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Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Do you think that hardliners in the ruling party will submit to donor countries threat to suspend aids to Yemen?
 I don't know (14%)
 Yes (31%) No (55%)

This edition's question:
 Studies and symposiums on solutions for tourists' kidnapping in Yemen have increased while the government seems indifferent to the issue. Do you think the government is interested in ending tourists' kidnapping or not?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I do not know

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

Flooding kills three in Ma'abar

By: Waheeb Al-Nasary

DHAMAR, Feb. 22 — Flooding claimed three lives as rescue teams attempt to save hundreds more trapped in homes and fields in Ma'abar, a small town in Dhamar province. Fifty houses were destroyed and the number of deaths is not yet known.

A Dhamar governorate source said at least five died while 50 remain stranded in their homes due to flood water levels exceeding two meters. Two hundred residents were evacuated and taken to school lodging centers. Security authorities are setting up tents for victims.

According to the source, approximately 50 houses were destroyed and a committee is being formed for relief and damage assessment. Ma'abar citizens reported that heavy rains last Monday night destroyed several mud homes, with some trapped inhabitants being evacuated by army helicopters. Citizens also noted that the two-day rains caused immense agricultural damage and washed out the main road connecting Sana'a, Taiz and Aden.

Army units began setting up tents for affected families. The President



One of the houses damaged by the flood.

PHOTO BY FOUAD AL-HARAZI

ordered quick provision of tents and facilities for victims and opening damaged roads as quickly as possible.

Dhamar governor Abdulwahab Al-Dorah said efforts are ongoing to res-

cue trapped victims. He added that traffic between Sana'a and Aden has been detoured to Al-Hada area until the main road reopens.

Flooding also damaged the Bait Al-

Banos area southwest of Ma'abar, inhabited by 1,500 people. Civil defense forces and the Red Cross were leading rescue operations at the time of this writing.

Dr. Abul Salam Al-Ahsab, Red Cross head in Dhamar, confirmed that three bodies were discovered, among them an 8-month-old infant. He added that affected residents were taken to Al-Fajr Al-Jaded school. Bulldozers are attempting to drain flood waters from affected areas to another area arbitrarily, a matter threatening that area's houses with destruction.

Sheikh Hamadan Bin Zayed Al-Nihayyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister ordered the Red Crescent Society (RCS) in UAE to provide urgent human aid to flood-affected residents in Ma'abar. He also ordered the RCS to offer urgent aid including food, medicine and shelter to area residents.

The chairman of the RCS, Al-Sewaidi, affirmed that RCS began implementing Sheikh Al-Nihayyan's directives, ordering its Yemen office to be present at the scene to assess damages and needs of displaced residents.

Islamic Relief-Yemen visited the disaster-affected area, supplying displaced residents with food, water, blankets and pillows. Khaled Al-Moulad, head of Islamic Relief-Yemen, said.

Dutch Minister of Development concludes visit

Improving governance and fighting corruption were top priorities of Van Ardenne's visit to Yemen.

SANA'A, Feb. 22 — Development minister Agnes van Ardenne concluded her three-day visit to Yemen yesterday. Ms. van Ardenne has great interest in the way Yemen is developing as the more than 25 year old relationship between Yemen and the Netherlands has created a bond between our countries. About the relation between Yemen and the Netherlands Ms. van Ardenne commented: "As a longstanding developmental partner we see that a lot has been achieved, but at the same time much work still needs to be done. Yemen is behind schedule on achieving the Millennium Development Goals in 2015. Yemeni people still have to deal with a maternal and infant death rate that is the highest in the world and in rural areas only one out of three persons has access to clean water."

Van Ardenne during her visit made a pledge for speeding up the reform agenda, improve governance, step up the fight against corruption, and underscore the importance of the water, education and health care sectors. She discussed these issues with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Prime Minister Abdulqadir ba Jammal, foreign minister Abu-Bakr Abdallah al-Qirbi, and with the ministers of planning, water, education and health. She also held round table discussions with representatives of civil society and the business community on good governance,

human rights, corruption and freedom of speech. Last Tuesday, in a special women's event she had meetings with key women in Yemen society from government and non-government institutions. In Ta'iz, she visited a girls' school, a hospital providing reproductive health care, and the court. Together with the minister of water, the governor of Ta'iz and the director of Vitens, a Dutch water company, she signed a partnership agreement aimed at tackling the drinking water and sanitation problems in Ta'iz.

The visit of Van Ardenne took place on the eve of last week's cabinet reshuffle. As many as 15 of the 25 ministers were forced to resign. The new cabinet has declared to deal with the issue corruption. Another positive note is the presence of two women in the new government, a first for Yemen. Van Ardenne concluded her visit with a speech at the University of Sana'a; Where she discussed the importance of respect as the basis for norms and values. Freedoms, including freedom of the press and freedom of religion, are important prerequisites for development.



Agnes van Ardenne

Journalists' liberty costs assaults, trials and imprisonment

More than five journals and journalists had to defend themselves before courts this week. Some faced accusations of defaming the prophet and others for attacking authorities and the army. Several international reports reviewed the violations against the journalists, though they believe courts and judiciary are far more lenient on them than bodily assaults.

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Feb. 21 — Northeast Capital Court conducted several sessions to try and issue a number of judgments, holding its second trial session Wednesday, Feb. 22, for the English Yemen Observer newspaper. The Observer is on trial following the Ministry of Information's suspension of its license. Editor-in-Chief Mohammed Al-Asaadi has been jailed two weeks following accusations that the newspaper defamed the prophet Mohamed by republishing Danish caricatures of him.

The Observer's first trial session was last Wednesday, wherein its editor-in-chief was accused of defaming the prophet by republishing the caricatures. Al-Asaadi denied such accusations. The Observer's lawyer said the republication was to defend the prophet.

Another session was held Saturday, Feb. 18, to try Al-Hurriya newspaper on the same charge of publishing the

prophet caricatures. Prosecution accused Editor-in-Chief Akram Sabrah, 35, and reporter Yahya Hussein of republishing the drawings. They denied such accusations, explaining that their intention was to defend the prophet Mohamed and Islam, not to insult. Their defense lawyer said the republication was motivated by enthusiasm to defend the prophet and denounce the Danish and European press insult to him.

Facing the same accusations, the trial of Al-Ray Al-Aam newspaper did not begin because its editor-in-chief was absent, despite suspension of its license.

The trials were not limited to journals that republished the caricatures with good intentions, as their editors allege. Al-Thawri (mouthpiece of the Socialist Party) Editor-in-Chief Khalid Salman was convicted in a scorn case and the newspaper fined YR 50,000. Al-Thawri still awaits other trials, among them a case filed by Taiz Financial office and



Editor-in-Chief of Yemen Observer (right) with his defense team.

PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

other publication cases.

A court also convicted Al-Nahar newspaper and its Editor-in-Chief Shihab Al-Ahdal in a case filed by Ba'ath party General Secretary Qasim Salam in 2004. The newspaper was fined YR 350,000 an extra as compensation. Managing editor Haji Al-Jihafi also faces a lawsuit filed against him by Shoura Council member Sheikh Mohamed Ahmed Bin Mansour because of articles criticizing some of his wrong behaviors.

The court also issued a judgment to shut down the Nasserite opposition

party's Al-Wahdawi newspaper due to two cases filed by republican guard leadership and central security forces in Hajah governorate. The court decided to close the paper as well as arbitrarily detain Editor-in-Chief Ali Al-Saqqaq. However, the newspaper's lawyer requested the court suspend the closure decision, to which it agreed until trial sessions end. Al-Wahdawi faces another case by a cleaning fund in Al-Dhale.

Other newspapers are facing trials as well, but this is only a review of the latest.

Continued on page 2

Symposium: reasons behind kidnapping in Yemen

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Feb. 20 — Yemen's Center for Studies and Research (YCSR) on Monday concluded a plenary symposium discussing the kidnapping phenomenon in Yemen and its negative impact on the country. Participants discussed the negative affects of kidnapping from

political, economic and social perspectives.

Attendees also discussed some research papers tackling various matters related to the kidnapping phenomenon. The papers dealt with tribal norms, cultural and social roles, scientific terror, the phenomenon's causes and solutions and Westerners' impressions of kidnappings in this country.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, YCSR chairman and cultural adviser to the president, said in his opening address to the symposium, "The phenomenon of kidnappings in Yemen is the most dangerous one, for it indicates that Yemen is still in the cradle of backwardness, living in ages preceding civilization, religion, law, order and awakening of human conscience."

Continued on page 2



Participants in the seminar.

PHOTO BY FOUAD AL-HARAZI

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Court orders arrests in WB bankruptcy case

SANA'A, Feb. 19 — The Specialized National Security Court (SNSC) under judge Najeeb Al-Qadri issued an order to arrest suspect Najj Abdullah Al-Ghader, a member of Watani Bank's management board.

The SNSC also ordered the capture of Abdullah Al-Khaolani, who is abroad, by the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol). The two suspects are accused of being behind the bankruptcy of Watani Bank for Trade and Investment (WBTTI).

The suspects requested the SNSC release them on bail; however, only WBTTI management board members Abdu Al-Mahyoub and Hizam Al-Ruba'a were released. The SNSC postponed its response to the other suspects' request until its next scheduled session March 6. The court also ordered concerned parties to give WBTTI General Manager Shabih Nakwi of Pakistan half of his salary.

During its session, the court listened to Hafiz Fadhel, Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) civil and personal rights prosecutor, who spoke on behalf of the committee taking control of WBTTI's assets. He claimed the WBTTI management board wasted depositor and shareholder funds.

Fadhel said the WBTTI board gave illegal facilities to influential personalities without taking any estate or financial guarantees. Additionally, the board received loans from the bank equivalent to 100 percent of the bank's budget, which is illegal.

The CBY prosecutor requested SNSC issue a tough verdict compelling WBTTI to pay all debts and rights of its customers, depositors and shareholders. He added that suspects should pay the expenses of the committee taking control of WBTTI.

Following this, Fadhel presented evidence convicting members of WBTTI's management board. Their debts were illegal because the law states that bank employees' debts must not exceed .5 percent, equivalent to a year's salary for any bank employee.

The CBY prosecutor said WBTTI chairman of the board of directors, Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamdani, embezzled YR 255 million and granted loans to his relatives without any guarantee. He pointed out that Al-Hamdani also made illegal loans to influential figures, for example, granting a large loan to Al-Ghader, an owner of Al-Barakh group. Additionally, Al-Hamdani made loans totaling YR 6

billion to contractors and YR 600 million to traders.

Fadhel noted that the CBY sent a warning letter to the WBTTI management board about the WBTTI's poor status. Al-Hamdani confessed to most charges during the session, but said his debts total YR 155 million, denying the sum of YR 255 million according to the investigation. He assured the court that he will repay all his debts, adding that he is not responsible for a person whose surname is Al-Hamdani contained in the list of debtors. He claimed the reason for WBTTI's collapse firstly, was that the CBY evoked [DP-this is the wrong word, but I don't know what is meant instead-maybe provoked?] WBTTI's depositors who wanted to withdraw their money. Secondly, some contractors could not repay their bank debts because the government delayed paying for projects they carried out.

The SNSC accused the WBTTI management board of treasury [DP-this is not a crime-is something else meant?] and embezzlement in the first trial session Jan. 22. The court's next session will be in March.

WBTTI was established in 1998 with YR 500 million in capital and a budget of more than YR 19.7 billion.

Agreement signed to tackle Taiz water problems

TAIZ, Feb. 21 — A Dutch-Yemeni partnership agreement was signed on Tuesday to tackle the drinking water problems in Ta'iz. With a population of 650,000, Ta'iz is Yemen's third biggest city. Development minister Agnes van Ardenne and Jos van Winkelen, chair of the management board of Vitens water company, signed for the Netherlands. Signing for Yemen were Ahmed Abdallah Alhajari, the governor of Ta'iz, and Abdul Rahman Fadhil Al-Eryani, the Yemeni water and environment minister.

The partnership in Ta'iz is in line with Van Ardenne's policy which aims to provide 50 million people all over the world with safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015. She feels it is very

important to seek sustainable solutions in developing countries through public-private partnerships.

The partnership will cost a total of \$1,650,000, to which the Minister for Development Cooperation will contribute \$950,000 over three years. Vitens will provide a project team, with one member stationed in Ta'iz for three years. Apart from local manpower, the Yemeni government is investing \$200,000 in the partnership.

Vitens will share its knowledge and experience of drinking water management and distribution with staff of the drinking water company in Ta'iz. "Our help is welcome in various ways," says Jos van Winkelen. "Though it sometimes rains very heavily in Yemen,

springs soon dry up. And distribution is inefficient. By curbing waste and redistributing volumes of water, Vitens wants to work with the Yemenis to improve water supplies for the residents of Ta'iz."

Yemen faces water shortages through drought, wastage and poor water management. The partnership between Vitens and the Ta'iz water company is very important to Yemen. For the first time, a foreign company will be helping a Yemeni water company with management. The Yemeni government can use the experience it gains in this way to decide whether to contract drinking water services out to private parties, or to work towards more autonomous public water companies.

Yemenia: 2006 year of training and qualification

SANA'A, Feb. 22 — Yemenia airlines coordinating manager Salaam Mohamed Jubari announced Wednesday that 2006 will be the year of training and qualification for Yemenia staff.

In a speech at the airline's annual inauguration ceremony, Jubari said, "Human element is the base for achiev-

ing ambitions and consolidates the administrative and organizational work. It is also a method for coping with rapid international developments, which enhances the company's position as a competitor with international airlines."

Commercial manager Abdullah Al-Mtarib said such training courses play an important role in promoting modern-

ization, developing Yemenia and its staff and supporting its competition with international airlines.

Yemenia is the only airline that provides domestic flights and international flights covering nearly all continents. However, several international airlines are expected to partner with Yemenia as domestic carriers in 2007.

Demonstrating students denounce prophet cartoons

SANA'A, Feb. 22 — The Sana'a University teachers syndicate, in cooperation with the General Students' Union, held a rally Tuesday, Feb. 21. The rally included students and denounced the Danish caricatures insulting the prophet Mohammed (pbuh), which were republished by other European newspapers.

Many speeches were made at the rally to denounce and disapprove of insult to the prophet. The speeches assured that the caricatures were a series of campaigns fueling hatred and abhorrence, as well as inciting alienation and collision between civilizations. [DP-this originally said: inciting...collusion' between civilizations, which means conspiracy between civilizations, which can't be incited. If the writer wants to say that world civilizations colluded (meaning conspired to do this), then change it back, but as it read originally, it didn't make sense]

Demonstrators called for continuing public boycotts and forming national committees to boycott the goods of all countries that offended the prophet. The demonstrators affirmed that all protests should be civilized, peaceful and free of violence.

The head of the Students' Union confirmed that the rally was meant to encourage the spirit of resistance and enhance awareness of threats targeting Islamic nations in this critical period. The Students' Union leader requested Yemen's government and all other Arab and Islamic governments to withdraw their ambassadors from countries that insulted the prophet and cancel all forms of cooperation with them. The student leader also called for forming a joint Arab-Islamic market to activate the boycott, as Arab and Islamic markets are the



Thousands of students protesting Prophet cartoons. PHOTO BY FOUAD AL-HARAZI

biggest consumers.

Al-Zindani collects millions to sue Yemeni journalists

Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani, head of the opposition Islam party's Shoura Council and Al-Iman University head, confirmed that European insult to the prophet is due to their ignorance of his value. He added that researchers and Orientalists who studied his profile made fair judgments about him.

Additionally, Al-Zindani disclosed formation of a public legal committee to defend the prophet, adding that it has collected YR 5 million in fees for lawyers who will sue Yemeni journalists who republished the offensive caricatures. Al-Zindani declared that republishing the caricatures repeated the insult. He said that they will see to it that anyone insulting the prophet will stand trial, explaining that it is the judiciary that has the right to condemn those republishing the caricatures.

In a press release, journalist Al-Jaradi, Journalists Syndicate information committee secretary, called on Al-Zindani to use the money to indict the U.S. Administration, whose soldiers tore the Qur'an and threw it in the dirt. Al-Jaradi told News Yemen network that Al-Zindani should do that instead of suing Yemeni journalists who republished the caricatures out of good will to defend the prophet. He added, "If the journalists were wrong, many scholars have asserted that they were free of bad intentions, a matter that was met by an understanding, which led the judiciary to free them."

Al-Jaradi said he is sure that many Al-Iman University scholars are wondering about Al-Zindani's insistence in this matter. Al-Jaradi stressed the necessity of the presence of an establishment specialized in issuing fatwas in Yemen, which should be done through competent individuals capable of issuing fatwas.

Japan supports rehabilitation of school in Ibb

The Japanese government has decided to grant \$82,000 to Saba School in Al-Mazhin district in Al-Fara' in Ibb governorate under a scheme entitled, "Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects."

The scheme aims to support small-scale community-based projects in developing countries regarding basic human needs such as primary health

care, basic education and public welfare.

Increasing numbers of boys and girls are eager to enroll in school in this district, but insufficient school space has been an obstacle to their desires. Japan's grant will be used to construct new classrooms and rehabilitate Saba School to meet the needs of those students and provide better education for them.

An agreement to this effect was signed yesterday in Sana'a between Murshed Ahmed Murshed, chairman of Saba School's Parent-Teacher Association, and Yuichi Ishii, Japanese Ambassador to Yemen.

This is the 19th project implemented under the grant scheme this Japanese fiscal year (April 2005-March 2006), amounting to \$1.7 million.

Continued from page 1

Journalists' liberty costs assaults, trials and imprisonment

In related news, the Journalists Syndicate condemned last Sunday's assaults against journalists for Akhbar Al-Yom and Al-Shomo' newspapers. Syndicate member Ali Al-Jaradi held the Ministry of Interior accountable for what happened to the journalists, yet he wondered why their attackers were not disclosed, despite repetition of the attacks. All such attacks were registered against unknown persons, indicating that there is a formal connivance.

Akhbar Al-Yom Editor-in-Chief Ibrahim Mujahid was attacked with sticks and iron rods, seriously injuring

his head, feet and other parts of his body. Journalists for Al-Shomo' and Al-Ray Al-Aam also received threats.

A Journalists Protection Committee report this week confirmed that Yemeni journals and journalists face violent assaults and oppression. The report urged the government to reform the press law, which inflicts imprisonment on journalists. It also affirmed that present debate over the press law should be for the good and liberty of journalists. It asserted that legal harassment of journalists is not as annoying as assaults by security, police and armed individuals working

for officials. The report included several journalists who had been oppressed and network premises that had been hacked into.

On Wednesday, South East Capital Court released Yemen Observer Editor-in-Chief Mohammed Al-Asaadi after two weeks in jail. The court ordered Prosecution to release him on commercial bail.

The judge warned the press not to attribute to the court what it did not say. He pointed out that most newspapers last week reported that it refused to release Al-Asaadi on bail, whereas it simply postponed his release.

Symposium: reasons behind kidnapping in Yemen

He added, "Those who carry out kidnapping acts remind the world of ancient times when it suffered from highwaymen and sea pirates."

YCSR researcher Abdulbari Tahir mentioned in his paper that, "The tribe has become part of the state structure, particularly since November 5, 1967. The state, which on previous occasions has dealt with the tribe by bargaining and granting kidnappers government posts and privileges, enhanced and encouraged this phenomenon, allowing it to establish itself firmly."

In his paper, Dr. Fuad Al-Salahi said, "Kidnapping is a reflection of the nature of the Yemeni government, which has adopted taking of hostages as one of its means of governance. It still does this in one way or another."

Dr. Tahir Mujahid Al-Salahi mentioned various reasons for the kidnapping phenomenon. "Arresting kidnappers is a kind of patching up the issue rather than solving it," he said, "The solution lies in drying up the springs

and causes of the phenomenon represented by weakness in enforcing laws; the spread of carrying, using and trading with weapons; absence of justice in wealth distribution and deprivation of basic services projects in remote regions. Not deciding crime and revenge cases or property disputes has pushed some to pressure the state via kidnappings. In addition to this, causes include security's instability and the dissemination of illiteracy in countryside areas."

Al-Salahi indicated that tourism has been affected by terror incidents in general and kidnapping in particular. This was felt especially after the December 1998 kidnapping of foreigners in Abyan governorate, where in four tourists were killed, as well as the bombings of the French Limburg and USS Cole warship afterward.

Dr. Ali Abdeh said in his address that absence of the state's real political will is the reason behind the kidnapping problem's continuation and its aggravation.

Minister of Culture Dr. Khalid Al-Ruwaishan explained kidnapping's dimensions on Arab, regional and international levels, as well as the deformation of Yemen's reputation. He affirmed that it is a transient and exceptional phenomenon, adding that kidnappers are unaware of the crime they are committing against their homeland, especially in that they are kidnapping the most beautiful thing in their country.

In his address, Ali Al-Ansi, director of the presidency office, referred to civil society's role in this regard and what it should do to awaken society about the dangers of kidnapping. He urged open discussion in society to protect it from negative phenomena openheartedly.

The two-day symposium, attended by numerous senior intellectuals, discussed papers presented by academics and specialists representing official institutions, as well as some independent specialists.

In Brief

- A workshop on assessing police officers' human rights progress concluded last Saturday at Sana'a International Hotel. The workshop was organized by the Human Rights Information and Training Center.

- With 18 participants, the workshop was inaugurated Feb. 18 in the presence of the Human Rights Minister, the Interior Ministry Undersecretary, the British ambassador to Sana'a and many others interested in human rights.

- The General Authority for Environmental Protection-Aden branch organized two workshops Feb. 21-22 marking National Environment Day in the presence of numerous media personnel.

- The first workshop presented several assessment lectures, discussing the environmental impact of some construction work. It invited media members to work seriously on various environmental issues and suggest possible solutions to them.

- The second workshop, held at the Sheraton Hotel in Al-Tawahi and organized by the Tawahi Local Council, in cooperation with the General Authority for Environmental Protection-Aden branch, featured a program on sustainable natural resources management.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed that bird flu has proliferated among birds since early February, with the virus having transmit-

- ted to 13 countries. No human fatalities have been reported in newly infected countries, except in Iraq, which reported two deaths from the infection. Other cases are undergoing medical testing.

- Iraq, Nigeria, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Iran, Austria, Germany, Egypt, India and France are experiencing the spread of bird flu. Malaysia recently announced some new cases after being free of it for more than a year.

- Approximately 170 people have reported bird flu infection, 92 of whom died, mostly in China and Southeast Asian countries, since the disease was announced on the continent in 2003. WHO warned that the disease may become a human epidemic, as it is communicable from birds to humans.

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Video games: a threat to Yemeni society

Video games and playstations invade Yemeni markets. Children and teenagers spend much time on and become addicted to playing video games. Some absent themselves from school while others steal money from their parents to enjoy themselves with these games. Still others become violence-oriented as a consequence.

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri
jabri333@yahoo.com

In the past 15 years, video games and playstation entertainment shops have spread remarkably in most Yemeni cities. Nearly every Sana'a neighborhood has one or more video game shops where children and teenagers spend much time for entertainment. Parents complain that video games influence their children's behavior.

Money and sexual harassment

Playing video games is not free; it costs money. Every 10 minutes of play costs 40 riyals. How do children and teens get money to play? Children generally receive some money to buy sweets from their fathers. Some prefer not to buy sweets but to play video games instead. Others save money they get for school break time and spend it on video games.

What is most striking is that some children and teens who are addicted to playing video games resort to theft. Most notably, they steal money from their parents, sometimes stealing gold if they cannot find money.

Three years ago, a father discovered that his 15-year-old son had managed to steal 5,000 riyals from his pocket. After a harsh beating, the teen confessed to his father that he spent the money playing video games with his friends. The father therefore put him in prison as punishment.

Not only this, a boy sometimes is obliged to borrow money from friends or even video game shop owners, which usually results in problems between them, with parents bearing the consequences, for the most part.

Addicts who cannot pay for games sometimes are subjected to sexual harassment. Most are underage and video game shop owners exploit them sexually when they cannot pay for games. Children sometimes are obliged to perform homosexual acts to get money to pay for games. Last year,

homosexual intercourse with a child occurred in one Sana'a video game shop.

Family pressure and ignorance

In some families, children are deprived of watching television and having video games. Some parents oblige their children to help them work, thus leaving them no chance for entertainment. Moreover, parents usually reduce their children's entertainment time on study days.

These factors and others lead children and teens to spend time secretly in video game and playstation shops. In doing so, they are careful not to be discovered by their parents or elder brothers. For them, prayer times, qat sessions and school times are favorable opportunities to divert themselves in video game shops, as they exploit their parents' absence at these times.

A father usually sends his son to the mosque while he remains at home. Khalid Al-Dhamari, 28, said he once asked his younger brother to go to the mosque. He followed him but did not find him there, so he immediately went to a nearby video game shop and caught his brother playing. For this reason, mosque imams order shop owners not to open during prayer times. In some neighborhoods, people do not allow video game shops to open near mosques.

During qat sessions, fathers are busy chewing qat with friends, while mothers visit neighbors or relatives. Therefore, children find it an opportunity to go to playstation or video game shops, as there is no one to prevent them. Even if their parents are present, children obtain permission to revise their lessons with friends outside home and easily can go and enjoy themselves instead. Abu Mazin, 44, says, "My son used to play video games without telling me. I learned about this only when he was sent to the police station over a quarrel with some other teenagers in a video game shop."



Some children and teens are busy playing video games inside one of the video game shops in Sana'a city.

The problem is that some parents trust their children and do not worry about their behavior, where they go or what they do. Very rarely does a father follow up his children at school or their behavior on the street. This is why some teenagers absent themselves from school to play video games. In the morning, dozens of students can be found in playstation and video game entertainment shops. One can tell a game player is a student by the school uniform he wears and the books he carries. Secondary school student Mustafa said he often escapes school after break time and heads for a video game shop. "I don't like to study. I like playing video games and here I am playing, away from my family," he added.

Violence begets violence

Most children and teens prefer violent games like wars, street fights, etc., which has bad effects on their behavior. Studies about video game violence show that children and teens who play violent games become more aggressive and behave more violently than those preferring non-violent games. This is evident in the behavior of those teens in video game shops, where they demonstrate their abilities to fight with other teens and enjoy bullying. Such teens also form violent gangs in schools and neighborhoods. In 1999, at Columbine High School in the U.S., two teenaged students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, fired on their fellow students, killing 12 and one teacher. Some researchers attribute this incident to the influence of video games.

Killing and violent games make players aggressive during the game, as they react with the actions of the game. This short period of aggression has real-life consequences, as they tend to behave violently. Research also shows that such games encourage them to follow suit in solving their real-life problems with pathetic consequences.

Most of these teens like to be armed with personal arms like daggers and pistols so they are ready for any fight. Last week, a teenaged boy killed another as they quarreled in Musaik zone in Sana'a. He managed to escape and now his father and brother are in prison.

Troubles at home

Some parents allow their children to have video games at home for fear that playing at video game shops will badly influence their behavior. At home, children do not play the game as they do in video game and playstation shops. For one thing, they feel at ease to shout and laugh out loud as they get into the game. Another thing is that they feel at liberty to play as many games as they want, for here they do not have to pay.

In families with more than one child, quarrels between brothers and sisters over playing games are inevitable. Each child tries to play first and play the most. Young children sometimes like to watch such games even though they do not know how to play. At times, players hit their little brothers who they say "confuse them." Nasser Al-Hamami says his younger brothers make noises as they play, each complaining about the other. "It has never occurred to us to

play without shouting and fighting," he added.

What is more terrible is that allowing children to use video games at home has bad consequences for their studies. Their interest in studying becomes less and less over time and their abilities and skills, if any, dwindle as they now devote their skills and talents to being professional game players, even priding themselves on their video game success. This is why many teachers complain of

students' low performance in their studies.

On a health level, experts say many symptoms are associated with video game playing such as, backaches, dry eyes, migraine headaches, changes in eating or sleeping patterns, etc.

In fact, many families are beginning to realize the bad effect of video games on their children, so they wish to find solutions for those children who have become addicted.



Even at home, children spend much time on playing video games.

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منظمة ماري ستوبس الدولية - اليمن

عنهم : ممثل المنظمة

أ / فاطمة عبدالله عيسى



SANA'A UNIVERSITY announces (for the second time) an international tender regarding, preparation of the studies and engineering designs for the Faculty of Information, and invites interested consultant

companies and offices [residing and outsourcing the republic] wishing to participate in this tender to submit their offers, at the following address:

Republic of Yemen - Sana'a university

P.O. Box (1247) Tel. (01464677)

The General Administration for Financial Affairs Wadi Dhahr Road.

Tender documents can be obtained upon submitting a written request to the general secretary, against non-returned amount (200u\$). Bids should be submitted in 2 envelopes (technical + financial) sealed by red wax original + 3 copies and duplicated (in Arabic and English).

A primary security (bid bond) at (2.5%) of total bid value, by payable cheque from a bank recognized in the republic of Yemen or a bank guarantee valid for (120 days) from the envelopes opening date to be attached with the bid.

The date of opening bid (technical envelopes) shall be at 11:00 a.m. on MONDAY, March: 13/2006 in the presence of the bidders or any party representing them.

Vacancy Announcement Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

The planning, monitoring and evaluation officer will have the responsibility for planning, designing, monitoring and evaluation needed for effective implementation and managing of World Bank financed projects at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation.

The candidate will be a Yemeni national holding a post graduate degree in economics or related field or discipline, or B.A/B.SC. with at least 7 years of experience in foreign financed projects follow-up. He/She has to be fluent in English (reading & writing) and familiar with standard computer software.

The main responsibilities are as follows:-

- Participate in planning, evaluation, monitoring and reporting as well as maintain a data base for better implementation and impact results.
- Organize workshops and participate in supervision missions.
- Prepare progress reports on a quarterly basis related to the projects implementation and their impact on the beneficiaries and the capacity building.
- Follow-up of issues and action plans with the involved institutions to ensure effective ongoing operations management.
- Coordinate with the relevant departments in the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation.

Applications should be sent in sealed envelopes one week after this announcement to the following address:

**Poverty Monitoring Central Unit
Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation
P.O. Box: 175, Hurriya Street, Sana'a**



Japan International Cooperation Agency [JICA]

An Executive Agency for

Japanese Technical Official Assistance

Seeks one qualified applicant for the following post:

Vacancy Seat: 001 Post Title: Clerk Duty Station: Sana'a

Minimum Experience and Qualifications:

- At least 5 years of professional experience.
- English and Arabic speaker [Japanese speaker is favorable].
- Computer literate.
- Very good communication skills.
- Self motivated, hard working, team worker and a trouble shooter.
- Flexible to travel inside Yemen.

Recruitment details can be obtained from 21st February to 4th March from our office specified below;

JOCV YEMEN Office: House No. 10, Street No. 27, off Amman Street, Diplomatic Area, Sana'a Tel: 01-448117 / 448006.

From 09:00 to 17:00 [lunch break 13:00 - 14:30] Sat. - Wed.



WWW.YEMENLNG.COM

Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquid natural gas processing plant at Balhaf which will export 6.7 million tones of LNG per annum. The project offices will be based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now preparing to recruit the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

Candidates applying for these vacancies must Yemeni nationals

HEAD OF PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTS - Reference No. 041

Reporting directly to Finance Manager, the job holder will develop, implement, control and maintain Treasury processes and systems including cash, loan and risk management. Duties will include the opening, closing and operation of all bank accounts in accordance with Delegation of Authority procedures, the development of systems for cash deposits and foreign currency transactions in conjunction with Yemeni and offshore banks and the provision of cash forecasts to shareholders via YLNG management. The role will also involve the development of corporate banking relationships with national and overseas banks for project financing purposes and the creation of online payment systems and controls procedures as well as verifiable drawdown processes for project financing. The successful applicant will have a minimum of 10 years' professional experience of which two must have been in a similar Treasury role, and an Accounting, Financial or Treasury degree or commensurate professional qualification. This permanent staff position is based in Sana'a.

CUSTOMS CO-ORDINATOR - Reference No. 042

Reporting to the Head of Purchasing & Contracts, this post involves the rapid and efficient completion of all import and customs formalities required by YLNG. The successful candidate will be qualified to University degree level and will have a minimum of five years' experience of import clearance regulations and transportation activities. The position requires tenacity, strong organizational skills and the ability to prioritize key tasks. A technical background such as an engineering degree would be a distinct advantage. This permanent position is based in Sana'a.

TRANSPORT OFFICER - Reference No. 043

Reporting to the Customs Clearance Coordinator, the successful applicant will reserve accommodation, flights, clearances and transportation for Project personnel and will ensure that appropriate communications and IT links are available. In addition, the post involves the monitoring of contractor procurement, packing, shipping, storage and Customs processes and the provision of expert guidance where necessary to eliminate delays and ensure that all materials arrive on time and are stored securely. The successful applicant will also be responsible for local purchase, delivery and storage of materials as required. The position is based in Sana'a and the duration of this post will be approximately three years.

TRAVEL & IMMIGRATION COORDINATOR - Reference No. 044

Reporting to the Head of Logistics & General Services, the successful applicant will ensure that all requirements of travel, immigration and accommodation are met.

The job holder will develop and implement all administration formalities, maintain relevant Immigration Control procedures and database in accordance with Immigration and Transport Department regulations ensuring that Visas and Work Permits for expatriate personnel are approved and renewed in good time, supervise all the travel requirements of Resident Expatriates and Missions, advising on availability, routes, cost, etc. and tickets in time and in a cost effective manner.

The successful candidate should have a minimum of five years' experience in an identical role and must be able to demonstrate a high level of perseverance, resourcefulness and effective performance in similar posts. This permanent staff position is based in Sana'a, but may involve travel to ports, airports and the Balhaf site in order to ensure that personnel movements are facilitated with minimal difficulty.

GENERAL SERVICES COORDINATOR - Reference No. 045

Reporting directly to the Head of Logistics and General Services Dept, this job involves the provision of complete general services in Sana'a.

The job holder is responsible for the administration of various general services activities. The job will involve the maintenance of offices and premises, administration of car pool, office reception and mail room services, allocation of offices and equipment, provision of furniture and consumables and the supervision of cleaning and house-keeping services.

The candidate should have a bachelor degree with good supervisory and administrative skills, good communication and interpersonal skills, practical common sense and significant availability.

SAFETY OFFICER - Reference No. 046

Reporting to the Site HSE Superintendent, the job holder is responsible to provide safety advice and promote safety awareness to the workforce at all levels through pro-active attitude, to monitor the YLNG construction activities carried out by contractor & their subcontractors to ensure compliance with the Project and site Safety Procedures. Perform regular Safety Inspections and audit of Contractor to ensure the implementation of safe working procedures & best practices, to conduct/participate in Safety Training of YLNG & Contractor personnel as required.

Candidates should have completed High School & attended further education, either educational related or trade related education, the Knowledge of International Safety legislative requirements, experience associated with a oil and gas construction project and knowledge of audit/inspection techniques & procedures.

YEMENISATION & MANPOWER PLANNER - Reference No. 047

YLNG is committed to maximizing the number of Yemeni nationals within the company. Reporting to the Head of Human Resources Development, this post involves the development and constant updating of the company's manpower and Yemenisation plans and the provision of management reports, in conjunction with the Recruitment and Training teams. The ideal candidate will hold a degree in Computing and must be highly skilled in Microsoft Project, with the ability to train others. Previous experience within a Human Resources environment will be useful but is not essential. This permanent staff position is based in Sana'a.

PAYROLL OFFICER - Reference No. 048

Reporting to the Head of Administration, the Job Holder will administer the payroll module of HR software to process monthly salary and allowances for national staff, produce staff monthly payroll, maintain all data files in the system and authorized hard copies to ensure fully auditable documentation to support payroll actions. The job holder will also responsible to collect, transmit and record staff monthly activities sheets and various types of personal expense claims.

Candidate should have minimum 5 years experience of payroll and remuneration procedures, good knowledge of legislation and procedures, high level of numerals and computer skills especially Excel, strong awareness of need for confidentiality and well-developed ability to communicate with all staff.

HEAD OF TREASURY - Reference No. 049

Reporting directly to Finance Manager, the job holder will develop, implement, control and maintain Treasury processes and systems including cash, loan and risk management. Duties will include the opening, closing and operation of all bank accounts in accordance with Delegation of Authority procedures, the development of systems for cash deposits and foreign currency transactions in conjunction with Yemeni and offshore banks and the provision of cash forecasts to shareholders via YLNG management. The role will also involve the development of corporate banking relationships with national and overseas banks for project financing purposes and the creation of online payment systems and controls procedures as well as verifiable drawdown processes for project financing. The successful applicant will have a minimum of 10 years' professional experience of which two must have been in a similar Treasury role, and an Accounting, Financial or Treasury degree or commensurate professional qualification. This permanent staff position is based in Sana'a.

All applicants for these positions must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English are essential, and candidates will be tested to assess their current level and training needs.

Applicants should send their CV in English with a short covering letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for any the above posts to:

Human Resources Department

Yemen LNG Company

P.O. Box 15347, Sana'a, Yemen

Candidates may apply by e-mail to: HR@YEMENLNG.COM

Closing Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2006

Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Yemen LNG



JOB VACANCY

The Sana'a Country Office of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is announcing the following vacancies for National Professional Project Personnel:

- Post Title: Reproductive Health Officer;**
- Post Title: Population Development Strategy Officer;**
- Post Title: Project Management Assistant Population Sector MoPHP.**

These positions are open to all qualified and interested Yemeni nationals. Qualified women are encouraged to apply.

Reproductive Health Officer

The incumbent will work in the area of reproductive health and family planning and, under the programmatic responsibility of the Deputy Country Representative, be responsible for:

- the integral management of a portfolio of UNFPA sponsored projects and activities;
- the undertaking and maintaining of an active policy dialogue with all development partners, including the preparation and presentation of position papers;
- any other programmatic activity within UNFPA's mandate that may be assigned to him/her by the management of the Country Office.

Qualification and Requirements

- University degree in Public Health or related social and management sciences with professional knowledge or extensive relevant experience in the field of reproductive health and family planning;
- At least 3 years of experience in management, planning and evaluation of policies and programmes. Work experience in international development cooperation will be considered as a valuable asset;
- Excellent knowledge of Arabic and English with ability to clearly communicate and report in both languages;
- Good interpersonal communication and team building skills;
- Adequate computer skills and ability to undertake frequent in-country travel.

Population Development Strategy Officer

The incumbent will work in the area of population and development strategies and, under the programmatic responsibility of the Deputy Country Representative, be responsible for:

- the integral management of a portfolio of UNFPA sponsored projects and activities;
- the undertaking and maintaining of an active policy dialogue with all development partners, including the preparation and presentation of position papers;
- any other programmatic activity within UNFPA's mandate that may be assigned to him/her by the management of the Country Office.

Qualification and Requirements

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Project Management Assistant Population Sector MoPHP

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- Group (RHTG) and Steering Committee (RHSC) and prepare the agenda and all documents, equipment and stationeries necessary for the meetings, workshops, trainings and field visits;
 - information on the RHTG and the DM Pop sector and the DG RH (all MoPH departments concerned with/ related to RH) for the members. Collect and compile related RH technical documents including RH strategy papers, training curricula and materials, RH standards and guidelines, RH indicators, research carried out, papers published, documents from recent RH/ Safe Motherhood conference, etc so there is a central archive for this info;
 - the support of the MoPHP Population Sector in management of sector specific activities relating to the health sector review; liaise with the Health Policy and Technical Support Unit as the coordinator of the health sector review;
 - budgeting of the activities that need to be carried out by the RH TG and under the working groups;
 - any other managerial tasks assigned by the Deputy Minister of the MoPHP Population Sector in relation to the work of the RHTG and RHSC in particular and further development of the national reproductive health strategy in general.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Minimum Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences, Management Sciences, or related subject;
- A minimum of five years professional experience in public health and previous work experience in project coordination and/or management;
- Full computer literacy;
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English;
- Excellent communication and writing skills;
- Good interpersonal communication and team building skills;
- Ability to travel in the country.

UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience. Please send your application to: UNFPA, Sana'a, P.O. Box7272
Deadline for application is: 3rd of March, 2006.

* Please note that only candidates who fulfill above requirements will be considered and notified.

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Candidates should have a Master Degree or related qualification, creative thinking with knowledge in manual drawing and computer application such as Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, Video-editing and Art History background. Apply to: ezaldaud@yahoo.com

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Candidates should have a Master Degree or related qualification, creative thinking with knowledge in manual drawing and computer application such as AutoCAD, Vector Works, Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Apply to: nzr1_96@yahoo.com

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 9. ICT Resources Management
 10. Research Methodology
 11. Web Application Development
 12. Information Systems Planning
 13. Telecommunication Technology.

Candidates must possess proficiency in English ;have a Master's degree or Ph.D. with 3 years of University teaching experience.

Apply to Human Resources Department, International College, University of Science and Technology, Republic of Yemen, within two weeks of this announcement.

Tel. No:01 374011
e-mail: m.alnashmy@ust.edu.ye

NOTE - Please submit your resume in English

International firms apply to invest in Yemen's oil industry

By: Yemen Times Staff

Following recent government reshuffling, the Ministry of Oil and Minerals has presented new directions in future priorities of oil exploration and production. Directions include intensifying oil block exploration, analysis and evaluation, in cooperation with international firms, to enhance and develop technical concepts of geological formations, their distribution and efficiency. The aim is to form a



Minister of Oil and Minerals Mahfoudh Bahah

complete picture of the reality and future of oil in Yemen.

The new directions also aim to avoid exploration costs and shorten the time period for estimating oil discovery in several blocks in order to introduce and include them in the development and production stage.

Minister of Oil and Minerals Mahfoudh Bahah revealed that a number of international firms have applied for concession rights to explore and produce oil in 14 Yemeni oil blocks. He said 63 firms applied for those blocks, which are included in the third international tender, between early September 2005 and this year's Feb. 14 closing date.

In his first press conference since assuming the Minister of Oil post, Bahah clarified that the said firms represent 26 countries: nine Indian, eight Canadian, five American, six British, three Emirati, three Chinese, three Pakistani, two Australian, two Spanish, two Swedish, two Malaysian, two Indonesian, one Panamanian, one French, one Irish, one Austrian, one Swiss, one Norwegian, one Czech, one Serbian, one Korean, one Japanese, one Turkish, one Lebanese, one Omani and one Algerian.



Sixty-three world firms recently applied to invest in Yemen oil blocks

The minister said such strong demand for the tender was a positive result of a good investment climate and stability experienced in Yemen and due to transparency in ministry procedures.

In late August 2005, the oil ministry announced final results of the second international tender for seven oil blocks. Results were: the Australian Oil Search Company won Shabwa block 7 and Hadramout block 47, the Emirati Al-Thani Company won Mahra blocks

34 and 37 and Hajah block 55; Korean firm KNOC won Mahra block 39 and American Occidental won Shabwa block 75.

Since announcing the third international tender, the oil exploration and production establishment set up a round-the-clock operation room to receive and answer firm applications. A special committee currently is studying technical and financial documents presented by international firms

competing to win concession rights to dig oil and gas in 14 blocks in seven Yemeni governorates.

Yemen has 87 oil blocks both on land and offshore: 12 blocks are producing, 20 are exploratory, 13 are under approval, 25 are open and 14 currently are being promoted in the third international tender. Additionally, three are offshore blocks, for which three international firms already have applied.

Improper donations investment forced donor change policy

Ibb governorate has received a priority share of assistance and loans to implement development projects, especially those related to basic service projects.

By: Nashwan M. Dammaj
Ibb correspondent

Loans granted to Yemen constitute a problem becoming more and more complicated over time. Although government authorities consider loans necessary for developing Yemen's infrastructure, opposition parties, Parliament and donor organizations believe such loans have not been invested properly, resulting in failure to achieve the goals for which the loans were made.

International donor and creditor organizations seem to have become frustrated with workability of development projects implemented by Yemen's government; therefore, they have decided to deal with this matter directly without depending on the government. They made the decision based on several experiences, especially regarding financing a project more than once, as happened during the Sana'a water drainage project.

Ibb is one governorate where such organizations have headed since beginning work in Yemen by implementing

numerous financed projects, which aim to improve awareness and the living standard in countryside areas. Ibb was among the first governorates included in a strategy of those organizations in one of their funded projects, i.e., the RWSSP water and sewage project for countryside areas, funded 75 percent by the World Bank, 20 percent by Yemen's government and five percent by those benefiting from its services.

Abdulhakim Shamsan, executive director of the governorate's project, said, "Since 2001, the project has implemented 34 drinking water projects serving approximately 108,000 people." Those projects were implemented according to the Demand Responsive Approach principle and a strategy to include public participation in planning and organization and have societies take responsibility for managing and operating any project to be built.

Saddam Ali Hussein, drinking water project director, under management of Al-Ridhaie Cooperative Society in Al-Udain district, mentioned that the project covers more than one area in Al-Ridhaie and is considered the most successful regarding cost, speed of accom-

plishment and quality. He clarified that the YR 33 million project was granted to residents December 2004 by the executive unit. Hussein said the project's only problem is that it has not completed coverage of remaining nearby areas and villages, despite water availability and residents' willingness to pay their five percent share.

Naqilin-Siyini Society head Ahmed Dammaj affirmed that the village project implemented by the executive unit enhanced public trust in the possibility of having service projects without delay, as usually happens with government projects. He said the project urges societies to demand other projects in the future. Although the executive unit affirmed that its projects are not for any particular side or political party, Bayt Shakra Society head Mohammed Khalid Shakra believes the five-month water and sewage project will be attributed to the General People's Congress.

Social researcher Saeed Al-Soufi, head of the executive unit's Social Mobilization teams, explained the many problems facing any project, saying difficulties take two forms, one of which occurs before societies even form. Some socially influential individuals try to control societies, while sometimes this happens after their establishment. The second type of difficulty is the product of low consciousness among society



View of water and sewage project in Ibb.

administrative bodies, which causes non-commitment in applying regulations. Al-Soufi indicated that the executive unit seeks to overcome such difficulties by creating ties with societies and holding training courses to improve societies' management and raise operation and maintenance levels.

Regarding the marginalized role of women and their participation in executive unit activities, Al-Soufi affirmed that one condition for project funding is women's participation, forming a third

of society members. However, he said due to the difficulty of reality, the unit was forced to accept a symbolic representation of women, though it was not effective practically.

Despite being the 'green governorate,' as Ibb is described, its water problem seems to be complicated. Low resident awareness increases the problem. Nevertheless, a few successful steps will bridge trust with the population and their contribution to public projects.

Phase two implemented to combat child labor

One of the plans prepared by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in the campaign to fight child labor is a training project for members of families that make their children work and spend the income on them. The project focuses especially on training young girls in income-yielding professions.

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

Yemen's Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor has begun executing phase two of a child labor fighting project. The ministry completed phase in mid-2005, assisted by the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Program for Fighting Child Labor and other relevant parties.

Muna Salem, child labor director at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, explained that phase two focuses on returning children to school and

conducting a vocational program to train working children ages 14-18 in coordination with the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training.

In this regard, there will be several short training courses involving 150 children already working in professions like commerce and car maintenance workshops, among others. Training will be according to scientific methods, at the end of which they will receive professional certificates.

The project also will begin training members of families with child laborers to enable them to manage private



The Project on fighting child labor focuses on return of worker children to school.

projects to gain income. Such courses will focus on training young girls in sewing, hairdressing and simple household industries with the aim of helping the family improve its living standard and withdraw children from the labor market without harming the family. Salem said the ministry completed a draft plan to fight child labor that it began in 2005 in cooperation with UNICEF, the ILO and the World Bank. The ministry will refer the plan to the cabinet for discussion and approval.

The plan, which is to be implemented over 10 years, was discussed in eight governorates where child labor is increasing, including Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Ibb, Hodeidah, Hajah, Abyan and Mahwit. It also was discussed in nationwide workshops, after which several remarks were considered during the plan's final drafting.

In brief

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor this year has allotted more than YR 224 million to support 363 civil society organizations and institutions throughout Yemen.

Ministry sources clarified that the support comes as part of government efforts to assist Yemeni NGOs, as well as offer technical training and lending to them and expand and help such organizations' partnership and other programs.

Ali Saleh Abdullah, Social Affairs and Labor Undersecretary for the social development sector, said the law of private societies and institutions has set three conditions for such societies to receive support. The society should have established and begun its work a year before applying for support, its activities should benefit the public and it should present a copy of its final accounting, approved by the General Assembly, to the ministry or its governorate offices.

Weaving and textile factory workers demonstrated Wednesday, Feb. 15 in front of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, protesting the delay in paying their January salaries and not implementing the wage increment pursuant to the government's July 2005 wage strategy.

Nabil Al-Salami, the factory's trade union chairman, told reporters, "There is a Ministry of Industry and Trade delay in paying our salaries." He affirmed that the Ministry of Finance agreed to pay salaries from the first months of this year, but the ministry did not do it.

An official committee was set up last December to pay weaving and textile workers' wages for October, November, and December 2005 after Parliament intervened following protests by factory workers inside the factory and in front of Parliament.

The Aden Free Zone administration has granted a license to an investor to establish a bronze industry firm. According to the recently issued license, the Bronze for Various Industries Company Ltd., owned by investor Adel Jawas, will begin work in the industrial zone with \$300,000 in capital. The firm will produce, manage and market bronze products. The license also grants the company the right to import and export, as well as possess and build bronze investment and industrial projects.

A delegation representing the General Federation of Yemeni Women participated in preparatory committee meetings of the Arab Social Forum at the General Secretariat of Arab International Federation of Trade Unions held at the Workers Studies Institute in Damascus last Wednesday.

A delegation from Japan's Foreign Ministry and the Japanese International Cooperation Fund will arrive in Sana'a later this month. The delegation will discuss forming a Yemeni-Japanese technical committee to coordinate Japanese assistance to Yemen.

Omar Abdulaziz, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation's East Asia director, mentioned that the committee aims to manage and coordinate Japanese assistance and loans during the next five years and activate cooperation agreements signed by the two countries.

NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY Request for renders for a "Fleet Tracking System"

The National Water Resources Authority, (NWRA) is engaged in managing groundwater extraction by the licensing and control of drilling rigs operating within the Sana'a Basin. To this end NWRA invites companies with expertise in Fleet Tracking System to submit quotations to supply and install a comprehensive GPS-GSM or fully satellite-based fleet tracking system for between 100 and 200 Rigs. This is to be a stand alone government-owned and managed system (i.e. rental agreements will not be entertained) the requirement is for precise passive tracking; not two-way communication. The outline specifications are:

- The provision of robust and secure GPS receiver/ GSM or satellite transmitters on a fleet of up to 200 drilling rigs.
- Supply and installation of a central Receiver-Control station with large color monitor, computer, software, color printer, appropriate cabling and roof antenna.
- Provision and installation of a full-color detailed integrated computerized UTM-based map of the Sana'a basin of Yemen with \pm zoom capability and vehicle location resolution to better than \pm 50 meters.
- The provision of both screen and hard copy of up to four daily position reports and a "locate vehicle on demand" capability.
- The provision of appropriation training for 3 to 5 NWRA staff in the system operation.
- A system capability for future modular upgrades for up to 800 rigs and up to 10 control stations throughout the GSM-serviced areas of Yemen.

The tender offer should be accompanied with the following:

- A bid bond of cheque payment for 2.5% of the bid offer valid for three months and issued from a local Bank in Yemen.
- A copy of a valid Tax Card with regard to local companies.
- Copy of valid insurance card with regard to local companies.
- A copy of qualification documents from manufacture.
- A copy of the agency document from authorized agent in Yemen representing foreign company and certified by the concerned authorities.
- The offer must be technically, financially, and commercially complete to be submitted in one original and three copies.
- The bid must be subjected to tax which is mentioned in Yemen law.
- The offer must be sealed by red wax.

The deadline of submission of offers is on Saturday 4/3/2006 at 11AM at NWRA office.

National Water Resources Authority of Yemen
P.O. Box 8944, Sana'a
Yemen (Amran Road, Sana'a, Yemen)
Tel: +967 1 231733, 251530
Fax: 967 1 231530
E-mail: NWRA-HQ@y.net.ye

الهيئة العامة للموارد المائية دعوة لتقديم عطاءات توريد وتركيب اسطول متابعة الحفارات

تقوم الهيئة العامة للموارد المائية بإدارة الموارد المائية وبما في ذلك المياه الجوفية وذلك عبر مراقبة الحفر العشوائي في الجمهورية اليمنية، وبهذا الخصوص تدعو الهيئة العامة للموارد المائية الشركات ذات الخبرة في أنظمة المراقبة و المتابعة لتقديم عروض اسعار لتوريد وتركيب نظام مراقبة ومتابعة تحركات الحفارات يعمل بنظام الـ GSM أو الـ GSP أو يعتمد كلياً على الأقمار الصناعية وذلك للعمل بين 100 أو 200 حفار، سيكون هذا النظام نظاماً مستقلاً وتمتلكه وتديره الحكومة (أي بمعنى لا تعتمد اتفاقيات تأجير) النظام المطلوب هو للمتابعة الدقيقة السلبية وليس نظام ايصالات ذو اتجاهين .. المواصفات العريضة للنظام هي كالتالي:

- توريد جهاز استقبال قوي ومأمون من نوع الـ GSM أو الـ GSP أو اجهزة ارسال عبر الأقمار الصناعية تعمل على مجموعة الحفارات مكون من عدد يصل لغاية ٧٥ حفار .
- توريد وتركيب محطة تحكم جهاز استقبال مركزي مع شاشة ملونة ضخمة وكمبيوتر وبرمجيات وطابعة ملونة والتسليك المناسب وهوائي سقف.
- توريد وتركيب خارطة ملونة بالكامل ، مفصلة ، موحدة تعمل بالكمبيوتر وتقوم على نظام الـ UTM لحوض صنعاء في اليمن مع إمكانيات نظام تزويم \pm وحل تحديد موقع سيارة لأفضل من \pm متر.
- تقديم تقارير على شاشة وعلى نسخ ورقية لاربعة مواقع يومياً والقدرة على تحديد موقع السيارة عند الطلب.
- توفير التدريب لعدد من 3-5 من موظفي الهيئة العامة للموارد المائية على تشغيل النظام .
- قابلية النظام لعملية التحديث المستقبلية ليستوعب لغاية 800 سيارة ولغاية 10 محطات تحكم على مناطق تشغيل الـ GSM في اليمن.

يشترط لقبول العطاءات إرفاق ما يلي :

- إرفاق ضمان بنكي بواقع ٢.٥% من قيمة العطاء صالح لمدة ٩٠ يوماً من آخر موعد لتقديم العطاء.
- إرفاق صورة من البطاقة الضريبية صالحة المدة مع إحضار الاصل للمطابقة.
- إرفاق صورة من السجل التجاري صالح المدة مع احضار الاصل للمطابقة.
- إرفاق سند تسديد رسوم المناقصة
- ان يكون المتقدم وكياً معتمداً أو مفوضاً رسمياً للشركة المصنعة.
- على المتقدم إرفاق شهادة مزاولة المهنة لتوريد مثل هذه الأعمال .
- تقدم الاسعار بالعملة المحلية أو ما يعادلها من العملات الأخرى .
- تقدم العطاءات بمظاريف مختومة بالشمع الاحمر من اصل وصورتين الى إدارة المشتريات والمخازن بالهيئة بصنعاء
- الهيئة غير ملزمة بقبول أقل الاسعار والعطاءات غير المستوفية للشروط.
- رسوم العطاء ١٠٠٠٠ ريال لا ترد

سيتم فتح المظاريف بمقر الهيئة بصنعاء شارع التلفزيون جوار مجلس الشورى يوم (السبت) الموافق ٤/٣/٢٠٠٦م الساعة الحادية عشره صباحاً بحضور الموردين أو المندوبين.

ص.ب. (٨٩٤٤) شارع عمان - صنعاء - الجمهورية اليمنية
هاتف: (٢٣١٧٣٣ - ٢٥٦٩٢٧) - ١ - ٠٠٩٦٧ فاكس (٢٣١٥٣٠) - ١ - ٠٠٩٦٧
بريد الكتروني: NWRA-HQ@Y.NET.YE

Request for Proposals

Yemen's National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) invites companies with scientifically qualified staff in the field of crop-water requirements and analysis of irrigation efficiency, to submit proposals for:

A STUDY TO CONSERVE GROUNDWATER THROUGH MORE EFFICIENT CROP WATER USAGE.

The objectives of this study are to:

- (1) Determining the optimum crop-water usage for a range of crops-qat, cereals, fruit and vegetables, under the full range of environments within Yemen.
- (2) Optimization of cropping patterns and calendars for irrigated annual crops.
- (3) Capacity building in NWRA to measure crop water requirements as a part of their medium-term monitoring infrastructure.
- (4) Preparation of guidelines to farmers for conservation of irrigation water through improved irrigation efficiency, and the elimination of over-irrigation.

This study, to be conducted in stages over 18 months, is funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, and will involve a detailed analysis of crop-water usage with a view to improving irrigation efficiency and hence groundwater conservation, throughout Yemen.

Tenders should conform to the following documents and requirements in addition to technical and financial proposals:

- A bid bond of cheque payment for 2.5% of the bid offer, valid for three months, and issued from a local bank in Yemen.
- A copy of a valid Tax Card with regard to local companies.
- A copy of valid insurance card with regard to local companies.
- The offer must be technically, financially and commercially complete, to be submitted in the form of one original and three copies.
- The bid must be subjected to tax, in accordance with Yemen law.
- The offer must be sealed with red wax.

The deadline for submission of offers is, 12.00 noon on Saturday, March 11th 2006. Companies interested in submitting offers are invited to contact NWRA's chairman for the *background*, *Terms of Reference* and detailed *Request for Proposals*.

NWRA's contact details are:

National Water Resources Authority of Yemen, NWRA,
P.O. Box: 8944, Sana'a, Yemen (Amran Road, Sana'a, Yemen)
Tel: +967 1 231733 Fax: +967 1 231530;
e-mail: NWRA-HQ@y.net.ye

Request for Proposals

Yemen's National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) invites companies with suitably qualified staff in the field of socio-economies within the water sector , to submit proposals for a study on:

'Options for Changing the Economic Incentive Structures for Groundwater Extraction in Yemen'.

The objectives of this study are to:

- a) Identify which factors are driving groundwater overdraft in Yemen
- b) Identify realistic incentives to motivate the agricultural sector in reducing its groundwater extraction from rapidly depleting aquifers, and
- c) To make recommendations for implementing water conservation incentives as part of 'water basin management plans'.

This five-month study, funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, will involve a detailed analysis of farmers' water usage and on-farm practices, attitudes, traditions and micro-economic constraints within the wider context of the socio-economic and political environment.

In order to facilitate this 3-basin study it is expected that interested international companies will utilize field specialists with local knowledge.

The tenders should conform to the following documents and requirements:

- A bid bond of cheque payment for 2.5% of the bid offer, valid for three months, and issued from a local bank in Yemen.
- A copy of a valid Tax Card with regard to local companies.
- A copy of valid insurance card with regard to local companies.
- The offer must be technically, financially and commercially complete, to be submitted in the form of one original and three copies.
- The bid must be subjected to tax, in accordance with Yemen law.
- The offer must be sealed with red wax.

The deadline for submission of offers is midday, 12.0 noon on Saturday, March 11th 2006.

Companies interested in submitting offers are invited to contact NWRA's chairman for the *background*, *Terms of Reference* and detailed *Request for Proposals*.

NWRA's contact details are:

National Water Resources Authority of Yemen, NWRA,
P.O. Box: 8944, Sana'a, Yemen (Amran Road, Sana'a, Yemen)
Tel: +967 1 231733 Fax: +967 1 231530;
e-mail: NWRA-HQ@y.net.ye

**Republic of Yemen
National Water Resource Authority
Announcement**

[Vacancies for individual international consultants]

The National Water Resources Authority has received a support from the state of Netherlands to assist in financing towards the cost of water sector project and intends to apply parts of it for the recruitment of individual international consultants whose terms of reference are given below.

Position Title: Public Awareness Expert, international
Duty Station: Sana'a
Organization: National Water Resources Authority [NWRA]
Duration: 6 months in the first year,
then 2 times 3 months in the following tow years
Date Required: As soon as possible.

Under the overall supervision of the NWRA Chairman and his Deputy and Sector Head of MIS, and in collaboration with the national and international project staff, the expert is required to perform the tasks listed below.

Main objective: Review and discuss with the relevant staff of MIS the strengths and a weaknesses of an ongoing and planned public awareness program, suggest a strategy to make this program more effective, including prioritization of various actions. Enable the department to carry out their functions independently and under minimum supervision in the future.

Background of the post: The Public Awareness Department of the National Water Resources Authority [NWRA] is housed under the Monitoring and Implementation Sector [MIS] and is responsible for production and dissemination of national campaign on issues related to water conservation. Presently, the Public Awareness Department is in its early phase of development and is not yet fully functional to perform its tasks.

Therefore, services of an international Public Awareness Expert are required to strengthen the technical capabilities of the public Awareness Department for taking up of a public Information and Awareness program.

The Public Expert [Communication Expert] Shall have an MSc Degree in Sociology of Journalism and Mass Communications and shall have minimum of 15 Years experience of which 10 Years shall be in the field of designing and implementing public information and awareness campaigns in the agriculture and rural sectors with emphasis on soil and water conservation. He shall be fully with the various media broadcasts; audio - visual displays, print media etc. and should be able to create messages through these media for public information and awareness on the participatory management and conservation of groundwater and on the need of not expending the groundwater irrigated areas in Yemen with a view to arrest rapid decline of groundwater aquifer levels. Appropriate stakeholder participation at community level by any undertakings of the expert is required.

A good knowledge of both English and Arabic would be necessary.

The communications Expert's main duties include:

- 1- Develop a comprehensive program and dissemination strategy of TV and Radio messages. In this context, the expert should describe the contents of the messages, pre-test these messages with the target audience, and ensure complete production of these message with the help of existing Public/private productions.
- 2- Provide assistance to NWRA in the production of films on water management issues and prepare TOR for their production, dissemination and publicity.
- 3- Provide assistance in setting-up the production unit is NWRA with necessary equipment facilities to ensure in - house production of up-to-date public awareness messages and Billboards at prominent locations. Moreover, assist NWRA in preparing technical specification for communication equipment, installation and appropriate use.
- 4- Provide an extensive on - the- job training to the staff of the public Awareness Department. Propose a training program for key staff of the Department considering short - term study tours to learn from experiences of other countries preferably Arab Countries.
- 5- Design a procedure for evaluation of awareness campaign impact.

More details of the TORs can be obtained from the address given below if required. Interested applicants who meet above requirements may submit their applications with their CVs to the NWRA Chairman, whose address is given below on or before 10th April 2006.

**Sana'a Republic of Yemen
National Water Resources Authority, NWRA
P.O. Box No. 8944
Tel.: 00967-1-231733
Fax: 00967-1-256926
E-mail: NWRA-HQ@Y.net.ye**

**Republic of Yemen
National Water Resource Authority
Announcement**

[Vacancies for individual international consultants]

The National Water Resources Authority has received a support from the state of Netherlands to assist in financing towards the cost of water sector project and intends to apply parts of it for the recruitment of individual international consultants whose terms of reference are given below.

Position Title: Database Expert
Duty Station: Sana'a
Organization: National Water Resources Authority [NWRA]
Duration: One Year
Date Required: As soon as possible.

Under the overall supervision of the NWRA Chairman and his Deputy and Sector Head of MIS, and in collaboration with the national and international project staff, the expert is required to perform the tasks listed below.

Duties: The expert is required to perform the following tasks:

- Integrate available applications into one overall system: Coordination of different activities and integration of all modules that have developed over the 1988 and 1999 into one comprehensive system. Attention should be given to required outputs for the regional water management plans.
- Consolidate NWRA's information system towards other programmes and organizations: As part of this activity, local information centers will have to be developed and consolidated under each sub - program, providing hardware, software and technical assistance as required. A mechanism of data exchange with other water sector institutions and projects is to be established.

Duties, continued:

- Evaluate the existing data base system in all aspects and identify gaps together with a local team.
- Identify number of staff to be working in the department, including developing their job-descriptions.
- Identify system requirements for database.
- Merge consolidate and upgrade existing database information.
- Enhance the database design and applications in order to accommodate other than monitoring data, such as domestic, irrigation, industrial water, water pollution and water resources management irrigation, socioeconomic, registration and permits data generated by NWRA or relevant data generate by other agencies. Refine existing output modules for generation of quarterly and annual monitoring reports.
- Disseminate information: To - date dissemination of information technology was mainly centered around NWRA. With the establishment of local information centers under different sub-programs, the expansion of dissemination activities will have to be coordinated and integrated. In addition, new media's such as Internet sites and CD ROM technologies needs to be explored to complement these activities and reach other organizations.
- Assist in the setup of an operational library database.
- Supervise digitization of maps, and further integrate database and GIS software in use.
- Establish in collaboration with the Hydrogeologist linkages between database / GIS systems and water modeling software.
- Train and involve national counterpart staff in all aspects of the information system, e.g. database design, application development, dissemination techniques, and integration of systems.
- Enhance NWRA's computer network [NT Server] towards it's branches and train staff in NT SERVER network administration.
- Prepare documentation on NWRA's information system and computer network.
- Assist staff of the database in preparing working program for the coming years.
- Perform other tasks as required.

Qualifications and Experience: Master Degree in Computer Science or related technical field with significant experience in water resources information systems, at least 10 years of relevant experience. Extensive the oretical knowledge of database management systems, in particular MS Access and object oriented programming languages [Visual Basic and Map Objects]. Knowledge of common GIS software like Arc / View, Atlas*GIS, Arc/Info, ILWIS, Idrisi. Experience with Local Area Network, in particular NT Server 4.0 and familiar with concepts of system analysis and design. Must be fluent in English with excellent report writing capabilities. Experience with UNDP and NEX procedures would also be advantageous.

More details of the TORs can be obtained from the address given below if required. Interested applicants who meet above requirements may submit their applications with their CVs to the NWRA Chairman, whose address is given below on or before 10th April 2006.

**Sana'a Republic of Yemen
National Water Resources Authority, NWRA
P.O. Box No. 8944
Tel.: 00967-1-231733
Fax: 00967-1-256926
E-mail: NWRA-HQ@Y.net.ye**

تهانينا Congratulations

بمناسبة الثقة الكبيرة التي أولتها لكم القيادة السياسية الحكيمة
ممثلة بفخامة الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح
رئيس الجمهورية
و دولة الأستاذ /

عبدالقادر عبدالرحمن باجمال،

رئيس الوزراء
يتقدم

السيد / ديفيد ميتشل - الرئيس و المدير العام

و الإدارة العليا و كافة موظفي شركة كنيديان نكسن بتروليم شرق الحجر

المحدودة القطاع ٥١

بخالص التهاني وأطيب التبريكات

إلى معالي الأستاذ / خالد محفوظ بحاح

بمناسبة تعيينه وزيراً للنفط والمعادن
في التعديل الحكومي للعام ٢٠٠٦م

For gaining the trust of the wise leadership represented by

H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh,

And

H.E. Abdul Qader BaJammal, Prime Minister,

Mr. David Mitchell - President & General Manager

Senior management and all staff of
Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr Ltd. Block 5 1

Present their warmest congratulations to

H.E. Mr. Khalid Mahfoudh Bahah

On the occasion of appointing him as Minister Of Oil and
Minerals on Sunday, 11 February 2006

Future Youth Overreacting?

By: Hope
voice_oad@yahoo.com

I have read a few articles on different websites and I realize that most people think we are overreacting to the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) cartoons and that we do not take humor well. Personally, I don't think we are overreacting. We have taken enough "humor" directed toward our religion but there is a limit to everything.

These cartoons showed disrespect toward Muslims and our prophet and we will not accept or tolerate any kind of "humor" that mocks our prophet. We have tolerated other kind of "humor" about Muslims and Islam, but this time the line has been crossed.

Yes, there are extremists in Islam who are violent but that does not mean all Muslims are. Let's not forget that extremists exist in all different religions and belief systems. I do not need to give any examples. When we demonstrate, we do it peacefully, but only the violent ones are mentioned. Violent demonstrations regarding different issues happen all over the world. Many Muslims around the world held non-violent demonstrations regarding the cartoons, asking for an apology for this immature act.

The West is calling the cartoons "freedom of expression," but they have nothing to do with freedom of expression because their intention was to attack. Instead of attacking us, why don't they educate themselves on what our religion

is about instead of stereotyping us as terrorists? That's not "freedom of speech." I call that ignorance.

Why is it that if an individual decided to go out in Germany with a "swastika" symbol on his shirt he could be arrested and a priest in Italy was taken to court for "enforcing" his opinions by stating that Jesus existed? What happened to "freedom of expression" there, not to mention other sensitive issues like the Holocaust?

Religion is a sensitive issue for Muslims, Christians, Jews and other belief systems; therefore, we should not cross the line by mocking prophets or holy books. The Danish press crossed that line and should apologize for its shameful actions.

Is it fair?

By: Imran Khan
mimraan.khaan@gmail.com

I usually watch news on western based television networks but I feel undue favoritism of a particular side which is extremely disturbing. In recent few days there are proves of British and US forces doing things above the law. In first, a video tape shows the British soldiers catching and then beating young Iraqi boys and in other case few more images of Abu Gharib prison shocked the world again. One thing I always hear from western experts that very TINY numbers of persons (Soldiers) were involved in these kinds of attacks. Though it can be seen easily in video that may be 5 or 6 British soldiers were involved in beating boys, but still there were many other soldiers watching or passing through. No one even tried to say something or stop them. And in US soldiers' scandal in Abdu Gharib prison it is always stated

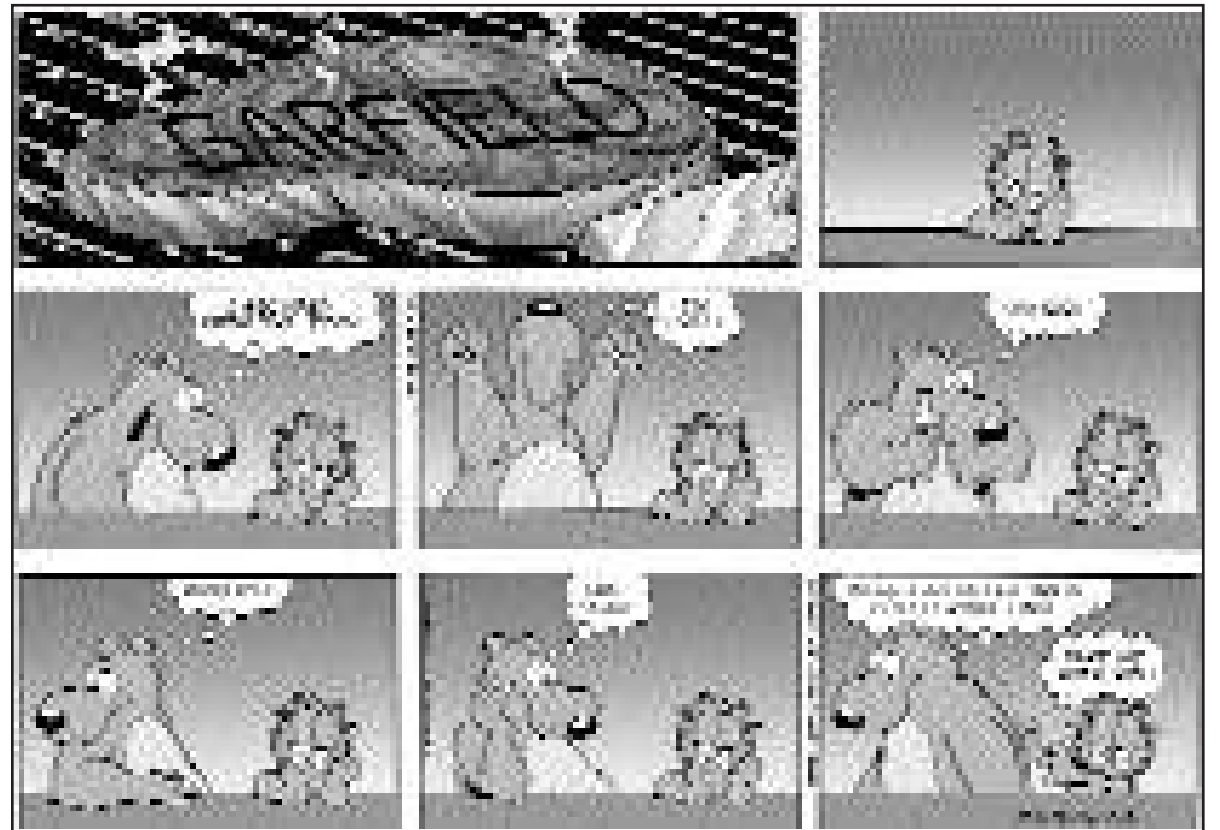
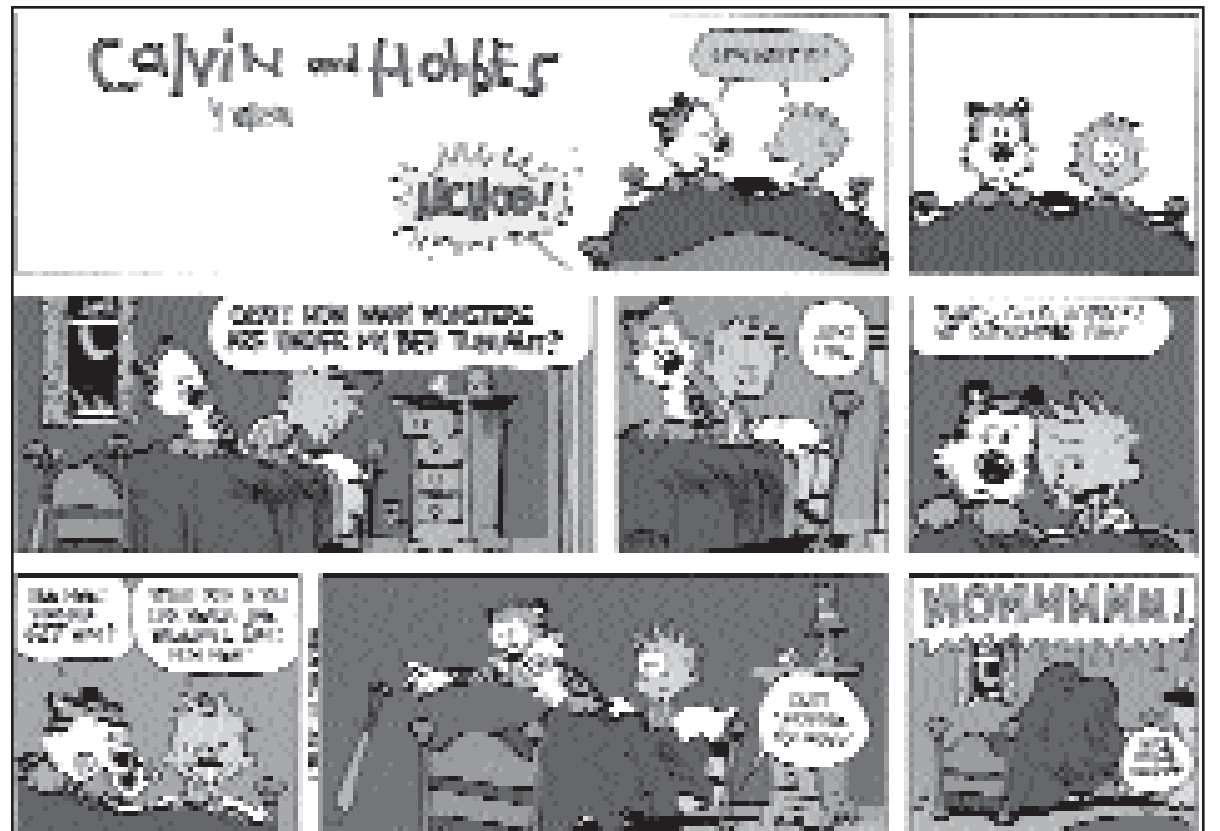
again and again that only FEW persons were involved. Well it may be true that only few were involved but everyone knows that in modern Armies around the world there is an effective system to check each soldier's activities. Unfortunately the armies involved in these terrible actions considered as the best in the world. So how can they claim "top positions" if they have no information about their soldiers' actions? Why it is always linked with TINY and FEW persons? Is it really possible for soldier's to commit something without being noticed?

But if they do know these events are taking place in Iraq than does it mean they purposively close their eyes on these kinds of events? It is also said that perhaps there could be more cases like these but because they are not caught on tapes so no one knows it. Can it be true?

But let's see the other angel. When something happen any where else in the world, like suicide bombing in Israel, I

always hear they keep saying "poor civilians have been killed" and "Palestinian Suicide Bombers are carry-out these attacks". But I never heard them to say that these are the actions of only FEW individuals and all Palestinian population has no part in it. If Israel attacks on Philistine than said that it has been done in self defense and militants were killed. Though many times we have seen innocent civilians were killed because these actions.

If they do bad actions only few are held responsible and if something wrongly done by others unfortunately whole nations are blamed. This should be changed. I agree and believe that majority of British or US soldiers are not bad, but this also applies to others. The whole nation must not be blamed for a crime committed by some dozens. It is not possible that the whole nation committed that. Every Palestinian is not a suicide bomber and one must choose the right words to describe the whole nation.



Time's cloud

By: Fuad Noman
fn_0012000@yahoo.com

Your snowy smiles
Making my heart's beauty increased
And my pain's jeer be forever deceased
Pleased to haul my heart by your
time's cloud
For breathing the rest of his life so
proud
In cloud nine
My spirit's blissful echo will be wide
and loud
Thy love is so seldom and rare,

For I, your honey lips nothing like to
compare
Your white soul is my heart's perfect
ware

Thy face is brighter than moon
Your sweet tongue is my eternal tune
By your charming sunny eyes, you
own

Honey always becomes savoury and
brown

For my soul's yield
Thence your love can fly and leap
Great love nor dies by far,
Nor withers by short leap,

But its real heartfelt pulse
digging sense of soul being deep
All times,

Hugging the waves of dawn to be for-
ever mine
But the portent's hand plowing a newer
mine

I believe in the father of creation
To my right path He will sheen and
shine

For love how many nymphs can
intone!
But your gentle tune is always my
heart's incline

Pay Day

By: Ameer Alhamed
ameeralhamed@yahoo.com

All of us know that a month has 30 to 31 days, but this fact is no more effective for the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank in addition to government administrations where the month lasts for more than 40 days if not more. And thus state employees in general and those of Ministry of Education in particular have to wait endlessly before receiving their salaries and they have to put up with the abuses of the owners of their rented houses and the owners of the supermarkets.

It is not only this, but there is still a bitter fact that this salary, though not enough, is subject to deductions under different sorts of names. Ultimately the poor employee finds himself unable to meet his children, wife and house's increasing needs amidst the waves of increase in prices of goods and commodities nor to settle his debts.

We herein ask the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank and the respective government administrations and other concerned authorities to have mercy on the poor employees and to facilitate the task before them as it is the case across the world. They need not more routine, no more pain as they already have enough. They have got tired and they can bear no more.

Vacancy



CARE international in Yemen, with the generous support of the Embassy of France, wishes to recruit a

Gender coordinator

CARE Yemen has identified "Women's Empowerment" as one of its strategic directions. At the same time CARE strives to review and improve its internal understanding and implementation of gender related activities.

Person Specification

Technical Indicators

- Post-graduate degree in social work, anthropology, gender studies or relevant field
- Ability to work in a multi-sectoral team.
- Gender specialization skills, including skills in program design.
- Training/capacity building skills.
- Commitment to gender issues and ability to act appropriately in a politically and culturally sensitive manner.

Experience

- A minimum of 5 years development work experience in an international, development organization with particular focus on gender issues.
- Previous experience in an Arab country is essential.
- Written and spoken fluency in both Arabic and English is essential.
- Because of the nature and cultural context of the post a female applicant is required for this position
- Current driving licence

The position will be based in Sana'a but will require regular field travel to Al Mahweet and the rural villages in the Governorate. In addition there may be some regional international travel.

Interested and qualified applicants should forward CV and cover letter via email to care@y.net.ye with the subject heading "Gender Coordinator", from which address detailed TsOR may be requested. Application deadline is **Thursday 2nd March 2006**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECRUITMENT

A REPUTED SHIPPING COMPANY HAS JOB OPENING IN ITS H.O. -IN HODEIDAH- & BRANCH OFFICE IN SANA'A.

1. BRANCH MANAGER - for Sana'a

QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE:-

- MUST BE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE.
- WORKING EXPERIENCE NOT LESS THAN [8] YEARS.
- FLUENT IN ENGLISH SPEAKING - WRITTEN/SPOKEN.
- GOOD EXPOSURE TO COMPUTER HAVING KNOWLEDGE ON SHIPPING RELATED SOFTWARES.
- HAVING WORKED IN SHIPPING & LOGISTICS - MARKETING, SHALL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE.
- MAINTAIN HIGH CALIBRE OF PROFESSIONALISM & SWIFT DECISION MAKER.
- MUST BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING THE BRANCH INDEPENDENTLY.
- CAPABLE TO WORK UNDER PRESSURE.
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Neglected beauties

The orchards of old Sana'a are little oases in the crowded and dusty city. But these green gems need more care than they get. Disregard and draught are their worst enemies.

By: Fouad Al-Rabadi

"It is really magnificent, but it needs care," says Mr. Gruppel Munchen, a 53-year old German tourist who works as a tour guide for other German tourists. He is speaking of the orchard called Al-Qasimi in the old city of Sana'a, while he is photographing it from different angles. Obviously he is not speaking of God's providence when he says that care is needed. He simply thinks that the authorities should intervene.

There are more than forty Miqshams (orchards) within the old city of Sana'a. They constitute 20 percent of the city's area, and are part of the city's architecture and historical heritage. They are green spots in the middle of the resident areas, and are used to grow vegetables, fruits and herbs. The orchards also serve as vents and beautiful scenery for the houses which overlook them. But the city's oases face great problems.

Limited awareness

The history of these orchards is as old as the city itself and is considered part of the heritage of old Sana'a. When the city was built, each quarter was placed around a well and a field to provide the inhabitants water and food. This is considered an ideal way of city planning



There are more than 40 orchards in old Sana'a. Yet only 12 of them are in proper use. PHOTO BY: FOUAD AL-RABADI

make use of it, and can improve their living by selling the products. The negligence of these orchards exposes a large sector of these families to unemployment and deprives them of a source of sustenance.

Lack of water

The worst threat to all the orchards of old Sana'a is draught. The lack of water became a problem when the old system of roads and sewage was changed.

The old irrigation process was quite unique and reflected the genius of the old city planning. Water that was drawn from wells used to go to special pools in the mosque for ablution. The pools in the mosques were drained through special channels to a pool next to the orchards. The water was collected for two or three days, and then used in the orchards for irrigation.

Human dung was collected into a so called ma'khadah, a small underground

one of the people who benefit from an orchard, thinks that the intervention of the Social Development Fund and the Capital Secretariat is causing problems. "They did not help us, and they cut the fig trees that were surrounding the orchard," he says.

According to Nabil Al-Maqaleh, cutting these particular trees was necessary in order to make a wall and a small pavement around the orchard. The wall is meant to mark the borders of the orchard and stop the ongoing violations.

And the violations are many. For instance, the western side of the Al-Bakiria orchard is used as a playground for children. The eastern side of the Al-Madrassa orchards is used as a dump by the neighboring houses. And the Al-Kharaz orchard now suffers from the leakage of sewage on it.

But not all the violations are as visible as this. Some owners and people who are meant to rehabilitate the gardens are

According to Al-Maqaleh these merchants exploit the fact that the gardens are being neglected by the concerned parties. He says that the merchants pay large amounts of money that tempt the owners to sell the orchards. They sometimes buy them even from the Ministry of Endowments.

"The merchants start by setting up a tent, then they make stalls, and finally they make a block building, paving the way for seizing the whole orchard," says Al-Maqaleh.

The German tourist, Mr. Munchen, and his companions were amazed at the sight of the Al-Qasimi orchard in the old

city of Sana'a. Like many other tourists, they will presumably show photographs and tell stories of the orchards to friends and family back home. Thus, the orchards are important not only to the inhabitants of the old city, but to the increasing number of tourists visiting the country, and in particular the old part of Sana'a that needs help to grow greener.



When an orchard is neglected, the neighboring families lose an important source of food and income.

PHOTO BY: FOUAD AL-RABADI

by international urban architects. Unfortunately Yemenis' awareness of the importance of these orchards is still limited. Some of these orchards have died out, others have become dumps, and the remaining gardens are threatened by draught.

Manager of the Heritage Preservation Unit in the Social Development Fund, Nabil Al-Maqaleh says: "There were only five orchards fit for cultivation before our fund intervened. Now there are 12, and we are currently working to increase that number to 24". He says: "Some of the people of old Sana'a had lost hope. They did not think the gardens would ever become useful again, but now they are enthusiastic".

One man was so happy that the garden in his neighborhood could once again be utilized, that he went and bought a pump even though buying such equipment is the duty of the Ministry of Endowments, who owns some of the orchards.

When an orchard is maintained properly, five neighboring families can

hole measuring one by one meter. After a period of time it is then used as a fuel for Turkish baths, and the remains are then burnt and used as fertilizers in orchards.

What happened recently is that dung is mixed with water in toilets and is then drained into the sewage system. This has caused the orchards to be greatly exposed to drought.

Mojahid Tamish, manager of Cultural Heritage Preservation, says that the irrigation sources in mosques close to the orchards are now being rehabilitated. This means that it will be possible to return to the traditional method of separating ablution water from dung, and then lead the water through pipes to irrigate the orchards.

Violations everywhere

"Rehabilitation is happening, but the problems often come from those who make use of the orchards," says Mojahid Tamish.

However, Abdurrahman Al-Hatimi,

violating the green gems of Sana'a in their own way.

Mohamed Al-Dhafari, one of the Al-Hamidi orchard owners, says that the contractor has used the money dedicated to the orchard for his own benefit. Yahia Yahia Al-Omary, another owner, complains that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism still owes them the cost of rehabilitating the eastern side of the Al-Mahadi Tomb orchard. He says that the ministry promised to give them the money after the "Sana'a - a capital for Arab Culture" festival in 2005. But so far, no money has been paid.

At the moment, the Al-washly and Jamaleddeen orchards are without water though there is an artesian well, which has been out of function since 2004. Other orchards like Ingad and Al-zomor have been turned into market places for selling qat and clothes.

Apparently, there is a gang of merchants who have little awareness of the economic, environmental, cultural and tourist value of these orchards.

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