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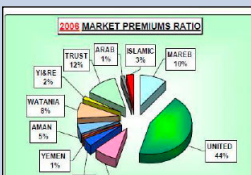
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Pirates seize Yemeni commercial vessel off the coast of Aden

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, May 5—Somali pirates hijacked a Yemeni commercial ship and kidnapped its 9 Yemeni crew members off the port of Aden according to the Interior Ministry website and the Yemeni Coast Guards in Aden.

The Interior Ministry said that the ship, loaded with goods, was hijacked on its way from Mukalla seaport to Aden. The ship is called Al-As'a and is currently located off the northern coast of Somalia.

The Gulf of Aden and Northern coast of Somalia are extremely important shipping lanes, but pirates have turned them into the most dangerous shipping channels in the world. Every year about 25,000 ships use the channel south of Yemen between the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.

"In the first quarter of 2010, within the Gulf of Aden and the adjacent Red and Arabian seas, 17 incidents were reported including four vessels hijacked. In the first quarter of 2009 there were 41 incidents including five vessels, according to International Maritime Bureau world piracy report in 2010.

"This marked reduction can be attributed to the continued presence and success of navies in the Gulf of Aden along with the robust piracy measures adopted



Two of the few modern boats the Yemeni Coast Guards are using in their work to combat piracy. The YCG complain of not having adequate resources or facilities and demand more support to deal with this problem.

by the merchant navy fleet, "the report noted.

Despite the increase presence of international warships and the improvement of the Yemeni Coast Guards, Somali pirates continue to attack vessels in the Gulf of Aden and southern Red Sea in Bab Al-Mandab.

Pirates fire automatic wagons and rocket propelled grenades in their attempts to board and hijack vessels. Once the attack is successful and the vessel is hijacked, they sail the vessel towards the Somali coast and then demand a ransom for the release of the vessel and crew.

"Pirates have increased their capability to attack and hijack ships at distances over 1000 nautical miles from Mogadishu. Most of the attacks involve the use of weapons which is a cause of great concern to the merchant navy fleet. This

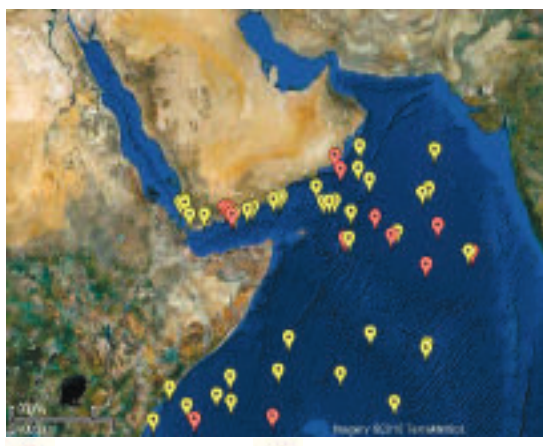
poses a serious threat not only in potential injury and death of seafarers but to the ship, cargo and the environment," said the report.

The Yemeni Coast Guards still need more help to increase their capacities to combat the increased piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

To contribute to the international efforts in combating Somali pirates and ensuring the security of maritime navigation in the area, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) agreed with the Yemeni government to fund YCG development projects including providing technical assistance and training personnel. This project aims to improve the capabilities of the YCG to conduct operational patrols along the coast of Yemen against piracy and terrorism. The estimated cost of the project, according to JICA, is 13 US million dollars.

In October of last year, the YCG detained 13 Somalis at Bab Al-Mandab on

a boat carrying rocket-propelled grenades, communications equipment and ladders. Earlier this week, the Yemeni Specialized Penal Court postponed the trial of the 13 Somalis to the tenth of May. This was to allow the Somali consulate in Aden to provide them with a lawyer. The Somalis are accused of hijacking a wooden Yemeni vessel and kidnapping the owner of the vessel and its crew members between July and December 2009. They were attempting to use the ship to help in hijacking ships coming to, and from, Yemen.



A map by the International Maritime Bureau illustrating the intensity of attempted and actual pirate attacks against ships in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean.

Skype banned in Yemen to protect state monopoly over international calls

By: Reem Jarhum
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, May 5—Taha Khalil, a Yemeni student in Malaysia, was known among his friends to call his family and friends in Yemen a lot and that it was very expensive. When he discovered Skype in 2009, he thought he was saved, only to be disappointed again as Skype was banned in Yemen, earlier this year.

"Now I am really suffering. It is difficult and expensive to communicate with people in Yemen although it is still very easy to communicate with people in other countries. I hope they unblock Skype soon in Yemen," said Khalil.

Internet penetration in Yemen is less than 1.5 percent, according to August 2009 statistics from The Open Net Initiative. This initiative monitors internet profiles of countries, state institutions that exercise strict control over the internet and web communication technologies.

Starting this year, Skype, the software that enables worldwide conversations

for free online, as well as low-cost calls to landlines and mobiles, was banned in Yemen by TeleYemen, which is the country's sole communication gate provider.

"Yes, we banned Skype but only because we received instructions from TeleYemen after it started to make a loss financially because people used Skype to make unauthorized international calls," said a source from YemenNet, who requested to remain anonymous.

YemenNet is the internet service brand introduced in September 1996 by TeleYemen.

An official source at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology stated that the unauthorized use of international calls is an illegal practice because it has a negative effect on the quality of telecommunication services and the international reputation of TeleYemen who are authorized to provide such a service.

Online censorship in Yemen
Yemen was rated by the Arab Advisors

Group's 2008 annual report, as one of the lowest adopters of telecommunication services in the Arab world. The Open Net initiative, also blocked in Yemen, stated that Yemen's two ISPs—PTC and TeleYemen—block access temporarily to news websites and permanently to contents dependent on whichever categories they fall in. Thus, censored categories tend to be the ones with gambling content, adult content and sex education, as well as material which may seek to convert Muslims to other religions.

The terms and conditions set out by TeleYemen (a.k.a. Y.Net) state: "Access to applications which transmit or receive live video or audio, or make similar demands on the capacity of the network, constitutes unreasonable usage which may affect the performance of the network, and is therefore not permitted."

A concerned Sana'a resident working in development, who requested to remain anonymous, complained that the blocking of Skype is yet another practice of government control over media.

"The Republic of Yemen has just joined



the club of countries—Russia, Myanmar and Cuba. They are all proud members that block its residents from web access to skype.com. Some telecom operators view Skype, which routes calls over the Internet to reduce fees to consumers, as a threat to their core telephone call business," he said.

Other current users of Skype in Yemen said that they manage to use the software for Skype to Skype communication, although previously it was also possible to call mobile and landlines before the ban this year.

However, even Skype voice chat is not possible for many in Yemen if they don't have specific software such as Hot Spot Shield, which itself is now blocked.

Skype users number over 500 million and the international calls made from Skype are over three billion minutes, according to a 2009 Skype report.

Study: Chewing qat could cause death

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, May 5—A recent British study revealed that chewing qat, these mild, narcotic leaves, can cause severe liver damage and even death.

The study was made by Dr. Michael H. Chapman, of University College London Medical School, and his colleagues last April and published The New England Journal of Medicine.

The study was based on six patients in Britain who are qat addicts and had either died of liver failure or needed a liver transplant. The research found that the common denominator, and therefore the suspected cause, was the chewing of qat leaves.

The patients were seen over a period of five years and all had been cautioned about qat's risks. One of the patients died and five needed liver transplants,

the researchers said. Chapman's group found no other potential causes for this liver damage.

Five of the patients had a history of previous unexplained hepatitis whilst living in the United Kingdom. All chewed qat and had been counselled against its use. However, all had resumed chewing before their second presentation. All six cases were thoroughly reviewed to rule out any other causes of liver injury.

All had similar histopathological findings, characterized by multilobular necrosis and two of them had a background of chronic liver disease. The researchers said five of the six patients underwent orthotopic liver transplantation, accounting for 10% of the patients in the unit, who received transplants because of fulminant or subfulminant hepatic failure during this 5-year period.

According to the study, qat contains cathinone, an amphetamine-like stimulant that causes euphoria, excitement and loss of appetite. Chapman's group found no other potential causes for liver damage. Qat has also been linked to mental problems and heart disease, the researchers added.

Dr. Eugene Schiff, Director of the Center for Liver Disease at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in Florida, said the danger posed by qat "is well established in medical literature."

"We see this in a variety of herbal substances," he added.

While it's not exactly known how qat damages the liver, Chapman's team speculates that it could trigger low-level hepatitis and repeated use leads to

chronic liver disease.

Schiff said that when doctors see liver problems associated with a drug as widely used as qat, "it usually means that that particular person is metabolizing it differently, because otherwise you would see it in thousands of people."

Chapman's team thinks that doctors should consider qat as a cause of unexplained liver disease among patients from ethnic communities, where qat chewing is common.

Schiff agreed that doctors should suspect qat as a cause of unexplained liver disease in these appropriate patients but, he added, even if you know the cause, patients with this degree of liver failure will still need a transplant.

"People who are doing this have no idea that it is toxic to the liver," Schiff said, adding that users therefore need to be better informed about the risks.

A number of factors point to qat ingestion as the cause of liver injury in these patients. No other cause for their disease was found and re-exposure to qat resulted in further liver damage. A high concentration of cathinone was identified in a sample of damaged liver tissue from one patient. Qat-related hepatotoxicity has been demonstrated in animals and the histopathologic changes in the liver mirror those induced in humans by ingestion of the drug ecstasy, another amphetamine-like compound. Evidence of chronic liver disease in two patients suggests that long-term use of qat may be associated with repeated episodes of subclinical hepatitis, evolving to chronic liver disease over time.

The mechanism of qat-related hepatotoxicity is as yet unknown. There were

no compelling features of an immunologic or autoimmune process, although both should be considered. A high concentration of cathinone was detected in the liver of a patient 3 weeks after the patient's last use of qat, suggesting that drug accumulation may be an important factor.

It is unlikely that the liver injury is related to contaminants such as herbicides, pesticides, heavy metals, or toxicogenic fungi. Yemeni physicians have previously stressed that the large quantities of chemicals, qat producers use for quick production, are the main reasons of the toxicity that causes liver diseases.

A high degree of suspicion is warranted when patients from ethnic communities, where qat use is prevalent, present with otherwise unexplained liver problems. They should be counselled against its use and supported in this endeavour.

The chewing of qat leaves (Catha edulis) is a widespread recreational custom in East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. The plant contains the alkaloids cathine and cathinone, which have amphetamine-like properties and produce a variety of pleasurable effects.

Although qat is banned in the United States, large quantities are nonetheless exported to North America from the United Kingdom, where it is freely available and used widely by immigrant populations.

Nowadays, qat cultivation is growing in Yemen and this expansion is accompanied by importing large quantities of banned chemicals to be used as fertilizers for quick production.

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Poll finds majority of Yemenis don't know understand parliament

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, May 4— More than 92 percent of Yemenis do not know how laws are proposed in parliament and which authority has the right to present these laws, according to the latest poll by the Yemen poll centre.

About 87 percent of men and 98 percent of women don't know how laws are proposed in Parliament or which authority has the right to propose them. Only 20 percent of these men and 11.2 percent of the women said that a law requires a majority vote of the members present in the parliamentary session to be approved.

This poll was conducted in March over adult 1000 persons in 12 Yemeni governorates. These are Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Ibb, Hodeidah, Dhamar, Hajjah, Hadramout, Mareb, Lahj, Abyan, and Amran. Women constituted almost half of the poll respondents but about half of them were illiterate. The survey aimed to measure public knowledge about the mechanism of parliamentary work as well as women's rights and freedom of expression.

Asked what the functions of parliament are, 26.2 percent of respondents believed that providing services and implementing projects was the main

function of Parliament. Twenty one percent of respondents said that they did not know what the function of the Parliament is.

Only 27.9 percent of males and 13 percent of females said that the function of the Parliament is to vote for laws and legislation.

19.8 percent of the respondents were satisfied with the performance of the MP in their parliamentary constituency, while 59.7 percent of the respondents thought that their MP had not done anything during his/her current term in Parliament.

Only 15.1 of the respondents stated that their MP had fulfilled the promises he/she had made during their electoral campaign. Providing services and projects for the region was a prominent promise made by MPs during electoral campaigns, according to 51.6 percent of respondents and providing services and projects is seen to be the main function of MPs, according to 32.4 percent of the respondents.

The majority of the people polled considered Parliament to be important for Yemen. The figures show 64.3 percent of the respondents said parliament is important, while 15.8 percent believed that it to be unimportant.

Parliament was considered important

in order to discuss citizens' issues and to provide services and projects, according to 42.3 percent and 16.6 percent of respondents, respectively. About 12 percent of respondents considered the Parliament to be important for enacting legislation.

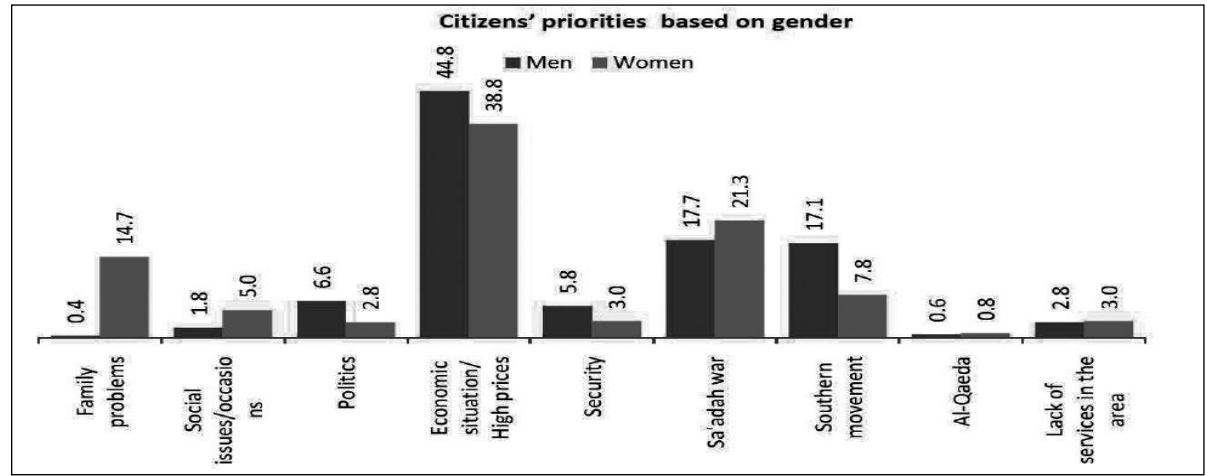
More than half of men and 29.3 percent of women do not have any confidence in Parliament today.

Less than a quarter of respondents, mostly women, expressed their confidence in the current Parliament. Also, 28.3 percent of the respondents agreed with this view.

The proportion of those who feel satisfied with the performance of the Parliament does not exceed 13.5 percent among the males and 19 percent among the female respondents.

Only about one fifth of the poll respondents were satisfied with the performance of their MP and 19 percent were little satisfied and about half were not satisfied with the performance of their MPs at all.

56.6 percent of the male respondents and 37.1 percent of the female respondents do not feel satisfied with the performance of the Parliament compared to 22.5 percent of the male respondents and 27.1 percent of the female respondents who feel somewhat satisfied.



The highest confidence rates in the performance of the Parliament were noted in Hajja, Dhamar and Sana'a, and the lowest were noted in Abyan and Mareb governorates.

When talking about politics, the respondents said that both the Sa'ada war and the events in the south were the two most important issues in Yemen, followed by poverty and high prices.

Relationship between MPs and Constituents

Only 59.1 percent of poll respondents knew the name of their MP. Almost 36 percent said they did not know the name and 5 percent provided wrong names. About 70 percent stated that they are unable to contact their MP while only 21.4 said they could.

The majority of the poll respondents

do not feel satisfied with the performance of their MPs and that is because they did not accomplish anything during the current tenure of the Parliament.

Civil and Human Rights Issues

About 68 percent of men and half of women said that they would participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections. Among the men, 10.6 percent said they would not participate and 17.5 percent of women said the same.

22.5 of the respondents, who were mostly women, said they were undecided about participating in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Nearly half of the respondents, again mostly females, noted that they supported enhancing women's political rights, whereas 22.5 percent would support enhancing and supporting some

political rights for women but possibly not all of them.

Many Yemenis, more men than women, think that women should not take an active role in politics due to their religious or traditional viewpoints. However, a larger percentage of female respondents (44 percent) believed that women are not capable and as such, should not be part of any political life.

With the 20 percent of men who don't support enhancing women political rights, they believe that a woman's household responsibilities come first.

About 32 percent of poll respondents expressed total confidence in the media, while 20.7 percent have none. 42.7 percent said that the media express and adopt citizens' issues, as compared to 18.3 percent who said that the media do not express and adopt citizens' issues at all.

Livestock losses hit IDP livelihoods

HARADH, May 3 (IRIN) — Thousands of families who lost their livestock in the last round of clashes between the Yemeni army and Houthi-led rebels in the northern governorates of Saada and Amran are at risk of becoming food insecure, according to local officials and aid workers.

Hundreds of families in Amran's Harf Sufyan district fled the conflict between August 2009 and February 2010 leaving their animals behind, according to Yahya Abdullah, a local councilor.

"Some of the families who returned home in mid-March saw only skeletons of their animals inside stables," he said. "Others didn't find any remnants of their animals, which indicates they had been stolen. Now, those people face difficulty feeding their children."

Similarly, many displaced families in the Mazraq camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Haradh district, in the northwestern Governorate of Hajjah, were forced to leave their animals behind or sell them at a very low price.

"We sold our cow and 16 of our 30 goats on our way to the camp at a very low price of YR140,000 [US\$650]. We gave the other 14 goats to a broker to sell," Mohammed Munif al-Saadi, 75, a resident of Mazraq Camp II, told IRIN. They fled their home in Bani Saad village in al-Dhahir district in northern Saada in mid-August 2009 and are now running out of the money they got from selling their livestock.

"We spent the money on buying milk powder for our grandchildren and covering other needs. The broker whom we gave the goats to sell has disappeared. When I went to al-Talh Market to look for him, people told me he was killed in an airstrike on the market in October 2009," al-Saadi said.

Impact of livestock losses

A flash appeal by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in December 2009, said that reduced productivity and livestock losses would have a devastating impact on the availability of food and on current and future livelihoods.



Livestock at Mazraq Camp for Internally Displaced Persons in Hajja Governorate. According to UNHCR, 30 percent of IDPs came to Mazraq camps in northern Yemen with their animals.

It said that weakened and sick animals required immediate veterinary assistance in order to prevent the further loss of productive assets, which are indispensable to vulnerable groups in both the immediate and long term.

Agriculture, particularly livestock, is the primary source of income for many families in Yemen's conflict-affected areas, where 80-90 percent of the population are rural inhabitants, according to the government's Central Statistical Organization.

Over 70 percent of Yemenis rely on crop and livestock production to earn a living and to meet their basic food needs, according to FAO.

According to a survey conducted by FAO in January 2010 in Amran Governorate, about 3,250 IDP families lost over 50 percent (some 35,300 heads) of their livestock. The survey found that the livestock had died, been sold or had been stolen and that remaining animals were in need of urgent assistance.

"FAO currently has some funding [\$350,000] and is effecting a screw-worm eradication programme and buying further veterinary inputs and fodder for distribution within the coming

few days," Paul Schlunke, Emergency Coordinator with FAO, told IRIN.

Fleeing with animals

According to estimates by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), 30 percent of displaced families in the Mazraq area arrived with their livestock.

The UN's 2010 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) warned that migrating livestock under poor sanitary conditions increased the risk of transboundary and zoonotic disease outbreaks.

Local NGO Triangle is assisting close to 15,000 animals owned by 1,500 IDP families in the Mazraq area with funds from UNHCR.

Protecting the livestock of IDPs not only secures their livelihoods, but maintains the food security status of households, particularly regarding the nutrition of pregnant and nursing women and young children who are in need of milk for their well-being and development, said Schlunke.

"This will help reduce their dependency on aid and encourage them to return to their farms when peace is assured," he said.

The ever-present landmine threat

SA'ADA, May 4 (IRIN) - The al-Sumeihi family fled their home in the Malaheed area of Saada Governorate, northern Yemen, in September 2009 to escape fighting between the army and Houthi-led rebels, and pitched a tent outside the al-Mazraq II camp for internally displaced persons in Haradh District, Hajjah Governorate.

On 25 March Adabah al-Sumeihi, 10, her younger sister Hanaa and their 10-year-old cousin Raja were grazing their goats a few hundred metres from the camp unaware of a lethal threat - landmines.

What happened next is unclear as Adabah has no memory of the morning and Hanaa only saw her sister "flying in the air". But the explosion was heard by their family.

Their father Ghazen al-Sumeihi ran towards the sound and found his two daughters badly injured on the ground. Raja was dead. "I felt horrible when I saw the girls," he said.

The two sisters are now receiving treatment at Thawra hospital in Sanaa. Hanaa has been blinded in one eye. Her sister lost her left eye and her thumbs.

Both girls have shrapnel wounds all over their faces and bodies, but it is "the invisible scars" that worry their parents most. "They don't sleep well; they don't eat well," said their mother Mohra al-Sumeihi. "And Hanaa has stopped talking."

The National Mine Action Committee (NMAC) has so far registered 20 landmine victims, but no accurate data exist. "There may be triple that number," said Mansour al-Azi, head of NMAC. "The Houthis and people with minor injuries don't register, and often people admitted to hospital outside the capital are not registered either."

Saleh al-Dhahyani, head of the Yemeni Association for Landmine Survivors, said there could be even more. "According to the newspapers, hundreds have been injured," he said.

Hefty hospital bills

Ghazen al-Sumeihi holds up the 155,000 Yemeni rial (US\$750) hospital bill - much more than the family can afford. "I have sold everything to pay for their hospital treatment," he said.



Mohra al-Sumeihi flanked by her daughters Hanaa and Adabah (lying on the bed), who were the victims of a landmine explosion outside an IDP camp in northern Yemen. Their father has sold everything he owns to pay for their hospital bill so far and more operations are scheduled.

But it is not over. Adabah has had an operation to encourage tissue growth and needs further operations, and Hanaa has a piece of shrapnel lodged in her eye.

"How can I pay for this?" asks their father. "I can't even afford the blood [transfusion]."

Many other victims of landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are faced with huge hospital bills and often have no way of paying for further treatment, according to officials.

NMAC head al-Azi said the bill for life-saving treatment at government hospitals prior to the Saada conflict (2004) was covered by the Social Fund for Development and the Yemeni Disability Fund for Care and Rehabilitation. During the war, military hospitals in some cases cared for landmine/ERW victims.

However, after the 12 February 2010 ceasefire this is no longer the case and affected families are faced with huge hospital bills.

"I have been in contact with the Social Fund to direct money to the victims for life saving treatment," said Omar Mujalli, deputy minister of public health and population.

With the health minister's approval \$200,000 is to be allocated for the treatment of an estimated 100 victims in the future. According to Mujalli, this money

could be available in 2-3 weeks.

Landmine Monitor report

Even before the intermittent fighting in Saada (2004-2009) there were problems with assisting landmine/ERW victims. The Landmine Monitor (LM) 2009 report said many survivors did not register for assistance because they lived in remote areas.

According to the report, care for persons with disabilities is primarily urban-based and largely inaccessible to those who need it. Psychosocial support for landmine/ERW victims was very limited. The report also said victim assistance was severely hampered by financial difficulties.

Yemen ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol in March 2009.

In a bid to prevent landmine/ERW accidents, NMAC and several UN agencies, along with international and local NGOs, launched in March a mine risk education campaign targeting 238,000 displaced people in three Yemeni governorates - Saada, Hajjah and Amran.

However, with the deadly devices often hidden or moved due to seasonal floods, accidents are likely to happen. Civilians, particularly children, are at the greatest risk, aid workers say.

Uncertainty hovers over upcoming parliamentary elections

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, May 5 - The media war between the ruling party, the General People's Congress, and the six opposition parties' coalition, the Joint Meeting Parties, has reached a boiling point as accusations are being exchanged across their respective media channels.

Most of the arguments are focused on the ruling party's inability or "unwillingness" to produce political reforms prior to the parliamentary elections due in April 2011. Political observers convey a sense of uncertainty as to whether the elections will actually occur, especially

since they have already been delayed for two years for reasons that have not been resolved until now.

"Since we [the JMP] signed the February 2009 agreement with the GPC, we haven't seen any progress. We should have started dialogue on two focal points; reforming the political system and reforming the electoral system-the two main reasons behind the postponement of the parliamentary elections of 2009. Since that time, we have been going around in circles demanding the GPC to set-up an implementation mechanism that includes all stakeholders, however, our actions have been to no avail," said

Yaseen Said Noman Secretary General of the Yemeni Socialist Party, one of the strongest parties in the opposition coalition.

He fears that the ruling party is stalling until a critical time comes when Yemen is forced to either have superficial elections, or postpone them again. Either option would be a democratic and political disaster.

The deal breaker between the two sides is the need for inclusive dialogue and for everyone to be on board, especially those who the government is not friendly with. Another critical point is the release of detainees of political prisoners such as

journalists and opposition figures.

The type of constitutional amendments the GPC is proposing have yet to be clearly displayed. However, the opposition media claims that the amendments are meant to serve the president through either elongating his term or through other facilitation amendments. For this reason, the JMP had been demanding to know what the amendments are before the parliamentary elections so as to allow the people to make up their minds independently.

On behalf of the ruling party, Mohammed Abdulmajid Al-Qubati, head of GPC's external affairs and international

relations, agreed that Yemen has reached a critical political situation and that there is not much time left. "It is too late to have a census on constitutional amendments but we can agree to carry out a vote on them at the same time as the parliamentary elections," he said.

"There is no way the elections will be postponed again. This would be a huge setback in Yemen's democratic progress, something we simply can't afford," added Al-Qubati. He also emphasized that releasing the detainees is directly tied to the president and it is a security issue that would be dealt with in due time.

"The JMP keeps adding new condi-

tions for dialogue as if they are the ones making excuses not to meet. There is so much at stake now and we hold the opposition responsible for any negative consequences that take place as a result of not having a national dialogue," he said.

The GPC assured donors at the London Conference in March of this year that it would take several measures to increase decentralization and give Governorates more authority, this could help decrease the instability in the country.

Moreover, the party has been carrying out dialogues with opposition groups abroad in order to reach some sort of agreement with them.

Their News

Charitable Society for Social Welfare holds periodic meeting

The Charitable Society for Social Welfare held its second periodic meeting for its branches last week at their Mukala Branch.

Dr. Abdulmajid Farhan secretary general of the association, Dr. Abdulwase' Al-Wasi general manager, Dr. Mohammed Al-Saeidi head of branches and a number of branch managers reviewed the branches' reports of the first quarter of 2010.

During the meeting they discussed topics that were included in their agenda. Such as: They reviewed a complete report about Aden and Al-Jouf Branches, Hajah and Raima experience, and the papers of the orphan sector.

The meeting ended with a few of rec-



ommendations such as establishing a supreme legislative authority for the as-

sociation, and creating websites for the branches to link it with the headquarters.

At a cost of USD 1.6 million the wireless system CDMA established in Hadramout and Shabwa

The General telecommunications Corporation (GTC) inaugurated the installation completion of CDMA IP WLL, the fixed wireless system in Hadramout, Shabwa and Al-Ghaidha. The project was funded by the Chinese telecommunication company ZTE at a cost of USD 1,600,000.

In the inauguration ceremony hold on Wednesday in Sana'a, the general manager of telecommunications in the rural areas at the GTC Abdul Kader Al-Shamir said that the project aims at involving the rural areas in the telecommunication network.

He added that they faced a difficulty to supply the cables in the rural areas due to the mountainous nature and where there are no land lines.

The new technology of the CDMA system saves a lot of effort especially in the rural areas that takes a lot of money to be provided with cables of telecommunication.

Al-Shamiri valued the contribution of the ZTE and its funding the project. He expressed his wish that the relations between the GTC and the ZTE would develop in the future. He said that the corporation will facilitate all the procedures for the Chinese company to install more telecommunication network in other Ye-



meni governorates.

The head of the maintenance and operations department at the corporation Lutfi Bashareef said that the project is not of the most important points between the Yemeni and the Chinese corporations.

Bros lee, the ZTE's branch manager in Yemen expressed his extreme pleasure over the cooperation between the two sides. He hoped that such a cooperation in the future would be more fruitful to help Yemen develop its telecommunication network and to develop its serves in terms of communication, as well.

He added that ZTE accomplished an important move by cooperating with the Yemeni telecommunication corporation and providing the three governorates

with the modern telecommunication network. According to Lee, the new telecommunication system CDMA is economical. The digging system to provide areas with telecommunication cables is out of date and wastes a lot of money and efforts.

Lee said that the ZTE has been the number one in the CDMA system for the past three years as it has the only registered factory in China and Hong Kong. The Chinese company aims at increasing the interests of more than 140 telecommunication companies. Its products reach 500 companies all around the world.

At the end of the ceremony, the deputy of the GTC Kamal Umar and employers of the ZTE honored the Yemeni engineers participated in the project.

Graduation ceremony for YEFE batch

For more than two years; since its establishments; Yemen Education for Employment Foundation (YEFE), and Al-Khair Foundation for Social Development, adopted and developed youths and their skills, to provide them with essential training courses, to fulfill the market & industrial needs of professional national employees.

Those efforts were celebrated in the graduation ceremony of those trainees, which took place in Sheraton Hotel - Sana'a, on Thursday 22 April 2010.

Where the fourth batch of YEFE students & the first batch of Al-khair Foundation students have graduated in a grand ceremony, attended by delegates from ministers, diplomats, representatives of NGO's and social society figures, leading private sector businessmen, and education activists and pioneers. This event was commenced under the auspices of H.E. Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, the president political advisor.

The students and their relatives who attended from the provinces of Ma'reb, Shabwa and Al-Jawf, expressed their heartily appreciation of the honest efforts, to celebrate the graduates.

Yemen Education for Employment Foundation

An initiative of pioneer private sector bodies and businessmen, YEFE was founded and established in the mid of 2008, with a focus on preparing the youth to participate positively and professionally in job vacancies generated in the market through intensive training programs in the fields of: English language Marketing, Computer programming, and ethics and success in work place.

The foundation has regional relationships and fellowships of similar



foundation in our regional & international environments, where the foundation is considered one of six similar foundations in the Middle East and North Africa, forming all together the International Education for Employment Foundation.

There were 40 job placements for the 4th batch of graduates, where the foundation participates efficiently in qualifying youth workforce and combating unemployment, as more the 200 graduates were employed during 2009.

Al-khair Foundation for Social Development

Universal Group has performed numerous social charity projects for many years, under a specialized department within the frame of Universal Group. Then after, the establishment of a professional and dedicated charity body, that constructs vocational institutes and conducts training courses to develop local young work force skills; the establishment was announced on 24 July 2009, where training programs were commenced in "Youth Skill - Development courses", which is divided into two programs, as follows.

Program 1:- Targeting Secondary School graduates from both genders, giving them the opportunity to utilize the wasted year after their graduation in studies and developing their skills.

Courses continue for 8 month, and offer both Arabic & English languages courses, in addition to computer skills & applications courses. 70 students from both genders have graduated.

Program 2:- This program initially targeted secondary school graduates from the provinces of Shabwa, Ma'reb & Al-Jawf; its an educational intensive courses for 6 month, in the fields of tourism guiding, car driving, English language, work place success & Ethics.

In addition to those programs, the foundation conducts many other educational programs, such as: Illiteracy eradication program, Education of adults, women sewing workshop & incentives & financial grants for outstanding students, teachers and school principals.



أن تنطلق بسيارتك من ١٠٠-٠ كم قبل أن تكمل قراءة هذا العنوان... تلك هي المتعة.

لا شيء يضاهي متعة التفوق على الطريق في جميع الظروف، فقد تم تجهيز BMW X5 M بنظام xDrive الفريد للدفع الرباعي ومحرك جبار تصل قوته إلى ٥٥٥ حصاناً مع تقنية التوربو المزدوج لتنتقل بسيارتك من وضعية السكون إلى ١٠٠ كم/ الساعة خلال ٤,٧ ثانية فقط وتهيمن على سائر أنواع الطرق. أما تصميمها فيجمع بين عراقة الطرازات M وتميز سيارات الأنشطة الرياضية، بدءاً من شبك التهوية الكروي الواسع ذي فتحات الاستنشاق الكبيرة، مروراً بالخياشيم المميزة للطرازات M، وانتهاءً بخطوط الهيكل الانسيابية التي تعكس جراءة السيارة بكل وضوح. انطلق اليوم في BMW X5 M وستبقى أنت سيد الطريق. تقدم معها خدمة BMW الشاملة النفاذ للصيانة لمدة ٥ سنوات أو لمسافة ٦٠,٠٠٠ كلم مجاناً وضماناً لسنتين دون تحديد المسافة.

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- * AMIDEAST Aden: 162 Miswat St., P.O. Box 6009, Khormaksar, Aden. Tel/Fax: 02-235-069/070/071. E-mail: aden@amideast.org.

For further details, please visit
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Free Zone Promotion and Marketing General Manager:

“I call on all Yemenis to invest in Yemen. Your country needs you!”

Dr. Fatima Ali Abdullah Baomar holds a PHD in International Economic Relations from Bucharest, Romania. She is the General Manager of promotion and marketing in Aden's Free Zone. She is also a wife and mother and hence to many Yemeni women Dr. Fatima is a role model of a successful career Yemeni woman. Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed her to talk about her work and personal experience as one of the few women working in prominent positions in the business sector.



How come you became a successful Yemeni woman in such a position?

I come from a Hadhrami family who believes that education is important especially for girls. That's why my family moved from our home in Ghail Bawazir, Hadhramout governorate, and settled down in Aden, which has more academic and career opportunities. I completed my elementary and secondary school in Bilqis College in Al-Shaikh Othman.

At that time the college had good academic staff that played a special role to refine the talents of many students with many different events and activities. A lot of political, economical, educational and social figures graduated from there. I graduated and got my Masters degree from the Republic of Romania.

Then I worked in Aden with the Council of Ministers as the chairperson of industry and petroleum. After unification I moved to Sana'a and was appointed as General Manager of Planning and Statistics, until 1997. I got my PHD in International Economic Relations in 2001 and that was when I was appointed as Deputy to the General Manager of Promotion and Marketing in the Free Zone, Aden and moved back to live there.

My role in the Free Zone is to attract local and international investors through promoting the facilities and features the Free Zone provides according to Law no. 4 of the Free Zone for 1993. Besides this, I concentrate on the effective participation in economic forums to highlight the strategic characteristics and importance of the geographical location of Aden's port in particular, the importance of shipping linked to local activity and international lines in the Free Zone.

There are a lot of Yemeni women who, with their hard work and achievement, have reached positions in the political, economical, social and many other fields, despite all the obstacles and difficulties Yemeni working women face.

Are there other Yemeni women who have your position in Aden in public and private sectors?

There are a lot of Yemeni women who, with their hard work and achievement, have reached positions in the political, economical, social and many other fields, despite all the obstacles and difficulties Yemeni working women face. Some over-

came all the difficulties with determination, perseverance and insistence. Yemeni history is full of stories of very capable women ruling and taking the country's responsibility, for example, Queens Bilqis and Arwa. If we're talking about the women in the public sector, you'll find them in positions of ministers, judges, deputies, general managers for institutions and ministry offices. Women are still at the beginning of their journey because a lot of them are illiterate and other found it difficult to continue their studies for many other reasons. In the private sector there are many successful women who manage to lead different institutes and businesses, for example, the Yemen Times editor is a woman.

foreign investors and opening different factories, workshops, and businesses so that the youth find job opportunities to match their educational qualifications. Via our perspective and future plans, we are earnestly seeking to provide job opportunities for them. The Free Zone has worked on signing a number of memorandum agreements with various companies and institutions. For example, we have signed a memorandum agreement with Aden's Gulf Company, one of Hayel Sayeed's companies, for development in sector J, which will provide more than 10,000 job opportunities and another with Bazara's Group in sector L, which will provide over 2,500 jobs. We have established a sugar refinement factory by the Al-Amudi Group, which will provide over 500 jobs. I want to emphasize that the Free Zone alone cannot establish its plans and programs without the cooperation from the public and the private sector.

What obstacles do you face in your work and how do you overcome them?

There are many obstacles and difficulties in our way. As you know the Yemeni community faces crises from everything and everywhere. The conflict between the old and new has a negative effect on development and work. At the level of promotion, marketing and media in the Free Zone, the greatest obstacle is the scarcely allocated budget and the unfamiliarity of certain people in the nature of our work and its role in the success or failure of the institution. Some dealers and officials here in the Free Zone expect immediate results, but despite all this, we try together with all our staff in the administration, to implement the plans and programs we draw up.

How can the Free Zone revive and reactivate the relationship with the media?

The main role media plays, whether in television, radio or tabloids, is to highlight our events and activities and to inform investors about the features, facilities and procedures of investing. Because the media outlet plays a large role in the success of an institution, that's why in the Free

For a stable Yemen and an enhanced national economy, measuring up to the ranks of the neighbouring states, the government and people should provide an attractive and appropriate environment for investments

How does the Free Zone help Yemen economically? And does it give job opportunities for youth?

The main goals of establishing the Free Zone is to create job opportunities, therefore, reducing unemployment among young people. It is unfortunate to see them roaming the streets, lost, and going in front of government departments trying to find job opportunities.

The Free Zone cannot establish this goal without attracting local and

Zone we have a media department that coordinates with all the media outlets. This department also provides information and data for those who are interested in what is going on here. Lately, we have been able to create good relationships with a number of newspapers and magazines in Yemen, but due to the scarcity of the budget, we have not been able to participate with a number of specialized global newspapers. Without the cooperation of different media it is hard to progress.

What message do you want to convey to local and foreigner investors?

Yemen is a new country in regards to economic development but it also has all the human resources

and mineral and natural wealth that has as yet undiscovered, in addition to vast land areas, climate variability and tourism features. Hence I make a sincere call to all Yemenis with capital, and tell them, "Your country needs you. You shall harvest tomorrow what you plant today". Without the contribution of everyone in building and developing this country, the government will not be able to follow-up with any further work. A foreign investor would not establish any projects without first making sure that the Yemeni investors are stable.

What do you want to say to Yemeni women who are ambitious and willing to succeed in their career?

Anyone, whether woman or man, must set clear goals and as long as there is a strong will and ambition, I

guarantee they will achieve their aims. Yemeni women must hold on to their education and knowledge and possess a clear vision, in addition to having patience and making sacrifices. Through determination and management in the first place and the support of their family and society, we will certainly see many Yemeni women capable of sustaining the process of development and success besides men.

Finally I want to say that for a stable Yemen and an enhanced national economy, measuring up to the ranks of the neighbouring states, the government and people should provide an attractive and appropriate environment for investments. With their contribution and cooperation, we will be able to achieve much and provide a decent life for the Yemeni nation.

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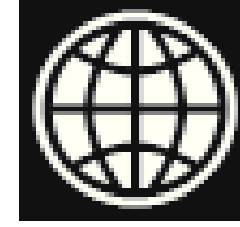
-To improve the nutrition and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times in their lives; and

-To help build assets and promote the self-reliance of poor people and communities, particular through labor-intensive works programmes.

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Interested parties may send their completed supplier profiles and registration form to Country Director, UN-WFP, Norakshot St.21, House No.22, Diplomatic area, Sana'a, Yemen or UN-WFP Sub-Office, Al-Madina Al-Baida villa#3, Norakshot, Aden, latest by 14:00 on 31st of May 2010 in sealed envelope superscripting "Expression of Interest".



The World Bank in Sana'a, Yemen is recruiting qualified personnel through a local hire for the following position to be based in Sana'a:

SENIOR WATER SPECIALIST (JOB NO 100953)

The selected individual will have two major responsibilities. First, to represent the Bank in all donor harmonization activities in Yemen. Second, to function as a country-based focal point for the Yemen Water Team, which consists of headquarters and Sana'a based staff engaged in project and policy work in the country in the water resources management, urban and rural water supply and sanitation, and irrigation subsectors. The Senior Water Specialist should have an advanced degree in water related fields and at least 8 years of directly relevant professional and operational experience working on water sector planning and institutional aspects including current developments in Yemen and in the region

Interested candidates should apply via the World Bank site www.worldbank.org/jobs, the section "employment opportunities" job number 100953, where more details on the Job Description can be found. Deadline for submitting applications is May 18, 2010. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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Vacancies Announcement

Background

The Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) is a multi-donor initiative designed to support the implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan (NWSSIP). WSSP will provide funds of about US\$340 million on a Sector-wide basis over a five year period (2009-2014) to be financed from the Government of Yemen and their Development Partners (WB – Germany – Netherlands).

Under the WSSP, the Coordination Secretariat (CS) shall hire the following Staff:

A) Financial Advisor

The advisor will work Under the Chief Team Leader of the CS

Objective and Scope of Work

The goal of the Financial Advisor within the CS is to ensuring proper systems and coordination for allocating, expending, accounting and reporting on program funds. Following the rules set out in the PIM and in the Financial Manual,

Tasks and Responsibilities

Guided by the objectives outlined above, Reporting to the Chief Technical Adviser, the Financial Advisor is responsible for:

- Acting as coordinator and supervisor for all financial aspects of the WSSP program.
- Developing and coordinating a comprehensive budget for the entire WSSP period (2009- 2013) including the budget for all components in all sub-sectors, and for the annual budget process.
- Participating annually in the update of the MTEF, ensuring that NWSSIP/WSSP financing requirements are properly reflected.
- Within the agreed MTEF, supporting the annual budget process for NWSSIP/ WSSP, including participating in budget meetings, to ensure that the NWSSIP/ MTEF annual budget is adequate for program execution.
- Developing and coordinating an annual disbursement plan for WSSP for each component and subsector and for the program as a whole. The plan should be broken down on a quarterly basis, and updated regularly.
- Consolidating the budgets and disbursement plans for all components and sub-sectors into a comprehensive annual plan that links financial resource allocation to targeted activities, to outputs and milestones, and to the respective agency procurement plans.
- Establishing the financial management procedures and accounting and internal control systems for the management of the financial affairs of the CS, including for management of bank accounts (if any) and for approval of expenditures.
- Coordinating the external and internal audit functions for WSSP.
 - Working closely with the ACAP advisor on financial aspects of ACAP.
 - Developing disbursement procedures and supervising the disbursement function.
 - Preparing regular WSSP financial reports, matching expenditures and disbursements with budgets, and explaining differences.
- In close collaboration with COCA, ensuring that external auditors acceptable to the IMSC and WSSP DPs are recruited, that the external audit is promptly and professionally conducted, and that findings and recommendations at the level of each component and subsector and of NWSSIP/WSSP as a whole are explained and followed up, including any actions required by the implementing agencies.
- Responding to any other needs that are deemed necessary to the program financial affairs and internal audit control.

Desirable Qualifications and Experience:

- Minimum Bachelor's degree in Finance, Accounting or related fields.
- Minimum 15 years experience in Finance and accounting, preferably in a water sector related areas
- Excellent writing and speaking in Arabic and English
- Advanced Computer literacy (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, e-mail, searching the internet) as well as experience in the use of website content and Financial Management programs and management systems
- Dynamic, open and networking personality

B) Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Objective and Scope of Work

The WSSP M&E Specialist will coordinate with the sub-sector working groups, the sub-sector mandated agencies and the core donor group on regular basis to collect, compile and analyze M&E data. This information will be compiled in progress reports to be published on quarterly basis. The quarterly data will feed into Joint Annual Review (JAR) to be held in June-July each year.

Tasks and Responsibilities

The M&E Specialist would work within the WSSP Executive Secretariat, and report to the Head of that unit. He/she will execute the following tasks:

- Review related NWSSIP and WSSP documents and participate directly in the WSSP implementation exercises;
- Prepare the required analytic background for the institutional implementation arrangements based on the M&E knowledge;
- Plan, design, and organize the proposed WSSP M&E system and draw useful lessons and recommendations from previous NWSSIP JAR exercises;
- Develop a detailed work plan for the existing M&E Unit at WSSP Secretariat and the human and financial resources requirements to sustain the Unit;
- Through effectiveness, finalize all baseline indicators;
- Build capacity within the M&E Unit based on needs as they arise;
- Assist in the preparation and review of TORs for local staff for the M&E Unit;
- Upgrade skills in the design of indicators and reporting systems, socio-economic data collection, data analysis, and design;
- Develop TORs and action plans for data gathering, needed surveys, data analysis, and computerization of the system;
- Analyze regularly the results from the M&E system, reporting major findings to the project management and formulate options and recommendations for improvements;
- Work closely with all water authorities as well as the Ministries of: Agriculture and Irrigation, Planning and International Cooperation, and Finance;
- Work closely with civil society, and the core group of donors in all tasks;
- Coordinate work with on-going development work by others;
- Assist in discussing recommendations with GOY Counterpart Committee (MOF, MOPIC, MWE and MAI)
- Work on other related tasks for WSSP as may be requested to support the M&E component; and
- Assist in the M&E information preparation and conduct of presentations for stakeholders and donors in the Joint Annual Review (JAR) process.

Qualifications:

- University Degree in a relevant discipline.
- A minimum of 5 years of professional work experience of which at least 2 years shall be in the field of Results-Based M&E Framework in water /irrigation/ agricultural sector in Yemen.

- Good communications skills and a working knowledge of English.
- Computer knowledge with expertise in Microsoft Office tools.
- Good inter-personal skills and demonstrated ability to work closely with professionals from other disciplines.

C) Executive Bilingual Secretary

Reporting to the Chief Technical Advisor in the Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) Coordination Secretariat

Tasks and Responsibilities

- Receive and record all official correspondence (letters, faxes, e mails) and other pertinent documents addressed to the WSSP Coordination Secretariat.
- Organize and prepare required arrangements for meetings and write Minutes of these meetings when required.
- Follow up the implementation of decisions and administrative orders issued from the Coordination Secretariat (CS) Chief Technical Advisor (CTA).
- Review, revise record letters, reports issued by the CS.
- Keep an updated record of files , letters, mails issued or coming to the CS
- Manage the telephone calls of the CTA in the CS.
- Maintain an updated record of addresses of individuals and institutions and private companies dealing with the Water Sector Support Program.
- Meet visitors and organize schedules of meetings of the CTA in the CS.
- Manage the office machines in the CS (Computers, printers, faxes, telephones and keep regular records on their maintenance needs in close collaboration with the Administrative and Financial Officer).
- Follow up, collect copies and record all what is published on WSSP in the newspapers and prepare periodical brief reports on the published information, news, analysis articles etc...

Qualification required

- University Degree in Secretarial work or Information Technology or in any related field of development with a minimum of Five Years experience in the field of executive Secretary.
- Certificate from a commercial institute with a minimum of ten years experience in secretarial work.
- Proven experience in archive, data base and management of information.
- Fluency in English (written and communication).
- Proven experience in computer programs (Excel, word, windows, access, etc).
- Preference will be given to those who were directly involved in secretarial work in agriculture or water sectors.

Duration of assignment for the posts:

Initially for probation period of three months, then annual contract will be offered thereafter.
Those who are interested, and strictly meet above requirements, may submit their applications with CVs and supporting documents On or before 30 May 2010 to
The Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) Coordinating Secretariat (CS) Office western Ring Road (Old Residence of DR Abdulkarim Al- Eryani – Sana'a Opposite of MAM Show room)
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Fred Halliday obituary

International relations scholar and expert on the Middle East

By: Sami Zubaida
guardian.co.uk

Fred Halliday, who has died of cancer aged 64, was an Irish academic whose main interest was the Middle East and its place in international politics. His first major book, *Arabia Without Sultans*, was published in 1974. The culmination of adventurous field research in the region, including Oman, it was a study of Arabian regimes, their support from the west and Iran, and the revolutionary forces fighting against them. "The Arab Middle East is the one with the longest history of contact with the west; yet it is probably the one least understood," Fred believed. "Part of the misunderstanding is due to the romantic mythology that has long appeared to shroud the deserts of the peninsula. Where old myths have broken down, new ones have absorbed them or taken their place."

A larger-than-life character, Fred made an enormous impact in both academia and the media. He always spoke with a sure and lucid voice, backed by extensive knowledge, and knew many languages, of which he was justly

proud: Arabic, Persian, Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese, Italian, French, German and Russian. He had more than 20 books to his name and was professor of international relations at the London School of Economics (LSE) for more than 20 years.

Fred was born in Dublin to Arthur Halliday, a businessman, and his wife Rita (nee Finigan). He was educated at the Marist school in Dundalk before going to Ampleforth college in Yorkshire. He graduated from Queen's College, Oxford, in 1967 with a degree in philosophy, politics and economics, then went to the School of Oriental and African Studies (Soas) in London.

From 1969 to 1983, he was a member of the editorial board of the *New Left Review*. The NLR represented the avant garde of the intellectual left, with strong European and cosmopolitan orientations, adopting and developing new strands of European Marxism and engaging with a wide range of issues and personalities in the developing nations. I got to know Fred in the mid-70s, when he joined an informal London discussion group on the Middle East, which included myself, Roger Owen and Talal Asad, directed to critiques of the exist-

ing inclinations in that field and working out an alternative, mainly Marxist approach. Fred became a regular contributor to the Middle East study group, which continues to this day.

Fred established wide connections with, among others, Arab and Iranian intellectuals and activists, and travelled widely in the region. From these encounters and researches came his book *Iran: Dictatorship and Development*, in 1978, which aroused great interest as it anticipated Iran's revolution the following year, though he did not foresee the Islamic bent of the revolution, which was not the result of a long established Islamic movement, but the outcome of particular events, including the rise of Khomeini.

Further travel and research took Fred, with Maxine Molyneux, to Ethiopia and Yemen in 1977 and 1978, resulting in a jointly authored book, *The Ethiopian Revolution* (1981), tracing the conditions and causes of the 1974 revolution. He married Maxine in 1979. Fred's interest in Soviet policy and the cold war, and his critical stance on US intervention in Afghanistan, were recurrent themes in his writing, evident in *Cold War, Third World: Essays On Soviet-*



Frederick Halliday, scholar of international relations, born 22 February 1946; died 26 April 2010

American Relations in the 1980s, published in 1989.

It was not until 1983 that Fred formally entered academia with an appointment to a lectureship at LSE. He obtained his PhD from LSE in 1985, with a thesis on the Democratic Republic of Yemen. At LSE, Fred continued to write prolifically, now concentrating on international relations, with fresh and critical treatment of theories in that field. His interest in the Middle East acquired a more immediate and topical aspect with the rise of Islamic politics, Afghanistan and 9/11, about which he

wrote *Two Hours That Shook the World* (2001). His interest in Muslim communities in Britain and Europe had begun with his earlier study of the Yemeni community in Sheffield, *Arabs in Exile: Yemeni Migrants in Urban Britain* (1992). His contribution to the debates on Muslims in the west came in some of the essays in his highly influential *Islam and the Myth of Confrontation* (1996), with his characteristically incisive arguments against the prevalent ideas of a "clash of civilisations" and the "otherness" of Muslims and their politics.

Fred never shied away from controversy: he was forthright in his advocacy of justice, human rights and socialist democratic values, and against cultural relativism and apologetics for tyrannies in developing nations in the name of anti-imperialism. This was part of his more general belief that imperialism and capitalism were often progressive forces in many parts of the world, notwithstanding their well-known oppressive and exploitative elements. In this vein, Fred considered the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan favourable, on balance, and indeed the period of communist control as a progressive episode in the violence and oppression

that preceded and followed it. Equally, Fred favoured western interventions in the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq – Saddam Hussein and his regime being by far the greater evil – but criticised what he considered the arrogance and incompetence of the US and British administrations of these policies and their tragic consequences.

Fred was elected to the British Academy in 2002. In 2008 he left the LSE to take up a position as research professor at the Barcelona Institute of International Studies. Fred loved Barcelona, where he was part of a lively social and intellectual network. He was a great teacher and mentor, and numerous students and young colleagues acknowledge their debt to his supervision, mentoring and inspiration. His lectures, both academic and public, were always a great draw and never failed to inspire, stimulate and challenge. His book *Caamano in London: The Exile of a Latin American Revolutionary*, about the former Dominican president's spell in London in the 1960s, will be published later this year.

Fred is survived by his brothers Jon and David and by Maxine and their son, Alex.

Clueless to Yemen

Few would know that this past Monday, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula carried out a suicide attack, albeit a failed one, against the British ambassador to Yemen

By: Rhonda Shafei
Columbia Spectator

I have an indescribable amount of respect for those who choose to devote their lives to the most godforsaken places on Earth. Dedicating your studies to a nation like Yemen, which can best be described as a hot, arid plot of desert approximately twice the size of Wyoming, is remarkable and deserves a great deal of recognition.

I bring this up because the amount of literature available on the internet dedicated to singular nations like Yemen is incredibly limited. This past summer, after reading news reports of deadly clashes between Yemeni officials and rebel secessionists, I wanted to find more information on this Gulf nation.

After struggling to immediately find in-depth analyses on Yemen, I was taken aback by a blog called *Waq al-Waq* put together by a Princeton Ph.D. candidate by the name of Gregory Johnsen. Johnsen, a frequent traveler to Yemen, would post news articles in both English and Arabic and react to updates in the blogosphere related to the nation, providing an insider's glance into Yemeni politics. But the more entrenched I became in *Waq al-Waq*, the more embarrassed I became of my ignorance of Yemen's grave internal problems.

I'm inclined to think that I'm not the only one who's clueless about Yemen. Few would know that this past Monday, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula carried out a suicide attack, albeit a failed one, against the British ambassador to Yemen. Earlier this month, tens of

thousands of Yemenis attended protests in solidarity with arrested leaders of the Southern Movement, a group seeking the secession of southern Yemen. In March, 245 protests and 87 bomb blasts had been carried out, killing 10 policemen and upwards of 150 protesters. In February, a cease-fire was finally signed between Shiite rebels led by Abdul-Malik al-Houthi following months of incessant cross-border fighting between the Houthi rebels, the Yemeni government, and its Saudi big brother.

The complexity of Yemen's political landscape is worrying. On top of its steep fertility rate, massive impoverishment, and longstanding famine, Yemen faces a trio of debilitating domestic crises working to make it a failed state. First, Yemen faces a secessionist movement in the south. Such a movement stems from unsettled qualms between northerners and southerners following a sloppy end to a three-month-long civil war between the government (comprised of northerners) and disenchanted socialists from the south in 1994. Expressing distrust in the government and

citing exploitation by a northern-sympathizing president, secessionists have taken advantage of instability across all of Yemen to gain traction through protests.

The second crisis pertains to the Houthi rebels in the north. Based in Saada, these rebels represent a religious minority, the Zaidi sect of Shiite Islam. Yemeni officials have accused the Houthi rebels of planning to overthrow the government, while the rebels argue that they are simply defending themselves against religious persecution. While the Yemeni government claims to have killed the movement's current mastermind, Abdul-Malik al Houthi, he could very well still be at large—as evidenced by Houthi video footage of the leader.

The third crisis is the growth of the al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula movement, within Yemen's borders. AQAP seeks the forced removal of the Saudi royal family from government. Such a direct threat to the Saudis—in August, an AQAP suicide bomber attempted to assassinate Saudi Arabia's

deputy interior minister—legitimizes Saudi and U.S.-supported involvement in Yemen. But with defensive activity comes its own set of problems. AQAP, Houthi rebels, and secessionists alike will use any provocation to justify their militancy. The three groups may also band together against Saudi and Yemeni incursion supporting one and other financially and militarily, as a recent Carnegie Endowment report suggests.

Noting Yemen's multifaceted security situation, geographic separation, and seemingly contained domestic strife, it's understandable that the average American, or Columbian for that matter, has no clue what's going on in the collapsing nation. What is a Houthi to you anyway? Quite a lot, actually. If you recall, this past Christmas, a Nigerian by the name of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab attempted to detonate a bomb aboard a Detroit-bound Northwest Airlines flight. Abdulmutallab is believed to have resided in Yemen and been trained by AQAP. It was only when this story broke that the American media started caring about Yemen. But

now that the dust has settled, with Abdulmutallab locked away in a Michigan detention center, who still talks about Yemen?

Yemen is a perfect example of American apathy and reactionary hysteria. It takes a bomb attack on American soil for us to realize that there are remote places in the world that warrant greater attention, humanitarian assistance, and internationally-mediated diplomacy. Even then, we lack the necessary motivation to follow-up on the implementation of policy suggestions. A proactive attitude towards nations like Yemen, not just in policy circles but even on college campuses like our own, is both morally and strategically necessary. In today's ridiculously interconnected world, we cannot afford to sit back and wait for the next move.

Rhonda Shafei is a Columbia College sophomore. She is the publisher of the *Columbia Political Union* and the director-general of CMUNCE. The *Politics of Hummus runs alternate Thursdays*.

Intervention in Yemen has come too late to halt slide to extremism

While the "War on Terror" focused on Afghanistan and Iraq, countries such as Yemen became bases for international jihad

By: Kim Sengupta
The Independent

The suicide bomb attack on the British ambassador's convoy in Yemen should not come as a surprise in a land of endemic violence which has provided a fertile breeding ground for Islamist militancy.

Al-Qaida now has a firm presence in the country thanks, partly at least, to the government of President Ali Abdullah Saleh doing little to combat the influence and recruitment drives of Sunni extremists.

Yemen, an impoverished country where guns outnumber people, more than 50 per cent of whom are unemployed, has become an amphitheatre for the sectarian struggle between Shias and Sunnis. The Yemeni government

has blamed the Iranians and even Moqtada al-Sadr, the radical Iraqi cleric, for helping the Shia rebels.

Shia tribesmen in turn have accused the Saudis of carrying out regular air attacks, with the authorities conniving by turning a blind eye to the violation of the country's airspace.

The West has shown only a periodic interest in Yemen, usually following insurgent attacks such as the one on the American warship USS Cole. While the "War on Terror" focused on Afghanistan and Iraq, countries such as Yemen and those on the Horn of Africa became bases for international jihad.

But it was the arrival in Yemen of an American Muslim cleric, Anwar al-Awlaki, and what subsequently transpired that has led to renewed US interest in the country.

Mr Awlaki became the spiritual guide

to Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the Nigerian-born student who attempted to blow up an aircraft on Christmas Day, and Major Nidal Malik Hasan, the US Army medic who shot dead 13 people at a military base in Texas last November.

Intelligence and special forces personnel were subsequently moved from the US-run Horn of Africa Task Force based in Djibouti, to Yemen, and Washington amended laws to allow Mr Awlaki's assassination.

In an attempt to show that the problem was being viewed seriously, the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, announced that a "Yemen conference" should be added to the London conference on Afghanistan and a contact group, Friends of Yemen, was established.

Both the Yemeni government and the US and UK have been claiming that the situation is getting better. However, as yesterday's attack shows, the years when the West did nothing to halt funding from Saudi Arabia for Wahabi extremists has created a potent threat.



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Labour day around the world



People gather at a citywide rally marking the International Labor Day as well as asking the government to find jobs for the unemployed, at the Taksim square in central Istanbul, Turkey, May 1, 2010.



Palestinians take part in a rally marking the International Labour Day, near Erez border crossing between Israel and northern Gaza Strip, on May 1, 2010.



Photo released by Korean Central News Agency on May 1 shows people take part in a rally celebrating the International Labor Day in North Pyongan Province, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



People attend a grand parade and rally to mark the May Day and show solidarity with their country, in Havana, capital of Cuba, May 1, 2010.



One demonstrator shouts slogan during a rally in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, May 1, 2010. About 10,000 workers took part in the May Day rally organized by Confederation of Indonesian Workers Unions, to demand better pay and improved welfare.



Mothers take their babies to join in the rally marking the International Labour Day in Helsinki, Finland, May 1, 2010.



Supporters of Russian Communist Party hold a rally marking the International Labour Day in Moscow, Russia, May 1, 2010.



A grand rally marking the May Day is held in Managua, capital of Nigaragua, on Friday, April 30, 2010.

No more drinking in Bahrain

Bahrain, previously known as a waterhole for Saudis living just across the bridge is on its way to ban drinking and trading alcohol for Muslims.

By: Adam Gonn
The Media Line

The Bahraini parliament has adopted an amendment forbidding the kingdom's Muslims from consuming or importing alcohol.

Bahrain is a popular holiday destination or weekend getaway spot for Saudi Arabian youth unable to drink in their own country.

The move, taken by the all-appointed Upper House of Bahrain's parliament, will all but end such travel.

"The problem is not that they drink" Bahraini blogger Mohamed Al Maskati told The Media Line. "It is what is happening afterwards - car accidents, anti-

social behavior - that is the problem."

The sale of alcohol to non-Muslims will not be affected by the decision, and another Bahraini blogger, who preferred to remain anonymous, told The Media Line that there was doubt as to how stringent the new law will be enforced.

"It don't think it will happen, because they can't afford it as the sale of alcohol is too important," the blogger said. "Bahrain is an island that is very close to Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates and in addition to this strategic location it is also one of the most liberal countries in the region."

"Over the last couple of years there have been more and more people feeling that the tradition values are being threatened and western values are taking over," the blogger continued. "If they pass this there will be some loophole, like in Dubai, where if you are a Muslim you can dress in a shirt and tie and go into a bar and no one is going to ask if you are a Muslim."

While according the Koran drinking alcohol is forbidden for Muslims, hotels and restaurants that cater to the region's large expatriate and tourist populations are allowed to serve alcohol.

Bahrain and other counties in the Gulf, most notably the United Arab Emirates, have invested heavily in establishing themselves as tourist destinations by setting up global airlines and building massive hotels and shopping malls.

Bars and restaurants selling alcohol tend to be located in large, urban hotels, not in areas where locals live.

Over the last couple of years, however, there has been growing anger over restaurants serving alcohol during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, during which faithful Muslims refrains from eating or drinking from the time the sun rises to sunset.

Many of those pushing for an alcohol ban during Ramadan argue that it is disrespectful of non-Muslims not to follow local customs.

Turkey plans first nudist hotel

The majority Muslim nation plans to diversify its tourism industry with its first nudist hotel.

By: Rachelle Kliger
The Media Line

The Turkish government will allow the country's first nudist hotel to open next month, in a move seen by some as part of liberalization efforts intended to gain Turkey membership in the European Union.

Hotel Adaburmu-Gelmar will be opened in Datca, on the southwest coast of Turkey, on May 1. The hotel will have its own beach, but guests will not be allowed to venture into other nearby sea sides.

"We have the go-ahead from the Turkish government," Lynsey Pittaway, an operations and sales executive for Peng Travel, a UK-based provider of naturist holidays, told The Media Line. "It's hotel standard, it's all inclusive and it's in a remote area so it's taken off quite well."

"We know it's a Muslim country but it's remote," she said of the location, adding that clients have not shown con-

cern over attending a nudist hotel in a country with a relatively modest, conservative culture. "After 20:00, everyone is fully dressed anyway."

The hotel will allow nudity on the hotel grounds from 8a.m. to 8p.m.

"Whilst guests are expected to cover up indoors, there is a pool bar serving drinks and an outdoor dining terrace by the pool where guests may eat au naturel," reads an advertisement for the hotel on the Peng Travel website. "The hotel has its own serviced naturist beach a 20 minute drive away and provides a free shuttle service."

To date Peng Travel has taken around 100 bookings for the pre-summer season, with most clients from Britain but some from Turkey.

While the hotel caters exclusively to tourists, Turks who make a reservation through a foreign tour operator can be classified as tourists.

Though Turkey maintains a staunchly secular society, much of the population still nurtures traditional values and the ruling Justice and Development Party (AK) has conservative religious leanings.

Some see the hotel's opening as a move towards the West, in an effort to

present Turkey as upholding liberal values.

But over the last few years Turkey has been forging strong ties with its Muslim neighbors while continuing its bid to become a member of the EU.

Ebru Ilhan, assistant program officer at the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV), downplayed the political aspects of opening a nudist establishment in Turkey.

"The current government is known for staunch neoliberal policies and it's an area where they've been consistent," Ilhan told The Media Line. "They are pro-market and pro-integration with the EU for the sake of expanding opportunities and they're also in favor of investment. So when you see new developments it's less a political message and more of an economic one."

"I wouldn't necessarily call this an anomaly because there is already a lot of diversity in the new liberal markets that Turkey is offering," she said. "There are these conflicting developments and that's normal because Turkey is far from being uniform in its lifestyle preferences or in the extent of cultural and commercial products which it consumes and offers."

TENDER ADVERTISEMENT NO. (10) OF 2010

Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation –head office- Hodeidah port- here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender No. (10 / 2010) for carrying out the Development of Mokha Port (Construction of a new wharf with a quay wall 217 meter long and 10 meters draft) which will be financed by government . Bidders who are interested in participating in this Tender must submit written applications to the Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation – Hodeidah port - Administration of Purchasing Department to receive Bidding Documents for an amount of YR30,000 or an equivalent in US Dollars currency non-refundable.

The deadline for selling BDs will be on Wednesday 16/6/2010.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes written on it name of the requested party, project number, tender number and the name of the Bidder and includes;

1. Unconditional Bank Guarantee and indefensible for a lump sum of US\$300,000 has to be valid for not less than 150 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
2. Valid Tax Certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country).
3. Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Corporation for Social Security in Yemen).
4. Valid Zakat Certificate (according as stated in the third item).
5. Valid Registration and Classification Certificate. Grade A in marine/port works (In the even of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to provide an evidence of registration with the concerned entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness).
6. Registration certificate for the purposes of the sales tax.
7. Post qualification will be made later for the applicants in accordance to the principles and standards specified in the tender document.

The foreigner contractors to provide the legalized documents in their own countries the foreign winner will be required to complete the registration procedures in Yemen if he wins the tender

- Documents have to be submitted to the Purchasing Dept. Administration not later than 11:00 am on Wednesday 23/6/2010.
- Bids will be opened in the office of financial Dept. and in the presence of Bidders or their legally appointed representative. Bids received after this date of will not be considered.
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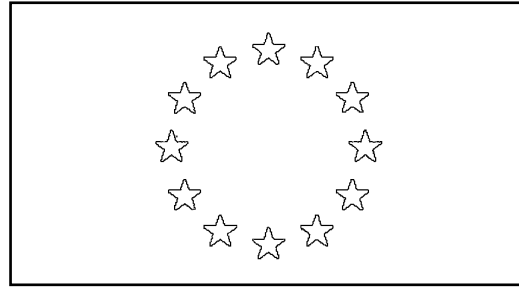
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EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN YEMEN IS SEEKING TO RECRUIT THE FOLLOWING

1. Translator / Interpreter (Assistant Linguist)

The Delegation of the European Union in Sana'a is seeking to recruit a Translator / Interpreter as soon as possible.

Tasks will include:-

The incumbent will perform a wide range of translation and interpreting assignments for the Head of Delegation, Delegation staff and visiting missions. Duties will include:

- Interpreting: provide consecutive translation from English to Arabic and vice versa;
- Translation: translate all kinds of documents from English into Arabic and vice versa;
- Facilitation: assist in organizing events, meetings, activities, etc. The incumbent will also act as the Delegation's protocol/consular support officer, liaising with the Yemeni authorities, foreign diplomatic missions, and public and private organisations;
- External communication: assist the Press and Communication Officer in the management of the documentation centre, delegation's website, newsletters and other information activities.

Job requirements:

A University Degree preferably in languages/literature or a related field. Excellent Arabic and English language (grammar, idiomatic usage and specialised terminology).

Professional experience:

The candidate must have a proven professional experience of at least 3 years in translation, interpreting, languages or communication in an international environment pertinent to the duties to be carried out.

2. International aid / Cooperation Officer

The Delegation of the European Union in Sana'a is seeking to recruit an International aid/cooperation officer as soon as possible.

Tasks will include:-

The incumbent will undertake the following tasks under the supervision of the Head of Operations:

- Support operational coordination and regular contact with EU Member States and/or other donors and Government on aid effectiveness and sector/project information and maintain EU donor matrix;
- Coordinate Non State Actors and Local Authorities calls for proposals and Erasmus mundi exchange programme;
- Support programme formulation, identification implementation and monitoring.
- Assist in launching, managing and monitoring calls for proposals, tenders, evaluation and selection of projects;
- Organise and report on coordination meetings/seminars with interested parties (donors, NSAs and/or Government);
- Contribute to aid reporting to Head Quarters and act as focal point for Results Orientating monitoring (ROM). Produce and disseminate the results of projects.

Job requirements:

A University Degree preferably in Economics, Development Cooperation, International Relations, Public policy, Management or a related field. Excellent Arabic and English language.

Professional experience:

The candidate must have a proven professional experience of at least 3 years in development, international cooperation or programme management in an international environment pertinent to the duties to be carried out.

3. Finance and Contracts Officer

The Delegation of the European Union in Sana'a is seeking to recruit a Finance and contracts officer as soon as possible.

Tasks will include:-

Under the overall supervision of the Head of Finance and Contracts, the incumbent will assist with the management of external aid and grants by:

- Examining and preparing cost statements for approval;
- Verifying financial documents (commitments, payments, recoveries);
- Preparing authorisations of expenditure and income on budget and/or imprest accounts;
- Drafting contracts and other financial agreements and grants;
- Assist in preparing and monitoring the financial aspects of Calls for Proposals and Tenders and participate in tendering processes;
- Maintain and manage contract documents and ensure a smooth management of easy-to-access financial and contractual databases;
- Liaise with the Government of Yemen on aspects of financial and contractual issues related to external assistance projects.

Job requirements:

A University Degree preferably in management, finance, accounting, economics or a related field. Excellent Arabic and English language skills. Basic knowledge of French is an asset.

Professional experience:

The candidate must have a proven professional experience of at least 3 years in finance and accounting in an international environment pertinent to the duties to be carried out.

4. Administration Accountant

The Delegation of the European Union in Sana'a is seeking to recruit an Administration accountant as soon as possible.

Tasks will include:-

Under the overall supervision of the Head of Administration, the incumbent will assist the overall

financial and administrative management of the Delegation:

- Prepare budget and follow the Delegation's annual operating budget and assist in managing imprest account.
- Coding and follow-up of the financial transactions ; management of third files and legal entities for the financial transactions
- Preparation and monitoring of contracts and payments; preparation of monthly closures of Imprest Account.
- Verification/calculation of mission claims and representational expenses.
- Follow-up and compilation of staff social security claims, provident fund and severance grant payments.

Job requirements:

A University degree preferably in accountancy, audit, business administration or financial management or a related field. Excellent Arabic and English language skills.

Professional experience:

The candidate must have a proven professional experience of at least 3 years in finance and accounting in an international environment pertinent to the duties to be carried out.

5. Delegation Driver

The Delegation of the European Union in Sana'a is seeking to recruit a temporary driver as soon as possible.

The contract is initially for two months and renewable.

The driver should be prepared to work in atypical hours, particularly the evening and be available in case of urgency.

Tasks will include:-

Under the overall supervision of the Head of Administration, the driver will undertake the following tasks:

- Drive Delegation staff and EU visitors in the capital or nationwide as required;
- Transport of persons and goods/documents and distribute mail and other documents.
- Pick-up/drop duties to airport;
- Car maintenance and vehicle fleet management;
- Operate the telecommunication equipment of the delegation; namely the UHF/VHF radio network;
- Other administrative tasks as assigned by the Head of Administration.

Job requirements:

Secondary education and ability to communicate in English and Arabic.

Professional experience:

The candidate must have a proven professional experience of at least 3 years as a driver with an unblemished record. Professional experience in an international environment would be advantage.

Interested candidates are requested to send a letter of interest and an updated C.V, indicating the position applied for by email to:

Delegation-yemen-vacancy@ec.europa.eu

No later than 15 May 2010

ONLY SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE INFORMED.

These job vacancies are also available in our website at: http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/yemen/about_us/vacancies/index_en.htm

Restaurants' Street

Photo essay by: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

A place where culture, intellect and tradition meet around a cup of Adani tea.

There is a side old street in the Tahreer square of Sana'a city which is full of street cafés and small snack shops. Not everyone in Sana'a knows about this street, but once you have been there you will definitely return.

This street is an assembly place for many poets, writers, journalists and intellectuals. As you enter the street you can hear the hustle and bustle of waiters and customers moving about. And the intense arguments and political debates on the latest issues of the country and the world.

Although it is a male dominated area, where only men come by tradition to drink the famous Adani tea "strong milk tea with cardamom", which is known as the number one tea in the whole city, there is one old French woman who is a daily visitor and always comes for her Adani tea with a book in hand to read for hours on end.

"Restaurants' Street" is the name the locals have given it. No one remembers when or how it started, but gradually the number of cafés and customers increased considerably. People remember it as the oldest place in Sana'a where they could buy traditional quick meals such as eggs, beans, liver or minced meat with fresh Yemeni bread.

If you want to really feel the spirit of the street, you must visit on Thursday or Friday evenings because during the weekend everyone who is anyone is there, casually but very much alive in spirit and culture.



A lot of journalists and actors meet in this place to smoke cigarette, drink Adeni tea and argue about politics and social issues.



Many years ago, people gathering in this open place to drink strong tea, some of them come from far away place to stay here for a long time and leave at night.



Most of the chefs at restaurants' street have been there for a long time, and have mastered the quick snacks as well as the heavy meals. The customers know what to expect and are happy with it.



Tea service continues all day and to late hours of the night. This tea is legendary and known to be the best Adani "milk and cardamom" tea in Sana'a.



The quick charming waiters greet customers with smiles and rush to assure them to their seats while taking their orders.



Hot special bread is made here. Yemenis call it "Mutabaqiya" "kubz" depending on whether it is cooked with eggs and vegetables or not.



"Modhesh for Tea", is one of the most famous tea makers in the area, his shop is always filled with customers who always drink more than one cup of tea.



"I come to here every day to drink sweet tea and relax after hard day of work, I feel comfortable when I stay here and meet my friends," said Ali Abo Lohoom, one permanent visitor to restaurants street.

Expressing emotions to avoid divorce

By: Shafeek Al-Homaidi
eek99@yahoo.com

We hear of a lot of mismatched couples and divorces in Yemen today. Personal characteristics are formed according to the social environment and culture we grow up in. Are Yemeni women or girls tough and ill-mannered, or ill-treated?

Both men and women always complain severely about each other, nagging until they trigger the alarm bell. Men will say that, "A woman is like the fence surrounding a man and she is the one who is able to make him a prisoner in her world." But women say that "A man is the first and last teacher able to change the woman either into a monster or a pet human kind."

Who are the women of today? Most Yemeni women are not satisfied with their lives and they believe that they should, to some extent, be obedient to their husbands and accordingly, men should to some degree, be loyal to their wives.

Most employed women spend their incomes not under the supervision of their husbands. Women believe that their authority at home has increased substantially compared to the past.

At present, their attitude towards life certainly differs greatly from that of the previous generation, considering all

the various ups and downs they have to face in today's community. They live a different life and think differently. A new generation of young women has come into being. They have opted for equal rights with men, and participation in all of the social, political, scientific, cultural and economic fields.

Having had their rights ignored by men for a long time, today's women are struggling against injustice and looking for ways to achieve their goals and ideals.

According to a recent survey, 67 percent of women in Yemen were disappointed, 24 percent are partially hopeful, and just 9 percent were quite hopeful.

The survey on happiness in life showed that 43 percent are unhappy, 40 percent are happy, 13 percent are rarely happy, and 4 percent are not happy at all. Asked about their satisfaction with their marriage, 33 percent said that they were satisfied, 32 percent that they were sometimes satisfied, 7 percent that they were completely satisfied, and 31 percent that they were satisfied to some extent.

"There is no law that binds women to any household chore, and taking care of a husband should be rewarded," said Yasmin Shagdri, 25, in fourth year at university. "Men can never restrain the freedom of women under the pretext that she is being inattentive to the household tasks."

Women have all the freedom to move along as any other human being. But if the work of a woman appears to be in opposition with the man's right as a husband, then he may ask her to stay at home.

If the marital relationship lacks this sort of understanding, the woman must work on discovering the weaknesses of her husband such as his needs and emotions. She must convince him tactfully to approve her work. When a woman fulfills the needs of her husband and shows sensitivity to his feelings, he usually gives her more freedom in her private and public life.

However, sometimes the husband takes an active stance to oppose his wife's plans, especially if he only considers his own desires and demands that his wife be exclusively his. Some husbands oblige their wives to stay out of the social or the political arenas owing to their own complexes about that kind of work.

In such cases where discussion is of no benefit, the woman should make efforts to protect first her marriage outside the framework of the marital relationship, by seeking the help of a counselor, for example.

Couple counseling

Abdulhafidh Mohammed, 35, works for a travel agency. He has been married for more than 5 years and says that he has a nice home and two kids.

"I've always been in work and we are well off," he says. "We have an expensive holiday each year and several mini-breaks."

He says that many women feel lonely because they are intelligent and want to interact with people outside the home. But he also says that women today are not satisfied with being simple wives and mothers anymore. Instead, they are obsessed with money, careers, and deceived by appearances. Their criteria for the selection of their partners are very high, thus causing distress to themselves and their husbands.

"This is why we keep our mouths shut and swallow discontent until it threatens to choke us," he says. "And it is why there is so much to be said for relationship counseling, where a trained facilitator holds the ground in a couple."

These problems include incapacity to show any emotion and an apparent lack of interest in anyone else's troubles.

"My wife never told me or whispered that she loved me, but I am pretty sure she does," Abdulhafidh says. "But I need to hear it from her often."

Psychologist Dr. Taha Al-Buraihi said that culture plays a vital role, and that some shy rural girls cannot express their feelings frankly towards their spouse.

Town girls do not keep in touch with their husbands, like the rural girls do. A

lack of affection within a marriage is the principle causes for disruption in family life, he explained. And men deprived of emotions in marriage will likely pay too much attention to sweet words of other girls outside the home and at workplace and thus start a relationship.

Communication, communication

Communication is the key to all problems. Is there communication in your marriage? You point out all the material advantages you have given your wife, as though these ought to guarantee a trade in love and affection. Your wife may be saying nothing but she is clearly feeling something, and it's very likely that her feelings are at the heart of her coldness.

But there is only one person who has the answer and that is her. You have to ask her what she feels. Of course be prepared that, when you start to pry open a long marriage's worth of stored silences and resentments you open a huge and voracious can of worms that could destroy the marriage.

Marrying too early can spoil a marriage. Women who are well-educated and confined to their homes suffer emotional deprivation.

If you step back into the past, there was deep emotional compatibility between couples although there was no education and most of society was illiterate. Most Yemeni men in the past

worked abroad and left their wives at home to wait patiently and faithfully for their return.

But now it is different. A relationship in the past was built on straightforward Islamic principles. There was no need to invite one's wife to a restaurant or spend hours day and night talking on the phone. Men learnt to be well-behaved from their family.

In the past, women worked in the fields and men worked as well, but both worked for the sake of each other. They shared in their struggle in life. The upbringing of the past was positive, full of affection passed on from parents to their children. If there was a minor quarrel between the husband and wife, it was soon settled as respect still existed between them. There was no need for the man to bring his wife's relatives a goat and a big sum of money to get her back as is done now.

Whether we are happy or not does not depend on reaching a state of perfection. Perfection and human beings do not go together. Happiness in a relationship depends on what we are prepared to accept, tolerate and forgive. So before anyone contemplates the confrontation that could blow their relationship apart, I recommend looking at the whole picture, not just the bit that is nagging at you.

Compatibility and love are the important ingredients to hold a marriage together.

The disappointing situation in our hospitals

By: Eihab Saleh Fadel
Abosaleh3000@hotmail.com

What should we do with hospitals like that all over the country? Is it our responsibility to be born in such a country? I am not here to blame, but to attract the attention of our society to what is exactly happening in hospitals.

I have a story to mention here which happened a few days ago to one of my relatives. He came with his wife from our countryside with their new prematurely born baby to this hospital in the town for better treatment and care, to save his life. His parents came with great hope to overcome this situation, so my father and I accompanied them to the hospital.

When we arrived, many people in the emergency room seemed to be doctors,

and they took the baby and wanted to rescue his life. But I think they did not know how to do so. After many hours of tests and X-rays, the graduate doctors took charge of the situation in a provoking and slow way as if they wanted us to pay money, without any consideration for the emotions of the parents.

Some hours later, they started quarreling as to where they should put the baby. Finally they decided to place it in

an intensive care unit. Then the next day, a doctor decided to operate on the baby because of an obstruction in the intestines.

Before the operation the baby was injected with proteins and vitamins as if he was a piece of flesh and not a human being. After the operation, we awaited good news but were shocked at the miserable news that the baby had swelling in the stomach.

Later on, they kept the baby in an incubator after realizing their mistake. Finally the baby died after nine days in the hospital.

The cost for all the treatment was over YR 5,000. Dramatically, all the doctors escaped from this situation, and the parents did not know what they should do after facing all these difficulties and having no money because they are very poor. Society did not help them.

Who is responsible for this? Realize what a crime was committed on a baby in the hands of careless people pretending to be doctors! Actually, this happened to one of my relatives, but I am sure that it has occurred continuously all over our country. I urge those doctors dealing with people's lives to be more careful and to work as if they were treating their own children. If this happens, many children will be rescued.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following positions with its Project "Local Governance Support Project"

Post Title: National Project Manager

Post Level: SC - National Hire

Duration: one year (renewable)

Duty Station: Sana'a

Responsibilities:

- Manage the daily operations of project activities and support the timely implementation of all project activities
- Assist the CTA and MoLA in the preparation of an Annual and Quarterly work plans in close consultation with UNDP and UNCDF
- Assist the CTA in the selection and recruitment of required project staff, experts and consultants and implementing partner organisations;
- Manage the staff of the project as agreed with CTA and designate authority to the staff responsible for the different activities of the project in order to expedite project implementation.
- Provide guidance and support to the teams implementing the various components and activities of the project.
- Oversee and authorize requests for disbursement of project funds in line with the standard Guidelines for the implementation of NIM modality.
- Monitor the progress of the project against the work plan and assist the CTA to prepare monthly progress reports, annual project reports as set out in the project document.
- Support monitoring field visits by UNDP/UNCDF and MoLA including preparing an action plan for monitoring visits, tripartite reviews/review meetings, and evaluations and assisting in the preparation of monitoring visit reports.
- Establish network and contacts with UNDP resources in the Local Government sector and other international sources

Qualification:

- A post graduate degree in Political Science, Public Administration, Law, Public Finance, International Development or a related discipline.
- At least 8 years' experience in project management and/or development issues at a managerial level. Or university degree with 10 years relevant experience.
- Proven skills in project management, including managing budgets and financial reporting to multiple donors.
- Proven skills in staff management, team building and partnership
- Excellent command of the English (Oral, Written and spoken) and Arabic languages. Tests may be conducted for language skills
- Proficiency in standard computer software's (Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point) and ability to use Internet

Post Title: Gender Analyst

Post Level: SC - National Hire

Duration: one year (renewable)

Duty Station: Sana'a

Responsibilities:

- Support mainstreaming of gender perspectives in the planning and implementation of all project activities;
- Review and improve existing training manuals and support the production of

new manuals and capacity development initiatives supported by the LGSP to ensure the integration of gender perspectives;

- Design and deliver training on gender-related issues;
- Develop guidance on gender mainstreaming for local authorities
- Provide practical support and guidance to LGSP and MoLA field teams to implement gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment initiatives
- Identify the need for specific consultancies in related fields and assist with the selection and recruitment of qualified consultants
- Support the Women's department in the Ministry of Local Administration to effectively plan, advocate for and implement gender sensitive perspectives, effective advocacy and initiatives to empower women and increase their participation in governance in all aspects of the Ministry's work;
- Provide advice and support to MoLA to ensure the full participation of women in policy consultation, policy development and policy review processes;
- Support the design, collection and analysis of gender desegregated data to support MoLA's data collection at the national level;
- Support the design and implementation of gender budgeting in local development planning processes;

Qualification:

- A degree in an appropriate discipline in the social sciences such as women's studies, communication, political sciences, public administration, development studies or other related discipline.
- At least 5 years' experience in the field of supporting gender mainstreaming and gender responsive initiatives in either local development/community development, organisational development, and/or public policy
- Experience working with government institutions at central and/or local levels, especially in an advisory role
- Demonstrated experience in designing and delivering training, developing practical guidance and providing capacity building support
- Proven skills of team building, partnership working, and effective advocacy
- Excellent command of spoken and written English and Arabic
- Proficiency in standard computer software's (Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point) and ability to use Internet

Post Title: Finance Associate

Post Level: SC - National Hire

Duration: one year (renewable)

Duty Station: Sana'a

Responsibilities:

- Prepare, updates and monitor the financial plans of the project, based on the annual work plans, in coordination with the project implementing units at the central and local levels,
- Manage daily operational finances and maintain an overview of the financial situation of project activities to ensure the efficient implementation of project activities
- Assist in the development of financial systems and processes for the Ministry of Local Administration, and in building the capacity of Ministry staff in financial management.
- Implement effective procurement procedures including developing standard

bidding documents and forms to facilitate the effective procurement of goods and services, elaborating and supervising the issuance of contracts for goods, works or services in the corresponding formats by financing source.

- Develop and submit to UNDP necessary forms for disbursement of funds and other forms (e.g. advance payments, request for direct payments, etc.) after authorization from the National Manager / CTA and in line with the standard Guidelines for the implementation of NIM modality.
- Prepare statements of expenditure and submit forms for advance and direct payments in a timely fashion.
- Ensure the preparation and proper use of standard documentation for all financial procedures in line with UNDP/UNCDF corporate guidance and consistent with the requirements of multiple donors
- Ensure all financial process files are complete and kept updated
- Facilitate annual audit of the project financial records.
- Represents LGSP in negotiations, meetings and review of the finance and contracting processes.
- Support other project activities as assigned by the National Project Manager, within the framework from his or her experience and competence.

Qualification:

- University degree in Business Administration, Economics, Finance, Accounting or related disciplines
- Minimum of 10 years of relevant experience in project financial management.
- Experience of managing complex budgets with funding from multiple donors preferably in the field of development cooperation (NGO's, UN system, multilateral cooperation, etc.)
- Excellent knowledge of tools, procedures and international standards for procurement processes within the context of development support programs.
- Knowledge of the UNDP administrative and financial management procedures, program execution modalities, rules and regulations is highly desirable.
- Knowledge of government financial management systems in Yemen would be an advantage
- Sound experience in the use of IT-based financial management systems. Knowledge of ATLAS, and ERP (people soft) is highly desirable.
- Effective communication skills and ability to establish good working relationships with national authorities and international organizations;

Only Online Applications will be accepted.

For further details of the job description and online application, please visit our website at <http://jobs.undp.org/>

Response will only be made to short listed candidates. The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday May 15, 2010.



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◆ شقة مفروشة سوبر لوكس - منطقة مذبح بين جسر مذبح وجامعة الإيمان - العمارات الليبية - ٢ غرف نوم - ٢ حمامات - مجلس وغرفة صالون مفروش بالكامل. الإيجار: \$450. للتواصل: ٧٣٥٨٧٠٠٦٩

◆ مطلوب للإيجار: غرفتين وحمام ومطبخ في منطقة حده الزيري أو عصر. للتواصل: ٧١٣٤٨٨٦١٠

سيارات

◆ للبيع: سيارة بانفندر - نيسان ٢٠٠٢ - نوع TE أمريكي - كامل المواصفات - الحالة ممتازة - السعر: ١٣٠٠٠ دولار (قابل للتفاوض). للتواصل: ٧١٢٠٢٤٤٦٢

عقارات

خدمات نظفية - خبرة في إدارة مخازن - خبرة في مجال المراسلات التجارية - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية بطلاقة ويجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر. للتواصل: ٧٧٧٤٩٣٣١-٧٧٣٧١٧١٧٦

◆ ربيع محمد - بكالوريوس صحافة وإعلام - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابةً ونطقاً - يجيد العمل على الكمبيوتر. يبحث عن عمل في محافظة عدن. للتواصل: ٧٣٥٨٦٩٥٥٤

◆ ضياء محمد - فني تشغيل مكائن صناعية إنتاجية - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه - لديه مؤهل ثانوية عامة وشهائد خبرة. للتواصل: ٧٠٠٨٩٩٥٧٥

◆ عادل إسماعيل - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - جامعة الحديدة - يجيد التعامل مع الكمبيوتر والإنترنت - خبرة سنتين في مجال مراسلات الشركات - يبحث عن عمل في أي شركة تجارية أو في أي منظمة في فرعها في الحديدة. للتواصل: ٧٣٥٢٢٩٤٩٧

◆ ماثور - هندي الجنسية - ماجستير تجارة - خبرة لأكثر من عشرين سنة في مجال التجارة - إدارة - تسويق - مشاريع (مستويات عالية) - يبحث عن عمل ويفضل في مدينة تعز - مستعد للعمل فوراً. للتواصل: ٧١١٤٤٥٣٥٤

◆ مسعود حسين - خبرة عشرين سنة في السواقفة - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية. للتواصل: ٠١/٩٦١٧٩٤

◆ حامد عبدالكريم - دبلوم هندسة معمارية (رسم معماري) - تقدير جيداً - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر وخصوصاً برنامج الرسم الهندسي (AUTOCAD) - خبرة أربع سنوات في مجال الرسم. للتواصل: ٧٧١٦٨٨١٣٢ - ٧٣٣٦٧٨٨٤٦

◆ بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - خبرة في الترجمة والمراسلات التجارية وجميع الأعمال المصرفية - خبرة في التدريس في المعاهد والمدارس. للتواصل: ٧٧١٩٤٠٣٢

◆ محمد علي - هندسة اتصالات - حاصل على شهادات دولية في الشبكات (CCNA) وفي صيانة الحاسوب (A+) - خبرة في مجال الشبكات - صيانة الحاسب GSM وأنظمة الاتصالات. للتواصل: ٧١١٦٧٢٤٨

◆ وليد القديمي - بكالوريوس محاسبة - خبرة في مجال المحاسبة في شركة

خبرة واسعة في المحاسبة التجارية وشركات المقاولات - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية. للتواصل: ٧١٢٥٠٠٥١٢

◆ صلاح - بك لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم إدارة موارد بشرية خبرة في استخدام الكمبيوتر والإنترنت - يرغب في العمل في أي شركة أو سفارة. للتواصل: ٧٣٤٧٤٩٠٧٨

◆ مدرس متخصص في تدريس اللغة العربية والإنجليزية - خبرة طويلة في مجال التدريس - يرغب في إعطاء دروس خصوصية (مناهج المدارس العامة) وبأسعار مناسبة. للتواصل: ٧٣٥١٩٥٤٤

◆ ماجستير لغة عربية - يريد إعطاء دروس لتعليم اللغة العربية لغير الناطقين بها. للتواصل: ٧٣٣٥٦٢٠٦٤

◆ بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة صنعاء - تقدير ممتاز - دورات في أنظمة يمن سوفت (الإصدار السادس) - يجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر - خبرة لمدة سنتين في مراجعة الحسابات لشركات أدوية - يرغب في العمل في أي شركة في صنعاء. للتواصل: ٧٧١٤٥٤٠٨٧ - ٧٧٧٠٠٣٥١٢

◆ علي عباس - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - يجيد التعامل مع الكمبيوتر ويجيد الطباعة باللغتين العربية والإنجليزية - يبحث عن عمل في أي شركة أو مجال. للتواصل: ٧٧٧٨٣٥٩٤٩

◆ صلاح - بك لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم إدارة موارد بشرية خبرة في استخدام الكمبيوتر والإنترنت - يرغب في العمل في أي شركة أو سفارة. للتواصل: ٧٣٤٧٤٩٠٧٨

◆ مدرس متخصص في تدريس اللغة العربية والإنجليزية - خبرة طويلة في مجال التدريس - يرغب في إعطاء دروس خصوصية (مناهج المدارس العامة) وبأسعار مناسبة. للتواصل: ٧٣٥١٩٥٤٤

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وراء لينك: ٤٤٤٤٥٠

مستشفيات

مستشفى الثورة: ٠١/٢٤٦٩٦٧-٦٦
مستشفى الجمهوري: ٠١-٢٧٤٢٨٦/٨٧
مستشفى حدة الأمل: ٠١-٤١٢٩٨١
المستشفى الألماني الحديث: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠/٦٠٠٠٠
تلفون: ٤١٨١٦٦
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فنادق

فندق فرساي: ٠١-٤٢٥٩٧/١/٢
فندق شيراتون: ٠١-٣٣٧٥٠
فندق موفيك: ٠١-٤٦٦٦٦
فندق سينا: ٠١-٣٧٣٧٢٢
فندق ريلكس ان: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١
فندق وأجنحة الخليج الساحلي: ١-٦٠٣٣٥ - ٦٠٣٣٤/٨

مكاتب ترجمة

الشهاب لخدمات الترجمة (عربي-إنجليزي/إنجليزي-عربي)
تلفون: ٧٧٧٧٢٢٠٢ أو ٧٣٣٠٠٨٨٦ - فاكس: ٠١/٤٢٠٦٥٧
إيميل: sts.yemen@gmail.com

معاهد

معهد بالي: ٤٤٨٠٣٩ - ٤٤٨٠٣٩ / ٧/٤ - فاكس: ٤٤٨٠٣٧
معهد اللغة الألمانية: ٢٠٠٩٤٥
المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر: ٦٦٦٦٢٢٢
معهد كاروكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥
معهد كاريكاتير: ٥١٢٤٣٤/٥ - فاكس: ٣٣٤٣٦
معهد أكتيك: ٤٤٠٨٢٣ - ٤٤٠٨٢٣ - فاكس: ٦٦٥٥٣٧

شركات للتأمين

المحمدة للتأمين: ١٧٥٥٥٥٥٥ - الرقم المجاني: ٨٠٠ ٥٥ ٥٥
الوطنية للتأمين: ٧٢٧١٣/٧٢٧١٣ - فاكس: ٣٧٩٢٤
مؤثر للتأمين: ٢٠١١٢٩/٨/١٢
الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين: صنعاء: ٢٨٤٩٢٣
عن: ٢٤٤٢٨٠
تعز: ٢٥٨٨٨١
شركة اليمن للتأمين: صنعاء: ٣٧٢٨٠٧/٣٧٢٩١٢/٤٤
عن: ٢٤٦٦١٧
تعز: ٢٥٠٢٤٥

مدارس

روضة واحة الأطفال: تلفون: ٤٧٠٢٥٠ - فاكس: ٧٣٤٥٢٢٢٥
مدارس صنعاء الدولية: ٣٧٠١٩١/٢ - فاكس: ٣٧٠١٩٣
مدرسة التريكة الدولية: ٤٤٨٢٥٨/٩
مدرسة الماجد اليمنية: ٢٠٦٦٥٩

سفريات

التسليم للسفريات: ٢٧٠٧٥٠
العالمية للسفريات والسياحة: ٤٤١٦٥٨٩/٦٠

مطاعم

مطعم وخيابة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
تلفون: ٢٦٦٦٧٥ - ٥٠٤٢٩٠ - فاكس: ٢٦٦٦١٩

البنوك

بنك اليمن والخليج: فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤ - ١٦٠٨٢٣ - ٩٦٧
فرع عدن: ٢٣٧٨٢٩ - فاكس: ٢٣٧٨٢٤
بنك التضامن الإسلامي: ٠١/٦٦٦٦٦٦
البنك التجاري: فاكس: ٢٧٧٢٢٤
مصرف اليمن البحري الشامل: ٢٦٤٧٧٥, ٢٦٤٧٠٢
فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٣, ٢٦٤٧٠٣
بنك اليمن الدولي: ٠١-٤٠٧٠٣٠
البنك العربي: ٠١-٢٧٦٥٨٥/٢
بنك التسليف الزراعي: ٠١-٥٦٣٨١٣
البنك المركزي: ٠١-٢٧٤٣٦٤

تأجير سيارات

زاوية (Budget): ٢٠٠٦٣٧٢ - ٢٠٠٩٦١٨٠ - فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨
يورب كار: ٢٧٠٧٥١ - فاكس: ٢٧٠٨٠٤
هيزرت لتأجير السيارات صنعاء: ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩
فرع شيراتون: ٥٤٥٩٨٥
عن: ٢٠٢٤٥٦٢٥

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر

بنك تعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة أيزو ١٠٠٠

صنعاء: ٠١-٤٦٨٣٠٥
فاكس: ٠١-٤٠٧٤٩٩
عن: ٢٠-٣٣٧١٩٩
تعز: ٠١-٤٢٥٠٣٤٣
الكلية: ٥٠٣٠٧٤٩٢

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NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر: ٤٤٥٥١٨/٧-٤٤٢٠٧٣

البريد السريع

صنعاء: ٠١-٤٤٠١٧٠
عن: ٢٠٢٤٥٦٦٦
الحديدة: ٢٠٢٦٦٩٧٥
تعز: ٠٤٢٠٥٧٨٠
إب: ٤١١٩٨٨
الكلية: ٣٠٢٦٤١
شيرة: ٢٠٢٣٢٦
سينين: ٤٠٧٢١٩
بلحاف: ٧٧٧٨٨٦٠
سقري: ٦٦٠٤٩٨

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All that glitter is not gold



They sell you everything in the old city of Sana'a. The trick is to find what is genuine and what is fake. But nevertheless, to enjoy the spirit and the experience of being in one of the most fascinating historic places in the world.

By: Malak Shaher

"Sadeeq, sadeeq," yells out a man in his early forties holding a dozen of colorful fake agate necklaces in each finger of his right hand. Sadeeq means friend in Arabic. He tried to persuade the tourists at the old city of Sana'a to buy from him. He has been standing in the sun since

early morning and you can vividly see the tired lines on his face as drops of sweat mix with dust. He is anxious to make a deal forgetting that charm is a seller's best friend.

The man, assuming that the foreigner wouldn't be able to tell the difference between a real and a fake agate, tries to finish the bargain and sell her a necklace. It was only YR 200, or less than one USD.

In the old city of Sana'a, or more

commonly known as Bab al Yaman, there are a lot of genuine agate necklaces, jambias, daggers, fox furs, swords and rosaries. Many find them quite expensive, especially if they are made of rare and luxurious materials. There are rosaries, for instance, sold for 400 riyals because they are sometimes plated with silver and gold.

But if one does not have enough money to buy such things, Bab Al-Yaman has the solution. Each real

item has its fake equivalent.

Fake gold belts, rings, necklaces and bracelets lie on the ground and stuffed in a small cartoon box as a woman standing with her husband tries to convince him to buy her a belt. Almost all the pieces were not more than 5 USD but some of them were almost double.

Although the fake equivalents are less expensive, they are just as attractive as the real ones – although perhaps bought for different purposes. The dazzling mini jambias in silver and gold lying on the ground attracted a man who said that he wanted to buy one for his child because they are made of plastic and don't hurt.

In another shop, the hanging fox furs are very catchy.

"The real fur is ten times more than the fake one," No'man Al-Robah, the shop keeper said when asked about the price.

However, fake equivalents are not necessarily cheaper. A long necklace made of plastic jasmine is a bit more expensive than the real aromatic one.

"Why is it more expensive?" A woman asked the seller about a fake jasmine necklace. "You can wear it hundreds of times and be sure it will never wither," he replied. "Of course it will not," the woman murmured, "but what is the use of jasmine necklaces without the aroma?"

The fake daggers which are only USD 7 may tempt a tourist for they look completely like real ones.

"The real ones are USD 150," Jamal Al-Raishan, the shopkeeper in the Sam City Center mall, said.

In the old city of Sana'a the only thing that has no fake equivalent are the genuine smiles on people's faces.

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OMEGA OFFICIAL TIMEKEEPER

Renovated OMEGA Museum in Biel to reopen on May 3rd

The OMEGA Museum in Biel will open its doors to the public on May 3rd following several months of extensive renovations.

The Museum, which opened in January of 1984, is the oldest museum dedicated to a single watch brand. Located just opposite OMEGA's headquarters in Biel, it features items representing the brand's entire history, including the watchmaker's bench used by Louis Brandt when he began to make watches more than 160 years ago.

OMEGA president Stephen Urquhart likened the period of renovation to an archaeological dig. "Not only did we renovate the whole Museum but we also restored many of the period features of this listed building. The project gave us a chance to review our entire collection. Some of the objects displayed are being presented to the public for the first time, including things which we didn't even know were hidden in the archives."

One of these is a pocket watch used by Albert Einstein, a man whose work is closely identified with time.

OMEGA's history is vividly recreated with displays presenting all the brand's most important stories. Visitors will have a chance to examine the equipment OMEGA has developed and used in its timekeeping role at the Olympic Games since 1932.

The brand has been closely involved in NASA's manned space programme for more than 45 years and OMEGA Speedmasters were worn on all six lunar landings. The Museum exhibit highlighting the role of the Speedmaster in space features four watches which were worn on or near the Moon.

One of the new sections of the Museum is dedicated to prototypes – watches which were developed by OMEGA but, for various reasons, never introduced into commercial production.

Some of the timepieces on display have been long time favourites of visitors to the OMEGA Museum, including the wristwatch worn by author/adventurer/spy T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) and the watch worn by John F. Kennedy at his inauguration when he became 35th President of the United States.

The renovated OMEGA Museum will be open Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. except on public holidays. Entrance is free of charge and guided visits are available in English, French or German. Additional information is available from the Museum at +41(0)32 343 9211 or visiting the website: <http://www.omegawatches.com/spirit/history/museum>

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