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Yemen's stability a concern for Gulf countries

Although Saudi Arabia and Qatar do not see eye to eye over most political issues in the region, it seems that Yemen's stability will be the one issue that brings the two countries together.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, July 18 — At his royal residence King Abdullah, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, received Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Amir of Qatar, at the end of last week to discuss regional affairs, mainly Yemen.

This meeting came immediately following Qatari's amir's visit to Sana'a which was in response to an invitation delivered to him personally from President Saleh through his political advisor, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-

Eryani, the mastermind behind the Qatari mediation in north Yemen with the Houthis represented by the Doha agreement.

Just before sending the invitation to Qatar, Saleh talked at length with the Saudi king and the two agreed that the Doha agreement could be revived on the condition of involving Saudi Arabia in the peace negotiations and Sa'ada reconstruction projects. Hence, the sixth item in the five bullet item agreement was created.

"The problem is that today Saleh is really in need of cash and lots of it. Qatar had



King Abdullah, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, met with Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Amir of Qatar, at the end of last week.

promised around one billion US dollars through the agreement, but is withholding it until it makes sure peace is really happening. At the same time Saudi Arabia wants to be sure that the peace agreement does not yield a stronger Houthi grouping right next door to them, and this was the point of disagreement between the Yemeni, Qatari and Saudi leaderships," said a political analyst who requested to remain anonymous.

Now with the Doha agreement resurrected after it was declared "dead" by foreign

minister Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi in 2008, hope is rekindled that money will actually start flowing into Yemen from two countries — Saudi Arabia and Qatar — rather than just one.

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Government and opposition sign agreement for obligatory dialogue

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, July 18 — On the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of electing Ali Abdulla Saleh president, the General People's Conference (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) signed a new agreement to carry out the February agreement signed in 2009.

The February agreement was signed to prepare for a national dialogue by political parties and civil society organizations, and to delay the constitutional elections by two years. The dialogue is meant to enhance decentralization and to bring about proportional representation in future elections.

The new agreement was signed by Abdulkareem Al-Eryani, the second deputy of the GPC and Abdulwahab Mahmoud, the general secretary of the Al-Ba'ath Al-Arabi Socialist Party as a representative for the JMP.

The new agreement was signed in accordance with the February agreement that opposition parties have the right to discuss with the government possible amendments to be introduced into the constitution.

The two sides agreed that they will not object to what the other side presents and that the committee to prepare the future National Committee is to consist of 200 members.

They also agreed that civil society organizations and other political parties be members of the committee for national dialogue.

The committee's works will be public and transparent so that public opinion is involved.

"We consider this agreement a positive step toward political openness. We are to begin a new era. The country is not the property of the state or of the opposition parties. The country is the property of its people where everybody takes care of it. The opposition is always the other side of the political system in a country," Saleh said in a press release after the signing the agreement.

Saleh added that both the state and the opposition should work together for the country's sake. "We are in the same ship and we must work collectively in order to be safe. We welcome political cooperation with all parties," Saleh added.

He said once the February agreement is carried out, the state will be ready to form a government consisting of all political varieties so that parliamentary elections take place in April of next year.

In the press release, Saleh said that he announced on April 22, 2010 that he welcomed all the political parties on the Yemeni stage.

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Parliament questioned 2 ministers over security

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, July 17 – After independent member of parliament and human rights activist, Ahmed Saif Hashed, went in hunger strike inside the parliament for one week, the parliament responded on Wednesday by bringing two ministers for parliamentary questioning.

Interior Minister Rashad Al-Masri and Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs and Minister of Local Administration, Rashad Al-Alimi, attended the parliament session for questioning over security issues and the appointment of members of local councils to executive positions. They were questioned by MPs Abdulaziz Jubari and Abdu Bishr of the ruling party and MP Hashed.

Hashed had three demands, the first of which was questioning Al-Alimi and Al-Masri on the failure of security forces to arrest the people accused of killing three citizens in his constituency in Lahj during July 2009.

The other two demands were allowing him to visit formal and informal prisons, particularly the prisons of the Political Security Organization (PSO) and the National Security, and ending "the order by the Specialized Penal Prosecution for the Political Security Organization (PSO) to spy on him."

The parliament has responded to only one of his three demands, which was bringing Al-Alimi and Al-Masri for questioning, according to Hashed.

"The parliament has not responded to my other two demands, visiting prisons and ending the spying on me by security," he said. "These demands have not even been scheduled for the next sessions."

Although Hashed previously believed

that bringing the two minister for questioning would be impossible, he now believes that his hunger strike has been quite successful.

"The parliamentary response would be more effective if there was firm solidarity from colleagues in the parliament," he said.

Member of parliament, Abdu Bishr, questioned the Minister of Interior on instability, such as killings and road closures, in the southern governorates. He accused security authorities of misleading the Yemeni parliament and the Yemeni people adding that they don't provide safety for the nation.

MP Ahmed Saif Hashed questioned Al-Alimi about the murder of three people in his constituency by Ali Saif Al-Abdali.

Hashed referred to the acknowledgment by security that a lack of capacity is behind the inability to arrest the suspect.

Interior Minister, Al-Masri responded by saying that the issuing of a warrant for the arrest of Ali Saif Al-Abdali, the person accused of killing three people in Al-Qabita district in Lahj governorate is being processed.

He explained that in several security crackdowns, officers attempted to arrest Al-Abdali, but every time he was protected by hundreds of people and managed to escape from the authorities. He added that Al-Abdali's trial would soon start in absentia.

"We wanted to send a military contingent with cooperation from the armed forces, but political parties and [civil society] organizations and a number parliament members considered it a militarization of the area," Al-Alimi was reported as explaining to parliament by Yemeni Parliament Watch, "Some

went on to talk about a 'new Sa'ada'."

Al-Masri pointed out that 17 of the main suspects of the killings and sabotage were arrested and referred to the prosecutor.

He reported to the parliament the activities of his ministry in fighting crime and terrorism in 2009 and the first half of 2010.

Al-Masri said that the government has dominated the road to Al-Jawf and surrounded Marib city with a security cordon. He pointed out that there was a meeting with Marib's sheikhs and the government offered them two alternatives - to hand over Al-Qaeda members, or that the killing of the sheikhs will be declared lawful.

He explained that a number of Al-Qaeda members were killed by security forces and 19 others were arrested. Of those arrested and now being interrogated, 11 were in Hadramout and had been ready for terrorist operations.

The reaction of the sheikhs had a prominent role in calming the situation in the Marib. Tribal sheikhs handed over two of the Al-Qaeda suspects who were then sent for trial, according to Al-Alimi.

The parliament decided on Wednesday to form a committee from its members and the public prosecution to handle the release of prisoners who have been detained without charges in prisons of the political security and national security organizations as well as private prisons.

The parliament considered that appointing members of local councils to executive positions in their governorates as against the law, and required the government to cancel all previous related decisions.

Yemeni fishermen save lives in the Red Sea

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, July 17 – The crew of two Yemeni fishing boats last week rescued eight fishermen from drowning near the Dhu Hirab island, 89 km west of Midi in Hajja, near the Saudi border, according to the Ministry of Information.

The Yemeni Red Sea Coast Guard reported to the Ministry of Information's information center that eight fishermen were rescued by the crew of two other Yemeni fishing boats passing nearby after their boat started sinking.

The fishermen on the two boats that passed by failed to find any of the other three young fishermen who were on the same boat. The two boats returned with the eight survivors to shore after they failed to find them. The victims who were swept away to sea were Moham-

mad Nu'ami, 16, Ahmad Bin Baish, 20, and Ali Muqabel, 16.

Fishing is the second sector with the highest rate of child labor in Yemen after agriculture, according to the Ministry of Labor. Thousands of Yemeni children are involved in working on fishing vessels off Yemeni coastal areas like Hodeida and Aden.

Most children work to help improve the income of their families, but some of them joined the workforce because of their failure in the school, according to Global Housing Foundation 2009 report on child labor in Yemen.

Nabil Ruhaimi who works in Hodeida fishing quay told the Yemen Times that the boat was owned by Ibrahim Mu'athab whose brother survived the accident but whose uncle drowned.

He added that the survivors informed

him that suddenly the boat «broke» and it was not because of the wind.

Although according to the Ministry of Interior the search for the missing fishermen is ongoing, based on previous experiences in the Red Sea, it is unlikely that they will be found.

Fishing boat accidents are usually more common during the windy season in the Red Sea, during the first three months of the year, according to Ibrahim Hussein, head of Hodeida fishing port.

The previous accident was two months ago when a fishing boat sank. The crew held on to an ice box until they were discovered by a passing ship that rescued them and took them to Oman.

Government and opposition sign agreement for obligatory dialogue

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

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The committee's works will be public and transparent so that public opinion is involved.

"We consider this agreement a positive step toward political openness. We are to

Yemen, Al-Qaeda; the constant confrontation

Amel Al-Arifi
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, July 18- Bloody confrontations between Al-Qaeda militants and Yemeni security forces are on the rise again as the group increases tactical attacks on international and domestic targets.

The most recent attack was last Wednesday when more than 20 masked gunmen firing mortars, machine guns, and rocket-propelled grenades assaulted two neighbouring intelligence and security offices, leaving at least two people dead and many wounded in Zinjibar in Abyan province.

According to the Yemeni defence ministry's website 26sep.net, Al-Qaeda militants took advantage of the summer vacation, using a nearby school to carry out its attacks.

It was the second attack by suspected Al-Qaeda gunmen on security intelligence buildings in Yemen in less than a month. In June, the group raided the southern headquarters of the political security office in the port city of Aden, killing 11.

The two attacks raised questions about the capability of Yemeni security in these coastal provinces, which are going to host the Gulf Cup next October.

On the other hand, the Yemeni interior ministry announced on Friday that it had arrested over 30 Al-Qaeda suspects during recent security sweeps in two provinces; Marib in the north, and Hadramout in the south.

"Security operations against Al-Qaeda resulted in detaining more than 19 suspects in Marib province and 11 others in Hadramout province," the Yemen news agency SABA quoted Interior Minister Mutahar Al-Masri, who pointed out the tribes' cooperation in handing over two Al-Qaeda affiliates to the security department.

The cooperation came after extensive mediation between the tribes and the government. Last May, government forces mistakenly killed one of the tribal elite, Jabir Ali al-Shabwani, who also served as deputy of Marib province, while they were attempting

to track Al-Qaeda militants, sparking great anger against the government and leading to revenge attacks by armed tribesmen on oil facilities.

The threat comes from the sea

Meanwhile, Yemen ordered its coastguard to tighten supervision on boats sailing off the country's extensive coasts and regional waters, according to the interior ministry's website.

This move came amid growing fears of possible terrorist, piracy or drug smuggling activities off Yemen's western coasts on the Red Sea, according to the site.

The step came after the Yemen-based Al-Qaeda wing threatened in February to block the Gulf of Aden and Bab Al Mandab Strait, through which 25,000 ships, seven percent of the world's shipping traffic, pass each year.

The group said it aims to stop what it alleges to be U.S. shipments of aid bound for Israel.

The same threat was sent by Al-Shabaab, a group based in Somalia, which turned from a local insurgency into a global jihadist organization modelled on Al-Qaeda.

Though Al-Shabaab rebels have not been directly involved in piracy, which has flourished (can this be, 'is flourishing') in the Gulf of Aden off the northern coast of Somalia, Yemen said it is prepared to build a base for the coastguard on Meion island in the strategic Red Sea Strait of Bab Al-Mandab to protect maritime traffic against any possible militant terrorist attacks, piracy, and smuggling of human or drugs.

In this regard, the largest circulated U.S. newspaper, the Wall Street Journal, quoted a U.S. intelligence official who says that there is evidence which proves that there are links between Al-Shabaab and Al-Qaeda leaders in Pakistan and Yemen. The newspaper said that there is also evidence of overlapping training and membership between these groups.

In March, The U.S. government warned ships sailing off Yemen's coast of a risk

from Al-Qaeda attacks similar to the suicide bombing of the U.S. warship Cole in 2000 that killed 17 U.S. sailors in Aden's port, and the 2002 Al-Qaeda attack on a French supertanker in the Gulf of Aden, south of Bab Al-Mandab.

The old new enemy

The emergence of Al-Qaeda has burdened Yemen, which is already suffering from the strong influence of the tribes in the north, the corruption of the central government, calls for secession in the south, rapid population growth, a high rate of unemployment and the depletion of both oil and water reserves, say analysts. (It would help to have more information – political analysts?)

Taking advantage of this tenuous situation, the activities of Al-Qaeda picked up in 2009 after the Saudi branch of the militant group merged with the Yemen arm to create a Yemen-based regional wing. The new wing launched many assaults targeting western individuals and instruments (and buildings, and organizations? Instruments doesn't work) and even Yemeni security personnel.

The most striking attacks that have increased concerns about Al-Qaeda's capacity include the two suicide attacks outside the heavily fortified U.S. embassy in Sana'a, which killed 16 Yemenis, the suicide attack that killed four South Korean tourists in Yemen, the failed attempt in August 2009 to kill prince Mohammed bin Nayef who heads Saudi Arabia's anti-terrorism campaign, the failed attack on a U.S.-bound plane in December 2009, the suicide attack targeting the British ambassador in April 2010, and the recent deadly attack on intelligence headquarters in the southern region of Yemen.

Yemen has since declared war on Al-Qaeda and has received support from the US. The US has shared intelligence and given military aid to Yemeni forces which has helped them stage deadly raids on suspected militant hideouts, some of which have also killed Yemeni civilians.

More rain storms on the way after causing 19 deaths

By: The Yemen Times correspondent

DHAMAR, July 17 – Nineteen people were killed by the on-going weather change across the country while six have been injured during the last one week particularly in the mountain regions mostly in Dhamar and Ibb governorates.

In Dhamar 10 people drowned in the heavy floods caused by the rain and six injured. Head of the local council in Wisab Al-Safel Dr. Abdu Saeed Al-Faqeeh where the casualties happened said that deceased included an elderly woman and three children.

"The rain destroyed a local reservoir in Wisab Al-Safel district and the water swept away everyone in its path including ten cars and several pedes-

trians. A local mosque was partially destroyed because of the rain and the falling ceiling caused severe injuries on those who were taking refuge inside it from the rain," said Al-Faqeeh.

Search and rescue operations are ongoing in the governorate as director of the defense operations unit General Ali Al-Humaidi is supervising an emergency rescue operations in the area.

"The governor Mr. Yahya Al-Amri instructed clearing the roads in order to facilitate transportation of food, aid and emergency care to the damaged areas," said Al-Humaidi.

In the capital city, other casualties were reported due to the rain. An Ethiopian man was killed as a result of an electrical shock of an exposed wire

which fell into the water puddles. Rain storms also created some electrical problems in Aden and caused a power cut for several hours.

The rain floods also blocked several streets across the country mainly side streets that did not have adequate drainage system and many cars were damaged. Moreover, many citizens complained that their daily life was interrupted because of mobility challenges.

The weather forecast authority warned that more heavy storms are yet to come and that residents especially those in mountain areas should take care. The authority warned drivers in Sana'a from taking the Sai'la route towards the old city of Sana'a as it is flooded with rain.

begin a new era. The country is not the property of the state or of the opposition parties. The country is the property of its people where everybody takes care of it. The opposition is always the other side of the political system in a country," Saleh said in a press release after the signing the agreement.

Saleh added that both the state and the opposition should work together for the country's sake. "We are in the same ship and we must work collectively in order to be safe. We welcome political cooperation with all parties," Saleh added.

He said once the February agreement is carried out, the state will be ready to form a government consisting of all political varieties so that parliamentary elections take place in April of next year.

In the press release, Saleh said that he announced on April 22, 2010 that he welcomed all the political parties on the Yemeni stage.

He confirmed that a national government consisting of all political parties will be ready by conducting the parliamentary elections on the time it is meant to be, and that no one should cripple this process.

Abdulwahab Mahmoud, the representative of the JMP said that the coming era is to be positive as the ruling GPC party and the opposition are to work together in order to make all Yemenis united.

According to a reliable source in the JMP, Saleh sent orders for the release of 27 Southern Movement prisoners held by the government.

Although most of the JMP members are from the south, they do not call for secession from the north, rather they look for the release of members of the movement that have been imprisoned.

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Yemen's stability a concern for Gulf countries

Yemen has been suffering from a severe deficiency in its national budget. The latest symptom was the spike of the dollar compared to the Yemeni Riyal which reached YR 231 per USD by the second week of July.

However, doubts still remain whether the funding from Gulf countries would go directly into the president's hands or into projects in Sa'ada supervised by Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

"What Qatar wants is to ensure that Saudi Arabia does not have any concerns as to where the money goes and who benefits from it. Therefore, involving Saudi Arabia in the deal would mean that the

Yemeni government's hands are tied in terms of how and where to spend the money," explained the political analyst.

By the end of this month, a Qatari delegation is expected to visit Yemen and commence talks with the Houthi and Yemeni sides after more than two years of disconnect and one fragile peace truce. The difference is that the involved areas and tribes have expanded dramatically during the last two years. Moreover, the number of displaced citizens has also increased and they are scattered across many camps and neighboring governorates, which makes resettling them back to their hometowns more difficult.

If the Qatari funding for Sa'ada comes through, in addition to the 2006 London

donors conference pledges of half a billion dollars, then this could make a difference. This is especially true since the UN has been complaining for the last few months that other donors have not come through with their pledges, and the situation of the internally displaced persons' camps has reached a critical point.

If Qatari money starts coming into Yemen, this could put pressure on Saudi Arabia to start financially supporting the Yemeni government more than it is already and fulfilling some of its pledges also made during the 2006 donors conference in London.

Hassan Zaid, one of the prominent political leaders of the Joint Meeting Parties opposition coalition commented that Ye-

men is trying to twist Saudi Arabia's arm through opening up more to other countries who are seen as rivals. This explains Saleh's recent visit to Libya earlier this month. Libya, Qatar, Lebanon [South] and Iran are considered Shiite dominated areas and have been said to directly or indirectly support the Houthi sect which Saudi Arabia's Wahabi rule has been vigorously fighting.

However, Zaid believes that Qatar has decided not to indulge in this arm twisting game and has instead influenced Saleh to formally include Saudi Arabia in the mediation with the Houthis and amend the Doha agreement to reflect this inclusion.

Meanwhile random clashes continue to take place in Sa'ada and neighboring

areas between Houthi groups and Yemen's army, threatening to start a seventh war. Just last week around ten military personnel were killed in an ambush by the Houthis in retaliation to a previous attack by the military on Houthis which lead to several casualties.

Similar conflicts have been ongoing in the southern governorates, yet so far none of the Gulf countries have displayed any visible interest in mediating. In fact, at several regional events Gulf leaders have publicly announced their support of Yemen's unity.

Government and opposition sign agreement for obligatory dialogue

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Opportunities

British council licenses more trainers for springboard women's self-development programme in Middle East

More women in Yemen will soon be able to develop the skills and confidence they need to achieve more in their lives following the licensing of [10] new British Council Springboard Trainers for the country.

A group of 25 women from Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Yemen and Oman qualified as licensed Springboard trainers at a Train the Trainer Conference (3-9 July) held in Bahrain and led by Jenny Daisley, Chief Executive of the UK's award-winning Springboard Consultancy.

This second British Council Train the Trainer Conference builds on the success of the first Conference last July in Lebanon and takes the overall number of Springboard trainers in the Middle East to 75 women across the region.

Springboard is the only holistic women's self-development programme of its kind in the region and has been tailored by the British Council to meet the specific needs of women in the Arab world. In the Middle East the Programme is delivered through local partner organisations and participants at this Conference from Yemen represented Haddah Valley School, Helping Hand Organisation, Queen Arwa University, TOTAL E & P Yemen, Yemen Education for Employment Foundation, Girls World Communication Centre and New Sense Academic Group.

During the week-long licensing conference participants learned more about the Springboard women's self-development programme and its aims, focused on the key skills for trainers to deliver the course effectively and heard from the experience of existing Springboard trainers. Practical exercises gave delegates the opportunity to learn from each other and perfect their training techniques, to ensure that they meet The Springboard Consultancy's high standards for training.

Mariam Daher, Regional Programme Manager for Springboard said: 'More than 1,500 women in the Middle East have now completed the Springboard women's self-development programme and many describe it as being a turning-point in their lives.'

'Our network of licensed trainers is key to guiding participants on the programme, to help the women to identify their own individual goals and to give them the confidence to work towards them. Many of the participants at this Train the Trainer Conference have themselves already completed the Springboard self-development Programme and are now inspired to share its lessons with other women like them.'

'One of the strengths of Springboard is its network of alumni and trainers,

which gives all the women involved in the Programme an ongoing support network. Earlier this year we also began to develop partnerships between women's organisations in the Middle East and the UK as a way to improve understanding about the role of women in different societies today.'

These new trainers will now be running self-development programmes inside their organisations during 2010/11. For further information about upcoming Springboard courses in Yemen and to register visit www.britishcouncil.org/me-social-development-springboard

Our plan in Yemen is to train 1000 women during this year, and to do this we will need to look for appropriate partners to share this social responsibility and success stories. Sponsors and partners can help in identifying women to participate in the programme, and helping to pay for the programme for those women who cannot afford the fee themselves. We therefore welcome any interest from local partners and sponsors on this regard.

Participation of the Indonesian Cultural Team in Sana'a Summer Festival and Festival in Tarem as the Islamic Cultural City in 2010

In regard to promote local culture in Sleman, regency of Sleman (which is located in Special Administrative Province of Yogyakarta) is sending cultural missions to the Republic of Yemen. It is also to fulfill the invitation from the Indonesian Embassy in Sana'a, Yemen that has been carried out by the Ambassador himself, HE. Mr. Nurul Aulia, when he met and received by the Vice Regent of Sleman, Mr. Sri Purnomo on 15th March 2010.

During their meeting, the Ambassador said that ISESCO (Islamic Educational and Cultural Organization), one of the organs at the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) would hold a festival of arts and culture in the year 2010 in the town of Tarim, Yemen. On this matter, the government of Yemen is inviting all members of the OIC countries to join the festival by sending their cultural team. That is why the Ambassador requested the regency of Sleman to represent Indonesia in the said festival by sending a team to show the Yemeni community as well other communities the traditional arts of Islam in Indonesia particularly in the regency of Sleman.

The Sleman arts team would arrive in Sana'a, Yemen on 15th July 2010 and they would participate in three festivals, namely: Festival Tarem as the Capital of Islamic Culture 2010, the 5th Sana'a Summer Festival and Baldah Festival in Al-Mukalla. In Yemen, they would perform at the Palace of Al-Seiyun Katiri on 17th July 2010, and then they travel to on

19th July 2010 to Al-Mukalla. They return to Sana'a on 20th July 2010 and they would participate in Sana'a Summer Festival from 21st July until 22nd July 2010 at Al-Sabein Park.

The regency of Sleman art mission that would go, is comprised of 12 artists (dancers and musicians) that displays various arts namely: dance of Badui, Debus, Dance of Topeng Klana, Dance of Kubrosiswo and Dance of Umarmoyo Umarmadi. The twelve artists that would make a debut in Yemen include: Mr. Agus Sukino, Mr. Supriyanto, Mr. Anggoro Sri Vishnu, Mr. Arief Bowolaksono, Mr. Aristianto, Mr. Wardiyono, Mr. Eko Purnomo, Mr. Mudakir Disa Latif and each artist would appear in more than one type of art. On the stage art in Yemen, the performance would use narration in three languages namely Indonesian, English and Arabic so that the audience would easily understand the story.

Here is the narrative of each dance:

1. Bedouin is a type of folk dance depicting a battle scene or a group of soldiers on the exercise of war. Judging from the way the presentation, including a group dance this dance in pairs. The composition used in the form of the line, sometimes formed two rows, sometimes also a circular face. The function of this art as a tool of propaganda by the Islamic religion is also a spectacle of the exotic to the community. Bedouin art is still alive and growing in the district of Sleman, mostly from areas in Kedu that is also Kedu folk art in which was originally brought by a person of Arab land.
2. Kubrosiswo is a folk dance depicting the human life from birth until the end of his life and the show is divided into two parts, first is the Rodad dancers and the second one is called "the start". The dancer costume parts are difference from one another. The most interesting performances from Kubrosiswo, is in the second round is on "the start". There are scenes of deaths; there also exist a kind of operetta scenes that are funny or humorous. There is also often called to play a scene acrobatic comedian. Now the merry-go play this scene is considered negligible because it could endanger the safety of players, so what is still retained is, the scenes acrobatic light only. According to the people from Tempel, the Kubrosiswo dance derived from the region of Mendut and the purpose of Kubrosiswo dance is only as spectacle/entertainment for the public.
3. Tari Topeng Kelana or Mask Dance. Through this Mask Dance can be illustrated many kinds of men's characters namely: gently, sweet, tender, brave, heroic and

- arrogant character.
- 4. Debus is a form of art which combined with dance, voice and nuanced magical mystical art. The art Debus usually displayed as a complement to traditional ceremonies or for public entertainment. The show begins with the opening procession by firstly, reading or rebound praises to the Prophet Muhammad, the dhikr of Allah, accompanied by drum instruments for thirty minutes. The next event is a gritty, such as dhikr, chanting and singing loudly, shrill, replication accompany with "tetabuhan". Along with the gritty, the attractions of immunity are demonstrated in accordance with the desire of players.

Sleman itself is regency or Kabupaten (Indonesian) of Yogyakarta Special Region, Indonesia, and its capital is the town of Sleman. The area covers 574.82 km². It is located on the northwest border of Yogyakarta Special Region, between Yogyakarta region and Magelang region. Mount Merapi is located on the northeastern border of the regency. It also covers some parts of Yogyakarta-Surakarta inter-city road to the east, thereby having the Adisucipto International Airport within its boundaries. The area is known for its production of snake-fruit (Indonesian: salak).

UN Citizen Ambassadors Video Contest, What would you say if you had the chance to talk to world leaders?

The United Nations launched a video contest to invite young people from around the world to tell leaders what the anti-poverty Millennium Development Goals mean to them.

The campaign is organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) in partnership with YouTube, UNDP, the UN Foundation (UNF), French broadcaster TV5Monde and with support from Flip Video.

The winners will be invited to United Nations Headquarters in New York in October for UN Day 2010.

ELIGIBILITY

- You are 18 years old or older from any country (mention it on your YouTube profile)

YOUR VIDEO

- Your video should be 2 minutes or shorter
- It is recorded in any language but with English or French subtitles
- your video has never been published and is original
- Choose one of the following questions as the subject of your video:
 - Why are the Millennium Development Goals important to you and your family?
 - How can the international

community better work together to achieve the What is your community, city or country doing to achieve the Millennium

HOW TO APPLY

Submit your video on YouTube by singing up (or logging in) on YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/create_account

DEADLINE August 23, 2010

MORE INFO

Please visit the UN Citizen Ambassadors website: <http://www.uncitizenambassadors.org/>

Research fellowship in Berlin open to European and US journalists

The International Center for Journalism at Freie Universität Berlin invites journalists to spend a year in Berlin, working on a journalism project with a solid research aspect. Deadline to apply: November 1. There are three types of fellowships:

- Junior fellowship: journalists from Central and Eastern Europe with about five years of professional experience will receive a monthly stipend of EU€1,000 (US\$1,300) for ten months.
- Standard fellowship: journalists from Central and Eastern Europe with at least five years of professional experience will receive a monthly stipend of €1,500 (US\$1,600) for ten months.
- Superior fellowship: outstanding journalists from the former Allied Nations of the Second World War (New Independent States, France, Great Britain, and the USA) will be awarded a monthly stipend up to €1,300 (US\$1,850) and

accommodation for 12 months. The most important element of the fellowship application is an expose for a scientific-journalistic research project to be pursued in Berlin. Fluent German is required. For more details, go to <http://www.ejf.fu-berlin.de>

Award will recognize reporting on epilepsy. Journalists with experience reporting on epilepsy may submit works to the 2010 Excellence in Epilepsy Journalism Award, which will recognize journalists who have made a significant contribution to the understanding and awareness of epilepsy in an international context. Deadline: October 29. Applicants may have experience in reporting for print, online or TV media or consumer or specialist audiences. Freelance journalists may also apply. The winner will receive EU€4,000 (around US\$5,000) in travel vouchers.

For more information <http://www.ucb.com/media-room/epilepsy-index/epilepsy-journalism-award/nomination-form> Digital media exhibition and festival to be held in Tehran. The Fourth International Digital Media Exhibition and Festival will be held in Tehran from October 8 to 16, according to medianews.ir. Deadline is October 12.

Exhibition and festival categories include: media software, digital games, cellphone software, website hosting, digital arts, and digital media technology. Several workshops will be held during the event as well. For more information (in Persian) <http://www.medianews.ir/fa/2010/06/20/dmf.html>

Mercure Aden opens Health Club

Mercure Aden a member of the international renowned hotel chain Accor, has opened its premium health club on the occasion of our country hosting Khaliji 20 sports championship due in Aden this year. The Health Club provides state of the art sports and recreations facilities such as a complete gym with machines as well as sauna and steam.



the club was inaugurated by deputy governor for investment sector Ahmed Al-Dhalai who confirmed that this is one of the good projects that would hopefully encourage tourists to spend more time in Yemen

and in Aden in particular. he added that it came in a good time to support Yemen's preparations to host the sports championship and provide our guests from the gulf with ultimate comfort and tourism services.

Job Vacancy

A small international humanitarian organization is looking for a

Secretary

Requirements: excellent English skills, computer skills and experience of office work.

Please send your CV to E-mail address gm70175@yahoo.com by 24 July 2010.

Re-advertisement / Correction

Medical Representatives Required

Due to a mistake in the email address of the previously published ads in Yemen Times (issue 1380 and 1381) we would like applicants to resend their copies of current CVs complete with recent photographs no later than 25th July 2010 to

Pharmagulf.biopharma@yahoo.com

We apologize for inadvertent mistake.

TeleYemen decreases fares of international phone calls



By: Al-Muthallath Advertising

Starting from July 1, 2010, the Yemeni telecommunication company "TeleYemen" has announced reduction in international calls rates, to one and a half Yemeni Riyal per second, for ground or mobile telephones, in addition to their reduction in international calls amounting to 56 percent for the current year 2010.

Everyone can benefit from this offer at anytime, to anywhere and from any phone without restrictions or conditions in accordance with the reduced rate. TeleYemen Marketing Director Hail

Mohammed Ibrahim said, " we are glad to provide our customers with this high reduction rate on international calls to enable them to communicate with their friends, families and fellows abroad. "We consider this campaign to be a new evidence of our continuous commitment towards facilitating the international calls to the citizens", said Ibrahim.

It is worth mentioning that TeleYemen is the sole and exclusive international telecommunication provider in Yemen and their offer is accessible from any ground or mobile phone. It is worth mentioning that TeleYemen is the sole provider and exclusive service of international communications in Yemen and applies displayed when you connect from any ground phone or expressway. Ibrahim added that the company had plans of gradual reductions, aiming at striking a balance between the incoming and outgoing connections. The incoming connections to Yemen are more than the outgoing and the cuts in fares comes as encouragement to outgoing calls, reducing the prices from YR 99 to 90 per minute.

First Trading Company launches 100 million riyal tourism and travel sector

First Trading Company (FTCO) is a company part of and fully owned by Al Rowaishan Group, one of the largest economic groups in Yemen.

It has just opened its newest sector for tourism and travel with a capital of a YR 100 million. The new sector provides customers with tickets, cargo for all airlines operating in Yemen. FTCO Travels is working to be the agent for international airlines and promote tourism in Yemen as a significant source in the national economy.

Mohammed bin Yahya Al-Rowaishan director of the board of Rowaishan Group said that First for Tourism and Travel is a quality addition in the group's business and is aimed at promoting Yemen as a tourist destination especially since Yemen is rich with its heritage, history and bio diversity.

"The company is providing job opportunities for the Yemeni youth as we are using 100 percent local employment," he said.

Director of the company Naswan Al-Ariqi said that First for Tourism



and Travel depends on several programs and strategies to enable it to compete in the tourism and travel market. The company is using quality service and emphasis on customer satisfaction as its policy and couples a good service with community awareness in tourism related issues as an added value of economic development.

"We hope to attract tourist groups from all around the world as well as internal tourism within Yemen through providing citizens with interesting tourism packages so that they get to know their country while having good vacations," Rowaishan said.

From Sana'a to Guangzhou

Twice Weekly

New Departure and arrival details of China flight are as follow:-

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للحجز والتسجيل

Yemeni female pilot to the Yemen Times: “If a woman decides to become a pilot, the country should be proud of her.”

Interview by: Mohammad Bin Sallam

Persistence, strong will and family support are all reasons for the success of a Yemeni girl who, with her father's support and despite all the challenges, was able to take on a career no Yemeni girl had ever dreamed of.

Afra' Mahub Ali is a 20 year-old girl who has always dreamt of flying a plane, a career none of her brothers even dreamed of following. When she started studying aviation, Afra' was special among her peers. She has now become the second ever female Yemeni pilot and is among the youngest of all Yemeni pilots.

Afra's father is a well-known writer and journalist who was the head of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate several times and was considered to be the most successful head of the syndicate ever in the history of journalism in Yemen. He is now an active, well known, and highly respected member of the syndicate.

What were your motives for choosing a career in aviation?

It is very unusual for a female to enter such a career and this is what I loved most about it. It was it being unusual that made me consider enrolling in the first place. In addition, the fact that men believe that this field is only for them and that women won't be able to compete in it, so I decided to take the challenge and prove the opposite.

How many female pilots are there in Yemen?

There is only one called Rosa Abdel Khaleq.

Why didn't you choose a different career? Why did you insist on such a profession?

I have wanted to be a pilot since I was a little child. When my father traveled, I imagined myself always flying with him, like a bird. I have always dreamt of becoming a pilot and flying up in the air.

Did you finish your training on a simulation cockpit and then move to a real passenger jet?

I have graduated from university and am currently looking for a job. I have applied for a job at Yemenia, but they haven't accepted my application so far since they have plenty of male pilots.

What types of planes were you trained on?

I was trained on a BBL jet with a single engine and one pilot, and then I flew a plane called Charlie which is also a single engine jet. In Jordan, we flew a two engine plane, finishing 200 hours of training.

Where did you receive your training?

All the training I received in single engine jets was at Al-Mukalla. As for the two engine jets and simulators, this training was in Jordan.

What are the main challenges you faced in your pursuit for a job as a pilot?

I don't perceive those as challenges because I love this field so much and



because I have all the support I need from my father and family. On the other hand, difficulties may arise from the community's inability to accept the fact [of a female pilot], especially as it's unusual for a girl to enter such a field. But I still can't see this as a challenge, and will never do so.

How many hours training does a person need to become a pilot?

200 hours

Do you think an airline such as Yemenia will welcome you in?

I think they would wish to have a female pilot among their staff because females are encouraged to take a role in this country. Also, since they encouraged pilot Rosa a lot, I think they will also encourage me.

Do you think of moving to a different airline since Yemenia rejected your application?

No, I don't think so. Yemen encourages women to take part in different sectors in the country. I want to work for Yemenia and don't wish to apply to a different airline.

How are you treated by male pilots, especially as there are only two female pilots in Yemen?

All the captain trainers without exception have been highly supportive and encouraging. Captain Mahmoud Aleyyan, who was my first trainer, was one of the most encouraging people, helping me to succeed in this field. He was more encouraging than my colleagues. Later I was trained by Captain Abdulla Al Na'am, two Egyptian trainers and a Jordanian.

The Yemeni community is a conservative one. Don't you believe that it will be hard for you to be constantly away from home, especially after you get married... unless you choose an understanding husband?

Since you mention the fact that our community is conservative, what I need is my husband's trust and his

understanding of the nature of my work. Based on this understanding I believe that he'll love it as much as I do and will accept it.

After going through 200 hours of training on different jets, which type of jet do you prefer most?

It is certain that anyone who studies in this field wishes to fly an Airbus and Boeing. I wish to work for an airline and fly a Boeing 737.

Do you believe that there is a possibility of having more females enter this field and more female captains in Yemenia or any other airline?

I believe so, yes. There are now many girls that are really passionate about joining this field, and I myself know of some girls who have actually applied to get an opportunity in aviation such as Sana', who is currently an air hostess with Yemenia. I believe that girls are now encouraged to join this field more than ever, and that the field is expanding. Whether it is at Yemenia or any other airline, I believe they are all now encouraging more females to apply.

It is believed in the Arab world, and in Yemen in particularly, that such a profession is exclusively for men, and that women could be less competent. How would you respond to this?

From my own point of view, I believe that all jobs are for both men and women and that women can successfully work in any job they wish. In times past, queens have ruled the country such as Queen Balqis and Queen Arwa Bint Ahmed. This is a job for both men and women despite all the challenges, and if a woman decides to become a pilot, the country should be proud of her. Captain Rosa encouraged other women to enter this field so I will do the same and encourage all females who wish to become pilots to study and apply.

Do you think that there are some fields that a woman cannot work in due to their physiology? And what, in

your opinion, are those fields?

I believe that women are capable of working in all fields, however, we as an Eastern community do believe that some jobs are physically harder for a woman to work in. Yet, I myself believe that if I want to become a police officer, for example, I will proudly do so no matter what.

Describe to us how you felt the first time you entered the cockpit? And how did it feel to fly for the first time?

It was a great feeling. I had always entered the plane as a passenger, but going in as the plane's captain was embracing life at large. I was ecstatic. The first time I flew solo I started crying, and when I landed the first thing I did was call my father and explain how happy I was.

Did you encounter any challenges that may have prevented you from fulfilling your dream?

Nothing would have ever stopped me from doing so, although many things have been a negative influence on me personally, such as the death of Captain Abdulla Al Nouami, whom I considered as my father. We lost such a great trainer as a country and this was very hard for me during my studies.

Did you finish your university education?

I finished high school, after which I joined the academy. The headquarters of the academy are in Sana'a, and all the field work is in Al-Mukalla.

Do you believe that the media has a role in encouraging girls to join the field of civil aviation?

Different media outlets have been attracting the attention of girls my age to consider the field of aviation, despite the fact that it's considered by the community as a male dominated field. If a girl's wish is to become a pilot, and she has the full support of her family, then she should pursue her dream. I myself had the boundless

support from my father, without which I would never have succeeded in this field and overcome all of the different challenges.

You're number what in your family?

I'm the third and the youngest. I have a brother and a sister.

What do they study or what was their major?

My brother studied accounting and he's now in Sheba'. My sister works at the investment commission.

What advice would you like to give Yemeni girls?

If you love aviation, hold on to that and do your best to get there no matter what some people may do to turn you down and get you out. You should be strong and serious and decisive. Love your job and hold on tight to that. Forget all the negative influences and only concentrate on your goal no matter what challenges and obstacles you might face from the community or colleagues.

How many years did you study at the academy?

Two years and I finished them.

What are your hobbies?

Reading, especially in English. This is what I love doing most.

Are you thinking of getting married after finding a job at one of the airlines?

I want to get married eventually, but not now.

Were you alone during the times you spent in Al-Mukalla and Jordan?

My elder brother Labeeb stayed with me at the beginning, then my younger brother Mouath joined me for a while, then I spent the rest of the time alone.

Did you face any obstacles or harassment when you lived on your own?

Every woman faces this whether or not she is on her own, however, if the

women is strong enough and knows how to deal with this, it will all pass. At the beginning it was very disturbing and the tiniest misbehavior would send me into tears, but later I grew stronger and realized that if you show them that you're strong, they'll eventually get bored with you and leave you alone.

If the harassment is more that you can bear you'll cry because it is hard being alone, but that doesn't mean that I regret taking the decision to become a pilot. I cried because I hated how much our community is behind other well-developed communities, and because being alone was hard as I was the only female and didn't have female colleagues to share my feelings with. Nevertheless, all these challenges were nothing compared to my love for this field.

When do you plan on having your first baby?

I first want to prove myself in this field. I want to do more than 2,000 flying hours before that. I believe this will take three to four years.

What is the question that we didn't ask and that you wanted us to ask?

I was hoping that you would ask how it feels flying in the air, and I would say that it feels as if I'm totally separated from the earth and in a different world. I love flying most when I feel down because once I see the clouds I forget everything and I feel like I'm all around the sky. I get so much into the flying and forget all my concerns... it feels really great and beautiful.

Final words?

I want to sincerely thank my father, who has provided his support to me from since I first wanted to become a pilot when I was in secondary school until today. He never gave up on me, and he would stay with me on the phone when I was up in the air... I truly thank him and I don't believe that anyone else would have supported me the way he did.

Heavy qat chewers are unproductive employees

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

When your colleague comes to work with a brownish-green tongue, feels unenthusiastic about working, and cannot bear to talk, you know he has stayed up late, even until dawn, chewing qat.

For some Yemeni qat chewers, the afternoon sessions are not enough to satisfy their greed for qat, and they have acquired the habit of staying up late at night chewing. This affects not only their health, but also their work productivity.

For those who work in government offices with no afternoon shifts, this productivity is even lower.

Because heavy chewers don't sleep well at night, either they don't go to work the next day - especially Saturdays, the day after the weekend - or they arrive to work late still feeling

sleepy and depressed. Some kinds of qat prevent people from sleeping for hours after spitting it out. It also cuts their appetite, and this makes them become thin.

Mood swings, dry mouth, constipation and indigestion are all symptoms of a heavy qat chewer, according to Dr. Ahmad Al-Gharati, head of the Internal and Cardiology Department at Al-Jumhuri hospital.

"The person feels sleepy and he might fall asleep anytime or anywhere, even whilst working on machines or driving," he said. "The chewer's lack of concentration, and his feeling irritable and depressed at work reduces the work productivity of the qat chewer."

The desire for qat is not as strong as that for alcohol or tobacco, but people have started seeing qat as a source of enjoyment.

"Qat causes psychological dependence, but it does not form a physical

dependence," said Al-Gharati.

"As a stimulant, qat causes trouble sleeping leading to fatigue, indolence and loss of appetite for the chewer the next day," he said.

In the last few years, late night qat sessions has become socially prestigious. Chewers describe qat as having a number of beneficial effects such as improving their ability to communicate, generate new ideas and suppressing the feeling of exhaustion.

"Chewing qat late at night is new to Yemenis. Previously chewing qat was less common than now, and mostly only for well-off people," director of the Yemeni Cultural Center, Zaid Al-Faqih, told the Yemen Times.

"People were not used to qat chewing sessions after 6 p.m. or the sunset prayer," he said.

Nowadays, the afternoon qat session usually occurs between 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Some people continue until about midnight. Some others have a

dinner break then continue the session beyond midnight, even up to dawn.

Some people chew qat over three sessions within 24 hours. The first starts in the morning up to noon, the second comes sometime in the late afternoon, and the last is between 8 p.m. up to dawn of the next day, Al-Faqih explained.

For the heavy chewer, the productive working hours according to Al-Faqih is only one hour per day.

"For example, a chewer spits out his qat about midnight, but he still struggles to sleep until 2 or 3 a.m. He sleeps until 10 a.m. then goes to work without having breakfast. He leaves work to have breakfast for half an hour. After an hour at work he starts looking for money to buy qat for the next session and leaves to the market."

Employees should be strict with them and punish them for coming in late, he said.



Egypt: Activists take action against emergency law

The Egyptian government's recent two-year renewal of the decades-old emergency law - with only minor changes - has stoked the creation of a "national committee to build a future without emergency," reports the Egyptian Organization for Human Rights (EOHR).



According to Human Rights Watch and the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI), President Hosni Mubarak, during his 2005 election campaign, promised to replace the emergency law with new counter-terrorism legislation. But since then his government has renewed the emergency law three times, most recently this month, and an anti-terrorism law has yet to be written in the books.

This time, officials have vowed to restrict the use of the emergency law to combat terrorism and drug-related crimes. But Human Rights Watch says officials continue to use the emergency law to detain people in cases that have nothing to do with terrorism and instead target political dissent.

The law has been used repeatedly against members of the Muslim Brotherhood, activists and bloggers. They include Hany Nazeer, who posted a link on his blog to a controversial book that some considered insulting to Islam, as well as Mus'ad Abul Fagr, a novelist and rights defender who had been outspokenly critical of the violation of the rights of Sinai Bedouin. Both have been detained under successive emergency law orders since 2008, points out Human Rights Watch.

And according to ANHRI, just last week eight activists were arrested in Damanhour for taking part in a meeting that called for the repeal of the emergency law among other democratic reforms in Egypt.

Under the emergency law, in place since the 1967 Arab-Israeli War except for an 18-month break in 1980, the government has the power to prohibit demonstrations, censor newspapers, monitor personal communications, and detain people indefinitely without charge. According to EOHR, human rights groups say at least 10,000 people currently remain in long-

term detention without charge or trial under the emergency law.

With its most recent announcement, the government says the law is subject to judicial review. But officials frequently disregard court orders to release detainees, and the Interior Ministry is empowered under the law to renew detention orders on its own authority, reports Human Rights Watch.

The government also announced it would cease using the emergency law to monitor communications. But Human Rights Watch points out that the 2007 amendments to the constitution already gave it the power to monitor communications outside of the emergency law and without judicial warrant in terrorism-designated cases.

According to EOHR, the newly formed committee will include members of political parties and civil society organisations, and will pressure the government to adhere to recommendations in line with the UN Human Rights Council's. The committee is demanding that all prisoners jailed under the emergency law be released immediately, and that the government restrict emergency rule to times of war and natural disaster.

The committee is also calling for a provision to be made for the right to a fair trial, which would mean abolishing trials of civilians before military tribunals and special state security courts, which lack basic due process protections.

How the committee will fare remains to be seen. Government officials are continuing in their campaign to target critical activists and civil society organisations through the emergency law and other legislation. ANHRI's own Gamal Eid is currently facing politically motivated charges.

Source: MENASSAT

Carpuccino: the car that runs on coffee

By: Tiana Miller
Environmental Graffiti

"The Carpuccino" was built by a team from the BBC1 science program "Bang Goes The Theory" to show that there are many more ways to fuel a car than just predictable old petrol and diesel.

According to Green and Save News, this remodeled 1988 Volkswagen goes approximately 3 miles for every kilo of ground coffee. This translates into about 56 espressos per mile, which is a little more than my rate on a Monday morning.

This will cost 25-50 times the price of petrol, which coincidentally seems to be around the same mark-up Starbucks practices. The Carpuccino will have to be refueled every 30-45 miles and can be powered only by roasted coffee granules.

The 'gassification' process could also be used to power a car on construction debris, agricultural waste or landfill. This, of course, makes the Carpuccino more than



just a car you can finally have a cup of coffee with instead of just in. After all, any alternative form of energy is an important development in a culture consumed with

a fuel crisis.

The Carpuccino will be on display at the Big Bang science fair in Manchester if you decide you want to join it for an espresso or

two. However, it will be running on waste coffee grounds donated from Costa Coffee in order to save money, so you might want to bring your own brew.

5 مهرجان صيف صنعاء السياحي

Sana'a Tourism Summer Festival

للمن صنعاء... وإن طال السفر..

1-31 July 2010

<p>Egyptian Circus Show 15 - 27 /7/2010 4-6 pm Al-Sabian</p>	<p>European Artists Gallery 15 - 23 /7/2010 9 -12 am - 4-8 pm Bab Al-Yemen</p>
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MINISTRY OF TOURISM
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VAGANGY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dove Energy Ltd. is an independent UK company, formed to manage worldwide oil exploration and production assets. Dove discovered the Shayool & Bayoot Oil Field within its primary asset, Block 53 East Sea.

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Deadline Date : 2nd August 2010

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- Prepare tasks and orders as directed by the Construction Manager
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- To maintain AutoCAD drawings as per Department Control Assessment/Procedure.
- To coordinate orders for Department Control Assessment/Procedure for drawings.
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- Link with the contractor AutoCAD drafterman for drawings.
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Yet another distinguished success JiTCOM 12 creates new niche in the IT sector



With great success JiTCOM, Al-Jazeera Information Technology & Communication Exhibition 12th expo for information technology had witnessed, Apollo for exhibitions concluded its expo on Monday after a four day success from 8 to 12 July 2010.

Local, regional and international companies participated in the Expo which has become

a highlight in the technology sector in Yemen as an anticipated annual event. JiTCOM is one of the main activities that help integrate information technology with society and inform the public about the latest in this field in a fun and interesting way.

According to its visitors and participating companies, every year organization and managing of the Expo becomes better and better and Apollo the organizing company has made quality improvements and giant leaps in this Expo on many levels.

The Expo also included a number of workshops and exhibitions targeting programmers and Information Technology providers and their partners, such as Geographic Information

Systems and decision making support, Informatics activities of National Information Center (NIC), Information Law Project, security systems, monitoring cameras and long distance wireless communication devices.

Today JiTCOM has become one of the largest and most successful events for the IT and Communication industry in Yemen, JiTCOM Exhibition widely observed as the standard event in Yemen displaying the newest advancement in the business of Information and Communications Technologies.

The first JiTCOM Exhibition was organized in 1999 and is until today the only regular exhibition of its kind in Yemen. The Expo is an indicator of the advancement of Information Technology and how the private sector takes up initiatives to keep Yemen in the technological advancement world.

Although the exhibition targets mainly people working in the information technology field, this year many visitors from the public displayed interest in the items showed and asked questions, which is an indicator of the Expo's success in community awareness.



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Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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



OUR OPINION

Holding the next elections on time

Regardless of what is being said about whether elections in Yemen are fair and representative of the people's actual votes, I would not trade my right to vote for anything.

I know and believe that the Yemeni government is mostly corrupt, but this is not limited to the government. In fact, 99 percent of the Yemenis I know are corrupt. Do you want to know more? This virus of corruption has also infected many of the non-Yemenis living in Yemen who have adjusted to the Yemeni way of doing things.

That being said, the opposition's position last year, although legitimate in some ways, was disappointing for me. What all these politicians fail to understand is that elections are not only about the right of the candidates to nominate themselves, they are also about the right of the citizens to vote, and in many cases, to imagine that they have a say in who comes to power.

The GPC announced last week that it is adamant on holding the coming parliamentary elections on April 27, 2011 as planned. Opposition parties are shaking their heads, saying that the purpose of postponing the elections in 2009 was to carry out electoral reforms which were not achieved until date.

My concern is that Yemen as a nation is losing a great deal with its media under siege and press freedom handicapped. It would be the final straw for Yemen's democracy if the coming elections don't happen or are handicapped in some way.

This is not only my position alone. I have talked to many members of parliament from various parties, and they feel their legitimacy is already in question with the two-year extension, let alone with another delay of two years or so.

There is a reason why elections, no matter how superficial, are important. It is a time for the candidates to be nice and do well by their constituencies. It is also a chance for them to review what they have been doing and criticize their competitors in a way that really opens the public's eyes.

Also, election time provides a good education for youth. They start learning about their rights and aspire to achieve the promises the candidates throw out right and left. It allows us to dream, speculate, analyze and decide on a choice, even if we know that our choice many times does not matter. Just the process of seeing all the people who have put themselves out there hoping we will vote for them, and then making up our mind as to whom to choose, is very empowering.

With all that is going on in Yemen, we really need the elections to happen.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Yemen at risk of secessionist insurgency in south

By: Cynthia Johnston
Kuwait Times

Yemen risks a sustained separatist insurgency in the south, scene of increased tit-for-tat violence, unless it seriously addresses grievances of southerners who say their region is neglected by the state. President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who a week ago declared that Yemen's separate war with Shi'ite rebels in the north was over, has offered dialogue with opponents in the south. But there is little evidence so far of a rush to the negotiating table.

If the escalation continues it will be a big, big problem. It will be a war," Yemeni analyst Nasser Arrabyee said, but added he was optimistic Sanaa would strike a political power sharing deal to prevent further armed conflict. Sanaa came under international pressure to quiet domestic unrest and focus its fight on al Qaeda, a bigger global threat, after the group's Yemen-based arm claimed responsibility for a failed December bomb attack on a U.S.-bound plane.

But the president's limited offer for dialogue with the south has come hand-in-hand with a security crackdown and arrests campaign that left a trail of dead

and wounded on both sides in recent weeks even as violence elsewhere in Yemen fades. Security forces continue to occasionally fire on often provocative anti-government demonstrations. In one case, a protester was shot dead while trying to remove a Yemeni flag from a government building and replace it with a separatist one.

Deaths of protesters have typically sparked clashes, easily ignited in a heavily armed society where many civilians carry arms and state control is weak. The unrest has often targeted northerners, and northern-owned businesses have been set aflame. Exiled southern politician Ali Salem Al-Beidh, who briefly led a secessionist south Yemen in 1994, said Sanaa was turning its sights on the south after ending the northern war. "What we fear is that they will push us from the path we have chosen, the peaceful path. Citizens will be forced to defend themselves. When you see a tank in front of your house, what do you do?" Asked if an armed movement would emerge, he said: "We are not thinking of this, and we don't have an army."

North and South Yemen united in 1990, but many in the south - home to most of Yemen's oil facilities - complain northerners have seized resources and discriminate against them. There have

already been signs, such as recent ambush-style attacks blamed on separatists that have killed at least five people, that the southern conflict is becoming more and more like an insurgency and less a peaceful protest movement.

The protest movement, while not unified behind a single organisation, has been sophisticated in its approach, and wants to maintain the peaceful non-violent nature of its protest, analyst Abdul-Ghani Al-Iryani said. "But given the fact that the government has been non-responsive, I think they or some elements within the movement, have chosen to use violence in certain areas. And the pattern over the period of say the past two years ... has been escalating," Iryani said. "The increase in violence in different areas has been uniform, which tells you there is a nucleus of planners who are quite sophisticated. And I wouldn't be surprised if they happen to be outside of the country," he added.

A Yemeni court on Tuesday sentenced a separatist leader to 10 years in prison. The judge said Ahmad Bamualim, a former parliamentarian, had been calling for an armed insurrection. Western countries and neighbouring Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, fear Al-Qaeda is exploiting instability in impoverished

Yemen to launch attacks in the region and beyond. Saleh has placed limits on an offer for talks with the south, saying he would only speak with pro-unity elements, not secessionists. But the southern movement has no single leadership, and Sanaa would need to deal with a collection of disparate leaders, often with similar but not identical agendas.

Diplomats say previous talks offers have not been followed by concrete action to address southern complaints that Sanaa neglects the southern region and treats southerners unfairly, including in property disputes, jobs and pension rights. A southern war could be averted if Sanaa takes steps to resolve key differences and makes progress on power sharing, with a national unity government or by naming more southerners to key roles in local government and security forces. "It will be very difficult and a long process ... In the coming weeks there will be nothing. In Yemen we don't count by weeks, we count by years," analyst Ali Seif Hassan said. Iryani hoped outside players such as the wealthy Gulf Cooperation Council, which Yemen hopes to join, could use its weight to press for a solution, and maybe play a mediating role.

Yemen and water: A cautionary tale

Pasadena Star News Editorial

Here in Southern California, we've got our own water problems, heaven knows. But, whether we now meet some strict "drought" definition or not, we're not down to our last drop.

So it was shocking to read recently that the Arabian peninsula country of Yemen is on the verge of literally running out of water.

That hydrologic crisis was announced as an aside - a clause within a sentence - in a story that admittedly dealt with the even more immediate subject of terrorism, at which Yemen is beginning to excel.

But in the long run, a lack of water trumps even a fanatical capacity for mass murder when it comes to spelling the end of a civilization.

Yemen, it turns out, is something like the perfect un-storm when it comes to not staying wet.

At the southern tip of the Arabian peninsula, it is of course a desert nation. But it is actually historically far greener than its much larger neighbor to the north, Saudi Arabia. The Saudis' vast wealth can buy the steady but expensive supply of water that comes with the desalination plants it has built on the Red Sea. The government of Yemen, which actually has full control in only a few urban parts of its nation, has far too few resources for such a technological solution.

And yet the population is booming in both the cities and the tribal regions - some 23 million people are Yemeni. That's almost as many people as live in the large and prosperous Saudi kingdom.

Al-Qaida elements are trying to make Yemen - ancestral home to the bin Laden family - a stronghold. There have always been separate tribal rebellions. There are food shortages and very little work. If certainly exotic, it is not exactly a tourist

mecca. But the shortage of water beats all. Groundwater levels are dropping by 20 to 65 feet a year. Unauthorized drilling accounts for most new wells. Production of the narcotic qat plant, chewed by 70 percent of Yemeni men, takes 40 percent of the nation's water usage, cutting into the ability to grow food crops - but the level of addiction makes a government crackdown impossible. It's a recipe for societal disaster.

What can we learn from the situation in Yemen? Perhaps most clearly, the simple knowledge that water can run out is important. Yes, we are blessed with more rainfall and higher aquifers than in the Mideast. But Yemen at least already has the lowest "water footprint" in the world - the amount used by each person for everything from drinking, bathing and laundry to food production. Guess who has the largest footprint - five times bigger than Yemen's? We do.

For the sake of the future, we need to begin to live within our water means. Yes,

we have possible technological solutions. But this month, even the backers of the latest California water bond are seeking to pull it from the November ballot after polls show little support in this economy for spending another \$11.1 billion on infrastructure. That bond does promise some comprehensive solutions to Delta problems and thus the entire state's water supplies. But it should be put off in hopes of a

better economy and thus more support in 2012.

In the meantime - and in the future, too - conservation is key. Gray water, native plants, reuse, rain-friendly designs that will fully take advantage of the water we get naturally - that's where the real solution lies. Los Angeles actually gets in annual rainfall two-thirds of the water we use. If we all had rain barrels beneath the gutters from our roofs ... well, you get the picture.

To avoid the Yemeni crisis, let's make sure we use what we have.

Yemen using war on Qaeda to bolster regime

By: Acil Tabbara

Faced with an armed revolt in the north and a separatist movement in the south, Yemen's president is using the Western-backed war against Al-Qaeda to bolster

his regime and muzzle opponents, say analysts. The threat from Islamist militants poses less of a danger for Sanaa than the Zaidi Shiite insurrection on the border with Saudi Arabia or the independence calls in southern Yemen, according to Yemen experts. "The regime is exploiting the war against Al-Qaeda to attract foreign aid and curb the opposition, said anthropologist and Yemen specialist Franck Mermier.

With the West pressuring President Ali Abdullah Saleh to crack down on the Yemen branch of Al-Qaeda, "it is in the interests of the regime ... to play the Al-Qaeda card to silence its opponents," Mermier added. Saleh at the weekend stressed the government will crack down heavily on those who resort to violence but at the same time said he is open to dialogue with Al-Qaeda militants in his country. "If Al-Qaeda (militants) lay down their arms, renounce violence and terrorism and return to wisdom, we are prepared to deal with them," Saleh told Abu Dhabi TV in an interview carried by Yemen's Saba news agency on Sunday.

Analyst Mermier said the government was trying to "Al-Qaeda-ise" its enemies. It suggests they are linked to Osama bin Laden's network, especially Shiite rebels in the north who have been fighting the government since 2004 and the southerners, "most of whom are opposed to armed

struggle," Mermier said. The south, which was an independent state from 1967 until Yemen was united in 1990, has been the scene of protests against the government's policies and its attempts "to amalgamate the southern movement and

Al-Qaeda," according to one of the movement's leaders. Separatists often complain of discrimination by northerners and a lack of financial aid.

But even if US military and financial support, in the name of the war on Al-Qaeda, "ends up strengthening Sanaa initially," the government "could see a second more dangerous front opening up in the south," Mercier warned. "The regime's policies are pushing its opponents towards more radical options, like separatism for the south." Mohammad Al-Zahiri, professor of political science at Sanaa University, agrees that Yemen's government is deliberately "exaggerating the Al-Qaeda threat in order to export or internationalise its problems". "The state is taking advantage of the West's interest (in combating Al-Qaeda) ... and avoiding its own internal problems," he added.

But such an approach "cannot resolve Yemen's problems and is very short-sighted," said Zahiri, concerned that "military solutions will only lead to a rise in anti-Americanism in the country". He said only dialogue can achieve a permanent

solution. Zahiri was referring to the rebellion in the north, the demands of southerners and also the domestic opposition, angered by parliament's agreement last February to delay legislative elections by two years. "2009 has been the worst year for Yemen," said Fares Al-Saqqaf, director of the Centre for Future Studies in Sanaa.

The country now faces five challenges: the rebellion in the north, which is intensifying, the southern question, which has turned into a separatist movement and is no longer peaceful, the Al-Qaeda threat, internal political opposition and the economic crisis." For Saqqaf, "the key to the solution is not military, but political and economic ... Yemen cannot confront Al-Qaeda except by pacifying its other fronts, especially in the north and south." "The whole world wants to crush Al-Qaeda in Yemen. The country could take advantage of this conflict to demand economic aid, which would help to resolve its problems.

He proposed the oil-rich Gulf states offer aid to the impoverished Arabian peninsula state "in the form of a Marshall plan," referring to the post-World War II reconstruction plan for Europe. The government has turned to the six Gulf Cooperation Council states for help but analysts say it has been almost negligible, although Riyadh has given Sanaa \$7.2 billion in aid over the past 10 years.



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Saudi women simultaneously navigating the classroom and British culture

Thousands of Saudis are now studying at universities across the UK; 25% of them are female.

By: Rob L. Wagner
The Media Line

A group of Saudi women studying at universities across the United Kingdom anxiously met in Glasgow, Scotland, in November 2008, with Princess Fadwa bint Khalid bin Abdullah, wife of HRH Prince Mohammed bin Nawaf bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Ambassador to the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The students complained that their children attend school seven days a week since complying with the laws of both countries requires sending their children to both a British school and private Saudi classes.

Although Princess Fadwa sympathized that day with the students' struggles, no solution has yet to be offered.

This is only one of many hurdles facing female students coming from Saudi Arabia to study in the UK.

An estimated 6,000 international students, including about 800 Saudis, attend Newcastle University in northeast England. Female Saudi students at Newcastle say they are adjusting well to the foreign environment, although it's a tough slog. Saudi women acknowledge their circle of friends is mostly limited to Saudi and other Arab Muslim women.

On top of this, traveling within the United Kingdom is usually restricted to academic conferences. When social engagements are involved, they are only with university colleagues and classmates in the same programs.

In the lecture hall, though, with their strong academic performance and assertiveness when leading discussions, Saudi women defy the perception held by many Western classmates of being shy and reserved.

In their free time, female students at Newcastle University frequent Turkish and Iranian restaurants near campus, although they rarely mix with their Saudi male colleagues.

"Saudi men avoid us and we in turn avoid them," said Miramar Damanhour, a second-year PhD student in applied linguistics in her early 30s. "It could be that we got so used to the segregation that is rooted in our educational system that we cannot overcome it. I'd rather talk to anyone from any nationality, but not a Saudi man, simply because his reaction is unexpected. He might misjudge my intentions."

Saudi female undergraduate and postgraduate students account for about 25 percent of the 15,616 Saudi students in the United Kingdom, according to uksab.org, the site for the Saudi cultural attaché. Saudi women gravitate to scientific fields, including microbiology and chemistry, studying in an environment free of gender segregation.

For the 2007/2008 academic year

about 5,000 Saudi students received government scholarships to study abroad as part of King Abdullah's initiative started in 2005 to send Saudis to Western universities. The Saudi Ministry of Higher Education recently closed the United Kingdom for study due to the huge influx of students since 2007.

Some students cite the difficulty and unpredictability of obtaining student visas in the United States following 9/11 and the US 'War on Terror' as a reason for studying in the UK.

To the north of Newcastle campus is the Saudi family enclave of Kingston Park where large numbers of Saudi female students live. Yet many Saudis can also be found in the student community of Jesmond or the suburbs of Gateshead.

Although they enjoy independent lives, Saudi women experience pressure from family members who fear that living in the West – especially with the UK's entrenched drinking culture and relatively free-wheeling lifestyle – has a corrupting influence. But families also recognize that their daughters are experiencing once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.

"My family was so happy about it [the scholarship] and they encouraged me to move ahead with my plan to study," said Haifa Alnofaie, who is in her late 20s and studying for her PhD in educational and applied linguistics at Newcastle.

There's a sense, however, among Saudi women that they are under a microscope. Few Saudi women at

Newcastle University wear the niqab, the Islamic veil worn by women that covers the face below the eyes, although many wear the hijab.

The Saudi student website, Saudi Share, regularly reports attacks on Muslim women in the United Kingdom. Particularly alarming was one incident in Birmingham in May when a woman wearing the niqab standing at a train platform was attacked by a man who ripped away her veil. No such incidents have been reported in Newcastle, but troubling anti-Muslim incidents still do occur.

Damanhour said she is occasionally harassed, including one occasion when a drunken woman hurled anti-Muslim insults at her and her friends at a train station. "Nobody on the platform stood for us," she said.

"Another time a teenager was harassing a group I was with in South Shields. He was alone and obviously had no fear. We called the police. They said he was a regular troublemaker and they solved the problem immediately," continued Damanhour.

Such incidents have prompted some Saudi women to reconsider how they dress in public. On football days when much of Newcastle is celebrating a victory or mourning a loss at the pubs, students leave the hijab at home and tuck their hair under a hat to avoid unwanted attention.

In June, the ultra-conservative English Defence League staged its

first demonstration in Newcastle to protest what the league claims is the "Islamification" of England. Muslim women heeded the advice of police and the Newcastle Muslim Society to stay at home.

Saudis don't kid themselves that they enjoy absolute freedom. Every Saudi, women assume, is watching.

"Sometimes the colleagues in my department go to a pub for drinks and dinner," said one Saudi PhD student in her early 30s who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "Although I would never drink alcohol, I would also never go into a pub for dinner. You never know who is watching and what will be said when they go home."

The university leaves it to the faculty to develop skills to work with students of other cultures and religions. There is no staff instruction in cultural or religious sensitivity, said Dr. Steve Walsh, Newcastle's postgraduate research director in applied linguistics.

"[There's] no training given, but I feel I am okay with this as I have had a lot of experience both in this country and abroad," Walsh said. "This is an important aspect of my work. Students come to me with their problems and I try to help."

Language and writing skills can be problematic even though incoming students are required to pass written and oral English language tests.

"Some [Saudi students] are excellent, others pretty weak, and all, including

native, struggle with academic writing," Walsh said.

Walsh testified that the quality of Saudi education is excellent.

"But I deal with PhD students who are normally excellent," he said.

Alnofaie, who is originally from Ta'if, said the university is responsive to her needs.

"They show respect to our religious needs and do their best to provide Muslim students with adequate services," she said. "One example is the annual Islamic Week that is held at the university to increase people's awareness of the reality of Islam."

Although Saudi students see no reason to complain, attending prayer at the university is challenging. The Newcastle campus mosque in the basement of the King George Building can't accommodate Friday prayers with an average of 200 men jammed into mosque and spilling into the hallway and out onto the parking lot. About one-third as many women attend Friday prayers upstairs in equally cramped quarters.

These are minor annoyances to Damanhour. She said she never experienced discrimination on campus because she is Muslim. Still, British society can be difficult to navigate.

"Based on my experience with Americans, I can say that Americans are warm-hearted and more friendly. They like to make friends. But many British, and I hate to generalize, don't like to get along with anybody who is different.

Iran may be backing down from stoning of woman

International pressure seen in decision to review case where woman was sentenced to death by stoning for involvement in the murder of her husband.

By: Benjamin Joffe-Walt
The Media Line

Iran has apparently submitted to intense international pressure, promising to review a judicial sentence calling for the death by stoning of a woman convicted of adultery. The sentence so far has not been commuted.

Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, a 43-year-old mother of two in the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz, was accused of having extramarital relations with two men who ended up killing her husband. After two trials she was sentenced to death by stoning, which if carried out would have been the first known stoning to take place in the Islamic Republic in years.

Dozens of international rights groups, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, took up Ashtiani's

case after it was first leaked to Radio Farda by women's rights activist Soheila Vahdati last week. The impending stoning was discussed in a number of Western parliaments and condemned by U.S. Senator John Kerry (D-Mass.); the European Union's foreign policy chief; the foreign ministers of Canada and Germany; and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. A number of celebrities, including American actress Lindsay Lohan, playwright David Hare, philosopher A.C. Grayling and actors Emma Thompson, Juliette Binoche and Colin Firth all made statements about the case.

Iran announced over the weekend that while Ashtiani's death sentence will stand, the sentence and option for appeal will be reviewed. Officials were quick to deny that the decision was a response to the international outcry.

"Our judicial system cannot change its course because of Western attack and media pressure," Iran High Council for Human Rights chief Mohammad-Javad Larjani told Iran's state news agency IRNA on Friday. "The commotion that the Western media has started

in connection with this case will not affect our judges' views. The execution of Islamic religious laws on death by stoning, hijab and inheritance has always faced their audacious animosity and basically any issue which hints of religious law is always opposed by them."

Pashad Husseini, an advocate for the International Committee Against Stoning who is in touch with Ashtiani's family and lawyer, declared victory.

"This is a victory of the people of the world, and thanks to the amazing coverage from the international news media," he told The Media Line. "Over 30 years we have had many successful cases with international campaigns to intervene in stoning sentences."

"It's very important to note that they have not definitely canceled the sentence, they have just said that they will review the case," Husseini warned. "There are some examples in the past in which they said they will review the case and then in the end they carry out the stoning sentence. The children are optimistic that their mother's imminent stoning has been cancelled, but they are

still concerned about the future."

Mohammad Mostafaie, a famous human rights lawyer in Tehran who took on Ashtiani's case after hearing of the sentence of stoning, said there has been no official change.

"I have heard the reports that Mr. Larjani said that the stoning sentence is being reviewed, but at this time I don't know what is the sentence in this case," he told The Media Line. "On Wednesday I will go to court and inquire about her case. All I can say is that the weather is not good in Iran."

Iranian media has been banned from reporting about Ashtiani's death sentence.

The case began in 2005 when Ashtiani was arrested for having "illicit relationships." She was convicted by a local court a year later and sentenced to 99 lashes and an unknown amount of time in prison, where she has remained since.

Following the original case, however, Ashtiani and her alleged boyfriends were accused of murdering her husband. Ashtiani was convicted and sentenced to death by stoning.

Iranian human rights advocates allege that Ashtiani's adultery case was reopened during her murder trial, despite her having already been punished.

"What's interesting about this case is that this woman had already been sentenced to lashes for adultery," Niusha Boghrati, an Iranian journalist who covers human rights issues told The Media Line. "She appealed to a higher court. They did not decrease her sentence, but on the contrary, took it to the next level, which in the case of adultery is death by stoning."

Ashtiani has denied any wrongdoing, claimed she was never given access to a lawyer and that her confession was made under duress. She has reportedly asked local authorities for a pardon, stating simply "If I have done any wrong, I repent." The request for clemency was denied.

Ashtiani's two children, Fasrude and Sajjad, aged 16 and 20, have been leading the campaign for her release.

Infidelity is illegal in Iran, and usually punished with lashes and prison time. However, Article 83 of the Laws of Islamic Punishment in Iran, ratified in

1991, allows for death by stoning in infidelity cases. The code later states that "the stones should not be so large that the person dies upon being hit by one or two of them; neither should they be so small they could not be defined as stones."

Stonings usually take place in public and the victim's family is often required to watch. The judge or witnesses to the alleged crime are asked to throw the first stone, and it can take up to 30 minutes for the victim to die.

International pressure forced Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, head of Iran's judiciary, to impose a moratorium on stoning in 2002, but rights advocates say the stoning sentences are still being carried out.

Three people were stoned to death in 2009 and another three in 2008, according to figures kept by the International Committee Against Stoning. Six people, including Ashtiani, have been sentenced to death by stoning so far this year.

Rights groups claim Iran has one of the world's highest rates of execution. Iran has executed more than 100 people by other means this year alone.

Defense spending in the Gulf to reach USD 83Bn by 2015

With Iran just across the waters, Sunni states in the southern Gulf are set to increase their defense expenditure drastically.

By: Adam Gonn
The Media Line

Gulf States will increase their defense expenditure by USD 15 billion over the next five years, according to a recent report.

Global market research firm, Forecast International predicts that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other Sunni countries on the southern side of the Gulf will increase their annual defense spending from USD 68 billion to USD 83 billion by 2015, reported Arabianbusiness.com.

Mark Thomas, Deputy Director of the Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies in Qatar, told The Media Line that spending is motivated by fears of Iran's regional dominance.

"The driving force behind the spending is regional anxiety over Iran," he said. "They are trying to close the strategic gap, countering Iran's quantitative superiority by superior weapons systems."

"In conventional manpower [sense] they can't compete. They do it by

maintaining a technological advantage," Thomas told The Media Line.

"Saudi Arabia as the region's heavy weight constitutes the bulk of Gulf Cooperation Council spending," he said referring to the six member regional cooperation organization that is made up of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Following Saudi Arabia, comes the United Arab Emirates, "which is taking its defense extremely seriously by upgrading its air force capabilities, missile defense and naval assets," Thomas said.

According to the Military Expenditure index at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Saudi Arabia alone spent USD 41 billion on arms in 2009, an increase of USD 3 billion from the year before that. The latest data available from 2007 for the United Arab Emirates shows that its government spent USD 42 million that year but that number has most likely risen since then.

Brig.-Gen. Musa Qallab, an independent defense expert and former program manager for GCC Defense Issues Gulf Research Center in Dubai told The Media Line that weapons purchasing would most likely continue to rise.

"The Gulf Cooperation Council

countries will continue to improve their weapons and arms system. Yes, the increased spending will continue, it will rise," he said.

"This means the continued development increase in their weapons system for the traditional land forces and for the security forces as well," said Qallab. "For the land forces they need better tanks, Armored Personal Carriers (APC) and fighting vehicles and [to] upgrade the [jet] fighters and military helicopters."

"The naval forces need upgrading and submarines," he said. "The air defense is very important with the threat from Iran and other non-state actors. They need accurate counter missile defense systems."

"GCC needs to spend more and more," Qallab said.

"The smart weapons from the West are the main source of weaponry, with the United States as number one, with the United Kingdom as number two [and] France number three," he said. "China is also trying to sell some equipment," he added.

"Many of the targets that need to be protected are housing areas and manufacturing zones, so-called soft targets. And if these can't be protected what is the point of all the economic development in the Gulf?" Qallab asked.

Saudi men push for more wives

"Prophet of Four" campaign seeks to convince young men to take on a 2nd, 3rd or 4th wife.

By: Benjamin Joffe-Walt
The Media Line

A group of young Saudi men have launched a campaign to convince Saudi men of the unappreciated virtues of polygamy.

It is a response to young Saudi women uninterested in joining a polygamous marriage, older Saudi women divorcees and Saudi men unable or unwilling to support more than one woman. The campaign seeks to counter what Saudi traditionalists see as an increasingly negative stigma attached to polygamy.

Campaigning under the slogan "Prophet of Four", a reference to the Islamic edict allowing men to marry up to four wives, the group calls for every Saudi man to take four wives so as to rid the country of so-called 'spinsters', a term referring to unmarried Saudi women over the age of 30. Launched at the start of Saudi Arabia's 'marriage season', the campaign's Facebook page has already garnered a few hundred supporters.

Saudi Arabia's strict patriarchal guardianship system requires all women

to be represented by men, either their husband, father or son, in all public and official spheres of life. Women are not allowed to drive, inherit, divorce or gain custody of children, and cannot socialize with unrelated men.

But Saudi Arabia's firm gender roles and norms have loosened a bit over the past few years, and more and more young Saudi women are well educated, financially independent and exposed to different ways of thinking about themselves, relationships and their roles in society. Saudi social analysts say this leads many young Saudi women to refuse the advances of men seeking to take a second, third or fourth wife. Some women seek out foreign men, in the hopes that they will not end up in a polygamous marriage.

"Women are more educated and have jobs, so they are not always in a rush to get married for financial support like they were before, especially if their parents give them the freedom to travel and lead their lives as they wish," Wajiha Al-Huwaidar, a Saudi women's rights activist told The Media Line. "Many women don't want to be second wives, so the campaigners want to promote the idea among women so that they will be more accepting of the idea."

Statistics on the number of unmarried Saudi women are unreliable, but the

figure is believed to be high.

Saudi men, meanwhile, are uninterested in marrying divorcees or older unmarried women, leaving a large demographic unmarried and financially unstable.

Eman Al Nafjan, a Saudi blogger who often writes about women's issues, said the campaign's focus is more geared towards men.

"It's not that they want to convince the women – there are plenty of women who will accept marriage proposals – it's that they want to convince the men to marry older women," she told The Media Line. "The men want virgins, not older women or divorcees. The problem is that we have a lot of women in their late 20s or 30s who are not married and which men are not interested in, while the young ladies don't want to be the second wife as their first marriage."

Al Nafjan said that while young Saudi men tend to avoid taking on older women as new wives, men are interested in casual relationships.

"Getting married is expensive, and men don't want to commit to an older woman, to set up a house for her," she said. "He just wants a kind of a fling, so he marries the woman for a few months and then divorce[s] her without anyone, including the first wife, knowing about it... Sometimes the woman gets pregnant or they fall in love, but that's rare."



Yemen's Premier Language Institute Since 1975

Yemen-America Language Institute (YALI) seeks a highly motivated self-starter with extensive administrative and leadership experience for the following opening:

Job Description: Director of Courses (DOC)

Summary:

The DOC is in charge and responsible for overall academic and pedagogical aspects of the YALI operation, aiming at providing high-standard instruction to all students and ensuring the quality and efficiency of YALI academic program implementation. The DOC works in coordination with YALI's Executive Director.

Main Responsibilities:

The DOC will be mainly in charge of the following duties:

- Recruiting teachers (screening applications, contacting potential candidates, interviewing them, scheduling class observations for new recruits, observing them while giving demos, giving them feedback, going over hiring procedures with them, and closely following-up the new recruits' performance during the first two terms) and increasing the number of Americans and native speaking teachers in consultation with the Executive Director.
- Evaluating all teachers' classroom performance (observing teachers and writing formal reports for each one at least twice a year).
- Assessing YALI's current academic operations, advising and proposing modifications/improvements when needed, and implementing them once they are discussed and approved by the Executive Director.
- Establishing and implementing specific rules and regulations related to YALI's Academic Department and ensuring adherence to them by teachers and admin staff.
- Mediating issues between instructors and students and management and employees when necessary to maintain a harmonious learning environment.
- Designing new programs and courses to meet the needs of YALI's student population and its existing and new sponsors.
- Promoting extra-curricular activities for YALI students and encouraging female student enrolment.
- Assuming the Executive Director's responsibilities in his/her absence.

Shared Responsibilities:

The DOC will collaborate with the Executive Director and the Academic Coordinator to:

- Design a standard evaluation system of the instructional staff which will be used to determine a salary scale, salary increases, and bonuses for the instructional staff in collaboration with the Executive Director.
- Review the current curriculum, and supervise a team of teachers to improve it so as to as well as creating new ones which are deemed to fulfil YALI students' needs in consultation with the Executive Director.

The DOC will be in charge of the overall supervision of the academic operations at YALI; those operations are mainly divided into the following areas and performed in collaboration with the Director of Administrative Affairs and the Academic Coordinator:

- Assigning classes and other duties to teachers according to their abilities and YALI's needs
- Academic daily routines (schedule adjustment, teacher absences, follow-up students), testing (placement exams, regular quizzes, final exams, graduation exams, etc.), and approving grade reports.
- Teacher training (pre-service training, in-service training, workshops, conferences)
- Pre-registration, main registration and class offerings

Desired Skills, Experience, Qualifications and Personal Characteristics:

- At least 5-10 years of experience in leading an organization. Prior experience leading an independent educational institution, and knowledge of best practices in the teaching of English as a foreign language, preferred but not required.
- A creative thinker, able to develop and implement strategic plans while harnessing the skills and creativity of a diverse and multi-faceted team.
- An effective leader, able to motivate, inspire, and persuade members, staff, and other stakeholders to help YALI carry out its mission.

Job Description: Executive Director (ED)

Summary:

The Executive Director (ED) is responsible for the overall leadership of YALI including strategic business planning, staffing, hiring, disciplining, reviewing contracts, problem-solving, budgeting, training, community/international outreach services, sponsorship, professional development, maintenance, security operations and campus safety.

The ED supervises: Director of Courses, Director of Finance, Director of Administrative Affairs, the Academic Coordinator, and IT operations. The ED co-shares some job responsibilities with the Director of Courses (DOC).

Specific Responsibilities:

- Overall responsibility for all day-to-day operations of YALI. Responsible for budget planning and implementation with authorization to sign all routine and non-routine expenses.
- Responsible for directing, approving and implementing regular and special course curriculum.
- Supervises evaluations of both teaching and administrative staff.
- Develops a handbook for YALI staff that includes administrative, accounting and financial policies, rules and regulations and develops a student handbook.
- Communicates information to staff, teachers and stakeholders in a timely manner.
- Supervises YALI's website.
- Supervises marketing strategies for course development and implementation, generates sponsorship. Opportunities and signs new institutional agreements with community organizations.
- Implements updated pay scale for faculty and staff.

Shared Responsibilities:

- Coordinates with the Director of Courses regular training workshops, including in-service and pre-service training sessions for new teachers.
- The ED and DOC will participate in training sessions and/or lead training sessions when deemed necessary.
- Supervises book orders, inventory and supply operations.
- Cooperates with DOC to promote extra-curricular activities for YALI students and develops international exchange program for both students and staff.

Desired Skills, Experience, Qualifications and Personal Characteristics:

- At least 5-10 years of experience in leading an organization. Prior experience leading an independent educational institution, and knowledge of best practices in the teaching of English as a foreign language, preferred but not required.
- A creative thinker, able to develop and implement strategic plans while harnessing the skills and creativity of a diverse and multi-faceted team.
- An effective leader, able to motivate, inspire, and persuade members, staff, and other stakeholders to help YALI carry out its mission.

Compensation

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Compensation also includes a generous and comprehensive benefits package.

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Please e-mail:

- Cover letter that explains interest and qualifications; and
- Resume that conveys leadership and management accomplishments

To suhayr.amri@yaliefl.org

Deadline: July 26, 2010.

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Renewable energy for rural areas with no electricity

Photo courtesy of TSC



Since 1994, Yemeni company Technical Supplies Center Ltd (TSC) has been the leading supplier for networks using renewable energy in the country. The company has to date set up 1,000 solar, wind, and hybrid power generating systems all over the country, mostly in rural areas that have no electricity. Nadine Ibrahim interviewed Hilal Ghaleb, commercial director of TSC for the Yemen Times.

Interview by Nadine Ibrahim

How did you get into the renewable energy business?

When this company was established in 1994, this technology was almost out of reach in Yemen. There were no companies in Yemen specialized in this kind of business that had only been recently discovered.

We thought that our company would turn out to be pretty helpful. Only 30 percent of the Yemeni population of 22 million had access to electricity, so we thought that we could help by providing power.

Is there a market for this?

There is a potential market. You see for a market to exist you need to have three factors: the buyer, the seller and the product. We have the seller and the product, but we need to bring the product to the buyer who becomes the user.

The problem is that, in Yemen, very few people are aware of this market and those who have access to the national electricity network, and also have the ability to buy our product, don't consider this alternative because network electricity is cheap. That's why most of our installed systems are in rural areas where there is no access to the network.

Solar radiation in Yemen is very high and it can be used in many applications. How do you promote reusable energy sources and encourage people to use them?

As a renewable energy company we have two main sources of power, wind energy and solar energy. We use the two sources of energy from the sun which is heat and sun rays. We use the

sun rays to generate electricity to be used instantly or accumulated in batteries, and we use the heat of the sun for directly heating water.

In terms of promotion, we are involved in exhibitions to raise public awareness in environmental protection and the use of our systems in the household. We participate in road-shows, seminars, school class tutorials and exhibitions related to the environment, either directly by conducting the event or indirectly through sponsorship.

How many systems are installed currently in Yemen and who are your customers?

Well, there are 1,000 systems currently installed in Yemen. Adding together the systems we have installed over our company's lifetime, the total power produced has been about 750,000 watts, which is a very small amount.

Most of our customers are telecommunication companies, but there are also ministries, hospitals and even the government is starting to take an interest in renewable energy.

And how much does this system cost?

The systems are quite expensive, a small system will cost from USD 1,000 to USD 2,000, mainly funded by international organizations. These costs will become less in the future through mass production and newer technology that will make the solar cells more efficient.

What is the most popular renewable energy source in Yemen?

If you talk about renewable energy, solar powered systems are the future. At the present time very few people know about its use and benefits. For example, an electric water heater consumes about 1,000 watts. By using a solar heater we can reduce a lot of the energy water a heater consumes. These heating systems cost from USD 300 to USD 400, but they cause a big reduction in electricity bills, and at the same time reduce the load on power plants.

What in your view are the main applications of solar energy in agriculture and in factories?

In agriculture, there are a lot of appli-

Photo courtesy of TSC



Hilal Ghaleb, commercial director of TSC

Photo courtesy of TSC



Most of TSC's renewable energy systems are installed in rural areas where there is no electricity.

cations for the solar powered systems like rural home lighting, water pumping, heating and refrigeration. We can also use solar powered systems for remote education. There are teachers who use television to teach students in remote inaccessible areas of Yemen, and I hope that they are still using this method these days.

In factories, I don't suggest the application of solar powered systems because of the high power requirements. Here solar powered systems would not be cost effective. You see, what I'm saying is electricity is cheap where there is easy access to the power network. In these situations we cannot compete at all.

Besides selling renewable power systems, what else do you do to promote environmental protection in the country?

As a company, we use mainly solar [powered] systems to produce energy for our company and also supply some energy to the national power grid. We try to use wind [powered systems] but it's not working. The problem is that wind generators have many mechanical parts and need frequent maintenance, which is difficult in remote areas. In each case, unfortunately, the quantity of energy we are producing

through renewable power systems is minimal.

What sort of business or future projects do you have with the Yemeni government in renewable energy, for example solar power, wind power or geothermal energy?

After the studies that have been made in 2006 and 2007, we are now focusing on SHS systems which are "small house systems" in rural areas that have no access to the national network. These systems produce around 75 watts which is enough energy for 3 light bulbs and a small television. We also work in telecommunications which use these systems worldwide. Small telecommunication stations are placed everywhere: In the suburbs, at the top of mountains and in remote areas. In these cases you can place a station powered by solar energy which needs no type of maintenance for many years.

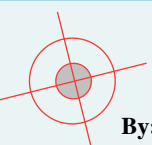
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For more information about renewable energy systems in Yemen, go to: <http://www.tsc.com.ye/>

Photo courtesy of TSC



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.

Your health in pregnancy-II

Vegetarian, vegan and special diets

Providing a vegetarian diet is varied and balanced; it will provide adequate nutrients for you and your baby during pregnancy. However, iron and vitamin B12 can be hard to obtain from a vegetarian diet.

Healthy snacks

- Sandwiches or pitta bread filled with grated cheese, lean meat, mashed tuna, salmon or sardines and salad
- Salad vegetables washed thoroughly
- Low-fat yoghurt
- Hummus and bread or vegetable sticks (e.g. vertically sliced carrots)
- Ready-to-eat apricots, figs or prunes
- Vegetable and bean soups
- Unsweetened breakfast cereals or porridge and milk
- Milky drinks or unsweetened fruit juices
- Fresh fruit
- Fasulia on toast or baked potato



Take care with some foods

Besides eating a wide variety of foods, there are certain precautions you should take in order to safeguard your baby's well-being as well as your own.

- Cook all meat and poultry thoroughly, so that there is no trace of pink or blood and wash all surfaces and utensils after preparing raw meat. This will help to avoid infection with Toxoplasma, which may cause toxoplasmosis and can harm your baby
- Wash fruit, vegetables and salads to remove all traces of soil which may contain Toxoplasma.
- Make sure eggs are thoroughly cooked until the whites and yolks are solid, to prevent the risk of Salmonella food poisoning, and avoid foods containing raw and undercooked eggs like home-made mayonnaise, ice-cream, cheesecake or mousse.
- Avoid eating all types of paté (paste made of cheese, meat and tuna) and mould-ripened soft cheese, because of the risk of Listeria infection. Although Listeria is a very rare disease, it is important to take special precautions during pregnancy because even the mild form of the illness can lead to miscarriage, stillbirth or severe illness in the newborn.
- Drink only pasteurized milk which has had the harmful germs destroyed. If only raw milk is available, boil it first. Don't drink unpasteurized goat's, sheep's or camel's milk or eat their milk products.
- Don't eat liver or liver products, as they may contain a lot of vitamin A. Too much vitamin A could harm your baby.
- Avoid eating peanuts and foods containing peanut products (e.g. peanut butter, unrefined groundnut oil, some snacks, etc.) if you or your husband or any previous children have a history of hay fever, asthma, eczema or other allergies. This may reduce the risk of your baby developing a potentially serious allergy to peanuts. Read food labels carefully and, if you are still in doubt about the contents, avoid these foods.
- Avoid eating shark and swordfish, as these types of fish contain high levels of mercury which can damage your baby's developing nervous system.

For general hygiene

- Wash your hands before and after handling any food. Thoroughly wash all fruit and vegetables, including ready-prepared salads, before eating. Peel and top carrots before eating them.
- Cook raw meat and poultry thoroughly and make sure that ready-to-eat poultry and cooked chilled meals are reheated thoroughly and are piping hot before they are eaten.
- Always wash your hands after handling raw meat or poultry and make sure that raw foods are stored separately from prepared foods. Otherwise there is a risk of contamination. This is to avoid other types of food poisoning from meat (salmonella, campylobacter and E.coli). Use a separate chopping board for raw meats.
- Wear gloves and wash them and then your hands thoroughly after gardening or handling soil.

Smoking and chewing qat

When you smoke, carbon monoxide and other poisons pass into your lungs. This means that:

- Your baby gets less oxygen and cannot grow as well as it should, and
- The nicotine makes your baby's heart beat faster. Breathing in other people's smoke makes the baby more likely to suffer from asthma attacks, chest infections, coughs and colds, and to be admitted to hospital.
- Chemicals on and in the qat leaves can be hazardous to you and your baby.

If you stop smoking now:

- You're more likely to have a healthier pregnancy and a healthier baby
- You'll cope better with the birth
- Your baby will cope better with any birth complication
- Your baby is less likely to be born too early and have to face the additional breathing, feeding and health problems which so often go with prematurity
- Your baby is less likely to be born underweight and have extra problems in keeping warm. Babies of mothers who smoke are, on average, 200 g lighter than other babies. These babies may have problems during and after labor and are more prone to infection
- Children whose parents smoke are more likely to suffer later on from illnesses which need hospital treatment (such as asthma)
- You will reduce the risk of 'sudden infant death'.

Pills, medicines and other drugs

You should:

- Assume that all medicines are dangerous until a doctor or pharmacist can tell you they are safe
- Make sure your doctor knows you're pregnant before prescribing anything or giving you treatment
- Talk to your doctor at the first possible moment if you take regular medication.

But do remember that it is safer to take some medicines, for example those used to treat epilepsy and diabetes, than to leave the illness untreated.

Stories from Real Life

Differences between educated and uneducated women and the affects upon their lives

By: Nawal Zayd
For the Yemen Times

Being uneducated, she oppresses her daughters and fights with her husband

Jamilah Ahmad, 38, is married and has five daughters and two sons. She is uneducated and a housewife.

Jamilah married when she was at 14. As the eldest girl, her father denied her education and disallowed her from mixing with others. He allowed her sisters to attend only basic education.

After getting married, she suffered in her husband's house from problems with his relatives. She was dreaming to go to school like others her age. She carried responsibility while she was a child and when she had her own

children, the responsibility became greater.

Years later, Jamilah enrolled her daughters in schools until they reached 14 and then started treating them badly, beating them and insulting them. She stopped them going to school and her psychology changed. Her daughters started forgetting their dreams of completing their education.

She ordered every one of them to stay at home and banned them from anything that could help them, even visiting relatives. When any suitor came to ask for the hand of one of daughters, she resisted strongly.

She ordered them to be close to her and to take care of the house and do any other work during the afternoon, the time of their rest, or at night. She was merciless with them.

Now her daughters are aged between 20 and 24, and even now she beats them with her shoe, ignores their feelings and does not discuss anything with them.

She turned her ignorance into savagery against her daughters. She always creates problems for her husband and insults him. The arguments between them reaches to divorce levels and she cannot treat him with respect. Their marital life has become a nightmare and this has become reflected onto her sons' and daughters' psychology. They have become the victims of her backwardness.

Her father did not let her go to school like her sisters, she lost her future

Rania was the eldest sister. Since she was ten, her father made her responsible for taking care of the house and her brothers and sisters. He never gave her the chance to go to school and decided to

keep her at home to take care of her brothers.

When she turned 20, her father married her to the first man who came to engage her, he forced her to marry him. Whereas her sisters attended school and continued their education till they finished.

But Rania decided to educate her daughter to realize what she had not. Her life with her husband is very simple, to the degree that she cannot cover her or her children's needs. She decided to work at other people's houses to help her children. She sometimes does handicrafts and sometimes goes to other families asking if she can find work in a house.

Rania suffers a lot and hopes that her daughter is educated to be able to deal with life through her certificates and obtain decent work like Rania's sisters who now have good jobs. Rania also suffers from many things like lack of self-confidence. She is always at odds with her husband as they do not understand each other and she always treats her children as if they are little

because of being uneducated. She always needs her neighbors to help her children study their lessons.

An educated woman was able to manage her life and dealing with others

Wejdan Mohammad is 50, educated and intelligent. She is married and a housewife.

She married a long time ago when she was at 18 and is still studying. After marriage she continued her education and gave birth to her first female child while she was still studying. After she finished studying, she decided to remain at home to take care of her child and husband.

At a later time, she gave birth to a second female child, then a son, a third

girl and then a second boy. She was able to manage her life and take care of her children and solve their problems in school. She helped them do their homework and study their lessons.

Not only this, she helped them even in choosing their friends and was always supporting them in everything, sitting with them, speaking with them and trying to solve their problems quietly with good manners and a modern approach.

Wejdan is open-minded and always reads books to gain more knowledge. She educates her children with values, principles and morals. She educates them to be moderate in everything.

Although she is married to a very rich man, she does not exaggerate in dress or show people that she is rich. On the contrary, she shows herself as modest and good. She treats others kindly and is committed to good morality. She organizes her time between her house and sitting with others or visiting them.

Condolences

The humanitarian community in Yemen is profoundly shocked and saddened to hear about the death of

Mr. Ahmed Al Shami

Hajja Deputy Governor and representative of IDP Executive Unit, in a car accident. The late Mr. Al Shami was actively involved in the humanitarian operations in Haradh and Al-Mazrek camps and was instrumental in overseeing the day-to-day operations as well as coordination with the humanitarian community assisting the IDPs. His commitment and compassion for the humanitarian cause will be sorely missed.

The United Nations system in Yemen and the humanitarian NGOs convey heartfelt condolences to the family of Mr. Al-Shami and to the government and people of Yemen of their loss.

تعزية

يعبر المجتمع الإنساني في اليمن عن حزنه العميق وبالغ صدمته بسماع نبأ وفاة السيد

أحمد الشامي

وكيل محافظة حجة وممثل الوحدة التنفيذية للمشردين داخليا إثر حادث سيارة. وقد كان الراحل منخرطاً بفاعلية في العمليات الإنسانية في حرض ومخيمات المزرق وكان له دور أساسي في الإشراف على العمليات اليومية والتنسيق مع المجتمع الإنساني لتقديم المساعدة للمشردين داخليا. سنفتقد كثيرا التزامه وعاطفته الجياشة اللتين وظفهما في خدمة القضية الإنسانية.

تنقل منظومة الأمم المتحدة العاملة في اليمن والمنظمات الغير حكومية العاملة في المجال الإنساني تعازيهم القلبية لأسرة السيد الشامي ولليمن حكومة وشعبا على هذه الخسارة

JOB VACANCIES

RTI International, a US-based not-for-profit organization, is one of the implementing partners of the Yemen Responsive Governance Project (RGP). RGP is a USAID-foreign assistance project endorsed under Assistance Agreement by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation to promote long-range economic and social development in Yemen. RTI is seeking qualified Yemeni candidates to fill fulltime positions based at the RGP Headquarter Offices in Sana'a but subject to travel within Yemen for up to 40% of time:

Senior Governance Manager

The Senior Governance Manager will provide overall technical leadership on governance, decentralization, accountability and transparency program activities and will oversee initiatives that strengthen local governance, decentralization, public financial management and government procurement capabilities. S/he will provide regular visits to all implementing sites and provide technical support to technical officers. S/he will identify training needs and design training programs for Yemeni officials in local governance, decentralization, public financial management, procurement, audit and other accountability-related disciplines and will be responsible for the development and compilation of monthly, quarterly and annual work plans, budgets and reports as relevant to the Governance, Decentralization and Transparency components, and will participate in reviewing and developing training manuals, protocols and operational procedures for local governance and national accountability institutions and staff. Applicants should have a Master's degree in public administration, law, political science or other related field, CPA or Bachelor's degree in auditing, accounting or finance and at least six (6) years experience in local governance, decentralization, public sector auditing and accounting experience with supervisory and managerial responsibilities. S/he should have skills in planning, budgeting, supervising, mentoring and training of staff in addition to good interpersonal communication skills and willingness and ability to work around the country. Good knowledge of English language (written and spoken) is required. The Senior Governance Manager will report to the Program Policy Director and will supervise a 4-team member of Transparency Technical Officer and Assistant and Decentralization/ Local Governance Officer and Assistant.

Transparency Technical Officer

The Transparency Technical Officer will provide strategic technical and coordination support to the district,

regional and national authorities where RGP will be implemented. S/he will provide technical oversight to RGP's accountability and transparency activities, support the initial technical assessments in target sites, and will conduct training workshops based on identified needs. S/he is expected to assist in developing, compiling and submitting weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports. Applicants should have a Bachelors Degree in public administration, political science, law, or other related field and a minimum of six (6) years experience in Accountability and Transparency work. Knowledge of Financial Management, Procurement and Auditing is preferred. A master's degree plus three (3) years experience would be an added advantage. Applicants should have strong organizational and interpersonal communication skills with the ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously, competence in program management and proven ability to work in effective teams. Previous experience of working in a USAID-funded program is preferred. Good knowledge of English language (written and spoken) is required as well as willingness to travel within Yemen for up to 40% of time. The Transparency Technical Officer will report to the Senior Governance Manager and will supervise the Transparency Technical Assistant

Gender and Youth Advisor

The Gender and Youth Specialist will ensure that women and youth - are integrated in the planning of policy reform and interventions in the RGP Program in a culturally sensitive manner S/he will: conduct a rapid assessment of the current role of women and youth in the decision making process and identify their needs improve participation; , review and assess the Government's gender and social inclusion policies; ensure that policy development programs address gender and youth concerns starting at the design phase of the project; and prepare a gender and youth development plan for the project. S/he will develop, compile and submit weekly, monthly, quarterly, and

annual reports as required. Applicants should have a Bachelors Degree in social development, psychology, political science or other related field and a minimum of six (6) years experience in civil society development, gender and youth activities or related field. A master's degree plus three (3) years experience would be an added advantage. Applicants should have strong organizational and interpersonal communication skills with the ability to perform multiple tasks simultaneously, competence in program management and proven ability to work in effective teams. Previous experience of working in a USAID-funded program is preferred. Good knowledge of English language (written and spoken) is required as well as willingness to travel within Yemen for up to 40% of time. The Gender and Youth Advisor will report to the Program Policy Director

Senior Sectoral Policy Manager

The Senior Sectoral Policy Manager will provide overall technical leadership and management of the Policy components of RGP namely: Health, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources and Economic Growth. S/he will oversee initiatives that strengthen ministries' policies and will provide regular visits to all implementing sites and provide technical support to the Sectoral Policy Technical Officers. S/he will work with the Sectoral Policy Technical Officers to identify training needs and design training programs for Yemeni officials in public policies, will be responsible for the development and compilation of monthly, quarterly and annual work plans, budgets and reports as relevant to the policy component and will participate in reviewing and developing training manuals, protocols and operational procedures for policy development. Applicants should have a Master's degree in public administration, political science or other related field, and at least six (6) years of experience directly working in the public sector on policy programs with managerial and supervisory responsibilities. S/he should have skills in planning, budgeting, supervising, mentoring and training of

staff in addition to good interpersonal communication skills and willingness and ability to work around the country. Good knowledge of English language (written and spoken) is required. The Senior Sectoral Policy Manager will report to the Program Policy Director and will supervise a team of 3-4 Sectoral Policy Technical Officers in Health, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources and Economic Growth.

(3-4) Sectoral Policy Technical Officers (in Health, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources and Economic Growth)

The Sectoral Policy Technical Officers will provide strategic technical and coordination support to the district, regional and national authorities where the project will be implemented as relevant and specific to their respective technical areas in Health, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources and Economic Growth. The Technical Officers will provide technical support function to the project's policy development activities including initial technical assessments, designing and conducting training workshops, supporting capacity building activities and preparing technical reports as required. Applicants should have at least a Bachelors degree in health, education, agriculture, public administration, political science, or other related field with a minimum of six (6) years experience in policy development in the relevant sector. A master's degree plus three (3) years experience in relevant sector would be an added advantage. Applicants should have strong organizational and interpersonal communication skills and proven record of competence in sectoral policy development. Previous experience of working with USAID- funded programs is preferred. Good knowledge of English (written and spoken) is required. Willingness to travel within Yemen for up to 40% of time is required. The Sectoral Policy Technical Officers will report to the Sectoral Policy Manager.

Qualified and experienced candidates could apply, including copy of their resumes, to RGP-jobs@rti.org Deadline for accepting applications is 2 weeks from the date of this advertisement.

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Defining the ideal husband in Yemen

In adolescence, Yemeni girls start to create the first image of their ideal husband, under the influence of the romantic soap operas and films that they watch on television. But when they grow up, these ideals change. The Yemen Times sought to find out the traits young Yemeni women look for in an ideal husband, and just how they intend to find him.

By: Eman Al-Sharifi
For the Yemen Times

When she was teenager, 22-year-old Dalia, from Dhamar, dreamt of a handsome husband, tall and with tanned skin. But when she grew up, the concept of her ideal man had totally changed. Nowadays, she is looking for someone respectful and polite more than anything else.

Eman, 26, from Taiz, supports the same idea. She told the Yemen Times that when she was at university, she used to see couples there. As a result, her ideal husband was someone romantic. After she graduated, she worked in different places and her father died. Her ideal man became someone who would respect and protect her and someone with whom she could feel safe.

Some girls interviewed still had preferences for looks, but for practical reasons.

Mona, 20, from Ibb, said that she did not want a handsome husband. She said that if he was good looking, other girls might run after him.

However, she had no problem with qat chewing in a possible husband, and said that she actually preferred a man who chewed because he would spend most of his time at home. She does not mind if he wants her to be veiled but said that she would not like wearing a jilbab, a piece of black nylon worn by some Muslim women over their heads, extending down over their waist, with an opening for the face.

Ibtisam, 24, from Sana'a, told the Yemen Times that she would prefer a tall man because she is short, and she is afraid that her children might be short like her. This way, she would increase her chances of having tall children.

Notably, as they grow older, educated girls appear to have higher standards.

Amel, 26, from Raima, a master's

student, told the Yemen Times that educated working women have high expectations for any potential suitor. Her ideal man would be an educated and open minded person who would allow her to study and work at any place she wanted, she said.

Rawad, 25, from Sana'a, a university graduate, said that it would be impossible for her to marry a man who had not continued his education past high school because their way of thinking would be different due to the difference in the level of education.

Religion featured high on the interviewed women's checklists, and it was the number one requirement for some.

"Truthfully, I would prefer a religious person more than anything else," Iqbal, 30, a teacher and volunteer from Taiz, told the Yemen Times.

Eman, 25, from Ibb said that her ideal man would be Salafi because they have a strong faith. She believes that a Salafi man would treat her as Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) had treated his wife, so her married life would surely be happy if she found such a man.

Samah, 27, from Sana'a, employee in a bank, told the Yemen times that she used to think that her ideal man would be a romantic person and that she wanted her marriage to be based on a love story. Instead, she married in the traditional way. He is a little serious, she said, and not romantic, but better than nothing.

"I advise girls either to marry to a suitable person or to stay in their fathers' homes," she said. "Marriage is internal life for a girl."

How to find him

Once a perfect husband has been defined, the next step is finding him.

Alia, 26, from Al-Beidha, told the Yemen Times that her neighbors and relatives are always asking her why she has not yet married.

"I don't know what I should do for



them," she said. "Do they want me to go to the street to look for a husband?"

As a result, she has registered herself on a few different Middle Eastern marriage websites.

So far she has two friends, one from Lebanon and another from Kuwait.

"The Lebanese guy is an interesting man because he understands me," she said. "But I don't like the Kuwaiti because he is not serious."

She explained that she had resorted to using the Internet to look for a husband despite it being socially unacceptable to search for a husband because it would stop her neighbors and relatives from asking questions. Her ideal suitor is well-educated, employed and independent.

To find her ideal husband, Enas, 23, from Ibb, has her own strategy. She is looking for a rich man who likes shopping.

"My strategy is easy and simple," she said. "I advise girls to try it because it is a successful plan."

Go to any wedding party to which rich people are also invited, she said. Dress well, and it would also be best to go to the hairdresser beforehand. In the wedding hall, the girl should sit in a place where everyone can see her, or she can walk around the wedding hall, because it is here that a great number of mothers come to choose a girl for their sons.

"I have received so many marriage proposals because of this strategy, but

unfortunately they weren't rich," she said.

Sana, 28, from Taiz, said that she had a dream to get married to a non-Yemeni man who would help her to live outside Yemen, so she has been using the Internet to achieve this. She said that she didn't mind if he was divorced, but she would not accept being the second wife.

Bilqis, 18, from Aden, told the Yemen Times that she wanted someone who could understand her, and that she has already found this person, who is her neighbor. They are in touch by phone.

Ameera, 20, from Hodeida, said that she wanted a kind man, and that she might find him either in the institute where she was studying or at the university.

Sticking to standards

Some girls told the Yemen Times that they would stick to their standards, whatever obstacles they faced in the future.

"My ideal man is the man who loves me, the one who makes me laugh, the one who makes me feel like I'm the only woman in the world, and he is also intelligent," Rania, from Ibb, a college student of 19, told the Yemen Times.

She added that she wouldn't change any of these requirements. Because she considers herself beautiful, she will not accept any man who doesn't meet her specifications.

Kafia, 22, from Dhamar, said that her standards have not changed, and that they would be the same even if she was still unmarried at the age of 80.

"I don't expect or want so much," she said. "I want a man who will offer me a comfortable life. Other things are meaningless for me."

Reality can be different

But some girls' dreams of an ideal husband disappear like dust in the wind when they choose to follow their family's wishes.

Samer, 23, from Ibb, said that she had wanted to get married to a man in his thirties - a "mature man" in her words. Instead, she became engaged to a man who was the same age as her, "a rich

guy just like me, only because of my father."

Narjis, 25, a doctor from Taiz, said that before she married she had "ordinary standards" for the man she wanted to marry, one of which was that he be single. As she was the only girl from a family with six brothers who are all unemployed, she married a Saudi man to help her brothers. He was married, in his forties, and had two sons.

"I'm happy and I like him, but in the end the simple standards of my ideal person have changed in order to help my family," she said.

Being realistic

Some girls may lower their standards to improve their chances of finding a husband.

Karima, 26, from Ibb, said that she did not have any standards.

"Sometimes, I think that I might accept any man, just because my mother returns home upset whenever she goes to wedding parties. I want society to call me a married woman, and I want my mother to stop asking every day, 'Why is my daughter not yet married?'"

As soon as they reach the age of thirty, women tend to accept any man, forgetting all their standards. They think that otherwise they will never marry, according to Aisha, 30, from Sana'a.

"My standards have changed simply because men these days are looking for young girls between the age of 16 to 18," she said.

"Women grow old fast," said Hanan, 27, from Amran. "I would give up on all specifications that have to do with appearance and material things, only to be a mother to two little and amazing children."

Nawal, 35, a sociologist from Sana'a, says that she married when she was fifteen years old and was happy on the wedding day, but divorced seven years ago.

"I did not have any standards at the time and I don't have any standards now," she said, "but, as a sociologist, I can assume that women have always wanted the same things, a feeling of security, responsibility, and emotional availability."

My journey to the heart of Islam - Part 3/5

What is life like in a madrasa and why are young western women drawn to a life of strict religious discipline?

By: Rachel Aspden

As we trail slowly back along the dust road, the girls describe the rules for students. They are based on the strict codes of behaviour that apply to Yemeni women, who are among the least educated and most cloistered in the world. Away from the concrete boxes of its outskirts, Tarim is an exotically beautiful town of merchants' palaces and mud-brick mosques. But, unlike the male students, the girls are not allowed to visit the fruit and vegetable souq, drink Fanta in the couple of grill cafes or visit the tumbledown outdoor teahouse in the shade of the date palms. They leave the house only for short walks along the dust roads to prayer halls or lecture rooms, rarely after dark, and never alone. Outside, they wear the abeyya, a voluminous black robe, and the niqab, a double-layered black face-veil. The unmarried women have no contact with men.

Late that night, as the girls prepare for bed or sit softly reciting the Qur'an, Iman, an American convert, takes me aside.

"You should wear niqab like we do. Then you won't draw so much attention to yourself. None of us wear it at home, but when we're here..."

My loose cotton tunic, trousers and headscarf leave only my hands, feet and face exposed, but they clearly mark me out from the other students in their black robes.

"You should wear it," insists Iman.

Her tone is polite, but firm. The next morning I find a bag containing an abeyya, a black headscarf and a niqab hanging on my door handle. Caught between irritation and amusement, I

clumsily put them on. In the 40-degree heat, the swathes of heavy nylon are an unbearable addition to my clothes. The headscarf coils tightly under my chin and across my forehead, and the tight headband of the veil, even folded back, leaves only a narrow space to see through. When I blink, my eyelashes catch against it, and the heavy fabric presses damply against my nose and mouth. But when we step out on to the street, my companions' eyes look me over approvingly.

"Mashallah, you look lovely!" a girl whispers to me in friendly delight.

The dress that allows western girls to blend in with the women of south Yemen has temporarily made me part of the same community, closed to men and to outsiders.

That afternoon, we sit - cross-legged again - in a large square classroom listening to a lecture on the attributes of God. Although the scholar who is teaching us is in the same room, we are watching him on a TV screen because the room is divided by a long green curtain. Behind it, the scholar is sitting with his male students, one of whom is filming him for us, while another translates the lecture into elaborate English.

"Someone who allows his wife or daughter to go out of the house uncovered," repeats the translator carefully, "he has judged other than according to what Allah has revealed."

The next morning, the crowds of similarly dressed girls barely glance at me as I cross the sunlit courtyard of Dar al-Zahra on my way to my first Islamic class. In a small square room, 12 young women sit on the floor, poring over The Beginning Of Guidance, a guide to moral etiquette by an 11th-century theologian. Their teacher, Aisha, reads passages aloud, expanding complex points into diagrams on a whiteboard.

"One who has pride in his heart will never come close enough even to smell paradise," she reads, and explains the

traps set for believers by their cunning, devilish egos. Her students listen, occasionally asking the meaning of a difficult term.

"Do you ever question your teacher's interpretation or argue in the class?" I ask a student afterwards. She looks surprised.

"No, that would be terribly arrogant," she says. "She is the one with the knowledge."

In this Sufi madrasa, debate and criticism take second place to the flow of baraka, the spiritual blessing or grace that comes from Allah and is channelled through his chosen intermediaries. Only by paying humble, loving attention to a teacher - in person, through books, or praying beside their grave - can a student receive the baraka that emanates from them. In Tarim, the greatest living source is the three Habibs, whom the female students adore from a distance.

"You can see a different aspect of the Prophet in each of the Habibs," Nafeesa, a senior student, tells me as we sit outside the dormitories drinking sugary black tea. "Habib Ali has his cheerfulness and his skill in communication, Habib Kadhem has his wildness and his freedom of spirit, and Habib Umar..." She breaks off, sighs and smiles ecstatically. "He just has light shining from him."

"Mashallah," whisper the girls, nodding. I am intrigued by the intensity of their devotion - especially for Habib Kadhem who has, they say, a wild prophetic beard, dancing eyes, chiselled



Al-Mehdar mosque, Tarim

features and a battered motorbike.

"One of the windows in Dar al-Zahra overlooks the road Habib Kadhem takes to Friday prayers, and when he drives past on his motorbike, all the girls fight each other to see," Nafeesa says. My housemates laugh wistfully.

I feel a little guilty. In my bag is a dented green Twinings tea tin, half-full of dark Yemeni coffee, which Nur had given me the night before.

"This is from Habib Kadhem's house," she said. "It's full of baraka. I want you to have it." Through their ancestry and spiritual dedication, the Habibs' baraka has become so strong, their students believe, that it radiates from objects they own or have touched.

Source: The Guardian

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- Prepare Terms of Reference for national and international consultants;
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- Prepare and submit to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and UNDP annual and quarterly work plans, annual and quarterly progress reports and Terminal Report;
- Undertake any other related tasks as required

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English students raise money for cancer patients

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

About two hundred young students last Thursday held an open day to support cancer patients, in which they performed plays about cancer.

The students from the Amideast English language institute also cooked dishes to raise money for cancer patients registered at the National Cancer Control Foundation. They collected about YR 150,000 or about USD 660 for these patients.

The event was organized by young students in the institute in collaboration with the National Cancer Control Foundation and the Makers of Tomorrow youth association.

Young students presented sketches and plays in English, the scripts of which they had written themselves.

Not only did these plays reveal the student's talent, but they also conveyed the voice of cancer patients to the audience, said student Ansam Sabra, 18, who was one of the organizers of the occasion.

"We wanted to help cancer patients through new ideas such as plays, singing and selling food to raise money for them," she said.

Ansam was very enthusiastic girls about supporting cancer patients. She said that she believed in helping those patients and in the importance of standing with them.

"We decided, as young students, to organize this day from our modest potential. We believe in the importance of holding such days," she said.

Ansam said that she and her classmates visited cancer patients before the open day.

"The patients were very happy and demanded that we visit them from time to time," she said.

Student Saif Ali, 18, was equally as supportive.

"Students should feel about these patients and support them," he said.

Awareness about the importance of supporting those patients is absent among most students in universities, institutes, and schools, according to Qais Al-Qaisi,



the head of Makers of Tomorrow.

"Our aims from this day to urge students to support these patients and we succeed in this humanitarian purpose," he said.

Student Kamal Al-Shahidhi, 19, was one of the participants in the open day.

"I was very active during the open day

and I tried to make this event successful," he said enthusiastically.

Al-Shahidhi said that he had learnt a lot about cancer patients during the preparations for Thursday's event.

In Yemen, 12,000 people die every year due to cancer, according to National Cancer Control Foundation.



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