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President pardons hundreds of prisoners of political conscience

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, May 23 — President Saleh on Friday announced the pardon of hundreds of political conscience prisoners and the formation of a multi-party coalition government.

On the eve of a ceremony held in Taiz on Saturday for the celebration of Yemen's National Day, Saleh announced the release of prisoners from the Houthis rebellion and those who are involved in the southern separatist movement.

The new government will be composed of political parties represented in parliament, led by "the basic partner in achieving unity," the Yemeni Socialist Party.

The YSP ruled South Yemen before recognizing the unity between north and south on May 22, 1990 under the leadership of Ali Salem Al-Beidh. Al-Beidh is now calling for the re-separation of north and south from abroad.

But Saleh's call for forming a coalition government is preconditioned by a need for dialogue with all political forces and citizens within the framework of constitutional institutions and without preconditions or obstacles.

"In the light of the dialogue, it is possible to form a government from all influential political forces in the parliament," said Saleh.

He called to prepare for parliamentary elections that have already been postponed for two years. The elections could proceed on the basis of last year's agreement between the party heads of the People's General Congress and the opposition Joint Meeting Parties.

Saleh directed the government to continue with the process of reform, to enhance the national economy, and to carry out more strategic projects to create job opportunities for youth and to alleviate poverty and unemployment.

He also directed the government to start implementing the project for a gas pipeline to be extended from Marib to Ma'bar in the Dhamar governorate, the modernization of the Aden refinery, and energy generating, petrochemical, cement and housing projects.

He hailed the armed forces efforts in keeping peace and stability in the country, and highly praised anti-terror forces on their achievements in fighting terrorism.

During the celebration, President

Saleh pardoned all journalists in jail and those who are currently being tried in cases relating to the freedom of the press.

While observers were expecting such announcements in the president's speech that he had earlier said would contain 'surprises', many people were expecting him to say more to address their suffering due to poverty and the deterioration of living standards.

Some political analysts are optimistic of the president's speech and consider it as a sign of good will to include others in government and to start initiating reforms.

"The greatest surprise in the president's speech is his acknowledgement of the case in the south," said political analyst Zaid Al-Thari.

In the program called "Ma Wara al-Khabar" or "What's Behind the News," broadcast on the Al-Jazeera satellite channel, Al-Thari said there is "historical" openness to the President's speech.

He also said that the speech included a call to opposition figures abroad like Ali Salem Al-Beidh and Hydar Abu Bakr Al-Attas to return to the country and participate in the new government.



Another analyst, Saeed Thabit, who was a guest on the program, was not so optimistic, although he acknowledged that the speech contained some good initiatives.

"There is deep crisis in Yemen, even though the President's initiative is good as it contains releasing the journalists," he said.

Thabit, who is from the current leading opposition Yemeni Socialist Party,

says the country is in a "historical dilemma" that requires translating words into actions.

Dr. Mohammad Al-Dhahri, professor of political sciences at Sana'a University said, "The surprise in the President's speech is the non-surprise. The public were expecting to hear something surprising, but in the end nothing surprising was announced. Forty years have passed since the announcement of the

unity [between north and south] and we still live without democracy."

He added that people had expected the president to bring the corrupt to justice, announce local governance with extended powers and activate the constitution. But he is optimistic that there is political acceptance regarding the next parliamentary elections.

Earlier, the previous president of the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen Ali Nasser Mohammad and former prime minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al-Attas issued a statement to various media outlets in which they said the people of the south are living through this celebration while there is a military assault against the people in Radfan, in Dhale' governorate.

They accused the authorities of a military and security escalation in the governorates of Lahj, Aden, Al-Dhale', Abyan, Shabwa, Hadramout, and Mahara, in an attempt to strike at the peaceful southern movement.

The former president and prime minister called on political forces in Yemen to act from a sense of national responsibility to stop the military actions against the southern governorates waged by the authorities.

Aden security suppresses Southern Movement protests



Over the last two years, the Southern Movement has intensified its demonstrations calling for secession from the central state in Sana'a.

By: Fuad Mused
For the Yemen Times

ADEN, May 23 — Last Friday, security forces in Aden put an end to protests of Southern Movement supporters

calling for secession from the north of the country.

Dozens of the Southern Movement supporters protested after the Friday sermon in the districts of Al-Tuwahi, Sheik Othman, Al-Buriga and Al-Mansoor, according to local sources.

The protests coincided with celebrations in Taiz for the 20th anniversary of Yemen's unification in 1990, during which President Saleh announced an amnesty for all Southern Movement detainees.

Southern Movement supporters

were responding to an invitation by Ali Salem Al-Beidh, former president of the south Yemen, to revive the secessionism declaration of May 21, 1994.

On May 21, during the secession war in 1994, Al-Beidh called for the

political separation of the two parts of Yemen: the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in the south and Arab Republic of Yemen in the north.

He called on people in the southern governorates to demonstrate to end the unification of the Republic of Yemen.

During last Friday's protests, the security force dispersed and arrested some of the protesters who held up flags calling for secession.

According to locals, security forces were deployed to the city's entrances to close roads off to the demonstrators gathering in the courtyard of the Hashimi mosque in the Sheik Othman district.

In Al-Dhale' governorate, clashes have been ongoing between an unknown armed group and security forces since last Thursday, especially at night.

Locals said that armed people targeted army sites near the governorate with rocket-propelled grenades. The soldiers at the military sites responded to the attack and caused three casualties. Two of them are from the army and the third one is a woman.

The road between Sana'a and Aden is still closed from Al-Dhale' governorate to Al-Anad in Lahj, after armed groups blocked the road responding to escalating military presence in the area

for 10 days now.

Recently, the Ministry of Interior on its website said that it would not tolerate anyone sparking unrest and violence in the south. It also called on the police to do its duty seriously.

The southern movement is a movement that emerged in 2007. At the beginning, they demanded equal citizenship for southerners and rights of army

retirees.

Recently, the movement's demands have developed into calling for secession from the central state in Sana'a.

Since the unrest began the south in 2007, over 150 people have been killed and over 500 injured during demonstrations organized by the movement and clashes between security and its members.

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Strategy to eliminate malaria by 2019

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANAA, May 23rd — Around 60 percent of the population of Yemen lives in places that are vulnerable to malaria, according to Dr. Adel Al-Jassari, head of the National Malaria Control Program.

Last week, the program launched a strategy to eliminate malaria infections in Yemen by the year 2019.

The strategy aims to eradicate malaria through spraying breeding sites with pesticides.

The strategy also aims to refresh epidemic surveillance techniques through information and early response systems on epidemics and by conducting applied studies.

Information systems will depend on case management to provide people with quick diagnosis services and early treatment and to create quality control systems.

The strategy also aims to reinforce the malaria program mission by establishing support systems through human resources and infrastructure development, monitoring and evaluation and creating supply and maintenance systems.

The strategy works to activate health education and awareness among people through the media, social mobilization and building partnerships with relevant organizations.

"Eradication of malaria is our responsibility and it needs great effort and real support," said Dr. Shawqi



Around 60 percent of the population of Yemen lives in places that are vulnerable to malaria, according to the National Malaria Control Program.YT

Al-Maori, from the program.

"For a Yemen without malaria, we should all cooperate to accomplish this goal," he added.

"Although malaria elimination needs political movement to adopt a strategy, decision makers are not interested in doing this," said Al-Jassari during the workshop.

Al-Jassari urged parliamentarians, artists, teachers, doctors and journalists to support the goals of the strategy.

"Malaria is an economic burden on families who are affected and on the country as a whole" he said.

"Millions of people die annually in the world due to malaria, 71 percent of them are children," said Mohammed Al-Hanmi, the supervisor of the pro-

gram.

Health education about malaria, personal prevention and early diagnosis are very important, according to Dr. Bilquis Fare, a specialist on malaria.

"The Ministry of Agriculture must ensure that agricultural projects have no negative consequence for public health," she said.

She advised people to cover uncovered wells, fill ponds and marshes, use mosquito nets and cover windows with nets. She also urged people to consult the doctors who work with the malaria program.

"People must realize that effective prevention of malaria only comes when people follow the proper methods of prevention," she added.

Minibus fare increases YR 10

By: Ali Saeed

SANAA May 23 — Ahmed Khadash used to take three different minibuses routes to get to Sana'a University where he studies. Due to the increase in minibus fare prices, he is now forced to walk part of the way.

"With this increase, I find myself forced to not take one of the three buses to maintain my budget," he told the Yemen Times. "The three buses used to cost me YR 120 two ways, and now the two buses cost the same price."

The minibus fare in Sana'a has increased by YR 10 since last Wednesday, according to the Transportation Syndicate.

On April 25, bus drivers in Sana'a went on strike demanding the state to allow them to increase the fare from YR 20 to YR 30. They were arrested and their buses were seized.

Salih Al-Alwani, the head of the syndicate, told the Yemen Times that the mayor of Sana'a, officials from the Ministry of Transportation, and the head of the Transportation Syndicate had agreed to suspend the strike for two weeks until they reached a consensus.

However, the only consensus that they reached was to increase the fare by YR 5 but this was refused by the transportation syndicate, according to Al-Alwani.

"Bus drivers are Yemenis who have been affected by the fuel and food price hikes, and YR 5 is not enough," said Al-Alwani.



The recent increase in the price of fuel and food has forced minibus drivers to increase the bus fare, causing poor students to walk instead of taking the bus.

He said that the fare of YR 20 has not changed for six years, despite rising prices.

Poor people are negatively affected by this increase. This is why the syndicate instructed bus station officers to encourage drivers to be friendly with those who cannot pay the extra YR 10, according to Al-Alwani.

Al-Alwani said that although this increase has not yet been approved by the state on paper, officials at the mayor's office and the Ministry of Transportation have given it oral approval.

He said that the bus fare increase was the result of salesmen increasing prices

without regard for the consequences.

"There must be a control committee that decides the increase of any item without politicizing," Al-Alwani suggested.

The government has justified the increase in the price of fuel by saying that it is part of economic reforms to gradually abolish fuel subsidies.

Al-Alwani also suggested that the state abolish fuel subsidies, as their beneficiaries are influential groups who buy fuel in Yemen at low prices to sell it for a profit once smuggled abroad.

The state pays around YR 340 billion per a year for oil subsidies, according to Al-Alwani.

An initiative for empowerment by the youth, for the youth

A regional conference will take place next month in Sana'a to allow young Yemenis to discuss their problems and present their issues in search for empowerment and support.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANAA, May 23 — Although Rida is only 18, he is already agitated about his future. He has just finished high school and has to wait the mandatory one year interval before being able to join college. His family encouraged him to use this year to study English or computer skills, but he is not interested. He simply feels frustrated, insecure and fragile.

Every year around 300,000 students graduate from high school and have to

face the challenges of the next level. State universities accommodate only 40 percent of those students while the rest go to private universities, technical institutes or try to enter the private sector.

"Despite our best of efforts through the Decent Work Country Program, the institutions concerns with labor force issues remain inherently weak, they are in desperate need for urgent institutional capacity in order to live up to their respective mandates and fulfill their roles in labor market governance," said

Raidan Al-Saqqaf, ILO representative in Yemen.

In light of this problem, The Ministry of Youth and Sports in cooperation with USAID and Save the Children are organizing a first-of-its-kind regional conference on youth empowerment between the 7th and 9th of June, 2010. The theme of the conference is "Empowered Youth: Makers of the Present & Leaders of the Future."

"The conference aims to promote the empowerment of young people economically, socially, culturally and politically, and to promote the opportunities of their participation in decision-making, and achieve development, peace and security. It also aims to support and advocate so as to empower young peo-

ple in various fields as an urgent humanitarian national development priority, and to strengthen relations and ties between programming and executive coordination and integration among the bodies concerned with the empowerment of young people," said Omar A. Own, the Regional Youth Empowerment Conference Coordinator.

Assisted by specialists from government, civil society and donors, the participating youth will be divided into four groups to discuss their issues and come up with solutions. The themes focus on the empowerment of young people in political, economic, cultural and social areas. There will be discussions, working papers on legislation and policy making, situation analysis

and existing interventions, economic, educational and health capacity building and freedom from violence and poverty.

During the conference the experiences of other countries will be presented to the participants in order to give them an opportunity to exchange knowledge and adopt best practices in the field.

Each thematic group will present a set of recommendations and follow-up action points which will be adopted by the organizers and other stake holders.

One of the main problems is the lack of a central hub with standardized updated information and a resource network for youth empowerment in Yemen. Through this conference the organizers hope to establish a general

directorate for the empowerment of young people in the Ministry of Youth and Sports, within which training and the upgrading of professional skills are conducted through coordination with the relevant authorities.

Other desired outcomes include setting up a coordinating information network that ensures opportunities for and access to empowerment; promoting equal opportunity for employment among young people without discrimination; setting up a youth credit institution; canceling business guarantee (paying guarantor) and sufficing with a presence guarantor except for financial sites; abolishing income taxes on youth projects; and ratifying the Children & Youth Act.

More women benefiting from antenatal health care

SANAA, May 21 (IRIN) — There has been some increase in the number of women accessing antenatal healthcare services in Yemen over the past four years, but most mothers still deliver at home and their health situation remains rather bleak, according to new reports from the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The proportion of women benefiting from antenatal healthcare services has increased from 40 to 55 percent over the past four years, according to an 18 May Health Ministry report covering 2006-2010.

At a conference in Sanaa on 18 May sponsored by the National Women's Committee and the Health Ministry, some women's rights activists criticized slow progress in antenatal healthcare coverage.

UN Population Fund (UNFPA) deputy representative Zeljka Mudrovic said 22 women die in Yemen every day due to pregnancy and birth-related complications.

"As 80 percent of women deliver at home, much more needs to be done to improve antenatal health care for women and reduce high mother and infant mortality rates," she said.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, supported by UNFPA, launched on 17 May the distribution of 30,000 clean and safe home delivery kits for the year 2010 in an effort to improve this situation.

According to WHO's 10 May World Health Statistics 2010 report, Yemen's maternal mortality rate was 430 cases per 100,000 live births, the highest in the Middle East.



A displaced family in their tent at Mazraq refugee camp. The displaced persons at Mazraq camp have fled the ongoing fighting in the Sa'ada province of northern Yemen

Antenatal care coverage ("the percentage of women who used antenatal care provided by skilled health personnel for reasons related to pregnancy at least once during pregnancy, as a percentage of live births in a given time period") was 47 percent - the lowest in the Middle East, according to the report.

Rural areas worst affected

Repeated miscarriages and post-natal bleeding - particularly among girls in rural areas - are among the major factors behind the high maternal mortality rate in the country, according to Nema Naser al-Suraimi, a specialist doctor in obstetrics and gynaecology at al-Thawra Hospital in Sanaa. "In rural areas, miscarriage is commonplace, particularly as 52 percent of girls marry before the age of 15," she told

IRIN.

Yemen's adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 years) stands at 80, according to the WHO report.

"In many remote villages where health facilities don't exist or are very far away, many women die inside cars on their way to [maternity] hospitals in provincial capitals," al-Suraimi said. "Women in rural areas don't receive basic health care from the beginning of pregnancy and therefore are prone to multiple birth-related complications."

According to Mohamed Ghurah, another obstetrics and gynaecology specialist at the Sanaa-based Republican Hospital, 70-80 percent of maternal deaths can be avoided by raising public awareness of the risks of home delivery.

Yemen government puts two Chinese workers in safe place after being freed

SANAA, May 19 (Xinhua) — The Yemeni authorities said on Tuesday that they have received the two Chinese oil workers who were abducted by southern armed Yemeni tribesmen and said they would be transferred to capital Sanaa to be officially handed over to Chinese embassy Wednesday morning.

The governor of Shabwa, Ali Hassan al-Ahmadi told Xinhua by phone that "we and the Deputy Oil and Minerals Minister, Abdul Malik Allama, received the two Chinese oil workers from the local mediation committee and they are now in my office in the Shabwa capital city of Ataq."

"The pair are safe and in good conditions and they have talked via phone with the Chinese ambassador to Yemen," he added.

Governor al-Ahmadi strongly condemned the criminal kidnap and vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice.

A senior security official who asked to remain anonymity, said the two Chinese men will stay tonight in Ataq under heavy security.

"The released two Chinese men will stay tonight at al-Sharq hotel in Ataq under heavy security," according to the official.

"They will be transferred tomorrow morning to Sanaa to be officially handed over to China's embassy," he said.

The official also said that security campaign cordoned off the area where the kidnappers are believed to be hidden and launched a large-scale manhunt to capture them and bring them to justice. The two Chinese workers



told Xinhua by phone that they were nervous when they were transferred to the city of Ataq as a tribal gunmen and a security official accompanying them to meet the negotiator earlier today.

"But now we get relax as we were released thanks to the efforts made by Chinese embassy in Sanaa," they added.

Chinese ambassador to Yemen Liu Denglin confirmed on Tuesday afternoon that the two Chinese oil workers who were abducted by tribesmen in southeastern Yemen had been handed over to the Yemeni government.

The ambassador said the two men told him by phone they were in healthy condition.

"The two abducted Chinese oil workers were freed through the efforts made by every side, including the Yemeni government, security authorities and local tribal mediators and so on," Liu told Xinhua by phone.

On Sunday, armed Yemeni tribes-

men in Shabwa province took the two Chinese oil workers hostage along with their four Yemeni escorts - two guards and two drivers.

An embassy spokesman said then that the embassy immediately contacted the Yemeni security authorities and asked them to secure the safe release of the two Chinese workers as soon as possible.

Yemeni Defense Ministry said on Monday that security authorities launched a security campaign in a bid to free the two Chinese oil workers held by armed tribesmen.

The ministry quoted the governor of Shabwa, Ali Hassan al-Ahmadi as saying that "we call on the kidnappers to quickly free the two Chinese men along with their four Yemeni escorts unconditionally and to surrender to the security authorities."

"Security authorities identified the kidnappers as outlaw elements from the tribe of al-Kamoush who committed the criminal kidnap," he added.

MTN signs contract with government to sponsor illiteracy eradication



people in Sana'a, Lahj, Shabwa and Ibb.

MTN will be paying YR 8,000 each month for each 300 teachers. In addition, it will give 1,000 school bags. Furthermore, in cooperation with the National Awareness Authority, MTN will conduct awareness campaigns about the demerits of illiteracy and will invite illiterate people to join the classes.

SANA'A, May 18 - The MTN Marketing General Manager Ayman Al-Misri signed an agreement with the director of the Illiteracy Eradication Ahmad Abdullah Ahmad and the Deputy Executive Manager of the National Awareness Authority Abdullah Abu Horyya. According to the agreement, MTN will establish 300 classrooms during the next two academic years, 2011 and 2012, to eradicate illiteracy for around 5,000

people in Sana'a, Lahj, Shabwa and Ibb.

The agreement was signed in the presence of the vice-president, Abdu Rabu Mansoor Hadi, the Education Minister Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi, the Culture Minister Mohammad Abu Baker Al-Muflihi and the General Executive Manager for the National Awareness Authority Aref Al-Zouka.

In Brief

SANA'A

Yemen joins in GEF General Assembly meeting

Minister of Water and Environment Abdul-Rahman al-Eryani is to represent Yemen in the 4th meeting of the General Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Upon his departure, the Minister said that the meeting would hold in the Uruguayan capital, Montevideo, on May 24-28.

The meeting will address the issues pertaining to the financings of the environment projects to be implemented in the middle of 2010 and facilitate granting them to the least developed countries, al-Eryani said.

Global Environment Fund, which is affiliated with the GEF, has financed the project of Socotra Archipelago biodiversity, he added.

Jordanian delegation arrives

The Jordanian Senate President Taher al-Masri and his accompanying delegation arrived in Sana'a on Friday to participate in our country's celebrations on the occasion of the Unification Day.

In a statement to Saba, al-Masri voiced his happiness to share the Yemeni people and leadership represented in President Ali Abdullah Saleh their celebrations on the 20th anniversary of the Unification Day.

"We are proud of this unity, because we consider its strong existence a model and a good example for what the Arab world should be", said al-Masri expressing his wishes of success and further progress and prosperity to Yemen people and leadership.

385 Ethiopians sneaked into Yemeni lands last month

A statistical report prepared by the Security Information Center shows that 385 Ethiopians, out of which 78 women, were captured in April for entering the Yemeni territories illegally.

The statistics indicated that those arrested came to Yemen by the same smuggling boats usually carrying Somalis from Busaso Port of Somalia to the Yemeni shores.

It made clear that the arrests took place in 7 governorates in over 20 arrest processes, noting a rise in the Ethiopians' infiltration into Yemen since the beginning of 2010 and warned against new burdens on

Yemen which already has over a million Somali refugees.

Yemen to present its combating piracy efforts in Istanbul

Yemen is to present its efforts in combating sea piracy and enhancing maritime security in the Istanbul conference on Somalia and sea piracy, Undersecretary of Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Before flying to Turkey, Ali al-Ayashi said that about 22 countries and a number of international organizations would take part in the conference to be kicked off on Saturday in Istanbul city.

Yemen will address in its speech the importance of realizing the Somali national reconciliation, alleviating the suffering of the Somali people, maintaining its security and unity and insuring the regional security and stability, Al-Ayashi said.

He said the speech would also touch on Yemen's coordination with the international and regional related sides to combat piracy.

Chinese hostages, Yemeni companions released

The Ministry of Interior announced on Tuesday release of the two Chinese engineers as well as the two Yemeni soldiers accompanying them after being kidnapped on Sunday by some outlaw elements in Shabwa governorate.

The Ministry's Information Center reported assertion of Shabwa security apparatuses that the Chinese engineers are in good health and unharmed, making clear that the release of the hostages came as a result of good efforts by some social personalities in Shabwa.

It affirmed that a security cordon of 20 military patrol cars surrounded Aal Laq-moush district, where the kidnappers used to hide, cut the way leading to the district and forced the kidnappers to set free the Chinese hostages and their Yemeni companions.

The governor of Shabwa Ali al-Ahmedi met with the released Chinese engineers congratulating them for the safe release, expressing displeasure with the kidnapping crime they underwent.

He affirmed that security apparatuses will hunt down the perpetrators and present them to justice as soon as possible.

ADEN

Chinese warship leaves Aden

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A Chinese warships left Aden Port Thursday after a few days friendly visit to Yemen.

The visit came within the framework of the bilateral cooperation between Yemen and China in the fields of security, fighting against piracy and terrorism, training and rehabilitation of personnel of Yemeni Coast Guards and securing the international waterway.

HAJJAH

Yemen, WB discuss GSCP projects implementation

Yemen and World Bank (WB) have discussed implementation of WB-funded projects under the Groundwater and Soil

Conservation Project (GSCP).

Secretary-General of the local council of Hajjah province Ameen al-Qudami and a delegation of World Bank led by Yoshi Copash discussed the under construction projects approved from 2010 and worth \$ 2,056,628 include water barriers, dams and water reservoirs, two walls to protect agricultural land from being drifted.

Al-Qudami affirmed the importance of this projects which cover the needs of citizens in Hajjah province, assuring the keenness of the province leaders to overcome any difficulties could hinder the implementation of the projects.

WB's official said that the visit to the province aims at following up the implementation level of WB-funded projects.



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لا شيء يضاهي متعة التقوي 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 النفقات للصيانة لمدة ٥ سنوات أو مسافة ٦٠,٠٠٠ كلم مجاناً وضماناً لسنتين دون تحديد المسافة.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



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Title: Management Consultant for National Blood Transfusion and Research Program

Duration of Assignment: 6 months

Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen

Responsibilities:

- Plan the delivery of the overall National Blood Transfusion and Research Centre (NBTRC) program and its activities in accordance with the mission and the objectives of NBTRC and as per the agreed work plan of HIV/AIDS GFATM Grant.
- Lead development, regularly update and operationalize the national blood safety policy and strategy.
- Ensure continuous delivery of services through resource mobilisation and writing of funding proposals.
- Ensure recruitment, training and implementation of staff performance according to human resources policies, procedures and practices of the organization
- Advocate, communicate and report regularly on updates about the program to MoPH&P, PR (UNDP), partners and recipients of services
- Coordinate delivery of services with RBTRC and hospital unit heads and collaborate with different programs to increase program outcomes
- Lead and ensure the development, implementation of strategies, tools, protocols and guidelines on blood safety, screening including screening of blood for TT pathogens, blood collection, blood matching and waste management.
- Maintain effective communication and coordination with all Hospitals and Sites that interface with blood management, supply and transfusion activities.

Qualifications:

- University degree in Medicine is required.
- Additional Diploma or certificate in blood safety, public health or management; computer skills including internet, spreadsheets, word, email etc desirable.
- Minimum 5 years of mid-managerial or top leadership in a health services organisation in government institution.
- Proficient in written and spoken Arabic, good communication skills in English.

Title: Technical (including quality) for National Blood Transfusion and Research Program

Duration of Assignment: 6 months

Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen

Responsibilities:

- Development/ update of a national blood policy as per WHO policy and

guidelines documents with regard to prevention of HIV transmission through ensuring the availability, accessibility of safe blood transfusion and its appropriate use.

- Support adaptation and development of strategies, tools and guidelines on blood safety including screening of blood for TT pathogens
- Plan blood transfusion supplies including procurement for medicines, laboratory materials and other commodities and maintaining of an effective blood cold chain
- Ensure of the training staff on infection control, good service delivery and other technical matters including but not limited to blood grouping, collection, and storage management of blood products, and waste management.
- Support the development and implementation of national guidelines for BCTRC, infection control, quality assurance, etc.
- Monitor QA of safe blood collection procedures; testing of donated blood for transfusion-transmissible infections, blood grouping and compatibility testing; donor care and confidentiality
- Support development of a national monitoring system for blood programme, including quality assurance assessment, surveillance and vigilance to ensure the safe and quality of blood supply
- Plan research and develop appropriate strategies to address emerging challenges

Qualifications:

- University degree in Medicine is required
- Additional Diploma or certificate in blood safety, public health or management; computer skills including internet, spreadsheets, word, email etc desirable.
- Minimum 3 years of mid-managerial experience in a health services organisation in government institution in the field of quality management and blood related services.
- Proficient in written and spoken Arabic, good communication skills in English.

Title: Consultant - Training and health education

Duration of Assignment: 6 months

Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen

Responsibilities:

- Design and support development of information materials to educate, motivate, recruit and retain low-risk blood donors.
- Plan advocacy for stakeholders on implementation of national blood policy and prevention of HIV and other blood-borne infections
- Organise public blood donation campaigns including dissemination of information to the media
- Support the development of guidelines and SOPs for all BTS and clinical staff

- Organise training and communicate regular updates to all BTS staff including laboratory and clinical staff to ensure provision of safe blood and its effective clinical use
- Identification and maintenance a register of voluntary and non-remunerated donor populations at-low risk of TTI's

Qualifications:

- Graduate degree in medicine, Master degree in public health or any related field.
- Work experience in awareness, education and communication programs is desirable
- Good English and Arabic communication skills.
- Good skills in computer applications.

Title: Consultant: Monitoring and Evaluation

Duration of Assignment: 6 months

Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen

Responsibilities:

- Assist with developing M&E systems, tools and guidelines for effective monitoring of the program.
- Assist the development of M&E plan for NBTRC.
- Ensure compliance of M&E systems and data collection in blood banks and hospitals including TTI's and clinical use of blood.
- Analyse, ensure use and feedback of M&E information for improved program management.
- Ensure timely and regular reporting of information (monthly, annual)
- Organise capacity building of staff on M&E matters
- Organise dissemination of key information or reports to stakeholders
- Ensure the implementation and integration of the National M&E plan into all blood centres.

Qualifications:

- Degree in management/ social science is required. A Master degree in public health or related field is desirable.
- 3 years of work experience in M&E in the health/ blood safety
- Good skills communication
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Two young Somalis become role models in their community

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Depending on who he's speaking to, 29-year-old Abdulsalam Ismail Abubaker, will switch between fluent Somali, English and Arabic, impressing listeners with his convincing arguments.

In a meeting about the media coverage of refugee issues, he explained how stigmatizing Somali refugees with crimes and diseases like Aids, can affect their lives.

He started his speech by first expressing appreciation for Yemen giving Somalis refuge.

"We thank the Yemeni people for hosting us," he said in a calm and tactful way, "Yemen is the only country in the area that welcomes us and we will never forget this fact."

Sitting among members of the Horseed Somali Student Union in Aden, Abubaker, in his black suit, looks like a leader. In fact, that is what the other members of the union and the Somali community call him. When he speaks, they listen carefully and nod their heads in agreement.

He is there for them when they need help. If he sees someone struggling to express their opinion in Arabic or English, he intervenes, talks to them in Somali, and translates for those listening.

Along with a group of Somali university students, he started a monthly newspaper in 2007. It's written in the Somali language and its vision is to preserve the Somali heritage and language among Somalis living in Aden and other Yemeni governorates. The newspaper, funded by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), is distributed for free.

He is known as an activist in his Somali community in Aden, especially in Al-Bassateen, where he lives.

Abubaker points to some Somali stories from the new issue of the Horseed Times newspaper and translates the headlines to English.

"Through the Horseed Times, we try to keep Somalis connected to their culture and language," he said.

Although Abubaker had a dream to study computer engineering, he is studying economics instead. He considers himself lucky because he

received a scholarship from the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI), to study at Aden University.

"I wouldn't have gone to university without this scholarship," he said "It is difficult for a Somali student to enter university in Yemen on his own, he has to pay the same tuition as a foreigner."

The current unstable situation in Somalia has not made him give up his dream of eventually returning to his homeland and rebuilding his country after over 20 years of war.

"We live in the hope that one day peace will come to Somalia," said Abubaker.

As a young Somali living and studying outside his war-torn country, he believes that the solution to the conflict is education.

"Somalia needs educated people to rule the country, and that's it," he said.

He hasn't been able to find a part-time job to help his father, a school principal in Kharaz refugee camp, the sole breadwinner for his family of 12. All the jobs he has found are in the morning and he has college.

He's looking forward to completing his studies and he hopes to find a job soon after.

He doesn't like linking Somalia's Shabab militia with Islam because "it is just a movement that is feed on chaos."

He thinks that many Yemenis are aware that not all Somalis are Shabab and he doesn't like to hear generalizations about his community.

He urges Somalis living around the world to help bring peace to their country by participating in elections in order to have the right kind of leadership for the country.

Although he has lived in Aden since he was 3 years old, he thinks that Somalis living away from their home shouldn't be deceived by life in other countries.

"There is nothing that can replace home," he said.

In Sana'a, another educated Somali helps his community far from home.



Abdilkadir Sheikh, 26, teaches English to Somalis and Yemenis for little or for free.

Abdilkadir Sheikh is 26 years old. After coming from Kenya, where he studied English, he worked as an English teacher in an institute owned by a Yemeni. He then decided to establish his own institute to help his community by teaching English and the principles of using computers and the internet. The fees are affordable for Somalis.

"I am a refugee and I know that other refugees cannot afford to pay more," he said.

Sheikh doesn't reject students who have no money to pay for classes. He even gives some students a textbook for free. One third of students in his classrooms do not pay. He has a mixture of students in his classes, Somalis directly from Somalia, Yemeni-born Somalis, half Yemeni Somalis, and Yemenis.

"I feel happy when I help, at least I'm doing something," he said.

In his 16-student, mixed English classroom, Sheikh explains new vocabulary to his students in English. When they demonstrate that they don't understand the meaning, he gives them the equivalent word in Somali. Bursts of laughter are often heard coming from his class. His class is for studying and also for fun. His teaching includes making funny comments and jokes.

Sheikh takes every opportunity to integrate with the Yemeni community in Al-Safiya, a district to the south of Sana'a, where the biggest community of Somalis live. His Yemeni friends and students come to his institute and some of them have started speaking Somali.

He tells a joke about a Somali woman who has trouble with her Arabic. One day, she takes the bus and a man sits next to her. Instead of telling him "Ib'id", "Get away from me" in

Arabic, she says "Iqub", or "Come closer!"

"The situation in Somalia is deteriorating every day and hope is very slim there," he said.

Sheikh said that the Somalis don't know why they are fighting and that he finds this ridiculous. On a visit to Somalia coming from Kenya, he said that he asked a member of the militia why he was fighting.

"I don't know why I am fighting," was the answer.

He feels good because his family lives far from Mogadishu city, the most dangerous area in Somalia.

He said that he always remembers that Yemenis have done whatever they can for Somalis.

"Yemen welcomes Somalis to live wherever they want to, just like Yemenis," he said "There is no other country like Yemen."



Abdulsalam Ismail Abubaker, 29, started a monthly newspaper in Somali with other students in 2007.

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وكل عام وأنتم وشعبنا بألف خير

الشيخ / محمد حسين العمودي



Words of Wisdom



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

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



OUR OPINION

Social cohesion and the Yemeni unity

Social cohesion essentially means people living together in harmony. There are three points that must be considered for implementing social cohesion: Inclusiveness, acceptance and having a common vision.

Yemen is a multifaceted country with its diverse ethnicities, cultures, religious affiliations and even political differences. Now Yemenis describe their situation ironically as being surrounded by the Houthi insurgents in the north, the Qaeda terrorists from the east, the secessionists from the south and the Somali pirates from the west.

It has never occurred to any of our policy makers that these differences could be turned into strong points rather than threats. Why not accept the Houthis, the angry south, the Islamists and the African refugees in our community and let them all be governed by the law as equals. In fact, it is the diversity that would lead to prosperity because there will be so much creativity, activity and production if directed smartly.

We have to admit that the Yemeni society is not very much cohesive even if we argue that it is united. There is a threat in Yemen against those who want to be different. For example, political parties even those with a socialist background and who used to be based on Marxism or Leninism cannot be outspoken about this and have announced its mandates to be based on the Islamic Jurisprudence.

It could perhaps be accurate to say that the Islamic Salafi power is aborting any trends for diversity. Instead of embracing the others and integrating them through social cohesion in an accepting social texture, the policy now in Yemen dictates either to be the same as the others or risk abatement.

Now as we are celebrating 20 years of the Yemeni Unity, maybe we should be tough on ourselves and see how much we actually understand about our community. The Yemeni Unity was said by Arabs that it carried the hope for an Arab unity. So any threat against the Yemeni Unity actually carries a threat against the Arab dream. But I am afraid there is no Yemeni Unity in that sense or anything close to it.

Yemen is not one entity and cannot be described in general terms. This is what I have been trying to tell everyone who asks me about issues regarding the country, but I feel that they either don't hear me or don't understand me. There is no one way of talking about Yemen or what it is. And perhaps this is why our approach for a Yemeni Unity is failing miserably.

We conducted a small survey among Yemeni children in Sana'a between the ages of 6 and 14 on the occasion of World Tolerance Day in 2006. We asked them questions such as: do you mind being friends with a "khadem", the world culturally used to describe people of low class with dark skin. We asked whether they would accept someone who is disfigured or handicapped to sit next to them in class. We asked them if they knew anyone from a different culture or religion and how they thought of them.

The answers were shocking. Perhaps it is not accurate technically to say that this survey is representative. But at least it is an indicator. The children did not accept those of lower class or even those who looked "ugly" as the children described it. They know a few foreigners, such as Iraqis, Palestinians and it was very sad to hear them saying that they knew someone who is from another country and mentioned people coming from southern governorates such as Aden and Hadramout.

An interesting comment was also made that the Jews of Yemen are not Yemenis. Moreover, the order of the characteristics mentioned was interesting. It was ok to say a Yemeni Muslim, but for Jews it was a Jewish Yemeni. And this was for those who accepted Jews in a way as Yemenis.

Yes I am all in favor of our unity and proud of it. But I would rather have a country with social cohesion. Including all, accepting all and sharing the same vision for one country for all.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Breaking Yemen apart: Al-Qaeda exploits social divisions to further its agenda

By: Sarah Phillips
Terrorism Monitor

Since its emergence in January 2009, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has become much more ambitious in carrying out international terrorist operations. The group's ambition quickly grew beyond its stated desire to overthrow the Yemeni regime, reaching first into Saudi Arabia and then into the United States with an attempted airline bombing last December.

The group's online magazine, Sada al-Malahim, articulated this shift in August 2009, apparently perceiving its battle against the Yemeni regime as largely won. "We concentrate on Saudi Arabia because the government of [Yemeni President] Ali Abdullah Saleh is on the verge of collapse." That month an AQAP operative attempted to assassinate Saudi Arabia's Deputy Interior Minister, Prince Muhammad bin Nayif (see Terrorism Monitor, September 17, 2009). While the attempt was unsuccessful, it demonstrated the group's willingness to undertake brazen attacks outside of Yemen and advertised itself as a new vanguard group for al-Qaeda internationally. Since the attempted bombing of a U.S. passenger jet on Christmas Day, 2009, a number of significant planned operations have been linked to Yemen, including a thwarted attack on Saudi oil facilities and, seemingly, an elaborate plan involving a British Airways employee who was passing inside airline security information to AQAP leaders in Yemen (al-Arabiya, March 24; Daily Mail, March 12). As the Yemeni state becomes more dysfunctional, AQAP is attempting to wedge the cracks wider and position itself as a legitimate political actor against a regime that is widely seen as corrupt. As it simultaneously becomes more aggressive internationally, it is welcoming foreign recruits with Western passports to join its fight against the West (AP, March 17; Al-Sharq al-Awsat, March 9).

While Yemen's problems extend far beyond those involving al-Qaeda, AQAP's traction is symptomatic of the wider fragmentation within the country's political and economic system. The level of decay apparent in the economy is providing a window for AQAP in the short/mid-term, although it faces a number of likely obstacles in the longer term. [1] In the short/mid term, AQAP has been provided with a combustible mix of economic decline, widespread perceptions of injustice, wayward foreign recruits to militant teachings of Islam and, perhaps most concerning, a steady rise in communally framed violence in parts of the south.

Economic Decline Threatens Political Stability

To understand the interconnectedness of these issues, a brief explanation of Yemen's political economy is in order. Like many oil-based economies, the Yemeni political system is based on patronage relations and functions according to the regime's ability to maintain a wide network of elites who are reliant upon the largesse from the center. The less money the regime has to distribute through its networks, the less influence it has with stakeholders around the country. In a nation with few functional formal institutions, it is this informal "influence" that keeps the center connected to the periphery and thus keeps the country running. The regime now has less money to distribute through its networks—around three-quarters of the government's operating budget comes from oil revenues but these reserves are rapidly depleting. Oil revenue dropped by around 40% last year, further crippling the government's already anemic budget. The influence of the regime is therefore waning.

Yemen has always been a poor country and its people are certainly resilient, but something significant has shifted in recent years. The gravitational center of this shift is the highly visible disparity of income between those included in the regime's networks and those excluded from them. Perceptions of injustice are now rife—something that AQAP has proven adept at articulating in its propaganda. For example, an article in the August 2009 issue of Sada al-Malahim argued that, "The inhabitants of [the oil rich areas, Marib, Shabwa and Hadramaut] are paying for their own oppression" with the oil wealth misappropriated by their government. This was an important shift in the way that oil is usually discussed in al-Qaeda propaganda; the argument was not about the West greedily obtaining oil at any cost, but rather about local com-

munities not receiving what was rightfully theirs because the government is corrupt and unjust. This deep sense of injustice is helping to create an environment in which violence may make more sense against a perceived threat than it did just a few years ago. However, what is most striking in Yemen today is that legitimate grievances, including those from southerners against the northern-based regime, appear to be metastasizing into communally framed animosities to the extent that vigilantism is on the rise. It should be noted that the Yemeni government also established its own vigilante militias in the south, purportedly in defense of unity (The National [Abu Dhabi], July 6, 2009).

A Rapid Security Shift in the South

The unfolding of these events has been disturbingly rapid. Just two years ago it was possible for a foreigner to travel relatively freely throughout most of the former south; now Yemenis report fearing vigilante gangs, particularly in Shabwa, Dhala'e, Lahj, and Abyan. In July 2009, for example, four members of a family in the southern governorate of Lahj were kidnapped by their neighbor, who accused them of being spies for the northern regime. The father, one of his sons and his brother-in-law were executed while the other son escaped (Yemen Observer, July 18, 2009).

If these murders had occurred in isolation, it would not necessarily be indicative of a broader trend, but crimes of this nature have since been on the rise. Shortly after the murders, a northerner was found dead hanging from a tree in the south and a northern contractor was kidnapped and tortured in Hadramaut. He was only freed when he promised to leave the south. In the southern governorate of al-Dhala'e, where anti-regime sentiments are particularly high, stores belonging to northerners are regularly burned down and threats are made against northerners who refuse to leave the area and return to the north. This type of violence carries the very clear potential of providing a spark for much wider unrest.

An editorial in the Yemen Post last year illustrated the degree to which these sorts of attacks have increased:

"The country's discouraging situation does not mean that southern mobility followers [i.e. the southern secessionists] have the right to attack a northerner just because he is one. It does not mean that any car passing by a southern governorate with a car plate showing that he is a northerner should be attacked and have rocks smashed through its windows. This is what southern mobility followers have been doing over the last month as they killed a number of people just because they did not agree with their way of thinking or because he was a northerner. [2]"

One northern Yemeni reported traveling in a shared taxi throughout the south in March 2009, during which time he was told that because he was from the north he was putting the entire car at risk. The driver informed him that people are establishing makeshift checkpoints, searching cars for northerners and that some have even been killed on this basis. He described driving through towns where locals told him they have been operating under a self-imposed curfew for the past two months because crime has become so pervasive in the hours of darkness. [3] While this may be a further indication that identity politics are taking hold in a new way, it is possible that anti-northern animosity is also sometimes being used as a cover for simple banditry. However, this caveat does not belie the fact that this is remarkably new and almost certainly related to the same political decay that AQAP is attempting to manipulate.

Changing Perceptions of North and South

These animosities are not a re-emergence of old cross-border tensions that unification attempted to paper over. The pre-unification border between north and south Yemen was a product of Ottoman and British colonial intervention, not communal feelings of "otherness" between Yemenis on either side of the border. The sporadic conflict between the former northern and southern states prior to unification in 1990 was based on divisions that were largely between the competing elites in each state, not communal identities relating to either state. When unification was announced in 1989, both northern and southern Yemenis welcomed the decision and both regimes correctly perceived unification as a way of enhancing their popular legitimacy. One obvious illustration of this is the fact that the opening sentence of South Yemen's 1970 constitution began: "Believing in the unity of the Yemen, and the unity of the destiny of the Yemeni people in the territory..." [4] The feelings of cultural and historical unity were strong on both sides of the border, as was the belief that the main obstacle to Yemen's ascendance in the Arab world was the fact that its people—the Yemenis—remained artificially divided.

Conclusion

The threads keeping the Yemeni state together are under increasing stress. While AQAP is not a natural alternative contender to power, its willingness to prey on the social trauma caused by injustice and exclusion gives it certain advantages in the prevailing climate. The potency of AQAP rests on its ability to offer only slightly more to communities in crisis than what the government is offering. If the regime is not willing to negotiate a more inclusive political settlement with its citizens, there is little likelihood that the country's situation will improve in the foreseeable future. It is in the regime's own self-interest to respond to the threat that it faces by becoming less extractive and more inclusive, and it is on this point that external pressure might be usefully applied.

Sarah Phillips lectures at the Centre for International Security Studies, Sydney University. She lived and worked in Yemen for nearly four years and specializes in Middle Eastern politics and the politics of state-building.

COMMON SENSE

Two Decades of Unity, Is that Really Enough?

The release of prisoners is a good start, but...

Many an observer fails to understand why the Government fails to concentrate its attention on finding solutions to the persistent economic stagnations facing the country and readily finds good reason to insist that the violence that had subsided for the past five months must go on and on in Sa'ada and in the South. Surely, there is no reason why Yemenis should be subject to further economic constraints as continued military activity near the Saudi border would not alleviate the increasing cost of living and the hardships now being faced by the overwhelming majority of Yemeni citizens. Most people are inclined to suggest that the Government could not afford another round of fighting in Sa'ada, which has already accumulated over three hundred thousand refugees or internally displaced persons by the admission of the Yemeni Government itself. Nor can the Yemeni people buy the idea that the regime is entrenched in an endless struggle to keep Yemen united.

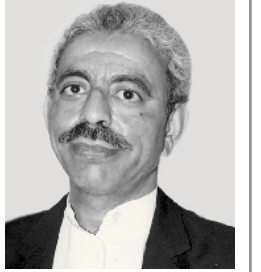
It is clear that the Yemeni Government has wasted so much of the country's resources on merely sustaining the current regime's stranglehold on the political will of the people. Is it now time that the elements, which have managed to eke out a considerably comfortable standard of living from working towards the latter, start thinking about rechanneling some of this abundance of wealth (at least the illegitimate share of it—the bulk) back to the rest of the population.

On the contrary, it is apparent that the resources of the land continue to be channeled towards making most of the illegitimately rich even richer, as the seeds of corruption continue to grow and its beneficiaries continue to gnaw at the social fabric unabashedly. Yemen is not in an envied position at all, when well over half the population are living under the poverty line and cannot find access to the resources that could help alleviate this intentionally chronic difficulty or so it seems. The problem is really twofold: The regime is not geared to respond to the needs of the Yemeni people at all, as most of the pervasive open channels for self-development were actually blocked by the regime and the ability of the people of Yemen to advance themselves hindered by an intertwining regime of constantly changing and sometimes unbelievably repressive legislation and inequitable application of law and justice. Yes Yemen is suffering, not so much due to an international environment, which at best may be said to be inhospitable to countries subject to the kind of repression we have here in Yemen, but due to the carelessness of irresponsible citizens, who have found niches for their evil acumen to operate freely, knowing full well that they are not at all subject to any accountability for their ill performance as public officials and their horrendous misuse of legitimate public funds and assets, under an umbrella of legitimization spiced by sheer muscle.

Yemen is now in its third decade as a united country and thank God, it still desperately holds on to this unity for all its worth on both sides of the divide. That this unity is facing threats of self-fragmentation is clearly a result of its spontaneity as its being as it is due to the irresponsible elements of the regime that consider this unity a matter of a "might makes right" attitude that overwhelms the mindset of many of the loyal backers of the prevailing regime that has left no stone unturned to bring suffering and despair to the overwhelming population of the Republic of Yemen. The regime is hinging its bets on the "unity" issue as the overriding concern of the majority of the Yemeni people, but his is a short-lived play on emotions that is bound to be eaten up by the hunger, insecurity, instability disease and deprivation that the regime has made as the lot of the overwhelming majority of the citizenry north and south of the Mukeiras divide, that used to symbolize the fictitious supposition of a North Yemen and South Yemen, which has never and will never be the hope of any decent minded Yemeni citizen, whether in Sa'ada or Al-Mahara Governorates or at the Tihama Strip or the Ramlat Al-Sabatein Desert.

The President announced the release of many prisoners, most of whom have never been subject to due process of law as attested to by many a local and foreign organization advocating for human rights and civil liberties let alone actually proven as engaged in any act of civil disobedience. This is indeed welcome news. But the roots of Yemen's persistent problems go beyond a momentary respite of civility within the regime. The President and the cronies around him must start thinking about finding ways to allowing themselves to be subject to accountability and self assessment, if they are to hope for any peace in the country and some appreciation from their largely displeased, if not contemptuous constituents. Happy anniversary, Yemen.

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi



By: Hamid

YEMEN TIMES

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It's a material world

In a world of synthetics and polyesters, third-generation fabric merchant Bilal Abu-Khalaf sells hand-woven silks, cotton and gold-threaded cloths from his Jerusalem shop, built over the ruins of a Byzantine-era church.

By: **Arieh O'Sullivan**
The Media Line

In the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem's famous Old City bazaar, shopkeepers are busy selling trinkets to tourists, synthetic t-shirts and plastic souvenirs made in far-off China.

But there is one place where the appreciation for old-fashioned ways still exists.

At Bilal Abu-Khalaf's shop, he imports his hand-woven silk, cotton and gold-threaded cloths from Africa. His fabrics are used to make robes for Christian priests, Muslim imams and ultra-orthodox Jews.

Stepping inside the shop, packed floor-to-ceiling with fabrics and pillows, one has the sense of entering Aladdin's cave. The hectic pace is reduced as customers are given a cup of freshly brewed coffee and encouraged to slowly sip it as Abu-Khalaf prepares his wares.

Abu-Khalaf, a third generation fabric merchant, says he likes to dress like Abraham of the bible, in a striped white jellabiya robe, silk sash about his waist and topped off with a red fez.

"You know we like the old touch... because you know, the people when

they come to the old city, they like to see what it was before," Abu-Khalaf says.

Jerusalem is positioned geographically as a city linking Asia, Africa and Europe. Modern politics, however, make it more difficult nowadays to do business across borders. But, fabric merchants like Abu-Khalaf receive special permits to travel to Syria to purchase the hand-woven cloths in the famous markets of Damascus and Aleppo.

Unfolding fabrics, Abu-Khalaf displays layer after layer of textiles, from Damascene silks to fine Indian saris and local Palestinian embroideries. One shiny piece depicts a horseman and Arabian knights in battle, while another shows a forest scene with hunters.

"This is from pure silk, handloom work with a thread of gold. It is in eight colors and it takes 45 days to make just 10 meters [33 feet] of this," Abu Khalaf says. "See how it changes color depending on the angle."

It's not cheap. Some fabrics can run from \$300 to \$600 a meter. Some of his fabrics have been sitting on the shelves for up to 45 years just waiting for the right customer.

"I sell the material for vestments to

Catholic, Orthodox, Armenian, Ethiopian and Coptic priests. There are Jerusalem designs - the special Cross for the priestly robes in different colors according to the festivals: purple for Easter, red for Christmas, white for Sundays. The patriarchs wear red and gold with the pattern of a cross or an angel," he says.

"I also sell material to the Jews for their kaftans. According to tradition, Abraham wore a white jellabiya with stripes, so the ultra-Orthodox Jews wear white with blue and gold stripes for the Sabbath and white with white stripes for festivals. They all come to my shop."

Abu-Khalaf doesn't advertise. Most people hear about his shops through word-of-mouth. Customers include cardinals and bishops, luxury hotels, the Israel Opera and even Hollywood set designers.

"My customers, let's say, ambassadors or prime ministers, they like to have half a meter, they frame it as a picture which they give to other prime ministers as a gift. Some people like to do jackets, special jackets, or waistcoats. Some people like to use it as a tie or a shawl for ladies, or to cover an antique chair," he says.

His shop is a few alleyways down from the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, where Christ was allegedly crucified, buried and later resurrected.

A few years ago, Abu-Khalaf wanted to expand his shop, but workers soon discovered something precious when they started digging.

"They told me this was the Byzantine church of Santa Maria Maggiore," he says, as church bells and market hawkers are heard outside his shop doors. "So I decide, instead of covering it over, to install a glass floor over it, so that anyone entering my shop can see what it was in Jerusalem."

Pointing down, he says archaeologists gave him a map that speculated the rest of the church was likely still buried under his neighbors' shops.

Abu-Khalaf clearly prefers the past to modern ways. Synthetic fabrics are

an anathema to him.

"If I touch them I feel like electricity is flowing into my hands," he says grimacing.

"I'm an old fashioned sort of man. Why? It's natural. Everything now is computers and synthetics. It is not real. But when I sell someone real and natural fabrics I have a pure heart and am happy. I love what I do."

Abu-Khalaf's ancestors came from Kurdistan with Saladin, the Muslim warrior, during the Crusades. His grandfather opened his shop in 1936

and his father and uncles later took it over. As a young man, Abu-Khalaf studied political science in Egypt, but during the tumultuous early 1980s he returned to Jerusalem to take up his ailing father's business.

With one grown son studying to be a pharmacist, Abu-Khalaf has pinned his hopes on his two-year-old son to carry on the family business.

"I want to teach the small son now. He is two years. He likes to come on Saturdays here. And maybe I teach him to be after me," Abu-Khalaf says.

Selection of Consultants Request for Expression of Interest in Providing Consultancy Services to prepare Tender documents and contracts, assist in negotiation and Supervise Execution of Deepening and widening the access channel in the Port of Aden

The Republic of Yemen has obtained a grant from the Abu Dhabi Fund for development for the purpose of financing " deepening and widening the access channel in the Port of Aden " project with an amount of US\$ 40,000,000 . The Ministry of Transport, represented by Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation - intends to utilize a portion of this assistance in consultancy services of the project mentioned above, for which this announcement was issued. The project aims to deepen and widen the access channel in the Port of Aden, which will enable the port accommodating the new generation container vessels, and making the port a Hub port for transit cargo services in the region.

Hence, YGAPC - Port of Aden invites the qualified consultants companies/ firms to interest and wish in the participation of submitting the required consultancy services. The vising companies /firms have to submit all the data and documents that confirm its competence may inter into coalition or alliance in order to improve their qualification opportunities . the consultant services include the following phases:-

PHASE I:

1. Preparation the tender documents,
 2. Preparation a contract model in accordance with established international commercial standards,
- Period of phase I of the consultancy services is SUPPOSED to be estimated by consultant depending on their expertise.

PHASE II:

1. Assist in evaluation of bids and in subsequent negotiations with the winner till the conclusion of the contract.
2. Supervise the execution of the project.

The consultant shall include the following information:

1. Qualifications in the field of the task,
2. Financial, technical and advisory status,
3. Its major business, years of relevant experience,
4. Qualification of key staff of the firm,
5. Entities that may confirm and verifying the implementing of similar previous project.

Expressions of Interest shall be made in three hard copies along with a soft copy (CD) to the address mentioned below.

The selection of the consultancy company/firm will be carried out according to the bases and criteria stipulate in the guide book of procurement and consultancy services issued by the Tenders High board effected in the Yemen of Republic, and also the instructions issued by the grant entity, the concerned companies / firms may obtain additional data from the address below during the official working hours from **09:00 am up to 14:00 pm**.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below by 21 June 2010

Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation
Headquarters - Port of Aden
Project implementation unit
Ministry of Transport - Republic of Yemen
Tel: 00967 -02 - 204638
Fax: 00967 - 02 - 205805
Email: salehmwane@yahoo.com
ygapc@y.net.ye

Deadline for submission is 12:00 hours noon on Monday 21 June 2010. No submission after the date above will be considered. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. Opening of applications will be at the meeting room of the headquarters -Port of Aden at the same time mentioned above with the presence of the consultant firms or their representatives.

اختيار استشاريين إعلان للتعبير عن الاهتمام لإعداد وثيقة المناقصة والعقود والمشاركة في التفاوض والإشراف على التنفيذ لمشروع توسعة وعميق القناة الملاحية في ميناء عدن

حصلت الحكومة اليمنية على منحة من صندوق أبو ظبي للتنمية وذلك لتمويل مشروع عميق وتوسعة القناة الملاحية لميناء عدن بمبلغ ٤٠,٠٠٠,٠٠٠ دولار أمريكي وتبني وزارة النقل ممثلة بمؤسسة موانئ خليج عدن اليمنية (الوحدة التنفيذية للمشروع) استخدام جزء من هذه المساعدة في الخدمات الإستشارية للمشروع المذكور أعلاه التي من أجلها صدر هذا الإعلان.

ويهدف المشروع إلى تعميق وتوسيع القناة الملاحية في ميناء عدن، حيث سيتمكن ميناء عدن من إستقبال سفن الحاويات العملاقة (الجيل الجديد)، وخدمة حركة الترانزيت لجعل ميناء عدن ميناء محوري في الإقليم، بالإضافة إلى رفع مستوى التنافس للميناء مقارنة بالدول الإقليمية، وتشجيع الإستثمار في مجال التبادل التجاري.

وعليه تدعو وزارة النقل ومؤسسة موانئ خليج عدن اليمنية (الوحدة التنفيذية للمشروع) الشركات الإستشارية المؤهلة للتعبير عن اهتمامها للمشاركة في تقديم الخدمات الإستشارية المطلوبة، وعلى الشركات الراغبة تقديم كافة المعلومات والوثائق التي تؤكد أهليتها لأداء الخدمات ويمكن الشركات الإستشارية الدخول في إتلاف تحسين فرص تأهيلها .. وتشمل الخدمات الإستشارية المراحل المطلوبة:-

المرحلة الأولى:-

- ١- إعداد وثائق المناقصة.
 - ٢- إعداد نموذج العقد وفقاً للمعايير المتفق عليها تجارياً على نطاق عالمي.
- إن المدة المتوقعة لتنفيذ المرحلة الأولى من الخدمات الإستشارية (تقدر من قبل الشركة الإستشارية حسب خبرتها) .

المرحلة الثانية:-

- ١- المساعدة في تقييم العروض والمفاوضات اللاحقة مع المتقدم الفائز وحتى إبرام العقد.
 - ٢- الإشراف على تنفيذ المشروع .
- على أن يتم تقديم المعلومات التالية:-
- ١- المؤهلات في مجال المهمة المطلوبة .
 - ٢- وضع الإستشاري الفني والمالي والإداري .
 - ٣- مجال العمل الرئيسي وسنوات الخبرة في مجال الدراسة المعنية .
 - ٤- مؤهلات الكادر الرئيسي بما في ذلك الكادر القانوني.
 - ٥- الجهات التي يمكن الرجوع إليها للتأكد من تنفيذ الأعمال السابقة .

يجب تسليم ثلاث نسخ ورقية ونسخة الكترونية (CD) من وثائق إبداء الرغبة إلى العنوان الموضح أسفل الإعلان .

وسيتم اختيار الشركة الإستشارية للقيام بالخدمات المطلوبة وفقاً للأسس والمعايير في الدليل الإرشادي للمشتريات والخدمات الإستشارية للجنة العليا للمناقصات والمزايدات المعمول به في الجمهورية اليمنية وإرشادات وإجراءات الجهة المانحة ويمكن للشركات الراغبة الحصول على معلومات إضافية من العنوان أدناه وذلك خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي من الساعة (التاسعة صباحاً) صباحاً حتى الساعة (الثانية ظهراً).

تقدم وثائق التعبير عن الاهتمام إلى العنوان أدناه في موعد أقصاه ٢١ يونيو ٢٠١٠م.

مؤسسة موانئ خليج عدن اليمنية
المركز الرئيسي - ميناء عدن
الوحدة التنفيذية للمشروع
وزارة النقل - الجمهورية اليمنية
تلفون:- (٠٠٩٦٧-٠٢-٢٠٤٦٣٨)
فاكس:- (٠٠٩٦٧-٠٢-٢٠٥٨٠٥)
بريد الكتروني:- salehmwane@yahoo.com
ygapc@y.net.ye

وأخر موعد لاستلام الوثائق هو الساعة (الثانية عشر ظهراً) من يوم الاثنين الموافق ٢١ يونيو ٢٠١٠م. ولن تقبل الوثائق التي ترد بعد هذا الموعد. كما لن يلتفت إلى الوثائق الغير مستوفية للشروط المحددة أعلاه. وسيتم فتح المظاريف بالمركز الرئيسي - ميناء عدن في نفس الموعد أعلاه بحضور ممثلي الشركات الإستشارية أو مندوبيهم.

Qatar reigns supreme in MidEast competitiveness

By: **Adam Gonn**
The Media Line

Qatar has remained number one and Israel is showing great signs of improvement, an annual study of economic competitiveness has found.

The 2010 World Competitiveness Yearbook, issued by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD), a graduate school and research institute in Switzerland, shows that Qatar is not just the top ranking country in the Middle East but also the sole Gulf nation to make the top 50 positions.

The only two other Middle Eastern countries on the list with a top 50 ranking are Jordan at 50 and Israel, the latter of which climbed from 24 to 17 this year.

"Competitiveness highlights the relative position of nations in the pursuit of prosperity - but in a free-fall environment, the winners may simply be the ones who are the most resilient to downward forces," the report said.

"The results of the IMD's World Competitiveness rankings 2010 have been strongly affected by unusual volatility in economic growth, exchange rates, financial assets, trade and investment flows and, finally, as a consequence, in employment figures," said the survey.

The report is based on 327 different criteria ranging from Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and water resources to tariff barriers. They are then grouped into four competitiveness categories: economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure to determine a country's position on the list.

Qatar's strengths include low youth unemployment, low inflation and strong GDP growth, said the report.

Suzanne Rosselet, Deputy Director of the World Competiveness Yearbook, told The Media Line that one of the reasons Qatar is the only Gulf country in the survey is that while the survey was conducted in other Gulf countries, those studies were only for internal use.

However, she expressed hope that in the future these countries would be included.

"It's in a trial period at the moment," Rosselet told The Media Line. "There has been a vast improvement in the reliability of data collected."

"They [Gulf States] have sovereign

wealth funds and are developing brands and more and more the countries are investing in their own region," Rosselet said, describing this as one of the current trends in the Gulf region. "Investing in their own future prosperity is becoming more and more common."

Ali Al-Saffer, an expert on Qatar with the Economist Intelligence Unit, told The Media Line about some of the differences between Qatar and the other Gulf countries.

"First of all, it has a huge gas market, it's one of the largest energy producers in the world and at the same time investment opportunities are opening up," he said. "In January new legislation was passed that allows for 100 percent foreign ownership."

"When comparing to other countries in the Gulf, Qatar is a lot more politically

open than [for example] Saudi government."

Regarding Israel's jump from 24 to 17, Rosselet said innovative capabilities with markets for patents and investment, as well as small and medium-sized companies have improved.

"The capability to transfer knowledge and technology from academia to companies," is one of Israel's strengths, Rosselet said. "They have made a remarkable performance."

It has also invested in education and supported small and medium-sized enterprises.

Despite a large improvement Israel still faces a number of challenges according to the survey, such as reducing the size of the public sector and its expenditure and reducing bureaucracy and the burden on the business sector.



Vacancy , nouncement

The Food and , griculture Organization of the United Nations invites applications from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following position:

Title : **Administrative Clerk**
Level: **G-4 (One Year with possibility of extension)**
Duty Station: **Sana'a, Yemen**
Closing Date for Applications: **Wednesday, 9th June 2010 (14.00hrs)**

Job Role, Duties and Responsibilities

The Administrative Clerk G-4 is responsible for a variety of routine administrative and financial support functions for the FAO Representation. He / she works under the overall guidance of the FAO Representative and the direct supervision of the Assistant FAOR (Administration). The incumbent performs the following duties:

- Retrieve, enter, select and analyse data from a wide variety of sources, including FAO's corporate system and data bases (e.g. the Field Accounting System (FAS), the Country Office Information System (COIN), Datawarehouse, etc.); verify accuracy of data documents; make necessary calculations.
- Maintain imprest accounts; reconcile expenditures, balances, payments, statements and other data; assist in the preparation of recurring and special reports by preparing and editing data in appropriate format as requested; monitor project, programme and general office accounts.
- Maintain detailed records of budget estimates, obligations and available balances; record receipts and disbursements (ledgers, cash books, vouchers, etc.); make disbursements from petty cash fund and balance accounts.
- Prepare routine correspondence of administrative nature; draft correspondence to verify data, answer queries, and obtain additional information on transactions and financial matters, as required.
- Maintain local inventory records with responsibility for proper recording of assets, their maintenance and safeguard.
- Maintain a filing system of administrative and financial documents.
- Maintain liaison with local banks and financial institutions to keep up-to-date with financial and regulatory information (exchange and interest rates, procedures and rules, maintenance of bank accounts, etc.).

- Support the administration of personnel and equipment.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Qualification Requirements

Education: Secondary school education or equivalent commercial school.

Work Experience: Four years of clerical, administrative or accounting experience.

Languages: Working knowledge (level C) of the FAO official language used for communication within the country (English) and working knowledge of Arabic.

IT Skills: Ability to effectively use standard office software, such as MS Office (Windows, Word, Outlook, Excel, Exchange) etc. Ability to use accounting software and other information systems and databases to insert data, make enquiries, retrieve/define ad hoc reports and analyses and edit results in appropriate format.

Office Management Skills: Systematic, well structured and efficient approach to work assignments. Analytical ability, accuracy and consistency. Exercise diligence and care in dealing with records and expenditures.

Interpersonal Communications and Teamwork Skills: The incumbent must possess a cooperative spirit, flexibility and openness to work in an international environment. Tact and courtesy. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with people of different national and cultural background.

Application (Curriculum Vitae & Letter of Application) should be submitted before deadline to:

The **F, O Representative in Yemen**
Food and , griculture Organization of the United Nations
Opposite Mr. , I-Salami Residence,
Faj , ttan, Hadda,Sana'a
P.O.Box 1867, Sana'a, Yemen
Tel :00967 - 1 - 432681 / 432682
Facsimile +967 -1- 432686
Email: **F. O-YEM@fao.org** (for electronic submission)



A business delegation from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is visiting Yemen from 28-30 May, 2010. The delegates will be having meetings with Federation of Yemen Chamber of Commerce & Industry and individual meetings with interested business houses on 29th May, 2010.

On 30th May, 2010, the delegation will be arriving Aden and will have meetings with the Aden Free Zone and Aden Chamber of Commerce & Industry, followed by meetings with interested business houses and persons.

List of Indian companies along with areas of interest is detailed below.

Sl.	Name of Company	Area of Interest
1.	Escorts Limited	Agricultural tractors and implements, spare parts, diesel generators.
2.	Psychotropics India Limited	Pharmaceutical productions. Looking for agent distributor.
3.	Larsen & Toubro Limited, Dubai	Construction projects related to power, transmission and distribution.
4.	Larsen & Toubro Limited, ECC Division, India	Business development in airports segment.
5.	Larsen & Toubro (Oman) LLC, Muscat	Township developments, institution building, transmission lines, cabling etc.
6.	Nadeem Leatherware Exports	Leatherware exports
7.	Water & Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS)	Consultancy services in water resources and infrastructure sectors.
8.	Ravi Energies	Multi-level and multi-disciplinary services related to International Trade and Energy
9.	Value Addition (Thermax Group)	Water, power and infrastructure projects
10.	Confederation of Indian Industry	

For further details and for fixing meetings, please call Embassy of India, Sana'a on tel. nos. 441263 (English) & 441251/441252 (Arabic).



MTN YEMEN FAMILY DAY



MTN Yemen Family day was celebrated on a bright sunny Thursday May 20th, 2010, with love and affection among the employees/families. It marked the level of togetherness that was shared with the employees near and dear ones under the same roof. Family day is not just an event of fun but it's a social occasion that strengthened family spirits and consolidated the sense of belonging.

The entrance of Fun City was filled with cheerful faces conveying their all good wishes. Children grinning as the parents were met by entertaining sequential events.

Cakes were cut and served and the music band entertained the crowd with – dances that enlightened the stage. A hilarious cartoon dance was performed by a famous actor. Forty three fabulous prizes were given out at random depending on the mille dress for major vacation trips were also distributed. A number of group pictures were taken.

MTN Yemen seized the opportunity



MTN YEMEN A FAMILY GROWS YEAR AFTER YEAR & MOVES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

of merging the family day celebration with the honoring of employees who had completed the five-year service in the company. One hundred and three employees were awarded by top management for their dedication and hard work. The air filled with humour and the

spirit of brotherhood that MTN Yemen has always been proud of was vividly perceived due to the combination of the two events. The CEO Mr. Basil Ahmed, Deputy CEO Mr. Ali Alsharrah, Human Resource General Manager Mr. Mohammed Marsoo, the executive

directors and other key figures attended the ceremony.

Strong families are the cornerstone of a strong MTN family, and the well-being of families is a shared priority for all the employees. As MTN supports families, we help strengthen the opportunity and hope, not only of those involved on the family day but also affect the communities that had the privilege to share the joy with MTN employees.

MTN calls on the society by celebrating this day to observe the habit of spending time with family members and reaffirming the important relationship between parents and children and the vital role that families play in our society.

The scenario of MTN's family day was breath-taking and this vision of the celebration is one of many events that MTN is keen on for the benefit of its employees and the society at large.



Fatima Mashhoor, head of the Yemeni Center for Social Studies and Labor Research, to the Yemen Times:

"I urge the government to prepare a law project for workers in the informal sector in order to protect them."

Workers in Yemen have been on strike for over a month, protesting against low salaries and "government neglect." Fatima Mashhoor, head of the Yemeni Center for Social Studies and Labor Research, says that the government cannot improve the situation of workers without first conducting research on their problems. However, the government does not place great importance on research. Among other ideas, she suggests that each ministry should conduct research on the situation of workers in their particular field. Thus, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation would assess the complaints of farmers and the Ministry of Fisheries would evaluate the working conditions of all those working in the sector. Fatima Mashhoor spoke to Sadeq Al-Wesabi of the Yemen Times.



issue], and we always use content analysis.

Who benefits from your research?
Most ministries and companies need our research. For example, we conducted research about retirees, helping the General Institution for Social Insurance and Ministry of Civil Service, giving them important indicators about the situation of retirees.

How do you assess the relationship between workers and their employers?
The relationship between them is unequal. One study indicated that when workers complain to courts about injustices, employers send their lawyers and they easily win their cases because workers have no money to hire lawyers.

Employers also subject their workers to abuse and overtime.

What did you find out about workers who work in dangerous jobs?
We discussed this problem in our research about labor disputes. We found that employers hire uneducated people that cannot demand their rights or complain about anything.

When workers are exposed to injuries they obtain little money, this is due to the lack of workers' syndicates in factories and companies.

Why do a majority of employers refuse to establish syndicates in their companies?

They don't want frequent complaints by workers, which is why the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry and Yemeni Workers Union must play a key role in protecting and defending all workers.

What are the important studies that you have conducted?

We have conducted important research about unemployment, children working in the farming sector, reproductive health, and the social and economic situation of fishermen in Yemen.

Does the government implement all international laws concerning workers?

International laws concerning workers that were ratified by Yemen required considerable efforts due to the great number of workers. The government must create a national strategy through conducting research on how best to apply these laws.

Give us some information about the center's activities.

The center is a scientific institution concerned with social studies. It was established in 1976 and it receives support from the Ministry of Finance.

We have conducted research about important issues neglected by other research centers.

We conducted the first research in Yemen about the situation of fishermen. We have also conducted research into workers' disputes, and female workers in the informal sector.

The demand for research about workers increases daily, and we now provide research for the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. We use new tools in our research, techniques that are used in international organizations such as focus group [a research technique used to gather people's opinions about a given

How do you evaluate the situation of workers in Yemen?

We have found that workers in the informal sector don't have legal protection or health and social insurance, and they are mistreated by their employers.

What are the main difficulties that you face when you conduct your research?

We face some difficulties when we collect information about workers in factories and companies because the employers often refuse to provide us with this information. Sometimes we resort to the courts for judgments in labor disputes. We also often acquire important information from labor offices.

What about the government's efforts to support workers?

Yemen tries to achieve workers' rights through participation and social dialogue, but the government must create comprehensive and integrated reforms for workers. It should also lay out a national strategy for the informal, formal, and private sectors.

I urge the government to prepare a law project for workers in the informal sector.

Turkish Schools honor graduates



Under the auspicious of Yemeni Minister of Technical Education and Minister of Higher Education and the Turkish Minister of Women and Family Mrs. Selma Aliye Kavaf and general manager of Turkish International Schools (TIS) in Yemen Mr. Mehmet Yilmaz, a number of members of parliament from both friendly countries, Yemen and Turkey, attended in Sana'a on Sunday the Turkish Schools' graduation ceremony for grade twelve students.



After playing the national anthems, General Manager of the TIS in Yemen Mr. Mehmet Yilmaz delivered his welcome speech. Ambassador of Turkey in Yemen Mehmet Donmez, Turkish Minister of Women and Family Mrs. Selma Aliye Kavaf, and Vice Minister of Higher Education Mr. Muhammed Mutahhar gave their speeches as well.

Our distinguished students from 16 different countries made welcome speeches in their own languages.

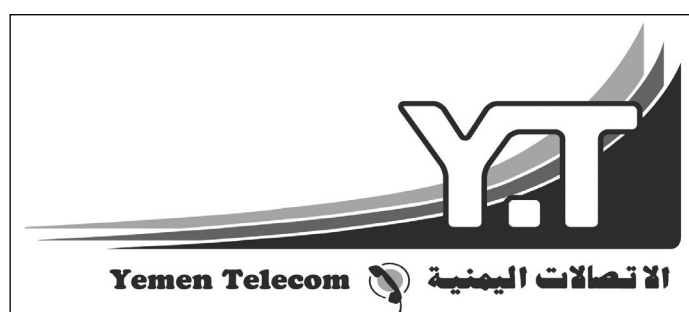
Several members of parliament from the two countries attended the ceremony of the foundation of a new school complex in Sana'a on Saturday 15.

At the graduation ceremony held in the Hall of Youth Palace, 23 graduates took their certificates and gifts from their parents. The atmosphere of the ceremony was excellent. Graduates thanked their

distinguished teachers, school staff and parents.

At the end of ceremony, appreciation plaques were distributed to guests from Turkey and Yemen participating in the ceremony.

Several members of parliament from the two countries attended the ceremony of the foundation of a new school complex in Sana'a on Saturday 15.



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Agricultural research station struggles to keep its land

The Southern Highland Agricultural Station has helped farmers in Taiz and Ibb improve their produce with research into cultivation and poultry breeding, says Dr. Hamoud Mokbel, geneticist and plant breeder at the Agricultural Research and Extension Authority. Now governmental bodies are taking the land where it functions, for their own benefit, compromising the station's future research.

By: Dr. Hamoud Mokbel

The Southern Upland Agricultural Station conducts research into increasing the quality and quantity of agricultural produce in Yemen. Its 41 researchers, seven of whom hold a PhD. They work on two farms. One in Taiz with 12.8 hectares, and another in Ibb, with eight hectares.

In the 1980s, when banana rust thrips, a pest attacking local bananas, threatened to end banana cultivation in Yemen, the station recommended the best way to combat it. Since 2005, it has reportedly come up with 16 new agricultural techniques to increase the production of different crops.

But now its researchers say that local governmental bodies have been helping themselves to parts of their farmland, impeding their important work.

During the past decade, the Public Water and Sanitation Corporation in Ibb took over a huge area of the station's Ibb farm premises, to treat sewage water.

In 2007, the local authority took advantage of the anniversary of the country's unification to establish projects on the center's farmland. The project was to dig water reservoirs to feed underground water, but it failed because those implementing it did not consult the researchers. The local authority however still took two hectares from the research station.



In the station's farm in Usaifara, Taiz, a road was constructed through the farm's land. Some areas were also taken by the Hayel Saeed group to construct a mosque and a private university, and the state-owned Saba news agency occupied other parts of the farm for its Taiz office.

As a result, the Agricultural Research and Extension Authority recently spent over YR 20 million to install lighting on the farmland in Usaifara, to ensure local people did not appropriate it for themselves.

However, the Electricity Corporation in Taiz needed a plot of land to place some power generators and took over some parts of the farm too.

Now, in both Taiz and Ibb, whenever any government body needs land for construction, the land of the Agricultural

Research Station is the obvious easy option.

The agricultural researchers' work is being compromised. It was set up at the end of the 1960s with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). In the 1980s, it focused on enhancing the quality of grain, vegetables and fruit produced in the area and on methods to prevent diseases in these crops.

From the 1970s onwards, the center was given the task to collect the prevailing genetic variations of the best crops in the region in order to preserve them.

The main regional crops are sorghum, corn, wheat, a grain called «dukhn» potatoes, onions, tomatoes, guavas, mangoes and bananas, in addition to vegetation that includes medical and ornamental plants.

The station currently studies field crops such as sorghum, corn, wheat, vegetables and fruit, as well as preventative methods against pests and disease.

Besides its two greenhouses, including one for the study of coffee, the center also has three large halls where it crossbreeds poultry to find the most productive.

It was also appointed to preserve and manage natural resources such as soil, water and plant coverage, and to conduct socio-economic studies on prevailing agricultural systems in the region. It provides farmers and other local beneficiaries with laboratory testing on soil and water quality and plant health.

It has three labs; one for soil and water analysis, one for plant protection studies, and the last for poultry breeding.

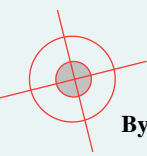


Rare fruit trees were destroyed on the research center's land on World Tree Day last March 21.



The research station works to save rare plants in danger of extinction on its land in Taiz. Now part of the land is threatened with building.

HEALTH WATCH



By: Dr. Siva



This weekly column is to disseminate health information to the readers in Yemen and outside. Dr. Siva is currently working at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Life style diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and Naturopathy are his passions.

Protect yourself from hepatitis

'Hepatitis' means inflammation of the liver. The lay person often confuses this with 'jaundice', which is merely a yellow discoloration of the eyes. Jaundice can occur due to many reasons, and hepatitis is the most common among them.



There are many causes for hepatitis. The most common is viral hepatitis, which are caused by Hepatitis A, B, C and E viruses.

Patients with acute Hepatitis A and E usually present with low fever, loss of appetite and nausea or vomiting, followed by jaundice. This condition usually resolves in a few weeks.

Hepatitis B and C are both silent viruses and you can be infected for many years without knowing it. Together these viruses kill approximately one million people a year. 500 million people around the world are currently infected with chronic Hepatitis B or C and one in three people have been exposed to one or both viruses.

World Hepatitis Day (19 May) was observed mainly to mark (chronic) Hepatitis B and C, because these are the ones that can lead to long-term liver damage (cirrhosis and liver cancer). Patients with Hepatitis B and C usually harbor the virus silently, till the liver is damaged permanently years later.

Transmission (spread) of Hepatitis viruses:

Hepatitis A and E are commonly transmitted by the fecal-oral route via contaminated food or drinking water.

Hepatitis B is spread by exposure to infected blood or body secretions. In infected individuals, the virus can be found in the blood, semen, vaginal discharge, breast milk and saliva. It doesn't spread through food, water, handshakes, hugs, sneezing, coughing or by casual contact. Unprotected sexual contact is the most common means of transmission, followed by using contaminated needles, tattooing, body piercing, or acupuncture. It can also be transmitted through sharing toothbrushes and razors contaminated with infected fluids or blood. (Hepatitis B virus can remain stable outside the body for days or weeks, even when dry). Hepatitis B may spread from infected mothers to their babies at birth.

The Hepatitis C virus is transmitted mainly by contact with blood or blood products. Sharing contaminated needles among IV drug users is the most common mode of transmission.

Hepatitis C cannot be transmitted by living with, being near, or touching someone with the disease.

Prevention of Hepatitis:

Improving the standards of personal hygiene and environmental sanitation, and adopting safety measures are the sheet anchors of preventing Hepatitis A and E. These are proper and regular hand washing practices, washing vegetables and fruits thoroughly, drinking potable water, avoiding unsafe food and alcohol.

Hepatitis B and C can be prevented by practicing safe sex, not sharing personal items with others like needles, razors, toothbrushes, manicure tools. For people who have an occupational risk of getting hepatitis (doctors, nurses, lab personnel etc), it's better to get the Hepatitis B vaccination done.

One has to be cautious when he or she visits beauty parlors and hair dressers. Many men in Yemen and India visit saloons for shaving the facial hair. More often than not, there is a possibility of the virus being transmitted through contaminated blades and scissors. The least they can do is insist on changing the blade in front of their eyes.

Ladies, don't allow yourself to be pierced with non-sterile equipment!

The other precautions are avoiding receiving transfusion of blood or blood products unless your doctor feels it is absolutely essential or obtaining blood only from recognized and registered blood banks where prior testing of the blood is mandatory.

Early detection can help arrest the disease at the initial stages.

Vaccines:

It's better to have Hepatitis A vaccination done, when you travel in areas where Hepatitis A is rampant.

Hepatitis B vaccine is given as a series of three injections over a period of six months. Almost anyone can receive the vaccine, including infants, older adults and those with compromised immune systems. For people who deal with blood or blood products and hospital and lab personnel, it is mandatory to have Hepatitis B vaccine. Studies reveal that if routine infant HBV vaccination with three doses is given to the population, 68 per cent of HBV related deaths can be prevented. In case of mass vaccination, it is cost effective to do a preliminary anti-HBS test to segregate those who have natural immunity. Immunization is given only to those who do not have natural immunity.

If you've been exposed to the Hepatitis B virus, your doctor can give you an injection of Hepatitis B Immune Globulin within 24 hours of coming in contact with the virus. This can protect you from developing Hepatitis B.

There is no vaccine available for Hepatitis C.

However, if you are already infected, here's what you can do:

Even if treatment is not an option for you, you can do something about your disease. A healthy lifestyle is important. Alcohol, smoking, eating fatty foods, being overweight or extreme dieting may worsen your liver disease. Therefore, try to avoid all alcohol and stop smoking. Chewing qat can be dangerous, as the chemicals on qat leaves can worsen the already damaged liver.

Drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. Follow a healthy diet comprising fruits and vegetables with added carbohydrates because they provide calories. Try to eat enough for adequate nutrition. Eat foods that appeal to you, but try to maintain a balanced diet. Low fat diet with enough fruit and vegetables is better. Reduce your weight if necessary.

Avoid taking unnecessary medications and substances that can harm the liver. Do not start any new medication, herbs, or supplements without consulting your doctor.

Avoid prolonged, vigorous exercises until symptoms start to improve and any activity that may spread the infection to other people.

Don't hesitate to consult your doctor for advice if your condition worsens or new symptoms appear.

Remember, the HBV infection is a potent killer. However, awareness and proper preventive measures can go a long way in controlling Hepatitis.



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Changing the mindset of Yemeni children, for the better

Many organizations working with children aim to empower them through capacity building, The Yemeni Education and Relief Organization does more than that. It works to change the personality and mindset of students to build more well-rounded and productive individuals.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

As you enter the premises of the organization, on a side street off Hadda Road, a sense of enthusiasm and positive energy strikes you, almost literally, as young boys and girls move around rushing to classes.

Some of the older students hover over the crowds emitting a sense of authority, responsibility and ownership.

Adnan Omar a 16 year old student was positioned on top of a shed hammering nails into a metal sheet that covers a small area of the yard. He has been with the organization for the last four years

and the experience has changed him dramatically.

"My priorities today are different. I am no longer the 12 year old boy who thinks the whole world is lobbying against him," he said as he swiftly jumps off the shed landing nicely on his feet.

Adnan is one of the many students "Mama Noria" – which in Arabic means mother Noria, as they call her, has influenced. She started the Yemeni Education and Relief Organization as a non-government charity organization in 2003.

YERO works with children from poor families, including street children, who do not go to school. The cycle of poverty is perpetuated when the children of the poor do not have educational opportunities.

Many families cannot afford the fees and uniforms required in the 'free' government schools. In addition, in Yemen, poverty alleviation frequently means that parents need their children to work to gain much needed income. YERO helps these children access education.

Through this organizing, Noria Naji aims to fight illiteracy and poverty by linking the poor and marginalized to educational opportunities.

However, this worthy mission is not what this story about. It is about how the mindsets of these children, who will be future parents and leaders in their society, have changed because of their affiliation with the organization.

"I do notice changes in their personality, in their psyche and behaviour. They are exposed to new ways of thinking and quickly learn how the world works and they learn about the keys to success. I believe that they will be very successful people," explained Noria.

Know thyself

The students study in a controlled mixed environment. Although traditionally this is not accepted in many schools in Yemen, for the students and their parents, co-education has never been an issue.

They learn how to understand themselves in relation to others and how people differ in terms of their feelings, ideas and think-



YERO provides its students with the opportunity to learn and use modern technology.



The organization is so popular among locals that the director had to use the events room for this geography class.

ing. This is an opportunity which boys and girls in Yemen usually don't have as they live in a gender segregated society.

One day, referring to his 14 year old daughter, a father said to me

"take her wherever you want. I trust you and so I am never concerned when my daughter is in your hands," recalled Noria in between shouting orders to various teachers and ensuring classes were starting on time.

Male and female students interact with each other in a friendly uncomplicated environment. They say that it is easy to be themselves in the organization because they don't feel judged.

Their appreciation of women and their capabilities were impressive. The stereotypical attitude towards women and their role in the society has been largely shifted because of the role model they see in front of their eyes every day.

"Mama Noria is worth twenty men, you know, she is worth a 100 men, look how she is running this great organization," explained Badr Yahya who is known for his beautiful voice and who will soon start his own band to perform at weddings and other occasions.

Badr was brought to the forefront of the crowd and was encouraged to display his beautiful voice through reciting a short verse from the Quran.

Badr today is a strong advocate for education. "If it hadn't been for this school I would have dropped-out from school like everyone in my village of Bani Matter and worked either as a taxi driver or a guard. Now I want to graduate from the military academy and become a more productive member of the society," explains Badr with gleaming eyes.

Although the other children have heard him probably a hundred times, they were mesmerized by his beautiful reciting. He is among many children whose talent was identified, nurtured and publicized.

In every nook and corner of the organization, you see productions from the students, whether paintings, handicrafts, glass painting or dolls. The students are proud to exhibit their productions, a sense of self-worth shines from the students, even those who have been studying there for only a few weeks.

A price to pay for righteousness

Most of the children in the organization are living a difficult life. They are either from poor families or families burdened with social problems. They have had to make difficult decisions in their lives, and adapt to the demanding lifestyle endorsed by Mama Noria.

"I am not saying that I regret being

part of this organization, it has saved my life. It is just that many times I find myself isolated in my community," said Mohammed Al-Hashimi, one of the students, while looking at his feet.

He sits down at the steps leading to the classrooms and pours his heart out. "The people in my neighbourhood chew qat, smoke, loiter in the streets and harass girls. I don't do that and they criticize me. When they see me in my sports uniform going to play football with friends, they mock me. Here goes the hero they say. It hurts. It would have been nice to find someone to walk with when I go to football field rather than walking alone while being watched and sneered at," confesses Mohammed.

You can easily feel the struggle he is going through. He knows what is right, but the temptations around him tell him to take the easy way. He does not want to give up and be one of the lazy useless aimless boys, as he calls them.

Mohammed has tried to convince them to join him but they have decided it is not interesting enough or worth the trouble. He has two younger brothers who are too young to join his team, but he hopes that he will influence his brothers and that they will not turn out like the others.

Rawia Ali is only 12, but she has already fixed her mind on what she wants to be when she grows up. "I want to be a math teacher," she says.



Everyone knows the answer. Some of the kids raise both hands. "Pick me," they shout to the volunteer teacher.

She and her older sister Zainab, 15, have been coming to the school for the last four years. They agree that it has made them stronger academically and character wise.

"I have not yet reached a level at which my family asks my opinion before taking a decision, but nevertheless I speak out and share what I think. Many times my father does not even acknowledge that I have spoken but I am not deterred," a determined Rawia says.

4U

YERO goals:

- To help the children of poor families access education
- To fulfil the conditions necessary for the children to be successful in school
- To support the families of the children to become self-sufficient

To learn more about YERO go to: www.ilari.net/yero



Rawia Ali knows where Yemen is on the map. She knows so many new things now and her knowledge makes her feel confident and strong.



Adnan Omar points to himself in an old picture showing some of the first students to join the organization.



Unlike most of the men in his village, Badr Yahya wants to complete his education and join the military academy.



Mohamed Al-Hashimi is determined to live a healthy righteous life resisting the temptations of his peers to smoke or chew qat.

TAIZ UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR GRADUATE STUDIES POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Centre for Graduate Studies at Taiz University (CGS) seeks to recruit a qualified and experienced Director to manage its Centre and programs.

The Centre's mission is to provide excellent innovative engineering and IT graduate education that will foster among graduates, professional excellence, scholarship, responsible citizenship and service to society. The Centre was established in a cooperation agreement between Taiz University and Delft University of Technology (TUDelft) of The Netherlands, with funding from the Netherlands Programme for Institutional Strengthening in Higher Education (NPT).

The Centre will operate as a financially and administratively autonomous unit of Taiz University and is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of representatives of Taiz University, the Hayel Saeed Anam Group and the Public Telecommunication Company (PTC). For the Management of all Master's Degree Programmes under the CGS, the Board hereby invites all qualified candidates to apply for the following position:

Position title: GRADUATE CENTRE DIRECTOR (Male or Female).
Duration: One year (renewable).
Place of Work: Centre for Graduate Studies (CGS), Taiz University.

Main Responsibilities:

- He/she will be responsible for the management of all Master's Degree Programmes under CGS and the day-to-day management of the Master's Degree Programme, including, marketing, procurement, staff recruitment, public relations, project management, supervision, and quality assurance of its programs and activities;
- Other tasks will include the drafting of internal regulations and procedures for the Master's Degree Programme for approval by the CGS Board overseeing the implementation of policies, strategies, and plans approved by the CGS;
- Candidate will also prepare the annual budget for the Centre in accordance to the guidelines and priorities set by the Centre Board and will be responsible for the recruitment of Centre staff and teaching staff;
- Candidate will also serve as the official representative of the Centre with all internal and external parties on all matters related to the Centre in accordance with the mandate accorded the position by the Centre board.
- The Centre Director will report to the University Rector and the Centre Board.

Qualifications

- PhD degree from an accredited institution
- Minimum 5 years senior management experience.
- Experience in working with international projects.
- Excellent communications and presentation skills.
- Excellent human relations skills.
- Demonstrated Proficiency in the English Language: excellent reading, writing and comprehension skills.
- Ability to work in complex environments.

For general information about the Center, interested candidates may visit the Centre's website at www.taizu-cgs.net. Interested candidates are required to submit their application with their CVs and supporting documents, to the office of the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs, **Dr Abdulrahman Sabri**, or have them emailed to careers@taizu-cgs.net

Deadline for submission application: **2 June 2010.**

Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

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“My Father’s House” Architecture of cultural heritage

A trend is fast developing towards interlinking architecture closely with the fabric of society, culture and most importantly, the people. In Yemen, in the past as well as in the present, homes are made from locally available materials, memory, family and master builders - without any additives, not even architects.



By: Ashwini Bhanagay
For the Yemen Times

The evening started with a digital presentation. In the silence of the room appeared the title, “My Ancestral Homes” followed by images.

Images of interior spaces, offering a glimpse of the way the people in those homes lived. A living room in which you could literally feel women gathering, chatting and laughing. A kitchen showing how each and every corner came handy to store something or the other. A bathroom stuffed with tooth brushes, shampoos and other essentials, a room full of books and chairs and a bedroom shouting for more space. A ‘home’ and not a ‘house.’

“My Ancestral Homes”, is the second part of Boushra Al-Mutawakel’s contribution to “My Father’s House” and a private study which captures the essence of the interiors of Boushra’s family homes through three generations: great grand-parents, grand-parents and father.

“For me Sana’a is much more than the old city. Sana’a has expanded beyond the walls of the old city. I wanted to give a wider spectrum through the many domestic textures that make up the architectural social and cultural fabric of the present day Sana’a,” says Al-Mutawakel.

Al-Mutawakel is one of the five up-and-coming artists from the Middle East, and one of three established UK photographers, who were a part of the wider “My Father’s House” project.

Her contribution to the wider project comprised of “My Ancestral Homes” as well as photos showing the lives of the akhdam, literally “servants” in Arabic, who constitute the poorest social group in Sana’a.

The wider “My Father’s House” exhibition is part of the British Council’s work in the region to promote the value and power of cultural relations in raising awareness, building understanding, creating opportunities and improving trust between countries of the Middle East and the UK. The major British Council photographic project opened in Muscat in February 2009, touring the Middle East through 2009 until March 2010, asking: “How do we see where we live?”

For this exhibition, the British Council had commissioned the eight artists to make new photographic projects, each responding in very individual ways to the theme of “My Father’s House.” Their exhibits included large-scale photography, audio-visual installations and film, inspired by subjects as diverse as the oral tradition of story-telling, cinema, domestic life, the influence of women in society, changing landscapes and water resources, and archaeological and restoration projects.

Activities like online photography competition, photographic treasure hunts for families, workshops for emerging and professional photographers, artists’ talks, seminars, a regional conference, an education pack and events for schools and colleges were organized to encourage people to take a fresh look at their surroundings, the impact they have on culture and envi-



ronment and how we value our cultural heritage.

On May 12, 2010, the British Council in Yemen organized, one such activity a presentation and a discussion based on Al-Mutawakel’s contribution to the “My Father’s House” project, at the National Museum in Sana’a. The Sana’a-based artist is also the first Yemeni female photographer and the 2003 World Studio Foundation Scholarship winner.

The event was also organized to coincide with the European Culture Week 2010, in order to emphasize the importance of culture in Europe diplomacy. Among the dignitaries present for the event in Sana’a were the Deputy Ambassador of the UK in Yemen, Deputy Minister of Finance of Yemen and the Director of the British Council.

Boushra Al-Mutawakel and Tim Makintosh Smith led the discussion that followed the “My Ancestral Homes” presentation. Tim Makintosh-Smith is a British author, who has lived in the old city of Sana’a for the past 25 years. His first book, “Yemen: Travels in the Dictionary Land” won the 1998 Thomas Cook/Daily Telegraph Travel Book Award.

The pictures that Al-Mutawakel presented give the ‘lived in’ feeling to the spaces. She does not try to conceal, but boldly reveals the lifestyle of the family, which is really a very private and intimate matter.

“I didn’t want to take photos of clean, set houses, but wanted the realistic touch,” she says.

Rather, a “family album without people but with stories of how they lived,” the photographs of Al-Mutawakel’s ancestral homes narrate the story of how a typical big family manages itself within the available resources, finding happiness in a home always full of people, laughter and chatter.

The photos show how, with time, when more resources become available,

the organization of the home improves and the kitchens become more sophisticated. And when finally, the nuclear family builds its own home, how there is place for everything and how the family then expresses itself, when at last it has its own separate dream home. All this happens over generations, bit by bit over many years.

And in reality, this is how a home develops even today in Sana’a. Although in Al-Mutawakel’s case, we are talking about different houses belonging to one family, typically in a Sana’ani family, each generation adds a floor to their ancestral home and the home expands vertically as and when need arises and as resources become available.

Tim Makintosh-Smith, elaborated on this during the discussion, using an excerpt from ‘A remedy for Care-Worn Hearts’, his introduction to the catalogue on “My Father’s House.”

“Sana’a is one of the oldest continually built and lived-in cities in the

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‘I’m not paying YR 30!’

By: Malak Shaher
On the minibus

The minibus stop on Hadda Street was empty after all minibuses had left to their different destinations.

As the sun grew hotter than ever, people waiting on the pavement held up books to cover their faces from the sun. Others used their hands to shade their eyes.

A minibus finally approached. Those who had been standing in the sun for about 20 minutes had no idea of the little surprise waiting for them.

So as not to waste any more time, most were holding the YR 20 bus fare tight in their hands. They would give it to the bus driver as soon as they got off.

They eagerly gathered around the vehicle and got on. They sighed in relief, as at last they had found transport to take them where they wanted to go.

Before the bus moved, the bus driver loudly announced that the price of fuel had increased and that today his bus fare would be YR 30,



instead of YR 20.

The women in the back of the bus grumbled to each other.

The man sitting in the front seat next to the driver, however, objected loud and clear. He said he would only pay YR 20, because he didn’t know about the increase before getting on the bus.

“Then get out of my bus!” shouted the driver.

All the women remained silent.

“I won’t leave the bus unless everybody else does!” the man said.

“Shame on you!” the driver retorted.

“They’re all women.” Eventually, the women all got off the bus, cursing their luck. The last one off was the man who had started the argument.

As soon as he got off the bus, I climbed back on with the same driver. He was delighted to have support.

“Although the fuel price has increased, I will only take YR 20 from you because you understand,” he said with a grin.

Confused, I gave him two YR 20 coins in case he had changed his mind.

“Only YR 20,” he said.

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