end of October in the Hadramaut Governorate in southeastern Yemen, there were quailms that diseases could break out, health workers say. Thousands of inactive pools of waters, piles of rubbish, and dead animals around houses have encouraged the warnings. The state of affairs is compounded by the lack and in some cases the obliteration of sanitary and piped water networks, as well as the absence of tools and technical know-how. Swarms of flies and mosquitoes are evident in urban areas, and swamps have developed which are mixed with sewage.

Fight negative traditions to fight climate change

According to Mr. Hameed, part of our fight against global warming is changing old traditions. Yemeni people need to stop eating qat, as it requires the use of a large amount of water. The increase in qat cultivation is having an enormous impact on the groundwater.

According to Yemen's First National Communications to the UNFCCC 2008, it is very hard to forecast the prospective changes of climate in Yemen. "In general we can say that the temperature will change. This increase will be very huge, and will harm all the elements of the environment in Yemen, especially if we know that the mean increase in temperature worldwide during the last century was 0.8 C, and this 'small' increase has led to the unparalleled rise in natural disasters and is threatening all forms of life on our planet. However, the predictions about rain quantities are not as certain as the temperature predictions. However, one thing that we are sure about is that we will have an increase in natural disasters, which will create a great challenge for development in Yemen," Hameed said.

"Fighting climate change and overcoming poverty are the defining challenges of our time. You cannot, however, fix one without the other," said World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development, Katherine Sierra. Poverty and climate change are essentially linked. It is obvious that the poor are more directly affected by the impact of climate change. People living in the poorest countries of the world will be, and are already, most affected by flooding, deforestation and desertification. Climate change will affect the income-generating capacity of vulnerable populations potentially increasing the number of people experiencing hunger, said Mr. Hameed.

According to Mr. Hameed, our existence on Earth is threatened if we



Shibam, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is 2000 years old, dubbed as Manhattan of Desert, was threatened by the floods of 2008.



In October 2008, more than four hundred houses had been destroyed by the floods and hundreds of families displaced in six coastal districts.

do not do anything. We have to create awareness among society. We need to educate ourselves, our neighbours and our family members. We need to establish smaller families in the future. We need to plant more trees, because trees are like machines which pull out carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through the process of photosynthesis. We underestimate the importance of trees. Trees also help to prevent landslides and floods, as they keep the soil firmly in place- which in turn allows water to percolate through it. We have to prevent uncontrolled global

warming.

Mr. Hameed says that as one of the least developed countries in the world, Yemen does not have much authority or power to have an effect on the urbanized countries, and to make them alter their carbon emissions. "However, if we succeeded in raising people's consciousness about climate change in this country, and to generate a sense of accountability towards our atmosphere, we will join the worldwide efforts to turn away an extensive humanitarian, financial and ecological catastrophe. It is the least we can do." He concluded.



The increase in qat cultivation is having a huge impact on the groundwater.



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Tracing Arab Culture and Yemeni Arts in the City of Lights

By : Fatima Salcido
For the Yemen Times

One of the most remarkable sites in the French capital stands in front of Mohamed V square on the left bank of the Seine River. It is neither a centuries-old palace nor a religious monument, but a multidisciplinary cultural center entirely dedicated to Arab civilization. This center is the Institute of the Arab World or, as it is called in French, l'Institut du Monde Arabe.

Inaugurated in 1987 as one of the great architectural projects encouraged by then President François Mitterrand, the IMA -as is commonly known- was founded by a partnership between France and a group of nineteen Arab nations to which Yemen (the two republics at the time) was a party. Its creation stemmed from the desire to display the Arab world's civilization in the heart of a city renowned for its cultural heritage; by doing so, the IMA would serve as a cultural bridge and a vehicle of mutual understanding between the Arab and European worlds. What resulted from this project was an architecturally innovative monument offering a rich program that attracts more than one million visitors annually.

The building's traditional and modern design without a doubt makes it one of the most artistic in the city, as its exterior allies styles from both the Arab world and Europe through a combination of glass and gray metallic geometric structures. While the curving North facade, overlooking historical Paris along the Seine River, follows a European architecture respecting the heights of Parisian buildings, the South facade along the courtyard is a gigantic rectangle composed of squares, circles and hexagons representing the Arab world's fascination with geometry and evoking the mashrabiya technique which allows one to see without being seen. Each of the 240 squares forming the mashrabiya opens and closes with the aid of a computer program that analyzes luminosity throughout the day. The metal diaphragms operate like the lens of a camera, controlling the sunlight's



The IMA's dual architecture and facades of glass and metal with the spiral tower of books at the center replicating the minarets of ancient mosques.

penetration into the interior of the building. Another perspective, this time a lateral view of the building, allows the observer to distinguish a tall, white marble, spiral-like section through the glass. This is the library's book tower which serves as a corridor between three floors, and is meant to resemble the minarets of ancient mosques. An even closer look reveals that the institute is composed of almost two adjoining buildings that have been linked with bridges.

Inside, glass and metal replace solid walls, and the ten floors house a museum, galleries for temporary exhibits, a library, a theater, a café, a restaurant and a bookshop. The tenth floor offers a spectacular view of the city -perhaps recalling the mafraj tradition found in

many Yemeni homes- and continuously hosts debates and discussions on current issues. At the core of the institute, the museum occupies three floors with over six-hundred pieces which chronologically retrace the history of the Arab world, from the pre-Islamic period to the present, through a series of artistic, religious and scientific objects. At the same time, the collection portrays the diversity of Arab civilization, whose geographic territory extended from central Asia to the coasts of the Atlantic Ocean and into present-day Spain. To assemble these pieces the museum has benefited from various acquisitions, gifts and loans from French museums, the institute's founding countries and private individuals. In addition, since 1995, Syria and Tunisia have contributed important works from

their national heritage collections, and in 2005, Yemen's General Organization of Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts lent some fifty pieces to accompany the permanent exhibit.

The visit to the museum begins in the Pre-Islamic period with archaeological pieces from Carthage under the Phoenicians and alabaster heads from Felix Arabia in the Christian era. Several church mosaics remind the visitor of the Christian presence that has existed in the region. Two Yemeni objects on exhibit here include a figurine of a single-humped camel from Dahla region dating to the period of the Himyarite Kingdom (1st century BC-1st century AD), and a stone perfume burner from the 4th century BC. The visit then proceeds to the development of the sciences and Islamic art in the period following the arrival of Islam. This was a time when powerful dynasties reigned in the lands of the Middle East with the Umayyads in Damascus and the Abbasids in Baghdad. A series of succos, metal and ceramic objects can be seen. The Arab world's scientific prowess begun in the 9th century and its subsequent contributions to the West are embodied in a rich collection of astronomic instruments, compasses and manuscripts.

The height of Arab-Muslim art closes the collection with a series of objects from the 10th to the 18th century which showcase the artistic techniques and traditions of the Muslim world- a world that extended beyond Arab lands. Ceramics, textiles and woodcarvings from North Africa and Al-Andalus, sculptures and glass from Syria, Egypt and Central Asia, all pieces express the multiple styles and patterns of these countries. Yemeni items complementing this part include some silver ankle bracelets with coral pearls from 1860 Sana'a, and three gambiyas from the 20th century -the most emblematic modern symbol of Yemeni tradition.

Temporary exhibits cover numerous subjects and disciplines -such as the Golden Age of Arab Sciences, Napoleon Bonaparte and the Expedition in Egypt, the Phoenicians and the Mediterranean- and on repeated occasions Yemen's culture has been on focus. In 1998, a



The main entrance to the Institute of the Arab World through the facade composed of numerous mashrabiya squares.

six month exhibit entitled Yemen: the country of the Queen of Sheba explored Yemen's millenary history. With a large number of pieces on loan from the National Museum of Sana'a, the exhibit presented the civilization that existed in pre-Islamic times. The political and social structures of the caravan kingdoms of Sheba, Jauf, Qataban, Hadramaut and Himyar were brought to life, and so was a land reputed for its incense, myrrh and other highly prized spices and equipped with an irrigation system. Also illustrated were the multiple religious influences and the agricultural development of the time.

Smaller exhibits centering on Yemen take place fairly frequently. Recent examples include a late-2006 exhibit of photographs of Sana'a, Aden, Shibam and Yemeni archaeological sites taken by Sheikh Hassan Al-Thani during his

travels in the country. In 2007, colorful drawings and paintings of Sana'a were on display, and in the summer of 2009, another exhibit entitled A Growing Yemen presented photographs of Yemeni schoolchildren seen as the nation's future.

Other Yemeni cultural representations include films and documentaries by independent Yemeni filmmakers; these are screened in the course of the year or during film festivals.

What can easily be concluded is that the cultural richness of the Arab world inspires and leads the spectator to far away lands and times. With its own distinctive history and cultural heritage, Yemen holds a privileged position, one that can be wisely used as a tool for development and diplomacy. A window into the Arab soul. Such work must be pursued.

Chapter Two – Fly on the Wall

Written by Cathy Sewell
Illustrated by Blaise Sewell
Donated by The Curriculum Closet
(www.curriculumcloset.com)

José the fly and Cindy the spider hear a loud noise in the park. José flies off to investigate. José quickly flapped his wings to dry off the stickiness from Cindy's web, trying to take flight before hitting the ground. Just as he thought he might succeed, he had his second hard landing of the day. But after a couple of practice jumps, José was finally ready to fly again.

He launched toward the trucks -and the sound- on the other side of the park. He flew over flower gardens, giant rocks and even a big, blue lake. Finally he could see some commotion near a small, old wooden shed.

As he got closer, a group of humans went inside the shed. José swiftly flew in behind them, right before they closed the door. The room was small, and there were way too many big, smelly humans standing around a small square table with a little lamp. José tried to stay quiet on the wall so he would not be discovered.

"The way I see it, we have to clean out the entire park if we want this project to work," the man with the bushy, black beard and red-checked shirt announced.

"Yeah, but we have to be more careful," said the short, red-haired man. "This morning was almost a disaster!"

"He's right," a third, bald-headed man said. "Someone could have been hurt." José could see that the men were all hovering over a map of the park. José decided on a little fly-over to see what they were planning.

"Stupid flies!" the black-bearded man growled while swinging his baseball cap around, trying to knock José out of the air. Suddenly, José was spinning around a tornado of rolled-up papers, smelly hats and sweaty, hairy arms. He narrowly escaped, flying out of a crack



near the ceiling. He stopped to rest on a brown and orange toadstool to check for wing damage.

"You know what's going on here, don't you?" asked a passing beetle.

"Yeah, some crazy human is trying to kill me!" José answered.

"No, I mean what those men are planning. Do you want to know?" The beetle continued, not letting José respond. "My cousin's neighbor said

that the humans with the trucks want to tear down all of the trees on this side of the park, to build some kind of a big human nest."

"A what?" José wondered out loud.

"What's a human nest?"

"You know, a big, wooden box with square glass things, and a slanted top. I think it's called a 'house'."

"Oh, you're talking about a house! They're wanting to build houses?"

Reading Comprehension Questions & Activities:

1. Who is your favorite character so far, and why?
2. Why did they name the newspaper Fly on the Wall Journal?
3. What is a human nest?
4. How did José find out that the men wanted to destroy the forest?
5. Think about a time when you heard a piece of important information. How did you share your information?
6. Write about a time you worked on something together with friends. How did cooperation help?

Insect World:

Matty gave José a lesson on "blending in." What are other ways that insects hide or disguise themselves for safety?

Newspaper Connection:

What is the name of your local newspaper? Research to find out why the newspaper was originally created, and how it got its name.

José's voice squeaked. "Thanks for the info," José yelled over his shoulder, soaring back to report to his friends in the big tree.

"Well, we'd better get the word out - if we want to stop them from destroying our neighborhood," Cindy said, after hearing José's story. "But, how do we let everyone know?"

"What if we just tell our friends the news, and ask them to spread it through the park?" José wondered out loud.

"Yeah, that's a great idea, genius," Matty jumped in. "We all have maybe 10 or 20 friends, but there are probably thousands of bugs in the park. That'll never work."

"I could put up a sign near the lake. A lot of my friends fly there for a drink," José tried again. But Cindy loudly cleared her throat, causing José to realize the flaw in his plan. "Oh sorry, Cindy. I wasn't thinking about my non-flying friends."

By now, a gathering of bugs surrounded José, and joined the discussion.

"I say we create a newspaper," Rocko, the centipede, suggested. "And we can tell everyone what José heard about the houses and other park news."

"That's a great idea, Rocko!" Mary inched her way into the crowd, her thick black fur tickling every insect as she bumped her way to the front of the group. "But it'll take a lot of work, and no goofing off!" the grouchy caterpillar declared. Mary always acted tough, but her friends suspected that she was just a gentle bug inside.

"What should we name the newspaper?" Cindy asked, grabbing her knitting needles to help her think.

"I like the name Matty's Newspaper," the mantis stood on his back legs, daring anyone to not like his idea.

"I think that since José is our reporter and he'll be flying around gathering the news, we should ask him for an idea," Mary suggested.

"I've got it!" José shouted. "What about Fly on the Wall Journal since that is how I heard the news. I just sat on the

wall, listening."

"Fly on the Wall Journal," Rocko announced loudly. "Fly on the Wall Journal, oh yes, I do like that name!" And he began clapping all eight of his hands. And when a centipede claps, it sounds like a stadium full of bugs cheering at a berry-rolling contest.

"José, I think it's time I showed you a few of my tricks," Matty said, resting his big, green arm on José's shoulder. "You've got to learn to hide yourself

better. Practice blending into the tree. It might help at first to pretend you are the tree." José listened intently to all of Matty's advice.

"OK everyone, if we want to get out our first edition of Fly on the Wall Journal then we'd better get to work," Mary ordered, ending José's lesson. The group of friends immediately rolled up their sleeves, slicked back their antennae and starting working on their first edition.



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Total E&P Yemen receives applications for the scholarships starting Saturday, 24 October until 12 December 2009.

Mr. Martin Deffontaines, the General Manager of Total E&P Yemen, stated that "TOTAL will send abroad ten new Yemeni scholars who will seek and acquire knowledge in a variety of fields that include technical expertise needed by the petroleum industry in Yemen, in legal expertise, and in public administration. We have decided on these fields in order to assist in developing Yemeni experts who can reliably and efficiently give

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Sana'a book fair introduces Germany to Yemeni readers

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, Oct.25 — With the participation of 350 local and international publishing houses and 400,000 titles, the 26th annual Sana'a Book Fair started on Thursday.

The fair this year started a new tradition by hosting Germany as its guest of honor and it is expected to continue to honor a different country every year.

"The choice of a country each year as a guest of honor will shed light on contributions of this country in the areas of knowledge, culture and civilization," said Head of the General Book Authority Faris Al-Saqqaq.

He pointed out that for the first time in the history of book fairs in Sana'a, Germany participated in the exhibition with its own pavilion.

The book fair also included artistic and cultural events. At the book fair, seminars and exhibitions celebrate Jerusalem as the capital of Arab culture for 2009, and Tarim city as the capital of Islamic culture in 2010, in addition to other literary readings, symposiums and book signing.

Al-Saqqaq declared that a magazine for children called "Yamman" will be published by General Book Authority in collaboration with the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood and Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Company.

In addition to its contribution at the book fair, Germany put together a theater program at the Yemeni Cultural Center and photo expedition at the Yemeni House of Culture. Germany also introduced more than 500 titles translated from German to Arabic.

Guido Zebisch, director of the German House in Sana'a, said this year they are hosting several exhibitions,



discussions and lectures with German professionals from the fields of cultural exchange, like a lecture by co-editor of Fikrun wa Fann (Art and Thought), a German magazine. It was started 46 years ago as an Arabic-language magazine, and is now published twice a year in Arabic, English and Persian.

The fair also introduced a new book written by a local author with experience in both Yemen and Germany. "The Bars of Sana'a and Minarets of Berlin" is a book by the general secretary of the German house, Ghamdan Al-Zuatri, who studied in Germany and lived there for almost ten years. "He tries to bring the two worlds that he has lived in together in one book," said Zebisch.

There will also be discussion this week about a book published by the

German House, "Writing from Inside, Writing from Outside." It is an Arabic translation of texts about Yemen by five German authors. There is a lecture on the Deutsche Welle German radio and on TV.

The exhibitions also include one about Fikrun wa Fann magazine. Readers can go through almost all the issues of the magazine at the fair. The old issues are only to look at, but newer issues are for sale.

There will be an exhibition by the Goethe-Institute about illustrations in children books, according to Zebisch. "We believe that creativity, mental development and improvement of intellectual capacities start at a very young age," he said.

At the Sana'a book fair Zebisch said

he found books which are not available in other countries like Egypt. For instance, the book fair sells the Saudi Arabian novel, "Girls of Riyadh" by Rajaa Alsanea.

He also said that book fairs help promote democracy by expanding the general public's knowledge of the outside world.

"If we consider the question whether or not a book fair, library and reading in general are an important gateway to democracy, then I would fully agree that there is possibilities to achieve this within the Sana'a book fair," said Zebisch.

But, he said, there are not enough bookstores in Yemen.

"Every house hold and every man has a copy of the Quran so we would assume that there is a reading culture in Yemen," he said "People are used to reading, however when we look to the



number of bookshops in a country of more than twenty million inhabitants, it is extremely few."

With regard to country's illiteracy, lack of books and outdated libraries, he said the book fair was "a jewel in the desert."

"I hope that Yemenis will use this as an oasis for intellectual refreshment," he added.

There were also audio books on CD translated from German to Arabic and that features Yemen actors.

Al-Saqqaq said books are also affordable. "Publishers want to sell. They want to avoid returning books to their countries because that cost them a lot," he added.

And although books often get left behind in the age of television, Al-Saqqaq concluded that people will always consider reading important.

"Although there is a huge competition between books and satellite channels, people are still trying to reinstate the status of the book," he said.

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