

The logo for Yemen Times features the words "YEMEN TIMES" in a large, bold, red serif font. A central emblem, consisting of a purple shield with a sunburst and a laurel wreath, is positioned between the two words. The shield contains the words "YEMEN" and "TIMES" in white, with a small sunburst symbol below them. The entire logo is set against a white background with a thin black horizontal line below it.

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For the Yemen Times

However, the editor in chief of Al-Qahira, denied such a statement and said that the journalist was not



Mohammad Al-Rabue'

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, protested over the murder of Al-Rabue'

Ahmad Quraishi, head of the SEYAJ organization for child protection, condemned the murder and said that Al-Rabue' was a rights activist in the

Ghaleb added that journalists in Yemen should be given freedom and that they should not be terrified. He called on the state to permit a group of

Abdul Baset Al-Qa'edi, the editor in chief of Al-Ahali called on the Joined Meeting Parties (JMP) to act against the murder and put pressure on the government to respond.

**By: Mahmoud Assamiee
& Yemen Times Staff**

The Head of the Health Committee in Parliament, Dr. Abdulbari Dughaish, said that parliament had



Ahmed Saleh, a child working on Hayel Street, said his friends gave him cigarettes until he became used to them, telling him that smoking is sweet. "Now, I'm addicted and I smoke 10-12 cigarettes a day," Saleh said, adding that he can't give it up because he lives with friends who smoke.

The law is aimed at coordinating both the state and public efforts to reduce the number of smokers there-



Smoking in Yemen

More than USD 107 million is spent on cigarettes according to a study conducted by the National Program for Combating Smoking in 2008. Cigarettes come cheap in Yemen with a whole pack costing as little as YR 80, almost US 40 cents.

Yemenis smoke 6.4 billion cigarettes a year while qat, a leafy narcotic, is the country's leading crop and accounts for 35 percent of total agricultural production, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

According to a study prepared by Yemeni researcher Ahmad Hussein Al-Hada'a, Yemenis smoke 6.4 billion cigarettes per a year, equal to 3,17.5 million packets a year and 870,000 packets per a day.

Almost a year ago, President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued directives to strictly implement the anti- smoking law which prohibits smoking in all indoor public places including public transport. However, not much has been done since then.

General Director of the Traffic Police Department Yahya Zaher says there was a law issued around five years ago against smoking in public transportation. Fines have been set against drivers and passengers alike who smoke inside the vehicles on the road, ranging from YR 500 against passengers to 2,000 against drivers.

“Implementing the law really

البريد العاجل



EXPRESS MAIL SERVICE

Competitive Price

سريعة .. منظمة .. موثوقة

Fast Reliable Trustable Affordable

أسعار منافسة



يكنتم تتبع بعائكم عبر موقعنا

www.post.ye

FOR SERVICES :



البريد اليمني
YEMEN POST

الطلب الخدمة هاتف: 777012842 - 41

مركز خدمات الزبائن
8 0 0 8 0 0 8
www.post.ye

ALSAEED TRADING COMPANY
A Yemeni Closed Stock Company

**Yemen's Largest Exporter
of FMCG products.**

Yemen, Taiz - P.O. Box 6361
Tel: +967 (4) 222229 (10 lines)
Fax: +967 (4) 222330 / 221414 / 216416
Email: info@alrsaedtrading.com
Website: www.alrsaedtrading.com

Car rental to suit you
and your Business

**For companies with volume
rental business we offer:**

- Dedicated account manager
- Detailed management information - telling you stay in control
- Delivery and collection to your door
- Attract on hireback offer at the end of the lease term.
- Credit facility

Budget

Car World

For More Information
Please Contact us on
01 - 45722
or 01 - 457226
or on 171000332

FedEx
Express

Every package matters.

Tel: 440170/440228 Fax: 440162

الإسلامية للتأمين



تأمين تعاوني بمفهوم إسلامي

Head Office: Surina, Tel: 01-294193, Fax: 01-296900
Adress: 02-071318, Tlx: 64-256881
Hq address: 03-209081, Muzalla: 15-104860
Email: info@islamic.co.ps islamic@islamic.co.ps

Facts about smoking you should know

- ✓ Tobacco accounts for one out of every 10 deaths worldwide
- ✓ There are one billion male smokers worldwide 250 million female smokers
- ✓ Tobacco kills one-third to one-half of those who smoke
- ✓ In 2010, 5.5 million people are predicted to die because of smoking
- ✓ Annual cost of tobacco use to societies globally at \$500 million
- ✓ Tobacco decreases the world's overall gross domestic product (GDP) by 3.6 percent
- ✓ One hundred million people were killed by tobacco in the 20th century
- ✓ If nothing changes, tobacco will kill one billion people in the 21st century

needs public cooperation," said Zaher. "The public is not cooperative on notifying us of any violation of the law. We hope for public cooperation in this matter and for the public to notify us of any smoking incidents."

Smoking causes millions of deaths around the world each year. Every five minutes, someone dies as a result of smoking, which is the amount of time it takes to smoke one cigarette.

According to a 2007 survey by researchers at the University of

Edinburgh, Scotland, Yemeni men and women have the highest ratio of smoking among all Muslim countries. Published in the British Medical Journal, the survey reveals that approximately 77 percent of all Yemeni men smoke, as well as 29 percent – almost a third – of Yemeni women.

In 2006, as part of its procedures aimed at promoting tourism and tourist services, the Yemeni government banned smoking in vehicles that transport tourists to different parts of Yemen.

Europe
from
99,999

North America
from
199,999

It only takes a few hours to find
yourself a million miles away.
All for this one moment.

It's time to enter back into the world,
with a maximum stay of 12 months.
1 on 1 with the master contact point.
Lufthansa benefits from its 21,000
21,000 to 12,000 employees in 120 countries.

Traveler's app | [lufthansa.com](#) | [lufthansa.com](#)

Lufthansa
A SWIRE AIRLINES COMPANY

Minor confrontations in Sa'ada between Houthis and local tribes

By: Mohammad Bin Salam

SANA'A, FEB.17 — Despite the ceasefire being in place, the Yemeni government army has accused the Houthis of already breaking the ceasefire in Sa'ada, Amran and Al-Jawf governorates.

The four committees, suggested earlier by the government to conduct field visits in Sa'ada, Al-Malaheeth, Al-Jawf and Sufian and the Yemeni-Saudi border, are there to check on the Sa'ada ceasefire. They have reported that members of the Houthis, who were designated to remove land mines, have not started their work yet.

Tribal sources said that last Sunday there were confrontations between the Houthis and the entire Othman tribe resulting in 15 Houthi deaths.

The same source said that an armed group from that tribe ambushed the Houthis and that the Houthis retaliated by opening fire on Bakem buildings and on farms belonging to the tribe in the Bakem district, situated near the Saudi border.

According to this source, the Othman tribe and Houthis have had a series of

confrontations since the beginning of the sixth war in Sa'ada.

Eye witnesses said that there have been as many as nine armed disputes between the Houthis and the Yemeni army and approximately twenty disputes in Al-Malaheeth.

In their defence, the Houthis said that they have re-opened nine roads that were previously closed during the hostilities.

A statement by the Abdul Malek Al-Houthi office, said that they have withdrawn from the Al-Qa'ata area in Sa'ada and all barriers there have been removed.

The statement went on to say that the Houthis have also released a Yemeni government soldier, Yehya Al-Khozae'e, as well as a Saudi one.

The spokesman for the Houthis, Saleh Habrah, asked Saudi Arabia to release the 31 Houthi prisoners and, in return, the same number of Saudi prisoners will also be released.

Human rights organizations call for the release of prisoners

The Yemeni Observatory Human Rights called on the both the Yemeni

army and the Houthis to release all their prisoners of war.

A statement by the observatory said that a ceasefire is a chance to allow a dialogue between both parties, working towards ending the hostilities and compensating citizens who have suffered so badly during this war.

The Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights stressed that prisoners of war should be treated as per the Third Geneva Convention which expressly states that they should not be used as a means for negotiation.

The Yemeni organization for Defending Rights and Freedom organized their 40th sit-in in front of government offices, in order to request the release of all war prisoners and the dropping of all sentences against them.

The head of the organization, Ali Al-Dailami, said that the first priority of ending these hostilities is to immediately release innocent prisoners.

The head of Yemeni Journalists Without Chains, Tawakul Kurman, also pressed for the release of all prisoners, journalists and other detainees that were arrested at the beginning of the war.

2009 security report: Dhamar women less involved in crimes in 2009

By: Yemen Times Correspondent

DHAMAR, FEB. 17 — Dhamar governorate Security report 2009 shows that, in Dhamar, only a small percentage of crime victims have been women and that the percentage of women murdered, whether intentionally or by accident, did not exceed 13.5 percent, this year.

During the year 2009, 384 people were killed in criminal and civilian incidents. Of these 14 were women victims of premeditated murder, while 38 were women killed in various accidents mainly traffic.

Reports show that during 2009 there were only 346 female victims of crime out of a total of 3,886 victims of crimes in general. Also most of these women were adults. Only 28 girls were subjected to criminal attacks compared to 151 grown-up women.

Similarly, only two women were charged with murder last year. Moreover, the number of women in Dhamar accused of legal and criminal offenses in 2009 has also decreased compared to the year before.

2009 witnessed a 36.7 percent decrease in the number of accused women with 31 women being reported compared to 49 in 2008. Twenty nine



Water falls in Hullat Bani Fadhl countryside, Dhowran Directorate, Dhamar governorate. They are said to be the highest waterfalls in Yemen.

women were accused of being involved in crimes. Out of these, 25 were housewives and three were minors. The rest were involved in civilian and legal crimes.

Regarding suicide crimes in particular, security reports said that five women tried to end their lives but were saved.

Women were involved in four explosive accidents, seven fires, ten tampering with weapons cases during 2009 and 16 females were lost, half of them being girls.

Dhamar which is located 100 south of

the capital city Sana'a is inhabited by strong tribes and a male dominated culture. Women's work is mostly limited to agriculture work especially that the governorate is known to be one of Yemen's agricultural areas. There are a little less than one and a half million inhabitants in Dhamar according to official census 2004, almost half of which are women.

The illiteracy rates in the governorate are high especially among women. However, there is huge trend of adult literacy classes among women who compose almost 99 percent of the enrolled.

Depositors' profits at Islamic Banks decline

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, FEB.17 — Yemenis who deposited money at Islamic banks during 2009, will not receive as much profit as compared to 2008, according to the Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC).

"The deposit rate for 2009 at Islamic Banks increased to YR 1.345 trillion with an increase that reached YR 110 billion and a 9 percent growth rate. But, compared to 2008, the depositors' profits have reaped a lower percentage," reads the press release by the SEMC.

According to the center, the Al-Tadhamon International Islamic Bank, Saba Islamic Bank, and the Yemeni Islamic Bank are the main banks that have experienced this decrease in depositors' profits. These profits have slumped more at the Saba Islamic Bank because the annual deposits' profits have decreased to three percent, as compared to 1.5 percent for the Yemeni Islamic Bank, and 1.4 percent for the Al-Tadhamon International Islamic Bank.

In addition, the profits of the permanent deposits at Islamic Banks have also decreased to two percent at the Saba Islamic Bank and 1.3 percent at the Al-Tadhamon International Islamic Bank, the center stated.

Moreover, profits of dollar deposits over a period of 12 months went down to 0.5 percent at the Al-Tadhamon Bank and 0.9 percent at the Yemeni Islamic Bank, whereas the Saba Islamic Bank kept its percentage similar to the previous year.

The decline of profits at these Islamic banks is due to the absence of their own investments in Yemen, as all Yemeni Islamic Banks rely on trade financing and capital investments collected from abroad, according to the Center.

"The technique of investing deposits abroad has made the Islamic Banks in Yemen vulnerable and they have been affected by the global financial crisis," said the center.

Islamic Banks in Yemen were supposed to benefit from this global financial crisis, intending to gain the trust of depositors and being preferable to the conventional banking system, but they have failed to do so, according to the center.

The center demanded the formation of an independent auditing council composed of religious scholars, representatives from the Central Bank of Yemen, economists and civil society organizations that are concerned with financial issues, to monitor the extent of the Islamic Banks' compliance with their Islamic principles and to verify these announced profits.

The center also demanded to scrutinize the size of funds granted to the banks' partners and board members, and to identify the extent of the banks' foreign investment with a view to protecting depositors' rights.

Islamic banking shares the same purpose as conventional banking, except that it operates in compliance with the rules of Islamic principles of profit and loss sharing. It strictly avoids interest, which is seen as the root of all exploitation, lying behind

the large scale inflation and unemployment running throughout the world.

An Islamic Bank is committed to do away with disparity, establish justice in the economy, build socio-economic infrastructure and create employment opportunities.

Islamic Banking in other countries, including the West, is gaining popularity and trust especially after the global financial crisis because it was seen not to be vulnerable to the consequences of this crisis.

But for the Islamic Banks in Yemen, the situation would seem to be different as they are suffering from poor management and their general low status throughout the country. Thus they have been unable to achieve their commitments, according to a previous statement given to the Yemen Times by the Yemeni economist Ali Al-Wafi, who has 20 years' experience with Yemen's economic situation.

The Islamic banks in Yemen were established ten years ago, to attract capital from people. This was to be mainly used for investing in productive and service projects.

Most importantly, the role that Islamic Banks in Yemen were predicted to play consisted of making capital available for economically viable, productive businesses, on the basis of Islamic principles, to link people with the labor market and create employment opportunities.

However, these banks have failed to achieve their goals, as their capital only is made available to certain sections of society, according to Al-Wafi.

By: Mahmoud Al-Harazi
For the Yemen times

SANA'A, Feb. 17 — Muhsen Qaid Al-Hajaji was married and had nine sons and daughters. When he died in a war between the National Front and the army of North Yemen in 1980, his brother Ali was left to look after them.

In theory, Ali receives help from the government. Since his brother's death, his family has been entitled to the deceased soldier's salary. Only this is YR 1,500 a month and the sum nowadays doesn't stretch very far.

Ali works at the Ministry of Public Works where he earns YR 24,000 a month, but he also has a wife and eight children of his own to provide for. "I am the only one who supports my brother's family," said Ali Qaid Al-Hajaji, who also fought in the same war, but survived.

"I am in charge of using my brother's salary," he said, "but it is just YR 1,500 per month, and as a result, every three months I receive YR 4,500."

"There are times that I never receive it, and at other times, employees at the Authority for the Care of Martyrs' Families demand that I bring authorization or even a court ruling to prove that I am his brother," he said.

Walid Ahmed Dughaihs tells a similar story. Every month, he receives his father's salary from his death in action during the 1973 civil war.

showcasing of various Pakistani products such textiles, spices, jewelry, engineering goods, food, surgical equipment, health products and cosmetics, services, bed linen, towels and all kinds of kitchen linen, handicrafts and medicines, among many other items.

"We want to encourage Yemeni businessmen to enter into further exporting and importing to and from Pakistan. We have proposed increasing the mutual exchange in fruit, especially mangoes, to make them available all year long to consumers of both countries. In addition to the movement of goods between the two countries, there would be great benefit gained from the exchange of expertise in fields such as fishing, petroleum products, coffee and tea," Sirohey said.

Worth mentioning is that the Pakistani School, run by the Embassy, will carry out a "Food and Fun" Bazaar on March 11th for charitable fund generation. The revenue will go to the internally displaced people of Sa'ada and tickets will be available from the school administration starting from March 1, 2010.

4 U

If you are interested in participating at the Expo Pakistan, please send an email to:
Aalisirohey35@gmail.com

Yemeni exports to Pakistan double in 2009

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, FEB. 17 — Trade relations between Yemen and Pakistan have significantly increased over the last year, resulting in a 100 percent increase in goods exported to Pakistan, whilst imports from Pakistan have also increased by at least 32 percent.

The total volume of exports include hides, petroleum products and fish, and this year it has increased to USD 16 million compared to USD 8.7 million last year. Moreover, the imports from Pakistan have also increased by USD 37 million to reach USD 150 million by the end of 2009.

Yemen imports a range of products from Pakistan including food stuffs such as rice, fish and coffee. The country also imports raw hides as well as made up leather garments and pharmaceutical, surgical, petroleum and chemical products, including iron. Even unusual items come in from Pakistan for example, the strings for musical instruments.

During the last year, Pakistani medicines have jumped up five points and are now the highest medicine provider to the Yemen market. In financial terms this can be translated to an increase from around USD 750,000 to more than one million US dollars.

Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Deputy Head of Mission at the Pakistani Embassy in



Last year, 669 buyers from 66 countries participated in Pakistan Expo 2008. In that Expo, over US\$ 50 million was generated and 63 Memorandums of Understanding were signed between counterpart trade associations and chambers of commerce.

Sana'a praised this new strength in bilateral relations between Yemen and Pakistan, although he said that, if encouraged, there is even more potential to be achieved in the trade exchange between the two countries. "We can have an exchange and import of services such as in the tourism industry. Pakistan can tap the Yemeni market and, in reverse, our Yemeni travel industry can tap the Pakistani market."

Throughout 2009, 105 Yemeni businessmen visited Pakistan and brought Pakistani products to the Yemeni market. The 5th edition of Expo Pakistan is scheduled to be held from the 26th to the 28th of February 2010 and many

Yemeni businessmen have been invited to participate.

Expo Pakistan, which is organized annually by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, aims to provide unprecedented opportunities to enable its participants to display quality value added products to a wide range of high profile buyers. The event acts as a one stop sourcing platform for new business alliances in trade, business and investments. In addition, it will provide ideal networking opportunities to local as well as international participants, through product workshops and one-to-one business meetings.

The coming expo will include the



Chemonics International, an international development consulting firm, seeks Yemeni specialists for an anticipated USAID-funded project in Yemen. Project is expected to facilitate and implement quality government service delivery, job creation, responsible local governance, and active civic participation.

Chemonics seeks long-term technical advisors in the following areas: agriculture, enterprise development, education, local governance and microfinance as well as experts with knowledge or a background in fisheries and/or livestock.

Chemonics also is recruiting for illustrative positions including: capacity building/trainer of trainers, community mobilizers, media/communications specialists, monitoring and evaluation specialists, and youth specialists. Also seeking grants and procurement specialists with knowledge of USAID rules and regulations.

Desired qualifications include:

- Degree in relevant fields
- Minimum of five years professional experience
- Experience on USAID or other donor-funded projects
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Fluency in Arabic and English required

If you are interested in being considered, please send your CV and cover letter outlining your relevant work experience to **ChemonicsCLP@gmail.com** by March 7, 2010. Only CVs in English will be considered. Only finalists will be contacted.

In Brief

Yemen partaking in Milan Bourse Tourist Fair

Yemen is taking part in the International Milan Bourse Tourist Fair, being held in the Italian city Milan on 16 – 25 February. About 36,000 tourist and travel companies, agencies and restaurants representing 152 Arab and foreign countries, including Yemen, are participating in the fair, Minister of Tourism and head of the Yemeni delegation Nabil al-Faqih said upon his departure. Yemen's participation in the fair comes in the framework of Yemen's plan to widen its participation in the external international tourist events, connect with national and international tourist companies and agencies and to show the Yemeni tourist products in a way that could assist in increasing the number of the arrival tourists in the coming season. Yemen has broadened its representative offices in the European and Asian tourist markets and its participation in the international and regional tourist exhibition reaching 12 exhibitions, al-Faqih said.

SANA'A**Save the Children train students in Sana'a**

Save the Children arranged on Tuesday training program for the students' councils elected on Sunday in Sana'a. The election was conducted in cooperation with YEP in the targeted schools (Hayial school, Omar Al-Mokhatat school and Rabia'a school) in Sana'a, in which about 9000 students have participated. The training aims to build and develop students councils members skills in improving their own activities plans for the students councils and to know their roles in developing the learning and teaching processes. Save the Children has launched several youth activities in four governorates Sana'a, Aden, Ibb and Abyan. The activities carried out by Save the Children- Youth Employment Project (YEP)

in cooperation with USAID aimed to empower vulnerable youth in livelihood opportunities field and capacity building.

Cabinet reviews report on security conditions

The Cabinet reviewed on Tuesday the report of Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defense Affairs on the security conditions in the country. The report included explanation on the progress in implementation of the government's six conditions and the mechanism to implement them to halt the military operations in Saada province after the rebels had announced their acceptance to those conditions. The report pointed the efforts made by the committees charged with supervising and following up the six conditions' implementation in the districts defined to them in order to bring peace, security and stability to the northwest area and to enable the local authority and all the state's agencies to do their tasks and legal duties. Moreover, the report dealt with a number of positive notes on the executive steps in some areas as well as the breaches which still exist and disrupt the executive steps in full. The cabinet lauded the firm positions of Saudi Arabia in supporting and standing by Yemen, praising the high level of cooperation and coordination aspects between the two brotherly countries to face the security challenges that concern the two countries. Meanwhile, the cabinet commended the high spirit of responsibility and vigilance displayed by the sons of the armed and security forces in carrying out their duties in all situations and circumstances, valuing all forms of heroism and dedication in implementation of the tasks assigned to them.

CBY offers \$100 mln to meet exchange market needs

Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) announced on Tuesday \$ 100 million for sale to meet the needs of commercial banks and ex-

change market from the foreign currency. After receiving requests from banks and money exchange companies, the CBY covered all requests with a total amount of \$43 million, the CBY's director general of public relations Yahya al-Kustaban said. He said the amount brought the total amount sold be the bank since the beginning of 2010 to \$495 million.

The bank will continue to observe closely the needs of the exchange markets from the foreign currencies and will cover any needs continually, al-Kustaban added.

ADEN**Buqshan to provide Aden University with medical appliances**

Head of the Board of Trustees of Aden University Abdullah Buqshan announced on Wednesday readiness to provide perspectives and urinary tracts systems for Medicines Faculty at Aden University in addition to digging two water wells for the interest of applied studies at Al-Nasir Faculty for Agricultural Sciences at a cost of over 1.3 million Saudi Riyals. His announcement came during his meeting with Rector of Aden University Dr. Abdul-Aziz bin Habtour in Jeddah on the sidelines of the current academic visit of the University to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Bin Habtour praised contributions of the Board of Trustees to supporting projects of Aden University as well as helping it to ensure the financial resources to enable it to perform its scientific message and reinforce the University's ties with the public and private bodies and institutions.

Cancer 3rd conference launched

On Tuesday was the opening session of the third conference of cancer tumors. The conference was organized by Aden University and the National Center of Cancer Treatment for period from 16th to 18th February titled "Strategy of Combating Tumors in Yemen."

Participants from Arab countries, Canada, America and Britain are taking part in the conference that would discuss several papers related to recent developments on this killing disease. The vice president who attended the launch, pointed out in his speech to the conference that the government has exerted huge efforts to reduce suffering of cancer patients by setting up five treatment centers in the country. He affirmed importance of the scientific researches by centers and universities in field of finding cure for cancer tumors, highlighting cooperation between Yemen and Canada in addition to current cooperation with kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

SOCOTRA**Police held Somalis in Socotra Island**

Security authority in Hadibo district of Socotra island has held three Somalis arrived in the island on a boat called "Marina", Interior Ministry has reported.

The boat has technical faults about 4 nautical miles off the island. The three Somalis were hospitalized. The security authorities said that they will start investigations to know the reasons of their injuries and the boat's failure.

In related news, security authorities in Thubab district of Taiz province arrested 56 Ethiopians entered the country illegally, including 21 women. Two other Ethiopians were arrested in Hodeidah province. Moreover, about 34 Somali refugees including 17 women have arrived in Dhubab coast in Taiz province, they have been transferred to Kharaz camp in Lahj province. Later, security authorities have arrested 168 Africans entered Yemen illegally including 60 Somali refugees.

AMRAN**MSF activities in Amran to be expanded**

Deputy governor of Amran, head of Re-

lief Committee, Saleh Abu Auja'a discussed on Tuesday with representative of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Amran fields of expanding the organization activities in the governorate. The meeting reviewed the nature of services the organization may present for the displaced families as well as mechanisms to start providing medical services. The two officials also dealt with activities of the organization during the past period represented by providing free of charge medical services, in addition to the possibility to extend the organization work in needy areas.

SHABWA**Cabinet agrees on implementing Shabwa University**

The cabinet agreed on Tuesday on a republican decree's draft of implementing Shabwa University submitted by Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. In its weekly meeting chaired by Prime Minister Ali Mujawar, the cabinet directed the concerned sides to complete the necessary legal proceedings to issue the decree. According to decree, the existing higher education facilities in Shabwa province will join to the authority of university.

SA'ADA**Two Russian planes laden with food-stuffs for IDPs arrive this week**

The first Russian plane carrying food-stuffs and aid presented by the Russian government will arrive on Tuesday to help relieve the displaced people due to Saada and Harf Sufian's rebellion. Director of the Executive Unit of Displaced People Camps Management Hashim al-Hamly told Saba that the other plane will arrive on Friday, making clear that the two planes will unload foodstuffs for children, tents, sugar and mobile electricity generators and highly

valued these humanitarian assistances. On the other hand, Yemen ambassador to Moscow Mohammed al-Hilaly expressed appreciation for the Russian government for this aid, considering this incident an embodiment of the strong relations of Yemen and Russia. He praised the Russian supportive stances for Yemen's independence, unity, stability and its rights to protect its sovereignty.

HADRAMOUT**Security plan to secure 2010 Tarim Islamic Cultural Capital**

Hadramout security committee discussed on Monday a security plan to insure security in Tarim city, which is named the Islamic Cultural Capital for 2010.

The plan includes measures of securing movements of the participating delegations and tourist and historical sites in the city in addition to enhance monitoring movements of the suspects and wanted persons.

The committee asked the security units to do its tasks in maintaining security in the city.

Tarim was famous in the past for its scientific, religious schools which still attract students from all over the world today. In addition to its 365 mosques and unique Islamic architectural buildings which distinguish Tarim from all other cities, it also possesses the famous al-Mihdhar mosque minaret, built in the ninth Hijri century.

The minaret stands 150 meters high and is built of mud brick in a unique architectural way. The al-Mihdhar mosque's minaret represents the superiority of the town's people in choice of design, which is befitting of the area and indicates the harmony between the people of Tarim and their surroundings.

The Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) chose Tarim as an Islamic cultural Capital for 2010, after an agreement was reached during a meeting of Islamic Cultural Ministers in Algiers in 2004.

Their News

Inaugurating and handing-over project in Sana'a City funded by the Japanese Government

The Government of Japan extended a grant to a project in Sana'a City for the project for Improving Bus Operation System of Yemen Society for Care and Rehabilitation for the Blind - Sana'a Head Office. Inauguration and handing over ceremony for the above-mentioned project took place today, at the presence of Mr. Matahiro Yamaguchi, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Japan, together with the concerned Yemeni Officials including Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah- Deputy Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Mr. Hamoud Al-Naqeeb – the Chairman of the Social Affair Committee and Abdullah Al-Hamdani- the Executive Director of Disable F und.

The Japanese Government's scheme called "Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects" helps the disability and rehabilitation projects as well as water projects over the last 10 years, hoping that these projects will contribute to the safer and better living standard for the inhabitants. In the last Japanese fiscal year (2008-2009), Japan has funded 16 projects in Yemen under the same scheme with a total amount of more than USD 1.2 million.

Workshop on corruption

The Arab Program for Human Rights Activists (APHRA) in collaboration with the Human Rights Information & Training Center in Yemen (HRITC), organizes in 20- 21 February 2010 in Flamenco Hotel - Zamalik- Cairo, a workshop entitled "Monitoring and Writing Corruption Reports" within the framework of APHRA's campaign Together against Corruption. The workshop takes place with the participation of large number of trainees and experts in anti-corruption domain.

The workshop aims at preparing specialized cadres to combat corruption. Meanwhile, the participants will be trained on monitoring and reporting corruption in Egypt in addition to introduce the definition of corruption, its motives, characteristics and risks.

Moreover, the workshop will analyze and evaluate the local and International reports with taking into consideration the United Nation Convention against Corruption. It will also tackle the ideal form for writing reports and checking information.

The 4th Arab Free Press Forum, 6-7 June: What Lies Ahead for the Independent Arab Press?

Beirut, Lebanon, will host the 4th Arab Free Press Forum in the first of a series of exceptional events planned for the city this coming June. Organized by the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), this year's edi-

tion of the Arab Free Press Forum will be held in the build up to the 63rd World Newspaper Congress and 17th World Editors Forum.

As leaders throughout the Middle East and North Africa have been securing their hold on power or making sure it remains "in the family", the independent press continues its work, despite repressive government policies and economic hardships.

Yet what are the prospects for the Arab independent press to fully play its role as a counterweight to power and an opponent of governmental abuse? Can it investigate, challenge and provoke within the current political environment? Can it report critically and hold those in power to account if faced with immense political, judicial and financial pressures?

Editors, publishers and journalists from across the Arab world will come together in Beirut to address those questions, as well as the business challenges and opportunities facing the independent Arab press.

Contact Virginie Jouan (vjouan@wan.asso.fr), Director of Press Freedom and Media Development at WAN-IFRA, for

more information on how to register for the Arab Free Press Forum.

Visit www.wanlebanon2010.com for information on the World Newspaper Congress.

Youth Employment Project launches youth activities in its target governorates

Tuesday, 16th of Feb. 2010- Save the Children - Youth Employment Project (YEP) in cooperation with USAID launch youth activities in four governorates (Sana'a, Aden, Ibb and Abyan) which aim to empower vulnerable youth in livelihood opportunities field, capacity building etc.

On Sunday, 14th of Feb, Youth Employment Project concluded school elections in the YEP target schools (Hayial School, Omar Al-Mokhatat school and Rabia'a school)in Sana'a in which about 9000 students (males and females) participated in the election in a democratic environment, after three months preparations for the election. And today, YEP arranges training program for the students' councils in the target schools. The training

**Invitation for National Consultant**

Oxfam (GB)- Yemen Programme, is planning to conduct mapping study for private sector companies in Hadramout and Hodaidda governorates in order to advocate for women's employment in private sector for its project component and to organize workshop in Hudaida to display the outcomes of the study, that is, under Save Marriage and women's Economic Empowerment Programme funded by Danida.

What we're looking for

The Oxfam GB- Yemen programme invites competent individuals and/or relevant consultancy firms to apply; therefore a detailed resume showing their technical, institutional and demonstrated experience will need to be submitted.

The role

The consultant will be responsible for the planning and implementing of field work, including timely completion and submission of the final report (English and Arabic), according to the specific terms of reference. In addition to conduct one-day workshop to display results for partners and stallholders & under the overall supervision of the Programme Coordinator in Sayoun- Hadramout

To apply

The applicants should submit their resume to e-mail gmaki@oxfam.org.uk or Fax: +967-5-400194. Only those short-listed will be forwarded with terms of reference as part of request for proposal.

Closing date-25.02.2010

An international human rights organisation is seeking a Civil society coordinator

The purpose of the position is to coordinate, facilitate and provide assistance to the civil society component of the Yemen programme. The main responsibilities include:

Provide assistance to the partners:

- Participate in preparing, planning, organizing and implementation of civil society activities;
- In developing project proposals, plans, budgets, reporting etc. by the civil society partners
- In partners keeping accounts of local component expenditures according to the financial guidelines for partners
- Participate in board meetings, planning meetings, partner activities etc.
- In formulating and organising capacity building activities of the partners

Coordination & information sharing:

- Ensure a regular flow of information and communication between the local civil society partner organisations but also between the partners and the head office.
- Be proactive in consulting donors and others in supporting the civil society partners

Professional and personal skills required:

- BA or MA Degree in the field of political or social science or related degree.
- Minimum of 3 years professional experience in project work, institution building and management
- Experiences in civil society organisational work
- Expertise or experiences in human rights
- Written and oral Arabic and English must be fluent
- Computer literacy: Word, excel, internet etc.
- Able to work under pressure and during shorter periods to work long hours e.g. at times of missions or reaching deadlines

The duty station is Sanaa and office facilities will be provided.

Further information about the position can be found by contacting us on the following mail address ***HRyemen@yahoo.com***

Application should be submitted to the same mail address no later than Thursday 4 March 2010, 3:00 p.m. Only pre-selected candidates will be consulted.

Shortly to



Guangzhou
"China"

Lagos
"Nigeria"

Yemenia  **اليمنية**
Genuine Arabian Hospitality
www.yemenia.com

Interview with Ethiopian Ambassador to Yemen: Ethiopia in the African Union

Situated in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia covers a land twice the size of France, Kenya or Texas and four and half times the size of Great Britain and Italy. It is the oldest independent state in Africa with 3,000 years of history. The word "Ethiopia" derived from the Greek and means "Land of people with sun burnt faces." Some believe that Ethiopia is the land of genesis.

Though most African countries are far less than a century old, Ethiopia has been an independent country since ancient times. It is the second most populous nation in Africa with over 79.2 million people and the tenth largest by area.

The African Union (AU) was officially launched in Durban, South Africa, in 2002 to replace the Organization of African Unity. Its structure is based loosely on that of the European Union. The African Union upholds the sovereign equality and independence of its 53 member states and aims to promote peace, security and solidarity on the African continent. The AU's secretariat, the African Union Commission, is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

H.E. Dr. Tawfik Abdullah has been the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Yemen since 2006. He received his PhD in Medicine from Minsk Medical School, the current capital of Belarus, and then specialized in Orthopedic Surgery in Ethiopia. He also acquired a masters' degree in International Law from the School of Law in Amsterdam.

H.E. Dr. Tawfik Abdullah, Ethiopian Ambassador to Yemen, spoke to Nadia Al-Sakkaf about the latest African Union summit and related issues.



Dr. Tawfik Abdullah, Ethiopian Ambassador

What are the main conclusions of the 14th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia?

The 14th African Union Summit was held in Addis Ababa from January 31 to February 3, 2010. The summit was attended by over thirty heads of state and government and invited guests among which were Prime Minister Zapatero of Spain, current Chairperson of European Union, and Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary General of The United Nations.

In this summit, President Bingu Wa Mutharika of Malawi was elected as the new chairperson. The chairmanship of the union is rotational and only for one year.

The summit adopted a declaration reiterating its commitment to strengthen national programmes and regional cooperation for the development and interconnection of broadband infrastructures and the improvement of rural area connectivity.

The summit welcomed the UN Security Council's imposition of sanctions on Eritrea (Resolution 1907 of 2009) including arms embargo, travel restrictions and asset freeze, and called upon the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee to urgently designate the relevant Eritrean military and political leaders and other persons and entities to allow effective sanction to be implemented. It also urged the Security Council to speedily act on the AU's earlier request for the imposition of a "no fly zone" and blockade of sea ports to prevent the entry of arms and insurgents into Somalia.

The summit endorsed the communiqué of the AU peace and Security Council of 29 October 2009 and reiterated that the recommendations of the AU High Level Panel on Darfur led by the former president Thabo Mbeki should be the basis of the AU engagement in Darfur and its interaction with international partners.

The summit elected new members for the AU peace and Security Council. It also overwhelmingly adopted the recommendations of the report on the Copenhagen Accord on Climate Change and extended the position of Prime Minister Meles Zenawi as coordinator of the conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change to be held in Mexico and South Africa in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

These are among the main issues discussed and endorsed in this summit.

During the summit, Ethiopia was praised for the progress made toward achieving the UN Millennium

over 2,500 health centers and 12,500 health posts, throughout the country, each health center and post, serving 25,500 and 5,000 people respectively. The health services focus on preventive and curative health services with special focus on maternal and child health. Coming to details:- Vaccination coverage, against the eight diseases, has reached 82 percent each house hold in malaria endemic area is provided with two malaria protective tents, antenatal services have reached 66.3 percent, postnatal service is 34.3 percent, family planning is well through, and contraceptive coverage is at 56.2 percent, clean tap water has reached 58 percent. Maternal mortality is way below 673 per 100,000 and we are targeting to reach 267 per 100,000, child mortality is 123 per 1000 and targeting for 85 per 1000. Primary education coverage is 95.6%

How do you assess the 22nd summit of the New Partnership for African Development's (NEPAD)?

To start with let me shade some light on what NEPAD is.

NEPAD is an economic development programme of the African Union with its own secretariat based in Midrand, South Africa and aims at promoting greater regional integration and trade among African States. NEPAD also works to develop partnership with international development finance institutions including the World Bank, G8, G20, European Commission and others.

In its 22nd summit held in Addis Ababa on January 30, 2010, it established the NEPAD planning and coordinating agency, replacing the NEPAD secretariat, and integrated this agency into the structure of the African Union.

The summit urged the adoption of strategic approach focusing on part-

nership dialogue on African development policy issues and called for the institutionalization of Africa's engagement within the G20. I am convinced that such approach will allow the intended paradigm shift from management of poverty to economic transformation and play a significant role for Africa in the integrated world economy.

What is the progress the African Union is making for peace in Somalia?

It should be recalled that the AU is resolved to restore and maintain peace and stability in Somalia. The AU has urged member countries to contribute and deploy peacekeeping force in Somalia, though the response is not up to the expectation.

Thousands of Somali policemen have been trained and are currently serving in the Somali police force. The AU has been and is urging the international community to engage in supporting the Djibouti Accord, and to denounce and condemn countries that support the extremist groups in Somalia.

It is the IGAD and the AU, in their respective resolutions, that urged the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on Eritrea for its relentless engagement in destabilizing Somalia.

In fact the 14th AU summit urged the UN Security Council to urgently designate the relevant Eritrean military and political leaders as well as other persons and entities to allow for an effective sanctions regime to be implemented as soon as possible, and urged the Security Council to speedily act on the AU's earlier request for the imposition of a "no fly zone" and the blockade of sea ports to prevent entry to Somalia of foreign elements and the supply of arms and logistical support to the insurgents.



The World Leading Food & Nutrition Company requires dynamic, self-motivated and success-oriented Candidates for its operation in Yemen

Medical Delegate (Representative)

Responsible for the ethical promotion of Nestlé Infant Nutrition products in his/her territory to Health Care professionals by clearly communicating the accurate information, features and benefits about the products and the appropriate compliance with WHO Code/Nestlé instructions & National codes

Candidate profile

Holding a Pharmaceutical Science degree, with 2 years of experience in a similar role. Have excellent communication skills in both English and Arabic. Strongly committed, customer service oriented, enthusiastic and well organized with an ability to perform individually as well as in a team.

Candidates meeting the above requirements are advised to send their CV to the following address

yemen.careers@ye.nestle.com

Applications will be treated in strict Confidence; only short listed candidates will be contacted.

MFC-990CW
 6-in-1 Wireless Colour Inkjet
 Multi-Function Centre with Fax
 Print / Fax / Copy / Scan /
 PC Fax / Direct Print

Business Multi-Function Centre with Cordless Phone and Bluetooth® Wireless Technology

Print Speed - 33ppm (Mono) 27ppm (Colour)	Super G3 Fax	Colour Copy	Colour Scan	Automatic Document Feeder	1,200 x 6,000 dpi Print Resolution	Condense, Handset
Wireless 4.2" Touchscreen LCD			Direct Print, Print			

Thabet Son Corporation
مؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة

Sana'a : Tel: 278546-8 Fax: 283596 Taiz: Tel: 219057 Fax: 214306 Aden: Tel: 244625 Fax: 246787
 Hodeidah : Tel: 204488 Fax: 204490 Mukalla : Tel: 316710 Fax: 316711
 E-mail: tsc@yemen.net.ye, Website: www.thabetson.com.ye

Yemen's greatest enemy is sitting across its border

By: Victoria Clark
The Independent

Yemenis baulk at the idea that their neighbors should supply more aid. Once upon a time in the early 1950s, the King of Yemen, Imam Ahmad, dispatched an adviser to Germany who returned with marvellous tales of what he had seen there. Describing the economic miracle which the US's Marshall Plan had wrought, he explained that although the Germans had started and then lost a war against the Americans, the streets of Cologne were now as clean as the Imam's table.

No fool, the Imam decided that Sanaa's streets would soon be a match for Cologne's; all he needed to do was declare war against America, lose it, and wait for the aid to pour in. The tale may be apocryphal but, as London readies itself for tomorrow's hastily convened conference on how to help Yemen root out an al-Qaeda cell capable of equipping a Nigerian youth with enough explosives in his underpants to down a passenger plane, it is worth reviewing the highlights of Yemen's aid history.

The traditional attitude of all Yemen's leaders towards foreign aid, and the form which aid from neighbouring Saudi Arabia has taken since the 1970s, as well as the West's most recent effort to co-ordinate aid efforts in Yemen, should all be borne in mind.

Yemen's educated classes assume that Imam Ahmad's pragmatic "we'll take as much cash as we can get by whatever

means and with as few strings attached as possible" policy is also the name of President Ali Abdullah Salih's game. It benefited Yemen during the Cold War; Maoist Chinese built the country's first paved road, Soviets modernised the Red Sea port of Hodeidah and ensured the country was armed to the hilt at almost no cost, while the Americans sorted out a water supply and a girls' school.

Yemenis also assume that President Ali Abdullah Salih has deliberately refrained from cracking down hard on his jihadists in order to maintain the flow of anxious aid – money, surveillance equipment, weapons – from his Western allies and neighbouring Saudi Arabia. His mercenary short-sightedness is largely to blame, they say, for Yemen's shaming reputation as a jihadists' haven.

Saudi aid in the security field is already reckoned to be around double the \$140m to be offered to Yemen by the US this year, and there is more – harder to quantify precisely – in the form of mosque-building, charity and religious education. But the hardest Saudi aid to quantify is the cash flowing straight out of a Saudi "Special Office" to the sheikhs of many Yemeni tribes, especially ones located anywhere near the Saudi border.

A Yemeni civil rights activist laments the Saudis' financial clout, portraying it as one of the chief banes of Yemen's existence: "Although Yemenis hate Saudis," he explains, "the Saudis know how to spread their influence by their wealth and they have corrupted everything in Yemen." He claims that two thirds – in other words, 6,000 of Yemen's approxi-

mately 9,000 tribal sheikhs – benefit from Saudi handouts, the most powerful of them to the tune of \$3.5m a month.

The Saudis' apparent reluctance to invest in the long-term development and improvement of the country and help educate its people is what makes Yemenis baulk at the now frequently voiced Western opinion that Yemen's rich neighbours, rather than any Western countries, should be taking the lead in supplying aid to Yemen.

Pointing out the drawbacks inherent in Saudi Arabia's style of giving may be unwise, however, when the West has nothing much to boast about. A 2006 London conference devoted to aiding development in Yemen, involving both Western powers and Yemen's Gulf neighbours, resulted in pledges of almost \$5bn, precious little of which has been received, let alone spent.

Yemen's Foreign Minister, Dr Al-Qirbi, in London for tomorrow's conference, has been complaining that if those projects had got off the ground and begun to bear fruit, "things would be very different now". The donors' reply to that would be that the human capital, the skills and standards needed to run the projects, were not available.

The scattering of brand new schools in Yemen's rural areas, standing empty and already decaying for lack of teachers, are a still more eloquent reminder of Yemen's true needs.

Victoria Clark's 'Yemen: Dancing on the Heads of Snakes' will be published by Yale in March

Let this operation be the last

The Independent Leading Article
Feb 14, 2010

What, we must ask again, is this war for? There is an alarming familiarity about the objectives of the offensive launched by American-led forces in Afghanistan on Friday night. Clear, hold and build has been the basic template, ever since our attention turned back to Afghanistan from the disastrous distraction of Iraq. Seven years on, it has not worked, and it is a definition of folly to repeat an action and expect a different result.

Let us be clear. This newspaper supported the use of military force against the Taliban regime when it refused to surrender Osama bin Laden in 2001 – in contrast to our view of the invasion of Iraq 17 months later. We even supported Tony Blair in his promise to the Afghan people that Britain would stand by them for the long haul. The issue now is whether standing by the people of Afghanistan requires a greater military presence in the country, or whether the "soft power" of development assistance or even straight bribery might be more effective.

We concluded, on Remembrance Sunday last year, that it was time to scale back our ambitions in Afghanistan and to begin to bring British troops home. We argued that the best way of fulfilling our obligations to the Afghan people was to promote political dialogue and economic reconstruction. Plainly security is important, but our role should be

focused on training and supporting Afghan forces while reducing our soldiers' front-line role in their policing.

As for war-fighting, that has come over several years to resemble "mowing the grass", in the common Army phrase. The Independent on Sunday was the first and only British newspaper to call for a phased withdrawal from Afghanistan, and none of the arguments advanced by rival newspapers (when they have addressed the issue at all) or by the Government, or by either of the main opposition parties, has come close to a compelling rationale for the opposing case.

Indeed, everything about the selling of Operation Moshtarak adds to our doubts about the wisdom of the strategy. As Patrick Cockburn writes today, the offensive seems to be designed for ready consumption by the US media. The very language of offensive, stronghold and the seizing of territory seems inappropriate to describe a military action against guerrilla forces. It seems likely to lead up to a set-piece "victory", after which Western attention will subside and the Taliban will trickle back.

It might be objected that the surge worked in Iraq, although it is notable that this is not an argument put forward by informed supporters of Barack Obama's deployment in Afghanistan. That is because the situation in Iraq is so different, where a political deal has been struck between the representatives of the Sunni minority and the US-supported government in Baghdad.

In Afghanistan, nothing has happened in the country's religious, ethnic or eco-

nomie structure to ensure that the temporary gains of military action can be turned into permanent advance. US and British forces, if there were enough of them, could try to rule the entire country outside the canton of Kabul ruled by President Karzai. They could maintain some semblance of military order. But they would, over time and even more than they are now, be perceived as an occupying foreign power. The situation would more and more resemble a quagmire, which is the one word Mr Obama's foreign strategists are dedicated to avoiding.

We respect our armed forces – indeed this newspaper has led the way in pressing the Government to honour its obligations under the military covenant – and we lament the loss of life, including that of at least one British soldier yesterday. We admire what our soldiers are doing and hope that the gains they make for local people are not erased too soon.

But the best way to respect our soldiers is to give them clear objectives that can be achieved and stay achieved. This means accepting that Afghanistan will not be adequately democratic, stable or prosperous in the next few years. It means, in effect, accepting that the Taliban and its allies will continue to control some parts of the country, but that they should be hedged in by propaganda, intelligence and special forces.

David Miliband, the Foreign Secretary, said last July that "there won't be a military solution" in Afghanistan. He was right. After Operation Moshtarak, it will be time to start to act on his words.

Rescuing Yemen from the grip of extremism

By: Mai Yamani
The Japan Times

Yemen has suddenly joined Afghanistan and Pakistan as a risk to global security. Indeed, it is increasingly seen as a nascent failed state and potential replacement host for al-Qaida.

The attempted bombing of a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day by a young Nigerian man trained by al-Qaida in Yemen appeared to open the West's eyes to the country's problems. Following that failed attack, U.S. President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown jointly pushed a conference in London to propose solutions for the previously overlooked crises in Yemen.

But if the conference focuses too narrowly on al-Qaida's presence in Yemen, it will do more harm than good. Instead, the conference must aim to address broader issues of political and social stability within the country.

Al-Qaida is not the primary danger to Yemen's security and stability, but Yemen's geography and political problems are well suited to its activities. A particularly attractive feature is the prevalence of the severe Wahhabi religious dogma, which was exported to Yemen by Saudi Arabia but now provides fertile ground for recruiting disaffected young Yemeni men for assaults on Saudi Arabia.

Yemen's central problems are two: the ongoing civil war that the government is waging against the Houthi tribe in the country's north, and the suppression of a secessionist movement in the south. It is the Yemeni government's inability to find a political solution to these problems that has led the nation to the brink of fragmentation.

So far, Obama and Brown seem unable to fully grasp the fact that Yemen's problems go well beyond al-Qaida's presence in the country. As a result, they appear to be playing into Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh's hands. Saleh wants to use the London conference as a means to leverage Western backing,

particularly military aid, to pursue his wars against the Houthis and the southern secessionists.

Saleh has regularly employed the danger of al-Qaida to obtain additional financial and security support from both the West and Saudi Arabia. For him, the attempted Christmas Day bombing was a gift from heaven. Saleh's dilemma is that Western aid may now come with increased interference in Yemen's internal affairs at a time when he wants the world to turn a blind eye to his conduct of the country's civil wars.

The West and Saleh do not have the same enemy. Al-Qaida is the West's enemy, while Saleh's true enemies are the Houthis and the separatists of the south. But if the West is to curtail al-Qaida's activities in Yemen, it will need to push Saleh into reaching accommodations with both the Houthis and the southerners, and this will undoubtedly mean sharing power with them. Saleh will surely resist such an effort.

Last December, Saleh called for national dialogue, but on his own terms: The Houthis and the southern leaders are to be excluded from the discussions unless they support the Yemeni Constitution that has kept Saleh in power for decades. But Saleh's hardline approach is failing. More than half of Yemen's territory is falling out of government control.

The U.S. should not be surprised by any of these developments because American involvement in Yemen is not new. Al-Qaida in Yemen has been targeted since the USS Cole was bombed while in the port of Aden in 2000. Missile strikes by U.S. drones last December in Abein and Shabwa killed a number of al-Qaida members, as well as civilians.

Fighting al-Qaida in Yemen through such means may temporarily reduce terrorism, but it will not end it. The real question is whether the West will address Yemen's failed political and military strategies, which are the root cause of al-Qaida's mushrooming presence in the country. Only if Western intervention aims to rescue the Yemeni state

from itself will there be any possibility to contain al-Qaida.

And it is not just the Yemeni state that is at fault. Yemen's neighbors have also played a role. Saudi Arabia exported both its Wahhabism and al-Qaida to Yemen by funding thousands of Islamic schools where fanaticism is taught. Moreover, since the 1991 Gulf War, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have been expelling Yemeni workers. Last month alone, 54,000 Yemeni workers were expelled from Saudi Arabia.

Though Yemen is part of the Arabian Peninsula, it was excluded from the Gulf Cooperation Council, primarily because its size – it is the most populous state on the peninsula – would have given it great influence. In fact, the Yemeni population exceeds the population of all six GCC members combined.

Saleh received a strong endorsement from the GCC last December for his domestic wars, and Saudi Arabia has been in direct military confrontation with the Houthis, its army having crossed Yemen's border. But the GCC members' failure to open their economies – which are always in need of guest workers – to Yemen's young men is short-sighted.

The United States and Britain, both patrons of the GCC, must encourage its members to include Yemen if they want to solve its problems. Yemenis are known as skilled laborers. So, instead of exporting religious radicalism to Yemen, importing its manpower could neutralize Yemen's problems.

Wednesday's London conference could prove to be either a trap for the West or the beginning of a true effort at the kind of domestic reform that can prevent Yemen from becoming another Afghanistan. If the West buys into Saleh's depiction of a war against al-Qaida, it will be trapped into supporting him and his failed policies. But if it looks beyond terrorism to the root causes of the problem, and presses Saleh to begin to share power, Yemen need not become another safe haven for terrorists.

Mai Yamani's most recent book is "Cradle of Islam." © 2010 Project Syndicate

This ugly fortress proves the US does not expect affection

By: Patrick Cockburn
The Independent

The US embassy in the Yemeni capital Sana'a, which has just closed its doors because of the al-Qaeda threat, is a spectacularly ugly building that has been designed as a fortress to withstand a military assault.

It is easy to understand why the State Department may be feeling nervous about the embassy's security. It was the target of two vehicles packed with explosives driven by suicide bombers in September 2008 in an attack in which 19 people were killed, one of them an American woman. At the start of the US invasion in Iraq in 2003, demonstrators tried to storm it and two were killed. Last year three mortar bombs were fired at the building, all of which missed and

hit a girl's school instead, killing a security guard.

The architecture is the fruit of security reviews that see embassies as concrete bunkers built to withstand attack in a hostile land and not as a centre for spreading goodwill towards America. This is hardly surprising considering the fate of US embassies from Tehran to Beirut. The closure of the embassy may also reflect realism among US diplomats in Sanaa over the ability of the central government to defend them despite proffered aid from the US and an American-British Yemeni counter-terrorism force.

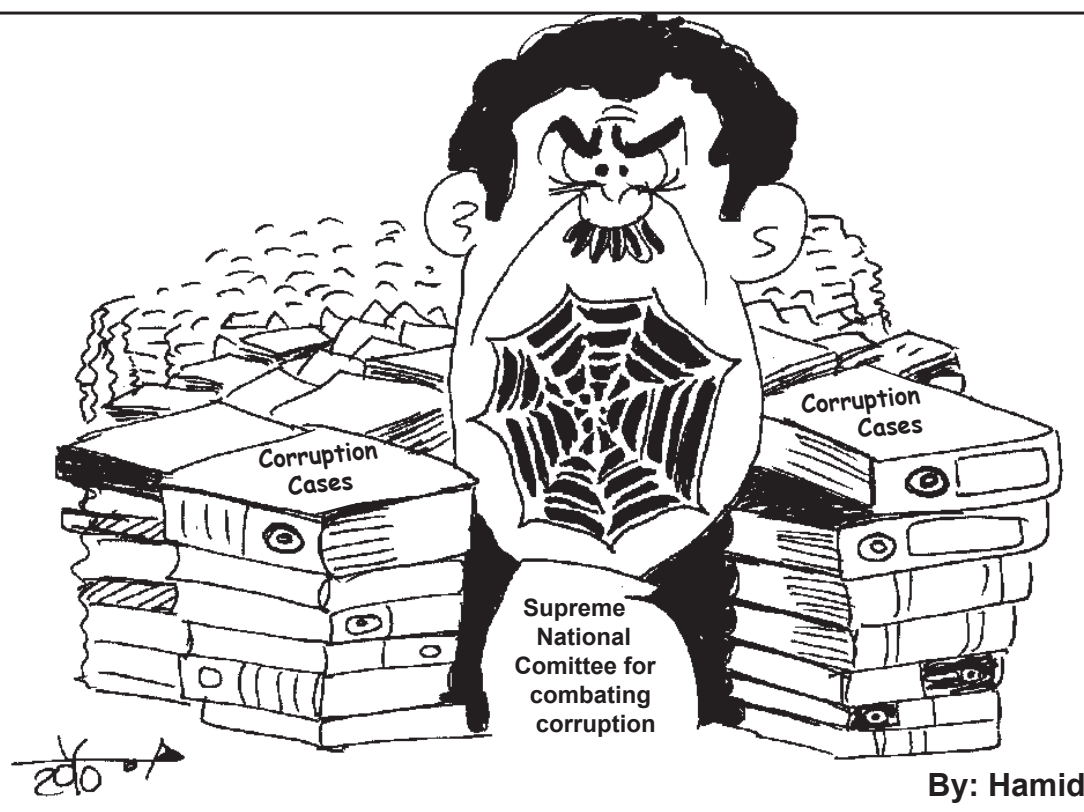
When I visited the embassy some years ago, staff wrestled with heavy internal doors, which that looked as if they had come from the vaults of a bank, and elaborate security measures which seemed to paralyse its functioning. It seemed a gloomy place to live and one

from which it would be almost impossible to work.

The US and Britain may come to regret intervening in Yemen, which is very much an Arab Afghanistan with state authority contested in many parts of the country. The establishment of an anti-terrorism squad of foreign trained Yemeni security men will be a double-edged sword as the Yemeni government will seek to portray its many enemies, be they Shia insurgents in the north or secessionists in the south, as allies of al-Qaida.

The closure of the US embassy also underlines how vulnerable these facilities are in the age of the suicide bomber. To defend them at all means, as in Baghdad, turns them into a heavily defended foreign enclave which is resented locally and becomes a physical symbol of imperialist designs.

SKETCHED OPINION



YEMEN TIMES
www.yementimes.com

First Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen
Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENTS:
Tel: +967 (1) 510306
Email: adsyemen@yahoo.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

CEO
Khair Aldin Al Nsour

Managing Editor
Amel Al-Ariqi

Feature Editor

Alice Hackman

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

Senior Reporter
Ismail Al-Ghabri

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Ali Saeed
Khaled Al-Hilaly

Mahmoud Assamiee
Malak Shaher
Mariem Al-Yameni

Offices

Aden Bureau:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

Subscription rates:

Individuals: YR 7,000
Yemeni companies/corporations: YR 8,000
Foreign companies/organizations: \$ 80

Policies:

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name, mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length.
- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices

Why did Muhammad A-Durra disappear?

Almost a decade on, Israelis still struggle with how to respond to the most contentious footage of the Intifada

By: Benjamin Joffe-Walt
The Media Line

A father and his 12-year-old son crouch like scared turtles into a nook aside a concrete pipe sitting against a street side wall in Gaza.

Dazed, insecure and in a huddle, Jamal and Muhammad A-Durra hold one another, the little boy crying in fear as bullets and dust swirl across the scene as Israeli and Palestinian forces shoot at each other.

‘POP POP POP’... Both Jamal and Muhammad are shot and slump over one another, seemingly dead.

Talal Abu Rahma, a freelance Palestinian cameraman, claims he caught 18 minutes of the incident on film, and told Charles Enderlin, France 2 television’s bureau chief in Israel, that the footage was of Israeli troops firing on innocent Palestinian bystanders in cold blood. Abu Rahma claimed the Israelis had even fired on the ambulance as it tried to rescue Jamal and Muhammad A-Durra.

An incendiary one-minute clip of the original footage, and this accompanying narrative, was immediately dispatched to media outlets all over the world, infuriating a Palestinian public already outraged by Israeli behavior, and later seen by many Palestinian and Israeli analysts as one of the main triggers that sparked the popular uprising now known as the Second Intifada.

The public lynching of two Israeli army reservists in Ramallah one month after the incident was attributed as a response to the Muhammad A-Durra incident, as was the Al-Qa’ida beheading of Jewish-American journalist Daniel Pearl in Pakistan in 2002.

Almost a decade later, images of Muhammad A-Durra are still used regularly throughout Arab media and can be found on posters throughout the Muslim world. Morocco now has an A-Durra Park, Jordan commemorative A-Durra stamps and Egypt reportedly renamed the street which the Israeli embassy in Cairo sits on ‘Muhammad A-Durra Street.’

The issue lives on in Western media, too, with an MSNBC story two months ago, a BBC documentary airing last week, a 60-minute Italian documentary set to air in a couple of weeks, and more in the works.

“This is the first picture that is used all over the world... and they are using it, using it, using it,” said Philippe Karsenty.

And that’s exactly what still bugs him.

For almost a decade, Karsenty, the deputy mayor of Neuilly-sur-Seine, a Parisian suburb where French President Nicolas Sarkozy was once the mayor,

has led a small, international crusade of sorts to expose what he feels is the truth behind the Muhammad A-Durra incident.

“Charles Enderlin was not the one who filmed the document,” Karsenty told The Media Line. “It was filmed by his cameraman in Gaza while he was in Ramallah. He just listened and believed the comments of his cameraman, who’s a liar. We’ve caught him in lies for many years so we know that he’s not a credible journalist.”

“When Charles Enderlin got the raw material, CNN also got the raw material, but CNN refused to air it and they said it doesn’t look real,” he added. “But Charles Enderlin edited it, put his voice-over and said that the Israeli forces targeted the boy and his father.”

Palestinian advocacy groups adamantly defend the authenticity of the original Muhammad A-Durra video, but Israeli commentators who have followed the case are divided into two camps, which Adi Schwartz of the left wing Israeli newspaper Ha’aretz has dubbed the ‘minimalist’ and ‘maximalist’ narratives.

The ‘minimalist’ narrative contends that Muhammad A-Durra was shot by Palestinian security forces. Advocates of the minimalist view contend that the trajectory of the bullets that hit the wall where the A-Durra’s were seeking shelter could not have come from the Israeli army’s position.

The ‘maximalist’ narrative claims a larger Palestinian conspiracy or staging of the event, without the knowledge of France 2, to damage Israel’s international reputation. Karsenty, who subscribes to the more ‘maximalist’ view of the Muhammad A-Durra incident, points to the sudden blurring of the France 2 footage at the moment the two were shot, the decision by the television station to exclude footage of the boy moving his elbow after being shot and the alleged absence of an autopsy, ballistic tests or any recovered bullets.

“It never happened,” Karsenty said. “It’s a complete staged hoax that has been fabricated.”

“Muhammad A-Durra was not killed,” he continued. “At the end of the film the boy raises his elbow, looks at the cameraman, puts down his elbow. Despite the 15 bullets that the boy and the father presumably received, there is not a single drop of blood at the end of the film... Quite strange no?”

“For the last nine and a half years we have brought more than 100 pieces of evidence showing that this was staged,” Karsenty added. “After nine and a half years they have not brought a single piece of evidence that it was not staged.”

In 2004 France 2 sued Karsenty for libel. During the case, then French President Jacques Chirac wrote a letter

ERA PHOTO/JOSEPH BARAK



Palestinian children hold flag during a protest as they pass by drawing on a wall depicting the murder of Al-Durra and his father. The writing on the wall says “Have no fear oh father, our cause will never die.”

defending the integrity of the France 2 Bureau Chief Charles Enderlin, a dual French-Israeli citizen who is highly respected in France and recently received the Legion of Honor, France’s highest decoration. France 2 won the case in 2006, but the ruling was overturned in 2008 by the Paris Court of Appeal. France 2 has now taken the case to the French Supreme Court.

“This is a smear campaign led by Mr Karsenty who, already in 2002, said that he wants to ruin me,” Enderlin told The Media Line. “There was never any official accusation against us and no Israeli government ever asked us to participate in any inquiry. If the Israeli authorities had any proof that there was any conspiracy I believe it would be out by now and we would be on trial.”

“I don’t know who shot the kid,” Enderlin added. “I said that the bullets came from the Israeli position. We don’t believe that the Palestinians shot the kid because they did not shoot from that direction.”

Enderlin took particular issue with various public comments by Karsenty questioning Enderlin’s loyalty as an Israeli citizen.

“I am an Israeli citizen,” Enderlin said. “I have lived here for 42 years and fulfilled all my duties to the state, as well as all my children. I don’t need any lesson on Zionism from a French Jew who conducts an Internet smear campaign.”

But over the past few years, Karsenty has been less engaged in a direct war of words with Enderlin over the al-Durra case, instead taking on a much more unexpected adversary: the State of Israel.

“The Arabs are not the problem,” he said. “The problem is the Israelis.”

“This is the worst picture which has

ever been created since the creation of the State of Israel,” Karsenty said. “This picture went all over the world and became a postage stamp in many Arab countries, was used by Bin Laden to incite before 9/11, and was the starting point for the Second Intifada. So many people have been killed because of this video. So many Arabs, so many Jews.”

“Despite all that, the State of Israel has never asked the French public TV to retract and admit that it’s a fraud,” Karsenty said. “I’ve met people at the Prime Minister’s office, they’re not doing anything. I’ve met people at the Foreign Ministry, they’re not doing anything.”

“They say that it is not in their interest,” he said. “But this doesn’t make sense. They want to forget it but they should forget about forgetting it. The legitimacy of the State of Israel is completely down now all over the world because you have these kinds of pictures and Jews have been assaulted all over the world because the State of Israel has not been defending its good name.”

“It’s unbearable to see that you have here so many bureaucrats even at the highest level who are not even understanding the historical consequences of their wrongdoings,” Karsenty added. “They have been paid to defend the good name of the State of Israel. I’m just asking them to do their job.”

Daniel Seaman, Director of Israel’s Government Press Office, said there was some truth to Karsenty’s claims.

“In general he’s right but it’s not completely accurate,” Seaman told The Media Line. “It is the official position of the State of Israel to question the validity of the Muhammad A-Durra story. In the past the case was being

heard in the courts of France, so it was thought it would be better that we not get involved. But now we have a basis for being more active about this and that’s where I personally think he’s right and we failed.”

“Unfortunately, there is still debate within the government about whether or not it’s worth it to push the issue, and there are those in the government who feel it only causes damage to Israel,” Seaman said. “In my opinion that’s a cowardly approach and there is a lot left to be desired in the Israeli response.”

“This story is symbolic no matter what we do and not questioning it undermines Israel’s credibility,” he added. “There are no pictures of Israel shooting, there are no pictures of the boy dying and the journalist was not even there. So I think it’s our job as government officials to defend the name of the state of Israel, especially when it’s so clear that the accusations leveled against Israel have no basis in reality.”

“The State of Israel did not abandon Karsenty, and has not been silent on the question of France 2’s professional behavior in the A-Durra affair,” Seaman wrote in a 2008 Jerusalem Post Op-Ed on Karsenty’s campaign to challenge the mainstream Muhammad A-Durra narrative. “However, a nation does not always have the freedom to operate in the same manner as an individual.”

Speaking off the record, officials in Israel’s Foreign Ministry said they felt Karsenty’s work was counterproductive.

“Karsenty has taken this on as a life mission and sees everything that happened there as kind of a conspiracy,” a senior Foreign Ministry official told The Media Line. “He is very outspoken against he ministry but we are not going

to go into any kind of debate with him.”

“There are some good questions about the events that day,” the official said. “But to say that the whole thing was a set up, maybe, but we don’t know.”

“The general understanding within the Ministry is that Muhammad A-Durra was not killed by Israeli bullets and we believe that taking responsibility for it so quickly without checking was not the right thing to do at the time,” the official continued. “But what Karsenty expects is the government of Israel to sue France 2. We don’t think it’s the government’s role to go after TV channels. That’s not the way a government should conduct itself.”

“We also don’t believe that anything good can come out of continuing to get into this,” the official added. “From an advocacy and PR point of view, it doesn’t help any of us to keep getting into this. Even if some court determined it was a hoax, would the Arab world believe it? They’ll just say it’s a conspiracy. We should leave it be and let bygones be bygones.”

Dr Eitan Alimi, an expert in political framing processes and a political science lecturer at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, argued that the Israeli government’s choice to not aggressively respond to the predominant Muhammad A-Durra narrative reflects a lack of capacity.

“Palestinians, partly because they are the weaker side, have to really make an effort to try and balance the situation,” he told The Media Line. “They invest a lot of money and resources in coming up with an oiled machinery of framing. So I think that the Palestinians are more into being bright than being right, while the Israelis on the other hand still work according to the assumption of who is right.”

“But political framing is about constructing and conveying a message,” Dr Alimi said, arguing that even if Mohammed Al Durra were discovered tomorrow, alive well and 21-years-old, it would not make such a big difference. “It really has little to do with facts or what actually happened, it’s about storytelling. It’s about going into a huge box of historical facts and then selecting what is convenient for what you are trying to see or what can be used to buttress one’s position.”

“In terms of framing conflict, a central question is who gets framed as the victim,” he said. “For that reason this instance is framed as a classic story of a bad guy, the stronger force disproportionately using his weapons and ammunition, and the good victim, a young boy caught up in this exchange of fire.”

“But almost every story, especially when it comes to a conflict, has at least two story lines,” he said. “Each side is trying to tell his or her story of what is really going on, and this explains why Muhammad A-Durra is so important and still an ongoing matter.”

The Poverty of Stimulus

By: Bradford Cornell

Most economists think that macroeconomic disruptions, such as the current recession, can be understood in terms of aggregate indicators such as total employment, the price level, and the money supply. But this view is misleading, particularly in the current economic situation. Worse yet, it misleads us into counterproductive economic policies.

As the economist Fischer Black explained, an economy matches a population’s desires to the available resources and production technology. When an economy is operating efficiently, expectations are largely fulfilled; desires, resources, and production technology are well matched; and people are reasonably satisfied with their plans, relations, and contracts.

But if the world evolves in a markedly unanticipated direction, people’s existing plans, relations, and contracts require revision. The existing matches between desires, resources, and production technology deteriorate. While this revision occurs, resources are diverted from production, which is less efficient and less well matched with consumer desires, resulting in a reduction in the value of output – a recession.

This “realignment theory” helps explain the current downturn. From 2000 through 2007, millions of American homeowners entered into mortgage contracts to finance their homes. Securities based on those contracts ended up, in part, in the hands of financial institutions. But the adequate servicing of the debt and, therefore, the performance of the securities, were based on expectations of continued rises in housing prices that proved to be unrealistic. When housing prices fell, so did the value of the mortgages and the securities based upon them.

Because financial institutions held much of these securities, their market values declined as well, leaving balance sheets in need of restructuring, particularly given their highly leveraged capital structures. Awaiting that restructuring, financial institutions could not perform as usual, which impeded financial intermediation and called into question plans, relations, and contracts – such as corporate and residential investment or refinancing.

Meanwhile, consumers who held a substantial fraction of their wealth in housing were forced to revise their consumption plans in the face of declining values. This affected all the producers, distributors, and retailers whose plans and contracts were based on now-obsolete expectations.



And so it goes. Eventually, the required restructuring became so widespread that it impacted virtually every sector of the economy. The current recession is as deep as the misalignment of specialized plans, relations, and contracts is extensive. Construction workers cannot become software developers overnight. Automobile companies cannot adjust immediately to a change in consumer preferences regarding what type of cars they want to purchase, or how frequently. Would-be financiers cannot adjust to these plans overnight.

An obvious question is whether the government can do anything to speed the restructuring process or reduce its

cost. If the government could identify how the economy needed to be restructured and provide incentives to move resources more quickly in that direction, a properly designed program could alleviate and shorten the recession. But, if the government could do that, central planning would be a good deal simpler.

Moreover, just as a command economy is invariably less efficient at resource allocation and production than a market economy, a general stimulus program will, in all likelihood, lead to highly inefficient allocations, effectively burning resources at a time when they are scarce and particularly vital to restart and re-align our beleaguered

economies. To the extent that it is used to prop up declining industries, the stimulus could even prove harmful by delaying necessary adjustments.

Viewed from a matching perspective, there is no failure of “aggregate demand” – whatever that means. Instead, there is a complex misalignment problem – too many autoworkers when too few people want new cars, for example – that results in a decline in overall output. Thus, it is possible that increased government spending – say, to boost car purchases – could exacerbate the misalignment.

Given the central role of financial intermediation in the current crisis, the government should instead expedite the restructuring process through bankruptcy law. The key is to accept bad news: losses must be recognized before efficient realignment can occur.

This suggests the following solution to the banking crisis. First, the value of financial institutions’ investments should immediately be marked down to their market values. Based on those values, contracts with existing equity and debt holders should then be restructured. If the losses are big enough that existing equity and debt holders are wiped out, government insurers should make up the difference to protect depositors. Following that, the restructured bank can be recapitalized by rais-

ing new debt and equity. From that point, the bank should operate normally.

Unfortunately, this elegant solution assumes away all the problems associated with the complex web of contracts and relationships that constitutes the financial system, the limited information of all the affected parties, and the incentive of each of those parties to protect its own interests. For example, there is no agreement on the market values of financial institutions’ housing-related assets. As a result, restructuring has been time consuming, costly, and characterized by intense lobbying, rent-seeking, stop-and-go policy making, and the continued failure of credit markets to function efficiently.

If the government could help break this logjam, in a fashion similar to the manner in which courts expedite corporate bankruptcy, the benefits could be large. To the extent that government becomes involved in restructuring financial institutions, it should avoid unnecessary wealth transfers from taxpayers to the security holders of the financial institutions. Beyond that, the realignment process is best left largely to private agents. The government has neither the necessary information nor the proper incentives to do the job.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2010.

Negative media coverage slows down Yemeni business

By: Ali Saeed

Recent international media coverage of Yemen focusing on Al-Qaeda, the war with the Houthis and unrest in the South has diluted economic activity in the country.

The renewed focus on Yemen in international media followed the Christmas Day attack on a US-bound plane by Farouk Abdulmutalab, a 23 year-old Nigerian said to have links with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, an organization based in Yemen.

"The recent coverage by many international media outlets has affected our daily business activities, confused us, and consequently lost us profits," said Dr. Abdullah Saleh, manager of the Al-Khaleel Company for Importing Medicine in Sana'a.

"We used to import medicine from specific manufacturing companies in the US and Italy and our customers have become familiar with those brands, but now more than one month has passed without us importing a single item," he said.

"We used to deal with the American company, and we were its agent in Yemen," he said. "When we requested that they come here for a market evaluation, they asked us about the situation."

"They finally requested that we meet them in Dubai instead of coming to Yemen," he said.

"Because of the news they watch

every day about Yemen, they have the stereotype that Yemen is an unstable country, and think that if they come here they might be kidnapped," he explained.

"The other company that we deal with is Italian, and now they have suspended their business with us until the situation settles down," said Saleh.

"These consequences really have affected our business in terms of competition and some of our staff has have was laid off," said Saleh.

Recent media coverage of Yemen has affected many areas of the business sector.

The Al-Shibami Agencies for Stationary and Paper Supplies in Sana'a said that now international companies in the stationary and paper are hesitant in dealing with the Yemeni market any more.

"Because of the negative coverage of Yemen, a country in crises, many of the international companies we are dealing with have already pulled out or at least are hesitant in dealing with the Yemeni market anymore," said Maqam Al-Shibami, the company's general manager.

"Before this, we used to import stationary products easily but now they require a confirmed letter of credits because they fear that the situation will blow up and they will not be able to get their money," he said.

In addition to this, foreign organiza-

tions and companies with foreign personnel in Yemen have sent their employees home and this has affected some businesses.

"Many international companies who are working in Yemen have sent their expatriate employees home and this has affected our work directly, because the expatriate community was one of our main customers," said Al-Shibami.

Yemeni honey affected

Honey exporters complain that recent media coverage has affected their business.

"We used to export honey to many European countries, but now it is prohibited," said Khaled Jum'an, who owns a shop selling honey in Sana'a.

The decision to prohibit honey imports into Europe came after the recent media coverage on Yemen's fighting with Al-Qaeda and the insurgency by Houthis in the north, according to Jum'an.

This ban has led to high losses for the Yemeni honey merchants, according to Jum'an.

"Our customers are mainly foreigners since when they go home, they used to buy Yemeni honey as a gift for their families and friends," said Jum'an. "But, now no more foreigners buy it as airport security in their homelands take it away from their hands and into the garbage."

"Our sales in honey have declined to around 60 percent of what they were," he said.

He demanded that the government take action to lessen the consequences of the negative media coverage.

"The Ministry of Industry and Trade should promote the Yemeni economic environment and adopt policies that ease the difficulties of Yemeni businesses," he said.

Mary Horzerc, governance adviser at the European Union country office in Yemen, said that she did not know anything about Yemeni honey not being imported into Europe and that no banning decision was taken by the European Union.

Travel agencies quiet

Travel agencies in Yemen have also been affected by the stories in the international media about Yemen's problems



The Yemeni honey which is famous with its high nutrition value is negatively affected by the international media coverage on Yemen and now the commodity is no more allowed to enter the European market.

with Al-Qaeda and security.

"What the global media has reported about Yemen recently has affected us in the travel agencies," said Tawfeeq Shayef, general manager at the Ajyad Travel Group in Sana'a, which facilitates travel for Yemenis wishing to travel abroad.

"Our agency provides Saudi labor market with Yemeni laborers, but media coverage of Yemen's problems has resulted in Saudis being less willing to hire Yemenis," said Shayef.

Less people can travel, which has affected the business, he said.

Mansour Abdulkarim, general manager of the Summer Company for Travel and Tourism, works mostly with tourists who come to Yemen to see the country.

"The number of tourists visiting Yemen and flights to Yemen have declined," he said.

"The solution is to intensify media campaigns to present the real image of Yemen abroad to bring tourists to Yemen, so that they can tell the rest of the world about the country," he said.

Salah Al-Asadi, the executive director of the Sabeel Association for Travel, a company that organizes pilgrimages for Yemenis to Saudi Arabia, however said that his company had not been affected because its customers are mainly Yemenis.

But he agreed with others that a promotion campaign for Yemen abroad should counter recent negative press.

"The Tourism Promotion Board at the Ministry of Tourism should contract with some global media companies to promote tourism in Yemen," he said.

Arab investors stand strong

Adel Al-Ashtal, head of the employees' union at the General Investment Authority, believes that exaggerated foreign media reports have affected investment in the country.

"I think that international media coverage on Yemen was exaggerated, since we live here and do not feel what the western media calls Al-Qaeda," he said.

However, negative western media coverage of Yemen will only affect non-

Arab investors not Arab or Yemeni investors, according to Al-Ashtal.

"This negative media coverage does not affect Arab and Yemeni investors -unlike the non-Arab investors- as they are not convinced by such reports," he explained.

"Arab and Yemeni investors rely on the market itself and form their impression from their own experiences," he added.

Although Yemen ranks last in many international indexes, Arab and Yemeni investors still come to Yemen and request to invest in the country, according to Al-Ashtal.

"Negative international media coverage on Yemen should be countered by the Yemeni media to promote the image of the investment climate in Yemen to change the foreigners' stereotype about Yemen," he suggested.

He thinks that the General Investment Authority, the Free Zones Authority, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Industry and Trade should work together to face such difficulty.



Dozens of western media reporters gathered in a suburb outside Sana'a city on January 9, covering a show by the Yemeni Anti-Terrorism Unit on combating terrorism. This intensive coverage by the western media on Yemen highly affected the business environment in the country.



Vacancy Advertisement

An immediate vacancy exists at the World Bank Office in Sana'a for an Administrative Assistant.

The applicant is expected to meet the following requirements:

- Have three-five years of relevant work experience including administrative and logistical support and visa processing.
- Have excellent command of verbal and written Arabic and English.
- Have computer aptitude and proficiency with internet including ability to retrieve information from various sources.
- Have excellent interpersonal, communication and organizational skills.
- Be a committed team player able to work in a multi-cultural environment.
- Have flexibility to absorb ad hoc tasks and work under pressure.
- Understanding of accounting work will be an advantage.

The incumbent will perform the following duties:

- Provide assistance to accounting department, including maintaining files for accounting and administrative procurement documents, preparing materials for audit checks including photocopying and scanning, preparing excel tables for payments, processing insurance for office vehicles, follow-up on invoices with vendors, obtaining quotations and participating in vendor due diligence reviews, distributing checks to vendors.
- Petty cash custodian. Keeping petty cash ledger and processing transactions related to petty cash.
- Asset custodian including annual inventory of the bank property. Custodian of office mobiles, keys, passes.
- Manage office stationery and store supplies, including keeping consumption sheet and requesting replenishment when needed.
- Process visas/permits for Country Office staff including drafting and typing letters in Arabic/English, interact with concerned government authorities, etc.
- Follow-up on customs clearances for office, maintain staff lists for security and medical purposes, follow up on replenishments with the Bank and perform other miscellaneous duties assigned by the supervisor.

For full consideration, please apply on-line:

<http://www.worldbank.org/jobs> and choose vacancy # 100346 before February 28, 2010

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



Vacancy Advertisement

The World Bank Office in Sana'a is seeking a local **Short-Term Consultant** to work on Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, global initiative aimed at improving transparency and accountability in resource-rich industries (oil, gas and mining). Position is initially for six months eligible for renewal based on business needs and performance. More information on global EITI can be found at www.eitransparency.org. Following its decision to implement the EITI and its admission as a "candidate country" by the EITI Board on September 27, 2007, the Republic of Yemen has been working on EITI implementation. The original deadline for the process to be validated was set for March 9, 2010, but the country has asked for an extension in light of delays faced over the course of the last 2.5 years. The Yemeni government put in place the Yemen EITI (YEITI) Secretariat, under the auspices of the Ministry of Oil and Minerals. More information is available at www.yemenEITL.org.ye. A wider YEITI Council, composed of members of civil society, private sector, and Government, is in place to agree on YEITI progress, objectives and implementation.

Duties and accountabilities

- Support to Yemen architecture for EITI: Supporting the YEITI functions in the Ministry of Oil and Minerals and their mandate and work program including serving as liaison of the Ministry to the World Bank.
- Supervision of World Bank technical assistance: helping to supervise the recipient executed EITI trust fund in accordance with World Bank fiduciary rules and regulations.
- Outreach with extractive industry companies, civil society and donors.
- Support to the data reconciliation and publication process.
- Liaison with EITI and country teams in Washington including participation in World Bank missions that usually take place every 3-4 months.
- Regular written reporting to COCPO Department in Washington and assistance to the YEITI Council and Secretariat and close coordination with Oslo-based EITI Secretariat.

Desired qualifications and experience

- University degree in economics, petroleum management or other relevant discipline.
- Fluent Arabic and English language both verbal and written.
- At least 5-7 years of relevant professional experience and of implementation support including monitoring progress and impacts achieved.
- Prior experience in working with civil society, media or other actors would be a strong plus.
- Some knowledge of EITI and/or World Bank and Republic of Yemen financial, procurement and related procedures is a plus.
- Strong communication skills, excellent writing skills and teamwork including with donors and clients, and the judgment to advise others.
- Ability to work under pressure and to meet tight deadlines.

For full consideration, please send your CV with supporting documents before February 28, 2010 to wbyemen@worldbank.org, clearly marking the position.

SHARK
ENERGY DRINK

250 ml (8.4 fl oz)

الطاقة الحقيقية

Metco www.metcotrading.com



USAID | YEMEN
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Job Vacancy

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announces for immediate job opening within its organization.

“Senior Livelihoods Advisor”

The incumbent serves as the Mission’s senior advisor for technical and policy matters associated with improving livelihoods in Yemen. The advisor oversees USAID/Yemen’s economic growth, agriculture and natural resource conservation activities and provides guidance on the integration of these activities with health, education and governance activities. The position is designed to allow the incumbent to be a thought-leader in this new technical approach to development programming. The three main areas of duties/responsibilities are Project Management and Administration, Technical Leadership in Strategic Planning and Program Development, and Program/Policy Analysis and Reporting. This includes Contract Officer’s Technical Representative (COTR), or Activity Manager (AM) responsibilities for activities in excess of \$20 million.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

1. Education:

A minimum of a Master’s degree in Business, Economics, Agribusiness, International Economic Development, Anthropology, Public Policy, or a related field is required.

2. Prior Work Experience:

The incumbent is required to have a minimum of six years of work experience. Technical experience in economic growth and agriculture, agribusiness, MSMEs, water conservation, and alternative agriculture with demonstrated increasing responsibility for managing, analyzing, coordinating and guiding significant analytical and project management efforts is required.

3. Language Proficiency:

Very strong fluency in English (level IV) and native fluency in Arabic (level V), both oral and written, is required.

4. Job Knowledge:

Incumbent must have a sound, experience-based knowledge of integrated rural development, economic growth, agriculture, agribusiness, enterprise development, microfinance, water conservation, and alternative crop production and best practices in livelihoods programming and policy.

5. Skills and Abilities:

The incumbent must be organized and have demonstrated success in project management. Excellent communications skills are required. S/he will have a high degree of technical, analytical, and quantitative skills.

Grade/Salary:

* Ordinarily Resident:
- FSN-12 (Full Performance Level) US \$26,918 Starting Salary per annum plus \$3,000 allowances.

Detailed Position Description is available at <http://yemen.usembassy.gov/yemen/vacancies.html>

How to apply:

All Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned). All applications must include a letter which explains the candidates past experience and how it relates to the required qualifications and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa or via Fax No. 303-182 or through e-mail address: hrosanaa@state.gov no later than March 3, 2010.

NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل (بنك إسلامي)
Shamil Bank of Yemen & Bahrain
خدمات مصرفية إسلامية شاملة

للعام الثاني على التوالي
نتجاوز كل التوقعات
ونوزع أعلى نسبة أرباح
على مستوى كافة المصارف

%13.33
أرباح الودائع بالريال لعام 2009م

نسبة أرباح الودائع السنوية بالدولار لعام 2009م

5 %	أرباح الودائع بالدولار
6 %	أرباح الودائع المقيدة بالدولار

Mystical Far East.
Special fares to select destinations from USD 639*.

With stunning landscapes, exciting cities and rich and diverse cultures, everyone should be lucky enough to experience the Far East. With our special fares, you now have the good fortune.

Fly to	Economy Class*
Manila	USD 639
Kuala Lumpur	USD 678
Bangkok	USD 685
Jakarta	USD 766
Hong Kong	USD 824
Guangzhou	USD 897
Beijing	USD 900
Shanghai	USD 941

Fly Emirates. Keep discovering.

Emirates emirates.com/ye

Over 400 international awards and over 100 destinations worldwide. *Valid for Economy Class tickets booked and purchased for outbound travel on or before 28th February 2010. Fares are inclusive of all taxes and fuel surcharges. Additional restrictions apply. For more details contact your local travel agent or Emirates on Tel: 01 444442.

A painful situation of Yemeni workers

By: Rashad Ali Qaed
Rashad8686@yahoo.com

Catastrophic to be insecure and humiliated in your own home. Tongue stutters to utter what is happening to Yemeni workers in some Yemeni and foreign companies. It is really a tragic situation that minds goes blank whenever trying to think about it. We really do not have invaders or colonists in Yemen, so what is the matter then? Some Foreign and Yemeni companies and our government do not give those poor workers their rights. From where one has to start describing these tragedies. It is really complicated. But let us start with the Gas sector in Balhaf Site. A few weeks ago, the majority of Yemeni workers were demanding better salaries and better rotation since it is their right to do so. Their salaries and rotation were very poor compared to other companies in Balhaf site.

What do you think those workers would receive? It is really a great tragedy; soldiers were commanded to enter to the camp of the company and get all the workers out. After a few weeks of this problem, batches of workers were coming from other countries. But Yemeni workers were still dropped outside dying of hunger and unemployment. They ask themselves this question repeatedly; are we in our real home? Or we have gone some where else. Their situation is so painful that no one can describe it. Those are the workers who got once a chance to work, but hundreds of others are waiting to hear even a sound of employment. They spend at the gate waiting for a job a year and years and finally when they get it, something appears and destroys everything. One cannot really know their situation, unless he goes and speaks to them personally. "I do not feel that I am in Yemen," Amer Moh'd, a worker in a company, said. Another worker, whose

name was Saleh Ali, was narrating his tragic story to me. He said, "I came from Ibb governorate looking for a job; I was really shocked to see hundreds of workers outside the main gate of the companies, but I did not lose my hope; I waited outside the gate for eight months; during these months I was contacting my relatives in some companies and they promised to find me a job from time to time; my situation was so awful. Sometimes, I did not get even some food or water to satisfy my thirst or hunger. Those eight months passed as my whole age.

Fortunately, I got a job in one of the companies which I do not like to mention its name. I started my work there, but as a Yemeni, nobody respected me.

My bosses always were giving me a tough work and in spite of that, my salary was too low comparing to other foreign workers. I remembered my situation outside and my situation in work, and I felt that dying of thirst

and hunger is better than humiliation. Actually, I did not quit immediately, but continued working for four months.

I thought I could ask my boss to improve my salary even as half as other foreign workers receive. You might not believe me if I tell you what happened to me, but this is the truth.

The moment I told my boss about this, he did not refuse, but asked me to follow him to the security office. I followed him there not knowing what would happen. My boss told the security officer to give me my expenses and drop me out. And this is the result as you see. I am dropped out not having even enough traveling expenses that will enable me to arrive home safely. To whom I should tell my grief, he asked sorrowfully. This was the story of Saleh. Although, it is not the worst, it still raises so many questions.

The painful question that those workers ask repeatedly; Is this the new Yemen and the better future?

Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Alkholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com



Should importing replace local products?

It is interesting to go shopping, even if it is only window shopping. Just to see the wide range of products available. However, today it is noticed that local products are being fast replaced by imported ones. This phenomenon is observed, not in case of one or two products, but in the case of most products ranging from food grains, processed food items, honey, dry fruits, furniture, garments, shoes; almost everything. Even local candy has been replaced by imported sweets and chocolates!

Though on hand we have to admit that such a change is inevitable given that modern industries can produce these items much faster, make them available at better prices and package them to last longer as well as look better, one cannot deny that small scale, local, rural and traditional industries have their own advantages.

Specialization in production of consumer commodities, labor intensiveness, contribution to bring about a balanced development and efficient utilization of skills and resources available locally are some of them.

Yemen's small scale industries include production of cotton textiles, leather goods, food processing, handicrafts, small aluminum products and cement. Yemeni handicrafts like silver jewelry, cane work, embroidery, Jambia or blade making are quite exquisite. Also, Yemeni Henna is famous for its quality. In addition, Yemen has some local industries like coal and fishery.

A majority of consumers, today, prefer the imported products because of their attractive packaging, because they are better stored and also because they last longer. Nonetheless, products made by small scale, local, rural and traditional indigenous industries have their own consumers. However, their number has gone down significantly as these products are fast disappearing from the markets.

Examples all around show that such indigenous industries have great potential to strengthen the economy of a country, especially a developing economy like ours.

This raises some questions. If these industries are important, then why are they collapsing? Are the consumers responsible for this, because they prefer the imported products? Or are the investors to be blamed because they think that it is not worth to invest in these dying industries? Or should we blame the policies?

Actually, these indigenous industries have some inherent problems. To name a few, their production is limited and cannot cater to the market demands, local food products do not last long and are not stored well, marketing is not good, in case of crafts, furniture etc. the designs are old, artisans are in dire need for skills training and their production is dependent on availability of raw materials. Also the prices of products of these industries are unstable and are higher than those of the imported commercial products.

So is there a way ahead? Rural or small scale, local and even traditional industries need supply chain management inputs. The skills need to be upgraded. Innovative technology needs to be introduced. Markets of entrepreneurs and artisans need to be expanded. And most of all, their products need to be modernized to better suit the markets of today and the fast changing life-styles of people.

Though all these seem like obstacles in the way of investing, investors can turn these into opportunities. Because the ideas for products already exist, skilled and experienced labor is there, a market is ready and only what is required is to improve these industries.

Take the example of Yemeni henna. Henna is made from dry leaves of the henna plants. In Yemen, these plants are grown only in specific areas and Yemeni henna is sold only in specific markets. Henna is sold at different prices and its quality varies. On the other hand, henna imported from India and other countries is available everywhere, even in small shops.

Recently, however, one investor has taken this business seriously. Using modern machines to produce high quality henna, he has made this product available everywhere at fixed prices and in smart packages. He plans to gradually expand to all local markets and then to international markets as well. At present it is being exported to Gulf countries.

Frankly speaking, this is not an advertisement or a promotion, but just an example. Henna is only one product and there are many others which have great potential. The government can always reserve certain products for manufacturing by such indigenous industries and if investors look at these products through the mind's eye, together there will be many options available. And consumers will surely follow.

What do you think of your life in Palestine?

By: Saed Karzoun
http://blog.amin.org/saedkarzoun/

On my typical day-to-day life, I hang out with a group of young boys and girls like myself; and I realized their growing temptation for emigration outside Palestine to "anywhere" else in the world. The reason is just their urge of leaving the "Restricted zone". Right then, I felt the need to refresh their memories and ask them; "What do you think of your life in Palestine?"

This was their feedback:

M.A: I wouldn't call it life. We breathe oxygen, we eat and drink. These are just the necessities everyone automatically has. When I speak for myself, I still haven't found life.

F.T: despite the circumstances here, I can't imagine living elsewhere. I love this country.

W.T: We are still leading a better life than others, yet this isn't the life we ever wished for.

H.M: I cross checkpoints and see Israeli soldiers every day, and I never felt comfortable with this. My life is always wasted; my thoughts and private life are always influenced by this. People around me have become lifeless and unproductive. I wish I can travel to learn from others and expand my horizons to invest it in my country.

W.W: our strong character and determination for life are the main reason why we hold on to our lives. Despite where we are, there are times when obstacles arise and we must have the drive for determination and survival.

W.W: I'd like to add that everything in this universe carries two sides; it's

our ability to choose the right one which determines who we are.

K.J: The young Palestinian life is simple restricted.

S.Q: I belong to this place to its deep core. Nowhere in the world can be how we picture it, but we make the best of what we have at hand.

S.D: I'd like to say to everyone complaining about their lives, "if you look back at every legendary success from those of leaders, scientists to writers, intellectuals, inventors, painters and to those of musicians and religious men, you will realize they were raised into this life in hardship."

So I wonder why do we have these different perspectives! Palestinian youth dream of a new planned world right after graduating high school. They picture a remarkable home, new friends and an imaginary world until these dreams carry them to a magical free world and space.

Then for one reason or the other, those dreams dissolve and failed finding themselves in one of the local Palestinian universities with a major they never planned to study. Probably it's the fact that our schools haven't guided us to make our choices in life; hence, we dream of opportunities possible elsewhere. Four, five years of college go by, feeling "frustrated" .. And right after graduating we automatically barge into the career world... barely getting up early to work, off to work we go and back to "home sweet home". Some may think immigrating to Europe or the USA is the solution to this lifeless routine. To exit from the boring family environment and off to private life control, the search for money and Aladdin's treasure and fame. But once they achieved their

dream of traveling, they discover it's just a dream.

Traveling to different places can have a great influence on us for an extraordinary life experience. I do encourage traveling for intellectual and experiential gaining, but why don't we invest all this for the well being of our country?

I asked this question at the beginning of my article to see how I can expand this positive energy to our life, and transit from this "laziness" to an energetic and productive stage where opportunities are available. I see Palestine as an ideal place to gain experience, make money, fame, love and friendship. All this and more are what a young man looks for. How?

Try this: draw a smile on your face, learn to pass it on to your friends, co workers, and feel the positive energy flow in your body. Entertain yourself with time, even if you have to fake your happiness; embrace obstacles and solve them one by one, then you'll feel the difference and achievement.

Then go watch a play, a musical performance, or a movie, walk, listen to music, and most importantly, volunteer and become positive. Start with minimal energy and embrace it to grow and benefit yourself.

Palestine is known for its small size, no one is a stranger to the other, it's easy to move within and success of invention is possible. Don't wait for an opportunity in bed. Go volunteer, learn, initiate, take pictures, write or even gather your social group and achieve together. Right then will you cherish your value and what you can do. Right then, you will look at life in a different perspective, with love and thirst for more and work longer and you will

realize the society's support. As for the big nations, these are worlds of big numbers and complex equations.

The thought of belonging is not only limited by staying or leaving as much as it demands work and creation of ideas and opportunities. I believe there are big opportunities out there ... all we need to do is lie down, think and take action. Be initiative.

Before I end this, my friend had one concern last year, and that was leaving. He then became occupied with work and ideas and took them to the next level - Action. He worked hard and one month later his idea spread throughout Palestine. He received emails from everywhere and he continued expanding to further opportunities and ideas. His admirers grew around him and right then, he realized the importance of contributing to his country and the difference he is already making. If he were living elsewhere, the society may not have appreciated him as much. They are different people living in a different world. His energy and work may not have handled the million ideas and millions of people. He approached me saying, "My friend, I love this country and can never leave it unless it was for further educating myself; and I will return with a better me and more contributions."

"Remember, culture is the tool to reflect our true side in the real world. We are humans, the spirit is within us, to either be with dignity or not to be, and children fly beyond the occupying wall, and the accordions are still dancing and dancing on the street of the small papers."

Translated by: Amani Omari

Arabia felix and the triple trinity

By: Hameed Hussein Al-Awdi
auditechno@yahoo.com

When contemplating over – or even just watching – what has recently been happening in Yemen, one can foresee that the country is approaching an inevitable collapse of all the different aspects of its life. Everything is rapidly deteriorating, and nothing on the horizon can lead any observer to expect a real change that would bring about a rescue for this nation. Difficulties, problems and crises are on the rise and every now and then, new ones are added to what has gone before. However, what is more frightening is that despite the country undergoing bad times and the people living in a worse situation, the worst state of affairs is now increasing, whether we are ready to accept this or not.

The matter is not merely one of pessimism, rather than the hard fact about the fate of this country and its helpless people. When reading the headlines one might realise that we have a three-sided figure of horror threatening the whole life of Yemen. However, what is more frightening is the fact that each of these three com-

ponents of this trinity represents yet another trinity. In other words, under each side of our trinity lies another three-sided figure of horror – all of which contribute to the sufferings of our people in one way or another.

In order to clarify this, I will explain the core of my point. We have three main concerns represented by security, economy and politics, and in turn they respectively result in three outcomes which are insecurity, economic difficulties and corrupt policies. These threats are the dangers hovering over us. Some of their initial actions have already hit the country, while the others are inevitably on their way. Of course, these concerns can not be threats by themselves merely as terms or names, but by means of the people who stand behind each one of them, i.e. those who are in charge of shouldering the responsibilities assigned to them.

Perhaps the closest and most important one of the above three to ordinary people is the one related to the economy which, of course, is affected negatively or positively by the other two. On the other hand, the one related to politics represents the main concern for politicians, particularly to those who oppose the regime. Finally, for the regime itself, security

has always been the top concern, though it always seems to fail to achieve it. The people involved with these concerns all have mutual responsibilities, but these vary and depend on the priority of each one and on the way each party attends to them.

As far as non-Yemenis are concerned, whether countries, organizations or individuals, they can not be grouped as having the same concern. Some of them only watch from outside and from time to time express their concern over what is going on in Yemen; some have specific concerns, mainly security fears and don't care about any thing other than these; while others help, express and share the concerns, but in a way that is only good for them first and foremost.

When we look deeper at the three sides of the trinity, we will understand how each of these sides has yet another triangle inside. Security will be the first of the three to be explained. The base of security triangle – the insecurity actually – is the lack of law enforcement, another side is the lack of will to do anything, and the final side connecting these two is the conflict that emerges as a direct result. In fact the third side stands as yet another triangle that is very dan-

gerous; its three sides are the Houthis, Al-Qaeda and the so called Southern Movement. The interesting thing about these three is that each one represents a triangle with the same three aspects; the lack of law enforcement, the lack of will and foreign intervention.

The lack of law enforcement has helped the Houthis to gain control of a few areas in the Sa'ada governorate during the last two decades, and the lack of will to do anything in this respect has led this conflict to engulf the whole governorate and to spread further into neighbouring ones. These two aspects, along with foreign intervention, have made it very difficult, virtually impossible, to reach an agreement that would settle the conflict. The same can be said about the other two sides of the security triangle, Al-Qaida and the Southern Movement, because all of them emerged only as a direct result of a lack of law enforcement, escalated because of a lack of will, and reached their climax along with foreign intervention.

The second side of the trinity is economy, i.e. economic crises represented by difficulties, hardship, problems, obstacles....etc. This side can be looked at as a separate triangle

whose sides are due to a lack of resources or may be scarcity, a lack of infrastructure that impedes real development, and the corruption prevailing in each and every single part of state institutions. All this makes it difficult for any person to help unless urgent surgery is undergone by talented and experienced 'surgeons' who can dismantle the components of this triangle before moving forwards.

The lack of resources might be arguable since we believe that our country has a lot of potential but given the current situation and surroundings, these resources seem to be far away and not utilized for development purposes. We all know, and believe that infrastructure is the corner stone for any sustainable development and a lack of it leads to entirely opposite results and impact.

The last, but not least, of the three sides of the trinity is that of politics. This side can also be seen as another triangle added to the first two – security and economy. The three sides of this triangle are the regime, the opposition parties and an influential figure whatsoever their affiliation may be. All the sides of this triangle pretend to be well aware of what is going on, but the fact is that they only see what they want. All of them pretend to be

the honest guardians of the country and its people, but the fact is that they totally lack this characteristic and thus can never be honest. Finally, all of them allegedly pretend to be right and the only true representatives of the nation but the fact is that they only represent themselves and their fellows, since their own interests must always come first.

This side of the main trinity, with its sub-triangle can be considered as the most serious, and hence must be held accountable and responsible for everything that is going on in Yemen. The third side of this triangle – politics – represented by its parties should never be forgiven, since they have all been contributing to the escalation of the various conflicts and crises, and they are the only ones who can help settle our fears of collapse since they are the ones who lie behind its causes. Of course it is not by their names as representatives only, but they responsible and if they are not up to this task, they should withdraw, or be withdrawn, before it is too late both for them and the whole nation. In other words, time is running out, and the future does not look favourable.

So, let us pray to Allah Al Mighty to help us and save our homeland from this horrible trinity.

**CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISEMENTS
PAGE**

A tale of two players

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The two young men kicked a football between each other as they jogged along a busy street. They dodged pedestrians, determined not to be hit by cars, whose drivers were not amused that they had to share the street with two soccer players.

Yaser Al-Masmari and Taher Al-Khader are two 20 years- old from Sana'a. They don't chew qat and football to them is more than just entertainment.

"We did not have much studying today so we decided to go play football at the Saba'een Park. I called Taher and he said ok. So we are warming up along the street as we go," said an excited Yaser as he bounced the ball on his knee.

They usually practice in Al-Qadisa Club but there is some construction work going on there and they had to look for alternatives.

The two are a part of a local team of Al-Tawfeeq Street where they live. They



jogged all the way from there to the busy street in Hadda, covering two miles all in warm-up. Every weekend, on Thursdays and Fridays, the two religiously participate in football matches.

"On Thursday, we have an internal match amongst each other and on Friday we meet other teams from Al-Asbahi or Bait Baws," explained Taher.

The matches take place at Al-Wahda Club. It is one of few clubs open to public. However, according to the general administration of projects at the Ministry of

Youth and Sports, there are several sports projects under construction. Stadiums in Sana'a, Aden, Ibb, Dhamar and Lahj are almost ready. However, in Taiz, Seyoun, Hodeida and Ataq, stadiums are still in the early stages of construction. Several indoor sports halls and youth centers are being built in throughout the country.

"Football is my passion," said Yaser, with glittering eyes. "I am only disappointed that we don't get to train or play as much as we wish to."

The concept of sports is limited in Yemeni culture to a selective few, who have to fight for their right to play, even if it means risking being hit by a car.

Almost every large street in Sana'a has its wannabe football players. They form teams in which the older and more experienced train the younger. Sometimes a local businessman or company sponsors them by buying them T-shirts and, if they are really lucky, sports shoes. Although the youth take their teams very seriously, almost no one else does.

To the children of those neighborhoods, football team players are champions. Young kids look up to these healthy energetic players and imitate them. There is furious competition on who can get into the team and who will be professionally adopted by best local player. But soon enough, as they grow, they are distracted by other events and social habits, or catch on the frustration of potential players and drop the whole concept before they are even 18.

Many of the boys gradually drop out of the team as they grow, especially as they indulge in the habit of qat chewing. This, explained Yaser, is one of the reasons why the teams usually never develop into strong entities. Other reasons include lack of training and attention from decision makers.

However, recently the state institutions have decided to carry out a number of sport activities to reflect on the link between idle time and destructive activities.

Dr. Suhaib Al-Adeemi, head of the Yemeni General Union for Volleyball, Sana'a

Stationery
Al Zahra
All Your Needs Under One Roof

كل ما تحتاجونه تحت سقف واحد...

Tel : +967 - 1 - 240297
Fax : +967 - 1 - 268041
Mobile : +967 - 77773320
P.O Box : 14
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Hadda Street - Infront of Yemenia Airline
E-mail : abzahra@yahoo.com

شركة أمان للتأمين
AMAN INSURANCE CO.

Marine Insurance
Automobile Insurance
Life Insurance
Engineering Insurance
Liability Insurance
Medical Insurance
Power Insurance
Travel Insurance
Property Insurance
Others

Head Office: Zubairi St. Yemen Kuwait Bank Building
Tel : +967 1 4807121234, Fax : +967 1 217251 339452
Branches: Sana'a: Taiz Street Tel : +967 1 624971, Fax : +967 1 625734
Hodeidah: Tel : +967 3 201110, Fax : +967 3 201107, Taiz: Tel : +967 4 251454, Fax : +967 4 250832
Aden: Tel : +967 2 244295, Fax : +967 2 240297, Mukalla: Tel : +967 5 360987, Fax : +967 5 330628

Free Call:
800 50 50

Branch, said that some young Yemenis resort to terrorism as a result of leisure time they have, especially during the summer.

Sport activities are a good alternative for youths to occupy their free time, he said.

"We want youths to read the title and think of the difference between sport and terrorism and how they can occupy their time with better things," he said.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports also organized several activities for youths during the summer of 2009 in an effort to engage the young in different activities that might prevent them from terrorist and extremist groups that have emerged in the country.

Although neither Yaser nor Taher chew, their friends -some of whom are on the team- do.

"We were supposed to be three people training today. I am upset that our third friend did not come, I called him but he was already chewing qat," said Yaser who uses every free minute he has to play football while trying not to compromise his

higher education in English Language.

Our two players chose not to chew qat because their parents did not. Naturally, having role models in the family encourages the children to take better decisions in their lives.

Yaser, who plays defense and attack in his team, says he wishes there was a more sport-friendly environment around him. Perhaps then, he would be head-hunted for his talent and become a world champion.

"I feel trapped in here and my talent trapped in me," said as he looked down at the ball under his right foot.

Taher did not say much, he just nodded and looked away. He plays center field and is a second-year engineering student at university. He muttered something about the lack of opportunities and growing too old to be part of the national team.

According to a 2009 study conducted by Yemeni social researcher Dr. Ahmad Al-Mutarreb, 87 percent of Yemeni men and 13 percent of women chew qat. Up to 38 percent chew qat daily and 53 percent

Special Offer

Kuala Lumpur **Jakarta**

Starting from
\$485
including Tax
up to end of March

Yemenia **اليمنية**
Genuine Arabian Hospitality
www.yemenia.com

BIOKUBE **HORIZON** **HORIZON AGENCIES & COMMERCIAL SERVICES (HACS)**

Biological purification of wastewater

Biological Cleaning of Wastewater for Oilfield camps, Office buildings & Residential apartments (3 - 1000 persons)

- Small systems
- Big systems
- Mobile systems

AGENT FOR:

FMC Technologies (Seals, Motors, LACT Metering Systems)
Solar Turbines (A Corrosion Company)
FMC Technologies (Fluid Control / Pump / Injection / Manifolds)
MURPHY (FW Murphy)
ECP (Euro Corrosion Project Management & Consulting Company)
Enraf (Complete Tank Gauging Inventory Systems)
DRESSER Consolidated (Safety valves & Pressure Relief valves)
KOC (Flow Products, Pressure Products, Level Products, Temperature Products)
BIOKUBE (Biological purification of wastewater)
FMC Technologies (WECCO / Chikara / Dynatec products)
Honeywell (Field Process Solutions)
MALBRANQUE (Process valves & Subsea Equipment)
Turbine Overhauling (KITTY)
SEKO (Pumps & Dosing Systems)

CALIBRATION & Maintenance Workshop For Flow meters
SGS Certified Calibration System