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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
Many Yemeni personalities including three women made bids for presidency while opposition parties have not yet named their presidential candidate. Do you think these personalities will obtain parliament recommendations to stand in the upcoming presidential race?

I don't know (23%)
Yes (27%)
No (50%)

This edition's question:
At the expense of students' progress, Yemeni teachers and education workers nationwide are on strike concerning government's false promises. Do you think the government will react positively to this issue?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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

Teachers' strike mounts to sit-in at Parliament

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori

SANA'A, March 29 — Thousands of teachers and education workers staged a sit-in Tuesday in front of Parliament to protest against government's false promises. The government issued a new wage and salary law, which they say is unfair since it puts down teachers and education workers.

Protesters raised banners and chanted slogans denouncing violations and attacks authorities launched on striking teachers. They described such acts irresponsible and illegal.

The sit-in was held two weeks after teachers and education workers went on strike and ceased working in schools and education offices nationwide. This led authorities to take tough and irresponsible measures such as firing some teachers and preventing them from resuming work. Authorities asked police to help hunt and arrest strikers.

Yemeni Teachers Syndicate (YTS) Secretary-General Ali Al-Rubaihi pointed out that the sit-in is a reaction

to arbitrary procedures authorities implemented against teachers. "This is a massive violation of teachers' rights ensured by law," he said.

Al-Rubaihi noted that the second clause of Labor Law Article No. 48 states that penalties, including dismissal, must not be imposed on workers while striking. "Peaceful strike is one of the legal means for workers and their unions or syndicates to defend their rights and claim their legal demands if their issues are not resolved through negotiations," he added.

"We've informed the government that we will go ahead with our decision to stage massive demonstrations in the capital and in other cities. We're not breaking the law, but exercising our constitutional rights," Al-Rubaihi said, adding that protests are scheduled to begin Tuesday in Sana'a.

"Unless the government fulfils our demands for higher pay, demonstrations certainly will be carried out," he added.



Thousands of teachers at the sit-in.

Continued on page 2

Italian tourists' kidnappers face lengthy jail terms

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, March 29 — The State Security Specialized Penal Court issued verdicts under which suspects accused of kidnapping five Italian tourists in Marib in January face prison terms ranging from five to 20 years.

Four suspects received 20 years in jail, beginning from the date of their arrest, for kidnapping the Italian tourists. Suspect No. 5 Mer'e Ali Ahmad Al-Ameri was sentenced to 10 years in prison, while suspect Hadi Mohamed Al-Ameri received a five-year prison term for his involvement in kidnapping the Italians.

After the death sentence, the sentences are the Kidnapping Law's second toughest penalties. The court tossed out all appeals filed by defense lawyers justifying their clients' actions.

The defendants appealed against the verdict after hearing it, describing it as unfair. They asked why the court

never has tried the German tourists' kidnappers, as well as complaining about officials who demolished their homes and detained their relatives. The kidnappers' relatives attending the session stated that authorities never seek the reasons behind tourist kidnappings.

Defense lawyers appealed against the verdict, which they said is oppressive and unfair, and accused the court of lacking independence and relying only upon the defendants' words provided by Prosecution.

Security apparatuses arrested the suspects accused of kidnapping the Italian citizens — two men and three women — after the captives were freed. The five were abducted in Mafraq Al-Dhaiq on the Sana'a-Marib highway in January and held captive in Marib's Sirwah district. Marib locals kidnapped the Italian tourists immediately after President Ali Abdullah Saleh vowed to end the kidnapping phenomenon Yemen has experienced for years.

Free press ordeals continue

In a week full of press-related news, the press is being subjected to more than one issue: trials of independent newspapers, an ordeal and an assault on a journalist in Ibb. A ruling party newspaper attacked some journalists while the president accused some newspapers of attacking the military institution.

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, March 29 — At its session yesterday, the Capital Southwest Court convicted Al-Nahar newspaper Editor in Chief Shihab Al-Ahdal in a case filed by former Minister of Health Dr. Mohamed Al-Nomi and Al-Thawra Hospital Manager Dr. Mohamed Qasim Al-Ansi. Al-Ahdal was fined YR 450 thousand and given three months' suspension from work. However, the court issued a stay of execution regarding Al-Ahdal's suspension on condition that he publish an apology in three issues of the newspaper.

Journalist Adel Abdulghani also appeared before Press and Publications Prosecution to present his evidence in a

case filed against him and his newspaper by the Ministry of Transportation due to a report in issue No. 695 about Aden container port.

The Capital Southeast Court held a session yesterday to try Al-Hurriya independent newspaper, which is accused of republishing caricatures insulting the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh). Editor in Chief Akram Sabrah and journalist Yahya Abid represented the newspaper. The court postponed until the 26th of April.

In its Feb. 18 session, the court allowed defense a copy of the case file. The journalists' defense lawyers confirmed that the newspaper published the caricatures in defense of the prophet. Al-Ray Al-A'am and the

Yemen Observer also are standing trial on the same charge of assaulting the prophet by republishing the depictions.

In a similar development against journalism, Adel Ali Omer, Ibb correspondent for Nasserite Party mouthpiece Al-Wahdawi newspaper, broke his hand during an assault by security forces while he was covering the Ibb teachers sit-in. Security forces also seized his camera.

In a statement, Omer confirmed that security men attacked him while he was photographing a large crowd of teachers held by security at one of the city entrances, thereby preventing them from participating in the sit-in involving around 9,000 teachers. He added that he received bruises on several parts of his body.

Al-Wahdawi denounced the assault in which Omer's right hand was broken. The newspaper held the Ministry of Interior accountable for the attack and demanded the attackers be referred to justice.

In a related incident involving the campaign against journalists, ruling party mouthpiece Al-Mithaq newspaper attacked journalists Hafiz Al-Bukari, Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) general secretary, and independent Al-Wasat weekly newspaper editor Jamal Amir. Al-Mithaq described their trip to the U.S. as a special mission under the

Aden's Yousef Church to reopen

By: Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf

ADEN, March 29 — Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal met Tuesday, March 27, with the Vatican Regional Ambassador to Arabia, Almutran Munged Al-Hashem. Both officials discussed relations and cooperation aspects between Yemen and the Vatican, stressing joint effort to plant religious values of forgiving. They also focused on enhancing dialogue between civilizations and religions to achieve ambitions of nations concerning security, stability and peaceful living.

The Vatican ambassador and the pope's representative are expected to attend the inauguration of Clergy Yousef Church in Crater, Aden after its



Clergy Yousef Church in Aden.

rehabilitation is completed under President Saleh's 2000 directive. Saleh also ordered church properties returned to it.

Clergy Yousef Church was built in 1955. Repairs involve interior and exterior wall painting, plus other maintenance.

The Yemen Times has learned that arrangements are being made for the Vatican delegation to attend a ceremony organized by the Catholic Church marking the occasion of Clergy Yousef Church's inauguration after several years' closure. The church was closed for a long period of time due to expo-

sure and damage from natural factors.

Al-Hashem affirmed the Vatican's care about developing relations with Yemen, saying, "Through my post, I will work on enhancing ties between the two friendly governments to achieve joint interests in peace and development." He shared the pope's enthusiastic vision to consolidate Islamic-Christian cooperation.

Bajammal highlighted the Vatican's vital role in consolidating dialogue between religions and civilizations, pointing out that Islam emphasizes respecting other religions' ideologies and condemns acts of extremism.

"The Yemeni community is forgiving. This is one of the qualities of Yemeni civilization extending through various stages of history," Bajammal added. "The Yemeni government calls for more understanding and cooperation between Islam and Christianity for the sake of peace and improving human relations." He wished the Vatican diplomat prosperity and success in his mission to upgrade bilateral relations and achieve joint interests.

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Yemen will take years to get rid of polio

SANA'A, March 25 — According to an international expert, it will be several years before Yemen can be declared free of polio.

"Yemen needs between four to five years to be free from polio again because we must conduct two to four immunization campaigns," said Dr. Hashim Al-Zein, World Health Organization (WHO) country representative. He confirmed to media that the number of confirmed polio cases in Yemen has risen following discovery of a fresh case in February. "The number of confirmed polio cases has reached 474, as a new case was discovered last month in Ibb governorate, 150km south of Sana'a."

Al-Zein was expected to launch a new immunization drive in April or May, targeting some four million children under age 5. There have been seven such anti-polio campaigns in Yemen, the last of which was launched December 2005. "This campaign is very important to control the disease," Al-Zein noted. "We must enhance children's immunity to avoid reactivation of

the polio virus. We also must target newborn infants."

WHO suggests that low immunization rates among Yemeni children may facilitate the virus's spread. Between April and November of last year, the Health Ministry confirmed a total of 473 polio cases, including six fatalities.

The first Yemeni children found to have polio in April 2005 were 18 months to 7 years old, all from the Red Sea port of Hodeidah. They first showed signs of paralysis in February or early March. Experts say it can take weeks to confirm polio cases in poor countries like Yemen because stool samples must be sent to distant laboratories. Virus samples have been sent to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta for genotyping, which should reveal their origins.

Experts said all of the infected children had been vaccinated, but apparently not enough times. In countries with hot weather, open sewers and many intestinal viruses, it can take six to eight doses of polio vaccine to produce the same immunity that three or four doses

do in cooler, cleaner countries.

According to WHO, Yemen accounted for 36 percent of 1,310 polio cases registered worldwide in the first nine months of 2005.

The Ministry of Public Health and Population organized the anti-polio campaigns in cooperation with WHO and UNICEF in order to continue efforts to curb the disease's spread in Yemen.

However, during last year's vaccination drives, many parents refused vaccinations for their children, believing the shots could result in infertility. A number of local religious leaders also cautioned parents that the vaccinations were dangerous.

However, according to health workers, there has been a recent sea of change in citizens' attitudes as a result of awareness campaigns also involving progressive religious leaders.

Polio is an infection chiefly affecting children and young adults which can result in permanent paralysis of limbs. In its most perilous form, infection attacks the brain, causing complications sometimes resulting in death.

France donates \$1 million to WFP in Yemen

SANA'A, March 28 — The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) welcomed a \$1 million French donation for its projects in Yemen to assist more than 250,000 impoverished citizens, as well as 14,000 Somali refugees.

"We are extremely grateful for the generosity and timing of this donation. Until now, we have been constrained by severe shortfalls in funding," said Mohammed El-Khouthene, WFP representative in Yemen.

"I hope the French donation will contribute to promoting education of girls and eradicating malnutrition. At the same time, we are pleased that WFP is maximizing our support by earmarking \$300,000 to assist Somali refugees, whose humanitarian situation is also of concern to France," French Ambassador to Yemen Alain Moureau said.

Of the \$1 million donation, some \$700,000 will be targeted to support the WFP's girls' education program, while the remaining \$300,000 will be allocated to support the nutritional well-being of 30,500 citizens.

"Educating girls is essential. They are the future of this country as mothers, teachers and active members of society. They ensure that the population is educated and the country can move for-



The French Ambassador in one of the schools of Arhab.

ward," El-Khouthene stated.

At a cost of \$47 million, WFP's current five-year operation in Yemen launched in 2002 and emphasizes supporting basic education and nutrition, particularly among women and children. The U.N. agency also runs a separate \$3 million operation to assist the most vulnerable Somali refugees living in Yemen.

WFP's operation particularly focuses

on girls' education by providing parents a food ration as an incentive to send their daughters to school. Under its current operation, 70 percent of the agency's resources are focused on providing assistance to 100,000 girls in 1,300 rural schools located in Yemen's poorest rural areas. Results have been impressive, with an increased enrollment rate for girls, stable attendance and a reduced number of dropouts.

Foremost novelist Dammaj commemorated

By: Yemen Times Staff

A ceremony was held Monday, March 29, to mark the sixth anniversary of Zaid Mutee' Dammaj's death. The ceremony took place at the Yemen Writers Union in Sana'a in the presence of a large audience of writers, academics, and pressmen.

A number of addresses were delivered highlighting different aspects of late Dammaj's life and career. Among the speakers were Mohammed Al-Shaibani, Dr. Hatim Al-Sakr, Atef Awad, Dr. Hamdan Dammaj and Judge Lutf Al-Samawi.

Dr. Al-Sakr, an Iraqi professor at Sana'a University's Faculty of Mass Media, highlighted a relationship between Dammaj and James Joyce saying that Al-Raheena, Dammaj's masterpiece, could be used for drawing up a map of Taiz as that made of Dublin by means of Joyce's Ulysses. He also praised the techniques of the novel. He also elucidated the presence of multiplicity of interpretations of Al-Raheena.

On the other hand, Atif Awad, a Yemen-based Egyptian writer, pointed out that Al-Raheena's fame was at the expense of other praiseworthy works of Zaid Dammaj. Awad expounded on the distinctiveness of Dammaj's works that "best reflect Yemen with its different layers of constituents starting from the village, to the county, to the province and then the country as a whole. Dammaj is a writer humanistic to the marrow with art originating in Yemeni soil and providing a real delineation of the life and emotions of Yemenis, both males and females. He embodied the relationship of Yemeni literature with Yemen's issues and people."

Later, Dr. Hamdan Zaid Dammaj, eldest son of the late writer, delivered a speech. "Six years have elapsed since



Dr. Dammaj speaking at the ceremony.

PHOTO BY SHAKER AL-MOLSI

Zaid left us, or, let's say, we left him," he said, noting the profound awareness of the details of space and time prevalent in Dammaj's works. Being himself a poet and short story writer, Dr. Hamdan said that the reader of Zaid Mutee' Dammaj is faced with more and more discoveries.

However, Dr. Hamdan pointed out the unavailability of Zaid Mutee' Dammaj's works in the market. "I don't know why they, especially Al-Raheena, disappear a short time after they are on the market," something that should attract the attention of culture-fostering organizations. He also announced that Al-Raheena is to be republished by Tunisia-based publisher (Al-Janoub House) soon. Many literary projects centered around Zaid Mutee' Dammaj's works are to be implemented in the short run, Dr. Hamdan revealed. Among them are a website featuring all of his literary works, critical studies thereabout, newly discovered stories, and social and political essays.

He quoted Syrian poet Sulaiman Al-'Eesa's lines addressed to a Moroccan researcher who came to Yemen to conduct a study on Dammaj's works:

Look for him in Sana'a windows, in every Yemeni whoop.

Zaid was faring in the black eyes, in poverty and brilliant secrets,

He was a fragrance of the Queen's perfume she left to my people as a gift to the creative.

Judge Lutf Al-Samawi shed light on the familial roots of Zaid Dammaj and the outstanding record of his kinsmen in terms of revolution and patronization of learning.

Zaid Mutee' Dammaj was born in Ibb - Yemen, in 1944. He is the son of the well-known revolutionist Sheik Mutee Dammaj. Zaid Mutee' Dammaj's most famous for his novel "The Hostage" (Al-Raheena). It is one of the most famous novels in Yemen. Since it was published in Arabic first time in 1984, it has gained a lot of attention by Arabic readers both inside and outside Yemen. It has been republished several times and translated into English, French, German, and Hindi while Spanish and Russian translations are underway. In 1998, the novel was published in the UNESCO project "A book in a newspaper" (<http://thaqafa.sakhr.com/kitab/>), while in 2000, it was chosen by the Egyptian Writers Union as one of the best 100 Arabic novels in the 20th century.

Poverty reduction Communication Strategy workshop

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

SANA'A, March 28 — In cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the British Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Bank, the Ministry of Telecommunications and International Cooperation organized an interaction draft strategy workshop Monday, March 27 in Sana'a to support the third plan for development and poverty reduction.

Mohamed Tahir Hamid, a member of the technical team that prepared the workshop, explained the interaction strategy, mentioning the framework of interaction and direct and indirect factors that help or impair interaction. Direct factors are represented by infor-

mation institutions and personnel, while indirect factors involve availability of information and easy access to it, as well as legislative regulations.

The workshop aimed to explain the state's policies, approaches and commitments linked with development, poverty reduction and Millennium Development Goals. It also aimed at prompting partners to interact and participate in the goals to support them. Such interaction will be via effective dialogue and integrating resources.

The workshop tackled long-term objectives that will yield positive public response to development and poverty reduction activities, as well as raise public awareness with plans addressing sectors targeted by poverty reduction. Poverty's causes, its threats and the importance of efforts to limit its

impacts also were tackled.

Many non-governmental organizations, academics and specialists participated in the workshop.

Workshop discussions and debates concluded that awareness of sectors targeted with development, poverty reduction and threats of poverty plans should be promoted. The work mechanism, official and private media, government institutions and civil community organizations should be developed to promote interaction among targeted sectors and various state institutions to secure response.

They also tackled ideal exploitation of available resources and financing media efforts with skills and knowledge supporting development which reduces poverty. Such support should be in both official and private sectors.

Aden governor inaugurates International Book Fair

ADEN, March 28 — On Monday, Aden Governor Ahmad Mohamed Al-Kuhlani opened the International Book Fair being staged at the Aden Mall Trade Center.

The fair is being organized by the General Book Authority (GBA) in cooperation with the Book Friends Forum, Al-Ghanem Foundation and the International Exhibition.

During his visit to the fair, Al-Kuhlani said the current event is associated not only with exhibiting books; rather, it concerns several companies providing new computer software and other equipment. He hoped all citizens would visit and benefit from the fair, which includes

local and foreign publishers merchandizing more than 17,000 book titles in various areas.

The governor emphasized that the fair will be held annually in Aden.

The event is being staged as part of GBA interests to provide youths with books, information and modern means of knowledge, particularly software, merchandized for the first time in the city.

The GBA Aden-Lahj-Abyan branch manager confirmed that it will hold symposiums on various subjects, including a paper on the saying, "The End of History." Symposiums also will be devoted to reading techniques, reading Yemeni poems, children's

culture, moderation in Islam, history of books and libraries in Aden, as well as history of song in Aden.

Gov. Al-Kuhlani paid a survey visit to the National Library in Kraiter and toured its sections including the library's internal information network. He appreciated the role the National Library plays in providing numerous means of knowledge.

The governor stated that he will help library staff overcome any difficulties they face and contribute in rehabilitating the library. Al-Kuhlani also visited Al-Eklil Al-Jadeed Library, touring its wings, viewing its contents and praising its improvement and modern organization.

Francophone week held at French Cultural Center

By: Yemen Times Staff

The Henri De Monfried Center (French Cultural Center) organized Francophone week from Saturday, March 18 through Wednesday, March 22.

Last week's many activities included drawing workshops in the Old City of Sana'a and dictation contests in French for students of various levels. Events included other functions such as concerts and balls.

Students recited French poetry for the

occasion and chatted online with students at French universities, while galleries were organized featuring works by a number of artists. French food also found a place during the week, with affordably priced meals to be made available at the center.

Center director Alain Joly held a press conference in which he introduced Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, explaining its purpose and system. The organization counts 53 countries as members and another 10 as observers.

Expired medicine cost YR 60 million

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, March 29 — The cost of expired drugs in Medicine Fund stores at the end of September 2005 was valued at YR 60 million, while hospitals and clinical centers experience serious lack of lifesaving medicines, such as drugs for cancer, diabetes and kidney failure.

The medicines were supposed to have been distributed to hospitals under the

state's medicine policy, which stipulates selling them to citizens at cost as part of its subsidy to poor patients. Unfortunately, the medicines did not find their way to patients and instead remained stored until they expired.

A Central Committee for Control and Audit annual statement pointed to the Medicine Fund's deteriorated performance in distributing medicines. It also disclosed a decrease in retrieving revenues from medicine distribution pro-

ceeds, which did not exceed 7.6 percent of total medicine sales value for 2004.

A question arises: Who is responsible for public property spoiling in the Medicine Fund and what measures will the Ministry of Health take to activate the fund's performance in order to secure citizens' access to subsidized medicine and reduce patients' suffering?

Continued from page 1

Teachers' strike mounts to sit-in at Parliament

However, a March 25 Interior Ministry press statement warned teachers against participating in planned protests. "This is an infringement of 2003's Law No. 29 stipulating that licenses must be granted for any protest," the statement noted. "Those calling for such a protest are to be held accountable for any riots or other lawless acts."

YTS initially called for the strike following last week's breakdown in talks with the government. "We're demanding higher pay for teaching staff and protesting against harassment we've faced to deter us from striking," Al-Rubaihi said. He went on to complain of heavy-handed measures against dissatisfied schoolteachers, including arrests, dismissals and threats of salary suspensions.

"We've used all possible means, including wearing red badges and staging partial strikes, to pressure the government to meet our demands," he noted. Teachers are insisting on a 110-percent pay rise, including allowances. Currently, schoolteachers are paid the equivalent of between \$150 and \$200 monthly. Assistant professors at universities are paid the monthly equivalent of \$500.

Al-Rubaihi explained that the quality of education nationwide can be expect-

ed to deteriorate unless teachers' demands are met. "In a society plagued with illiteracy and poverty, the role of teachers is vital," he noted. "Unless they are paid well, they won't be able to perform their jobs properly."

According to government statistics, nearly 50 percent of the population between ages 10 and 45 are illiterate. The number hovers at about 30 percent among men and exceeds 67 percent among women.

Civil Service Minister Hamoud Khalid Al-Sufi expressed disapproval at the planned strike. "Teachers should know that pay rises are governed by available resources and the state's overall economic structure," he said. With teachers representing half the country's civil service, he added, available resources are insufficient to increase salaries across the board.

Security apparatuses have taken illegal measures against several women teachers. A teacher at Um Salamah School said she received a letter from school administration suspending her from work because she went on strike.

Another teacher at the same school said the administration notified her that she will be given compulsory leave or fired if she does not stop striking. She said teachers face such tough and arbitrary measures for claiming their legal

rights.

MP Fuad Dehabah commented, "For us, this is not the first time to see authorities commit such irresponsible acts against employees claiming their legal rights ensured by law."

In a statement, a copy of which was obtained by the Yemen Times, many syndicates denounced police actions like blocking provincial capital entrances to prevent teachers coming from rural areas from approaching government offices to claim their rights. Police also fired at protesters to disperse them, as happened in Al-Radhma in Ibb governorate and other places.

A delegation from teachers, education professionals and technical education syndicates met a parliamentary committee headed by Deputy Parliament Speaker Ja'afar Ba Saleh to discuss teachers' and education workers' demands.

Both sides agreed that the three syndicates' chiefs could attend Parliament's March 29 session, but the three were surprised at being prevented from entering Parliament that day. Technical Education Syndicate Chief Yahya Al-Hakim explained that they agreed with MPs to allow them to attend Parliament's Wednesday session, but they later were prevented from entering Parliament.

Free press ordeals continue

Al-Jaradi condemned Al-Mithaq, which published the accusations against Al-Bukari and Amir on its back page, calling on it not to be a means of stabbing its colleagues in the back. Islah Party (the largest opposition party) also denounced such instigations by ruling party press against journalists. A statement by Islah's culture and information department said it is greatly concerned about Al-Mithaq's publication against Al-

Bukari and Amir, maintaining that such an instigation campaign comes within an environment of hostility against journalists. The Islah statement added that it considers the continuing campaign intellectual terrorism oppressing free and independent press and it holds public media accountable for what happens to journalists as a result of such hostility campaigns.

In a related issue, President Saleh

also condemned the press this week, alleging that it dared to attack security and armed forces. He asserted that such attacks come from opposition forces that use the press to attack military institutions. In his address to military commanders at the consultancy meeting, the president directed Parliament to take measures to prevent such attacks against security and armed forces institutions, which are a sign of national unity.

Official media launch a campaign following Mahboub Ali's resignation

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate is under pressure

Official media launch a campaign to select new leadership for journalists and institute change in a syndicate that has not been pleasing the government since February 2004 elections.

By: Mustafa Rajeh

SANA'A, March 29 — When Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) chief Mahboub Ali suddenly resigned his post for health reasons, some officials considering YYS a foe initiated meetings and preparations to work on reshuffling it. Ali's resignation marks the beginning of a broad media campaign to uncover the YYS council's failure and the necessity for a new face to lead journalists.

The campaign appeared on the front pages of the official newspapers, particularly Al-Jumhouria, Al-Thawrah and 14 October papers. The accusations culminated with the ruling party-affiliated Al-Methaq publishing last Monday charges against the YYS Secretary General Hafez Al-Bukari and Al-Wasat Editor Jamal Amer. The paper said the two journalists' prospective visit to the U.S. comes in the framework of personal tasks.

Al-Methaq added Hafez Al-Bukari headed for Paris during the past few days in a surprise visit to journalists having dubious relations with foreign governments and organizations.

Al-Methaq pointed out its sources weighed that Al-Bukari headed for Denmark to get financial support due to be spent on an electoral campaign for him to stand in the YYS elections.

A YYS spokesman expressed concern



over what he described as a broad instigation campaign against journalists. Also he criticized what has been published by Al-Methaq paper.

The YYS Media Committee Head Ali Al-Jaradi claimed the official parties and the Interior Ministry to take measures against the instigative address aimed at spreading the culture of hatred. The address, he noted, sparked violations against journalists nationwide and acts of vandalism, mounting up to assassination attempts like what happened to journalist Haj'e Al-Jehafi. Al-Jaradi called on his colleagues not to bear animosity toward each other.

The YYS explained the travel of Jamal Amer and Murad Hashem Manager of the Sana'a-based Al-Jazeera Space

Television Office to Washington is part of the international visitor's program to the United States. Al-Bukari traveled to the U.S. to take part in a symposium on Yemen's democracy in Washington.

YYS never received any welcome from authorities following its February 2004 elections. Its leaders face charges of being loyal to opposition parties and failing to run the syndicate. YYS member Sami Ghaleb holds a different viewpoint, saying such charges are untrue. Theoretically, the YYS council is composed of 12 members, five of whom belong to the ruling party, plus the chief, while seven members have opposition party affiliations.

The YYS council's performance was influenced by loyalty to the profession and its members never differed during this period due to party grounds. Some commented on a solidarity statement, but later apologized for it.

More than 900 journalists met at the General Association in February 2004 and elected their current syndicate staff to a four-year term. Elections were described as a success, not only at the YYS level but also at the level of civil community organizations. Such success was attributed to unity of parties coming from different parties, thereby giving the profession more precedence than other political affiliations.

Authority and opposition attempts to make journalists submit to political directives failed, while a young leadership succeeded in obtaining the journal-



Mahboub Ali.

ism community's trust.

Since its first day, the new YYS leadership found itself exposed to a series of official party assaults. The recent YYS chief's resignation was tendered in the middle of the council legal period. YYS bylaws stipulate that the council must call on the General Association to select a new chief within three months.

However, those insisting on reshuffling the council can choose one of two points: whether the YYS chief attributed his resignation to justifications pressuring the General Association to hold the YYS council to account or some YYS council members should resign during the prospective General Association meeting.

Yemen News Editor Nabil Al-Sofi said, "I don't want to attribute Ali's resignation to official performance beyond political control, as such is not new. We must accept part of the diagnosis implying a gap in the syndicate's performance."

According to Al-Sofi, official media suffer insurmountable confusion in dealing with local and external issues. Official media are required to continue the former media role of operating in favor of the authority. After being exposed to new shocks, including a political address welcoming democratic transformation, official media became unable to perform its task.

For these reasons, Al-Sofi holds the view that the campaign regarding YYS affairs is attributed to a personal factor

on the part of colleagues working for official media, who tend to discuss what's in their vicinity, which is any journalism-related issue. Due to the authority's animosity toward the syndicate, which defended its members, according to Al-Sofi, criticism of the syndicate is defined by being a political foe planning to reach two achievements: one personal and the other seemingly in line with the political address holding the view that the syndicate threatens the functions of civic forces centers.

Reuters reporter Mohamed Al-Ghubari is of the opinion that government anger at the syndicate's performance began when the third general conference ended and it became apparent that government could not achieve its

ambition to control the YYS council. According to Al-Ghubari, the government works hard to freeze YYS activities and divide it.

As government has moves and obligations toward the international community concerning enhancing freedoms and liberating media ownership, YYS denounces any freedom-related abuses and opposes government directives regarding the new Press Law.

Ghaleb said Ali's resignation would not have sparked such controversy if it was not tendered suddenly, particularly as the syndicate's internal system set mechanisms for electing a new chief. Ali offered his resignation at a time witnessing sharp controversy over the new Press Law.

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Schools also on the front lines in Iraq

Violence does not spare schools in Iraq, hampering efforts to rebuild the country's education system.

By: Alexandra Zavis and Bushra juh

BAGHDAD, March 25, (AP) — The day began like any other at Dijla Primary School in Baghdad's posh Mansour district. Rows of students in neat grey and white uniforms gathered in the courtyard to raise the Iraqi flag and sing the national anthem. They read passages from religious texts, and then cheerfully went to their classrooms. Headmistress Wajida Sharhan was working in her office when a mortar shell slammed into a second-floor fifth grade classroom.

"The sound of the explosion was so powerful, as if heaven and earth collided," she said. "I couldn't open my eyes because of the dust. I heard loud screams from the children, and a girl came into my office with her arm nearly cut off."

The torrent of violence that has swept Baghdad and surrounding provinces since U.S. forces invaded three years ago, and surged since last month's attack on a Shiite shrine, has left little unscathed even schools. What were once sanctuaries of learning have become places of fear, undercutting efforts to rebuild the dilapidated education system left by Saddam Hussein?

Bombs, rockets, mortar and machine-gun fire killed 64 schoolchildren in the four months ending Feb. 28 alone, according to a report by the Education Ministry. At least 169 teachers and 84 other employees died in the same period.

"We are in a society of insecurity," said Education Minister Abdul Fallah al-Sudani. "Schools are not excluded from the suffering of our society."

It is unclear why the Dijla School was struck last October, but mortar rounds are difficult to aim. The school is located in a religiously mixed neighborhood that is home to a number of government officials and other prominent Iraqis.

But dozens of other schools were targeted in the weeks before December parliamentary elections, when their use as polling stations put them on the front line of insurgents' efforts to derail the vote. More recently, schools have been caught in the wave of sectarian killing unleashed by the Feb. 22 destruction of a revered Shiite shrine in Samara.

In one case, gunmen pulled over a school bus carrying about 25 high school girls in a mostly Sunni neighborhood of Baghdad on March 8, shooting and

killing the driver in front of his terrified passengers. In another, a security guard caught a would-be suicide bomber with explosives strapped to his waist as he mingled with children entering a primary school in a mostly Shiite neighborhood on March 14.

Iraq once had one of the best education systems in the Middle East, but its schools and universities crumbled under two decades of war and neglect. Teaching methods became outdated, enrollment dropped, and adult literacy fell to less than 60 percent one of the lowest rates in the Arab world.

The system has been a focus of U.S. efforts to rebuild Iraq. Nearly 3,000 schools have been refurbished; more than 8 million textbooks distributed and 30,000 teachers received training since 2003, according to U.S. government figures.



Students of Dijla primary school play in their school in Baghdad, Iraq. Dijla school was attacked with a mortar shell, killing one student and injuring ten in Feb. 2006.

AP Photo

Al-Sudani, the education minister, has ambitious plans to modernize the curriculum, restock libraries and put computers in every school. But the unrelenting bloodshed hampers progress.

After Saddam's fall, Dijla Primary School received a thorough spruce-up. Walls were painted, air conditioners and water coolers installed, and students got new paper and pencils.

But when Sharham, 61, ran upstairs after the shell landed, what she saw was bedlam. Desks and chairs were torn to pieces. Shoes, clothes, books and sandwiches were scattered everywhere. And pools of blood stained the floor.

Panicked children streamed downstairs, dust and blood covering their faces. The surrounding streets filled with desperate parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles calling children's

names.

The blast wounded 10 students, and 11-year-old Hassan Esam was killed. His photograph hangs in Sharhan's office a poignant reminder of that October day.

Dijla closed for a few weeks, but staff and parents rallied to get children back in class. Every day mothers accompany their children to school and wait in the dining room until it is time to take them home. On a blackboard in the hallway is written: "Forgive your enemy, nothing torments him more."

Shahad Haidr, the shy 11-year-old in a bright red headscarf whose arm was nearly sliced off, is back and studying hard to become a pediatrician. But classmate Saad Hassanein, who lost a leg in the blast, refuses to enter the building.

Saad did her midyear exams in a car parked behind the school and is now in Jordan, learning to use a prosthetic leg.

"Those who did this are merciless people," said Saad's mother, who refuses to give her name for fear the family will be targeted. "I don't know what will happen, or where she will continue her studies, because things are unstable in Iraq."

Attacks and threats shut 417 schools between Oct. 27 and Feb. 28 most only for a few weeks, but some longer disrupting the education of thousands of children. The violence was concentrated in the capital and the volatile provinces of Anbar, Diyala and Babil, according to the Education Ministry report.

In the most dangerous areas, some parents prefer to keep their children home. Nawal, a first grade teacher in the tough Abu Ghraib neighborhood, said parents have pulled 12 children from her class since September.

The Education Ministry can arrange transfers, but there is still the trip to and from school to negotiate a gauntlet of bombs, gunfire and kidnappers. At least 47 children were abducted for ransom in the period covered by the report.

It takes Nawal, 42, two hours to get to work. A few weeks ago, a roadside bomb narrowly missed the minibus she shares with other teachers. Days later, bullets whizzed by them as gunmen fired on an American patrol.

"My colleagues weren't as brave as me," she said. "They started crying."

Many of her students have seen loved ones hurt, killed, and struggle to concentrate on their schoolwork, she said. One bright 7-year-old is the daughter of a feared insurgent and is isolated by students and staff alike.

Nawal, a Shiite Muslim, gave only one name for fear of reprisal in the mostly Sunni neighborhood where she works.

Have YOUR say: help shape UK international development policy

What needs to be done to eradicate poverty? The UK Government wants to hear what you think about the future of international development. How can we best help?

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) wants to hear from you as it writes a new plan of action for the next five years. Much was achieved in 2005. The United Nations, G8, European Union, African Union and others made commitments to deliver more and better aid worth an extra \$50 billion per year, as well as debt relief for 32 countries worth \$55 billion, including \$22m for Yemen in 2005/2006, fairer trade and better governance.

But although progress has been made, there is much work to be done. As Tony Blair, the UK Prime Minister said after the G8 summit, when the world's eight richest countries met to discuss international development - this isn't the end of world poverty, but it might be the beginning of the end.

What we need now is action. We want to **ensure commitments are delivered.** Donors must follow through on the increased financing they have promised, and developing countries must use it in the best interests of their citizens.

To ensure our plan, which is called the new White Paper on International Development, is as effective as it can be, we need your help. You understand the issues - for example how to guarantee access to clean water, how to give all children the schooling they deserve, how to provide mothers with the healthcare they need, how to tackle corruption. So what are the solutions? **DFID is inviting people to email or write in**

For more information on how you can comment on the White Paper consultation, please go to www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006 or write your thoughts to DFID, British Embassy, P.O. Box 1287, Sana'a, Yemen

with their opinions on what it sees as some of the main challenges:

Firstly, how can the UK Government work with countries like Yemen to accelerate development and reduce poverty? For example, how should foreign aid money be used by the Yemeni government? Should aid be provided direct to the Government or through local groups, and NGOs? What is the right balance and why?

Secondly, international development is about more than just aid money. The UK Government recognises the impact of other policies on developing countries - development needs a global environment that supports rather than undermines it. So what policies are needed in the UK and internationally to tackle corruption for example, or to ensure that the international trading system works for Yemen?

Thirdly, how can the international development system as a whole, made up as it is of a vast number of different agencies such as the United Nations, European Union, World Bank, be reformed so that it delivers better results for development, and is more responsive to the needs of poor people in Yemen and other countries?

Let's work together to end poverty. Have your say.

*Hilary Benn
UK Secretary of State for International Development*



Head of Bayer Healthcare in the Middle East

natco

Bayer provides Yemeni market with different kinds of effective medicine

By: Hamud Al-Hashmi
Amel Al-Ariqi

“Germany’s Bayer Healthcare returns to the Yemeni market after more than 20 years of absence” stated Deputy Managing Director of the National Trade Company (Natco) Mohammed Abdulkawi during the two ceremonies held in Sana’a and Taiz.

The first ceremony held on Wednesday, March 22 at the Movenpick Hotel in Sana’a. Sana’a Mayor Dr. Yahia Alshuaibi, Sana’a governor Abdulwahed Albukhiti and more than 300 key medical opinion leaders in Yemen, besides several diplomats, as well as Yemeni officials and businessmen attended the ceremony.

The second ceremony held on Thursday, March 23 in Taiz in the presence of Secretary-general of the local council Mr. Mohammed Alhaj,

deputy Chairman of the board of Hayel Saeed Anam Group Dr. Ahmed Hayel Saeed Anam, the head of development and planning committee in the local council in Taiz governorate Shawqi Ahmed Hayel and some officials and businessmen.

Good relationship

Dr. Gamal Mikhail, head of Bayer Healthcare in the Middle East, explained why the company was not active in the past two decades, especially to make it clear for other companies’ directors who got the wrong impression on the investment atmosphere in Yemen.

Abdulkawi referred to exchange visits between Natco and Bayer that served to attract Bayer’s attention: “Our will to deal with Bayer is due to the fact that it is one of the world’s largest medicine producers.”

He added that talks with Bayer began in 1999, resulting in an agreement to award Natco exclusive rights to import the company’s products to Yemen. He appreciated Mikhail’s role in convincing Bayer to resume exporting its products to Yemen.

“Bringing Bayer back to Yemen was a success for Yemeni-German relations and for Natco, namely to do business with famous world companies like Bayer.” Based on its success in other countries, Abdulkawi expects Bayer would be very successful in the Yemeni market.

Mikhail, in his turn, said that the company was worked hard to make a successful partnership with Yemeni companies as well as to provide the best health care for Yemeni patients. He added that the goal of the company was to use science to provide better life.

“Bayer’s main objective is to provide Yemeni patients with high quality medications that have been tested and proved their positive affects.”

He also pointed to Bayer’s future in Yemen: “We have ambitious plans. We are planning to improve doctors’ skills by providing them with educational systems to improve their scientific knowledge and sponsor them to attend conferences and symposiums abroad to put them in touch with the most modern scientific research.”

At a press conference organized for this occasion, Mikhail confirmed that the company has taken measures to prevent faking its medicines and that the first medicine shipment has arrived in Yemen.

In this regard, Sana’a Mayor Dr. Yahia Alshuaibi confirmed the importance of fighting medicine smuggling by allowing the medicine companies and factories to invest legally, directly or through its agents in Yemen. He referred to Bayer

healthcare company as an international company distinguished by high quality products that help many patients in the world. Alshuaibi also called for encouraging the investment in Yemen confirming that Yemeni government is working to remove all the obstacles that may prevent such investments.

Bayer Productions in Yemen

The German company announced officially the launch of the world famous Aspirin medicine and Levitra in the Yemeni market during the two ceremonies.

“Since its birth on March 1899 Aspirin has been known as a treatment for headaches and migraine. Aspirin has been also regarded by the health community as preventing cardiac attacks and stroke,” said Dr. Mikhail.

“All of us at Bayer Healthcare Middle East are very proud to be introducing Aspirin Protect to Yemeni patients to help prevent heart attacks,” he added.

He confirmed that The WHO classified Aspirin as an ‘essential medicine’ because of its efficiency, tolerability, global availability and affordability.

Dr. Eman Degheidy said that Aspirin Protect was specially developed to reduce the risk of heart attacks and strokes, leading to improved survival rate. She pointed to studies which have confirmed that Aspirin has a primary preventive effect and is able to prevent initial cardiac problem.” According to the analysis of 287 studies done on 135,000 patients in 2003 by American Medical Association, taking Aspirin on a regular basis, these people can reduce their elevated risk of suffering a first cardiac problem by up to 32 percent.”

Regarding Levitra medicine, which was described as “revolution in treating male impotence”, Dr. Tareq Eldessouky confirmed that the studies that were carried out lately in Europe and North America showed the guaranteed effect of this medicine “Levitra recorded 92% efficiency rate among men that suffered impotence.”

He said that Levitra was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of impotence on August 19, 2003.

Eman Ali, Manager of the Emerging Markets in the Middle East, pointed out to the other products. she said that Bayer has studied Yemen’s markets to learn its medicine needs and will export different medicines to Yemen such as Avalox (antibiotic), and Glucobay (diabetes medicine) besides Aspirin and Levitra.

Bayer is known for its discovery of aspirin, as well as discovery of medicine overcoming male impotence. Represented by 350 compa-

nies in five continents, the company has 93,700 employees worldwide, according to its December 31, 2005 statistics.

Bayer HealthCare is built upon a foundation that is steeped in tradition - more than 100 years of medical innovation and social responsibility provide an outstanding basis for constant success.

Natco is one of Hayel Saeed Anam Group of companies. It was established in 1980 to achieve leadership in the field of trading, marketing, and services. Natco represents some of the most famous multinational brands in Electronics, pharmaceuticals, Electromechanical, Business Information System, Auto, home appliances and Air-conditioning. It has an excellent distribution network as well as showrooms and after sales service covering all major cities in Yemen.



HSA Deputy Chairman with Byer M. E. Manager.



HSA Deputy Chairman with Byer Emerging Marketing Manager



Mr. Mohammed Abdulkawi, Deputy Managing Director.



Dr. Gamal Mikhail, Head of Bayer Middle East.



VIP guests.



HSA Group Chairman and H.E. Minister of State, Sana'a Mayor.



VIP guests.



Sana'a launch.



Bayer & Natco Management.



Deputy Chairman, HSA Group, and Taiz Governorate officials.



Taiz launch.



Press conference.



Press conference.

Translation offices lack competence

The future of translation in Yemen is not promising, as the number of non-professional translators increases. Nearly every day, UNESCO in Sana'a receives complaints about translation offices making mistakes in translation.

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri
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Increasing demand for translation services necessitates the existence of translation offices. Translation services figure prominently in various aspects of life, especially in light of increased communication between countries, international relations, exchange of cultures and dialogue of civilizations. Translation offices in Yemen offer various types of translation, especially commercial translation. They offer translation services for individuals, firms and governmental institutions. More than any other languages, most translations offered are English and Arabic.

"Authorized Translation" is a catchphrase found in all translation offices. One sometimes finds claims like, "Translation of all languages," "Instant Translation," "All kinds of translations" and "Specialized Translators and Interpreters," but whether these slogans are true is not certain. For one thing, in any translation office, a translator is ready to translate any type of translation although not specialized in one specific type. Also, should one visit a translation office claiming to translate all languages and request German translation, the office often will inform such client that the specialized translation is absent or on vacation.

Of course, there are incompetent and nonprofessional translators, as evidenced by some who discover translation mistakes when they receive their translated works. "Every day we receive more than one complaint against translation offices," noted Adel Al-Haddad, director of UNESCO's translation department in Sana'a.

Clients perhaps do not care about a translation office's authorization as much as they care about getting their

documents translated at a low price. "When I want to get my commercial documents translated, I visit different translation offices, finally choosing the one offering the lowest price. I never ask a translator for his authorization license, as I only care to understand the document's contents," admitted Khalid Al-Matari, who regularly deals with translation offices.

Not everyone can be an authorized translator without UNESCO approval. Opening a translation office should be under approval of the Sana'a-based Culture Office. Al-Haddad explained, "The one intending to open a translation office should meet some conditions, most notably he should have five years' minimum experience. He should be an English Department graduate in the Faculty of Languages, the Faculty of Arts or the Faculty of Education, with at least a bachelor's degree. If he passes translation exams, then we grant him a certificate stating his competence in translation. In view of this certificate, the Sana'a Culture Office grants him a license to open his own translation office."

Translation office owners undoubtedly hire other translators not approved by UNESCO to help them complete different types of translation services. Most are nonprofessional, while some translate on a trial basis. Al-Haddad says he conducts field visits to translation offices to ensure authorized translators. If he finds unauthorized translators, he questions the translation office owner and then informs the Culture Office's general secretary.

Translator Nasser Al-Hamami confessed to working as a translator in a leading Hadda Street translation office in Sana'a. "Last year, I worked as a translator in one of the most well-known translation offices. I attended the morning shift, as the owner was busy with other work. I translated all

kinds of material – economic, commercial and medical reports. The office owner only attended the second shift," Al-Hamami explained. He added that such offices translate all types of translation, although it does not match with the translator's competence.

A few weeks ago, UNESCO issued a general statement warning translation offices about translation mistakes: "Any translation mistake will lead us to shut down the translation office."

It is observed that translation services have become a trade more than a business. Several shops recently have opened on Sana'a main streets, most notably around Sana'a University. Such shops first offered typing and other computer services, but later added translation service. However, some take such shops for granted, being attracted by false mottos like "Authorized Translation." Workers in such shops are not authorized translators. While they have a fair knowledge of English, they mostly depend upon electronic translation programs like Al-Wafi.

Al-Haddad noted that UNESCO is not responsible for supervising such shops. "We are mainly concerned with supervising UNESCO-approved translators. Other shops offering translation services should be supervised by the Culture Office." He added that UNESCO's translation department only reviews certain translated documents by authorized translators. "We only review documents like certificates and similar official documents. We do not review all types of documents."

If translation mistakes are reported, Al-Haddad explained, "When a translator makes mistakes in translating some documents, we deal with the matter with humanitarian methods. We bring the document back to the translator, asking him to correct any translation mistakes found."



This is one of the translation offices in Sana'a, and its owner is translating some documents.

Translation mistakes are unavoidable and the extent of mistakes differs from one translator to another. While some translators make slight spelling mistakes, others make gross mistakes in grammar or use inappropriate words. In reading store and trade shop signboards, one notices phrases incorrectly translated from Arabic to English.

Translation office owner Basel Ali said a translator may make mistakes when translating hastily. Negligence and work pressure also lead to translation mistakes. "Some clients want their documents translated as soon as possible. This in turn creates a problem for the translator and in this case, mistakes are inevitable. Sometimes a translator makes a technical mistake such as dropping some sentences without noticing it." Ali added that he hires outside translators to help him complete some works, but he reviews their

translation to make sure everything is OK.

Generally speaking, the Yemeni translation situation is the result of numerous factors. Al-Haddad pointed out that there is no association for translators as in other countries. Al-Hamami attributed the situation to the fact that there are no specialized translators with professional skills. Others say there is no college for translation skills in Yemen.

"Those who graduate from the English Department in the Faculty of Arts, Languages or Education have not received sufficient translation courses," said Mohammed Abdullah, a graduate of Sana'a University's Faculty of Languages. Even the Faculty of Languages' Arabic and Translation Department does not qualify students as translators, as the syllabus focuses more on Arabic language.

"While Arabic and Translation

Department graduates are good in Arabic language, they lack important aspects of the English language. This affects the way they translate Arabic texts into English," Al-Hamami commented.

Mohammed Ali, a Sudanese translator residing in Sana'a, said, "Translation in Yemen depends on those with experience, especially in existing translation offices. The standard dictionary of expressions used is very limited and, to a further extent, seems to be memorized by users, as it mostly relates to commercial agreements and contract terms."

Unlike countries such as Egypt and Jordan, Yemen lacks firms specialized in translation services. Literary works, international conventions and other books remain untranslated in Yemen, as there are very few professional Yemeni translators able to translate such great projects.



Save the Children Sweden
المنظمة السويدية لرعاية الأطفال

VACANCIES

Save the Children-Sweden is a Swedish non-governmental organization working for the implementation and promotion of children's rights.

Save the Children-Sweden is seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

- 1) A **program officer** (two positions) based in Sana'a but with frequent travel within the Republic of Yemen and the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Region.

Requirements

- At minimum, a university degree in law, social studies, economics or other relevant fields.
- At least three years experience with an international NGO, a UN agency or a similar experience.
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.
- Computer skills
- Knowledge about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights global and regional treaties is an advantage.
- Ability to work under pressure and the ability to work in team.
- Management and leadership skills.

Responsibilities

- Plans and monitors the implementation of activities with the partner national organizations/institutions.
- Works with the country and regional teams to develop the program in Yemen and the MENA region.
- Collects, analyzes and documents information pertaining to children and children's rights in Yemen on regular basis.
- Represents SC-Sweden in forums and meetings as requested by the country manager.
- Submits periodic reports as requested by the country and/or regional office.

- 2) An **Accountant** based in Sana'a but with frequent travel within the Republic of Yemen and the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Region.

Requirements

- At minimum, a university degree in accounting and/or business administration
- At least three years experience in accounting with an international NGO, a UN agency or a similar experience.
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.
- Excellent Computer skills
- Knowledge about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights global and regional treaties is an advantage.
- Ability to work under pressure and to work in a team.
- Management and leadership skills.
- High level of honesty and integrity
- Accurate, thorough, and able to consistently meet deadlines

Responsibilities

- Double entry book-keeping
- Generates monthly financial statements and send it to the regional and head offices on a timely basis
- Maintains proper cash controls, and prepares bank reconciliation
- Prepares budgets including monthly cash budgets
- Ensures records are accurate and up to date
- Prepares financial reports to donors
- Supports the local NGO's and review their financial reports

- 3) An **Administrative assistant** based in Sana'a but with frequent travel within the Republic of Yemen.

Requirements

- At minimum, a university degree business administration or relevant fields
- At least two years experience in administration with an international NGO, a UN agency or a similar experience.
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.
- Excellent Computer skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure and to work in a team.
- Management and leadership skills.
- Accurate, thorough, and able to consistently meet deadlines
- Knowledge about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights global and regional treaties is an advantage.

Responsibilities

- Receptionist/Operator
- Filing
- Prepares agendas for meetings and takes minutes
- Documents
- Manages the library
- Maintains cash books
- Flexible to take other tasks when needed.

Application

Qualified and interested individuals are kindly requested to send their application including CV and supporting certificates and documents with cover letter (quoting the post title) to Save the Children Sweden only via email to info.yemen@scsmena.org or fax (+967-1) 417636. Applications are accepted no later than 7 April 2006. Short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews. For more information about Save the Children Sweden, visit website www.scsmena.org or www.rb.se

Anything but Egypt

By: Atif Awad

Egypt is a melting pot; a crucible of all identities, creeds and religions. In Egypt, all ethnic conventions and privacies disappear, simply and easily, without oppression or constraints. All that remains in Egypt is the Egyptian Arab: That Egyptian creation where "Religion is for God and Land is for all." Muslim, Christian Orthodox, Catholic, Sunni, Shiite, Theological Human Naturalist, Hanafi or Hanbali, an Egyptian remains, above all else, an Egyptian Arab.

The Egyptians were never forced into this reasoning; it was their natural ten-

dency and desire to be this way. Anyone living in the Land of the Kenanah becomes an Egyptian. For ages it has served as a strong barrier in the face of plots, intrigues and fabricated sedition by British and French colonizers. Even the Mamalek and the Turks tried their hand at this game against the Egyptians. In the end all that remained were the Egyptian Arabs as they desperately defended Egyptian unity above all other identities found in the north or in the south.

There are those in Egypt, however, who sow the seeds of dissension between Muslims and Christians groups, trying to prevent public unity. The question has been asked if they have succeeded in provoking religious

discord, with the rumblings of religious differences and claims to superiority from these small groups. In the meantime these same devils' advocates have recently resorted to ethnic and sectarian appeals when their religious appeals have failed.

I was dumb founded when I heard on Al-Jazeera the Nuba citizens claiming Nubians "were oppressed". The speaker alleged racism was practiced against them and, consequently, called for Nuba secession from Egypt. Nuba is as dear a portion of Egypt as are those of the East, of the South, of Tanta or Ismailia. No one in his right mind would dare claim that the



By: Atif Awad

government was practicing racism on any group of people, be they Easterners, Southerners, or of any region. And no one in their complete senses shouts for secession from Egypt.

Shame on you, you Nubian devil: it is not Egypt who practices racism on its people. Our diversity does not allow for such racism, be it against Nubians or any of its citizens. Nor am I defending the government when I say it is not a governmental policy construct, nor that of any previous governments. Our diversity is a result of the work of

our people through the ages, where Egyptian integrity has been distinguished and has been seen in our industry of wisdom and genius for more than six thousand years.

How dare this so called defender of the Nubians set in motion such a dirty joke? He would have been more sensible had he asked for the improvement of the status of Nubians as well as all other Egyptians. He should have demanded justice for all classes who live in Egypt who are crushed and want more than just crumbs handed out to them.

As for the accusation from some stating that Nubians are facing eradication and that their identities are being wiped out by the Egyptian government; let them consider what real Egyptians have

set out to do. They look for the special merits of those within our Egyptian communities in literature, poetry and music from areas such as Alexandria, the Suez, the East, the South, and Nuba as well. Composers like Nubian Mohammed Munir have come to light because of their work, a reflection of the Egyptian identity with all of its diversity.

Shame on you Nubian devil for following suit of those Zionist devils that work so hard to dismantle our Arab region of its religion, nationalities, and ethnicity exactly as it is happening now in Lebanon and Iraq.

Atif Awad is an Egyptian journalist and short story writer residing in Yemen.

The U.S. State Department report and human rights

By: Abdulbari Taher

Since 1994, the U.S. Department of State has devoted part of its official report to Yemen's human rights and freedom situation. It prepared an agenda to hold symposiums and discussions on the report by concerned civil community organizations.

Actually, this report often sparks reactions and political controversy between the regime and the opposition. If the opposition receives it with good spirit and morale, official reactions seem to be characterized by denunciation and justification. During Amatalalim Al-Soswa's post, Yemen's Human Rights Ministry was moderate enough to welcome criticism.

Yemen's official response to the State Department report was expected to be sharp and more justified due to exacerbation of human rights in a country preparing for presidential and local elections. Yemen also is approaching parliamentary elections in response to the ruling party's desire.

While the government fluctuates between denouncing and justifying human rights abuses registered in the report, the opposition hesitates

between condemning such abuses and criticizing U.S. official reports for not including all human rights abuses in Yemen.

The report is of great importance to a backward country like Yemen that has close links with dictatorship and totalitarianism. The report's roots extend back to pre-state times and the report writer has a well-heard word in the U.S. Administration. The report is characterized as containing shortcomings for criticizing partial violations and condoning the core of the problem causing harmful epidemics to human life and rights.

It is no wonder the report is not obliged to study and analyze the social phenomenon producing various types of oppression and violations. But the regime must not be labeled as democratic or undemocratic on the basis of its nearness to or distance from the U.S. line and concern for its interests.

The report's emphasis on the regime's democracy, plurality and respect of civil community organizations does not touch on the fact that there is no horizon for peaceful transfer of power. The poll-based judgment has only formal value and is influenced by vote fraud, in

addition to standard duality. The poor type of democracy offered by the U.S. Administration in various parts of the world, as well as its absolute partiality toward Israel, invalidate the report's credibility.

Restrictions imposed on citizens' ability to change the government, confessed tortures, appalling jail conditions, arbitrary arrests, legislative weakness, press freedom, confining freedoms of affiliation, ideology and identity, women's discrimination and human rights respect are some of the topics tackled by the report.

The political opposition has the right to criticize the report's shortcomings. The U.S. Administration is thought of as the most able government on earth in terms of integrating its interests by adopting human needs and calls for freedom. But the obvious question being raised is "Do U.S. reports on Arab world situations contain authentic information or not?" We find ourselves before sharp criticism as official U.S. human rights reports missed some



By: Abdulbari Taher

information while criticizing situations in the Arab world. Such situations trouble human conscience, for instance, Yemeni prisons, which the report revealed as involving terrible conditions in addition to human rights abuses.

The U.S. report discussed prisons controlled by influential sheikhs, but did not include juvenile and women's prisons in the Tihama, as these jails are beyond the state's control. Rather, they are houses owned by notorious individuals providing shelter for homeless women. The report confirmed all such illegal conducts to the Parliamentary Freedoms Committee.

The report indicated slight reduction in detentions torture, but never dealt with criminal investigation bureau torture and cuffing legs proved an inherited contrivance in Yemeni jails. Misconduct at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, Afghanistan and other prisons weaken the influence of U.S. advocacy claiming to defend human rights.

The contrast between the State Department report and another report

issued by the American Committee to Defend Press Freedoms (ACDPF) reveals a huge difference between defense by democratic and independent organizations and other types of defense affected by considerations, the most important of which are diplomatic interests and relations. The ACDPF report was the fruit of a field visit and meetings with many journalists exposed to threats, oppression, arbitrary trials, confiscation, kidnapping, arrest and beating.

The ACDPF report quoted senior officials' viewpoints and came out with results consolidating press freedom and defending journalists. The report's strongpoints are reflected in its being based on the Constitution and laws that are effective in the country. This makes Yemen appear as if it is a state that does not abide by the Constitution or respect the law. Yemen's government deals with its citizens as if they live in a pre-state era. According to the report, Yemen's Constitution contains an article approving political, party and intellectual multiplicity. The law interprets such content into specific articles, but actual practice seems totally different, as with journalists' kidnapping and beating, a phenomenon

repeated dozens of times.

The ACDPF report contained information about the backwardness of Yemen's judiciary which lacks efficiency and independence. Yemen is the only country in the world where prosecution of simple cases lasts for decades, with courts sometimes issuing contradictory rulings in a single case, as well as fraudulent verdicts amounting to the death sentence.

The report included information about the Sa'ada events and the fact that Sa'ada and other eastern and northern Yemeni provinces actually seem to be isolated from the government. These provinces are deprived of basic services labeled within basic living needs.

Yemen's furious response to the report is ascribable to illegal practices and facts contained in it. The report does not permit us to practice crimes against citizens, similar to those committed by Israel and the U.S. We must protect human rights at the local level and defend them anytime and anywhere. The U.S. must not be looked at as the ideal example.

Abdulbari Taher is a Yemeni Journalist and the former chairman of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate

Consumers continue boycotting Danish products

The Prophet Mohammed caricatures published by Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten sparked outrage in numerous Islamic societies and nations, including Yemen. Reactions to the prophet caricatures took several forms including public demonstrations, official activities and calls to boycott Danish products, the latter of which was the most prominent reaction. Through the following report, we attempt to register the various reactions, among them boycotting Danish products.

Over the past two months, Yemeni governorates witnessed many mass demonstrations reflecting public anger and denouncing the prophet's disgrace in caricatures published by the Danish paper. Huge marches took place in most Yemeni cities, including Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Hodeidah, and symposiums were launched in Hadramout. Some traders began burning large quantities of Danish goods.

On February 18, the Mukalla School organized a session under the slogan, "Anything but the prophet," in the presence of Hadramout's governor and a symposium entitled, "This is our prophet and this is our religion," was held February 26 at the Sana'a

Cultural Center in the presence of Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi. The symposium was organized by Yemen Life Makers Forum in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture.

Additionally, among the consequences of publishing the prophet caricatures were the closing of three private newspapers, their licenses withdrawn on charges of republishing the caricatures. Despite reactions to the issue on Yemeni streets, the call to boycott Danish products is the most prominent reaction. Stickers, brochures and lists of Danish products including dairy, cheese, cosmetics and shampoos have been seen on doors of trade stores, supermarkets and groceries. Brochures also were seen on public transportation.

Brochures warned Yemeni consumers against buying any goods carrying the international No. 5 or 7, considering them trademarks of Danish companies. The call to boycott Danish products was heeded, as perceived via reactions of capital storeowners.

Methaq Al-Qadasi, manager of



By: Faisal Al-Safwani

Happy Land Trade Center, confirmed that the call to boycott Danish goods was welcomed warmly by consumers and traders alike, with the boycott succeeding by 90 percent. "We withdrew and concealed all Danish merchandise," he added.

Consumer attention and concern in recognizing product identity before buying was never seen on the part of Yemeni consumers prior to the call to boycott Danish products.

Regarding Happy Land's damages due to the boycott, Al-Qadasi said, "We never cared about the loss, as the issue was more important than the profit and loss principle. Some Danish companies with branches in Yemen accepted returned commodities. Calculating damages requires a longer period of time."

Shumailah Hari purchasing manager Ali Al-Qiyadhi mentioned that consumers stopped buying Danish products despite the fact that they showed more tendencies toward Danish commodities before the Danish newspaper published the caricatures. Regarding consequential damages, Al-Qiyadhi

noted that the store returned an estimated YR 38 million in Danish commodities to their manufacturers and importers. Some dealers refused returned products saying, "We the dealers are committed to boycotting Danish goods."

Mohamed Al-Qadri from Hadda Trade Center said an overwhelming majority of consumers boycotted Danish commodities, but he did not mention any particular damage figures, as most importers withdrew the goods from supermarkets and groceries. "We should not fear any loss,

as the matter concerns our prophet," he added. "Some importers replaced Danish product packaging and covers with Turkish ones and then distributed them for sale under the guise that they were produced in Turkey."

Al-Huda Supermarket manager Mu'tasem Al-Qadasi said Danish goods are concealed and no longer merchandized to consumers. Traders were the first to boycott Danish products and, as a response to consumer desires, they withdrew large quantities of Danish goods while other quantities remained stored or returned

to importers. Regarding the amount of Danish products consumed before the boycott, Al-Qadasi said, "We had YR 5 million worth of Danish products when the boycott began."

Through such meetings with store-owners, the call to boycott Danish products proved a great success, boosted by consumers and traders alike. Damages were avoided as importers withdrew Danish goods from the markets.

Faisal Al-Safwani is a Yemeni journalist

Letter to the Editor

Terrorism in the gloves of democracy

Developed countries and the United Nations pretend they are at the forefront of fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. On the other hand, the Security Council strengthens the U.N. system's capacity to assist such countries in combating terrorism and enhance coordination of U.N. activities in this regard.

The United States is trying to convince people all over the world that there is no suitable substitute to terrorism or extremism except democracy

and that's why many countries now are being occupied.

After the World Trade Center's north and south towers collapsed, the U.S. decided to build two towers of soldiers in the Middle East in order to establish comprehensive freedom.

Iraqis had no right to talk about their rights but now they have the perfect right to be killed. Afghanistan is being tortured under the pretext of the Al-Qaeda organization. Yemen also is moving toward the red line as it embraces Islamic sheikhs like Al-Zindani. Hence, which kind of democ-

racy do these countries demand?

Even if there are some extremists in the Middle East, does the U.S. have the right to kill innocent people and destroy homes to pursue such obscure ghosts?

For the U.S., democracy is the tool by which Islamic countries can be occupied. In the U.S. dictionary, democracy and terrorism are two sides of one coin, but each one has its own power.

*Faiz Ahmad Al-Ahsab
Taiz*

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Global Governance Initiative (2/2)

Annual Report 2006

Five years after world leaders committed themselves and their countries to a broad and urgent array of global goals, hopes ran high that 2005 would be the “turnaround year”, the year when global efforts would finally begin to match global aspirations for humanity’s future. It was not—but it came a bit closer than cynics expected.

The Global Governance Initiative monitors the efforts of governments, the private sector, international organizations and civil society towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. These objectives relate to poverty, conflict, health, education, the environment, human rights and hunger. Last year, the initiative’s second report concluded that the world remains far off track to achieve its most important goals. This year’s report, released on the eve of the Annual Meeting, found there to have been modest progress in 2005.

Goals and scores (continued): Education score: 4/10

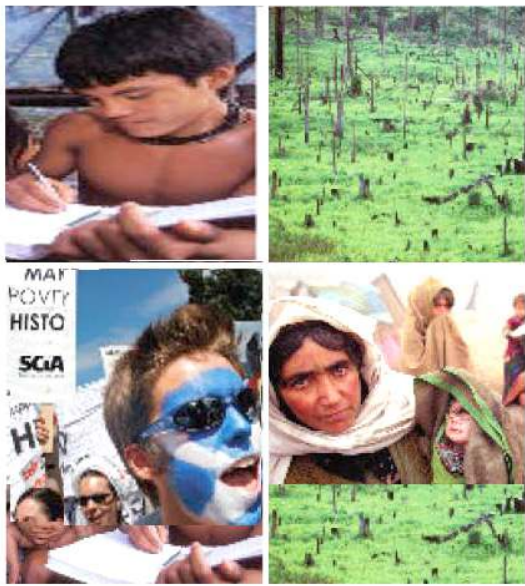
The first international benchmark for education—to eliminate gender disparities at all levels by 2005—has passed us by, and at least 50 countries in Africa and Asia stand no chance of providing all children a primary education by 2015. While such countries as China have moved to eliminate school fees, another 100 still impose them.

Donor countries lag badly in fulfilling their promise to bridge the funding gaps for the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI), an international partner-

2005 proved that the world can make real progress towards achieving its most fundamental goals. It got slightly better at reducing hunger and extreme poverty, improving global public health, ensuring peace and security and providing access to basic education.

ship that promised to provide assistance to any country with credible education sector plans. The debt relief and increased aid pledges in 2005 could fill that funding gap, but rich countries made no specific commitments to education. The UN World Summit and the World Bank–international Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings in the fall also failed to boost funding for education; only US\$ 1.5 billion of the estimated US\$ 10 billion needed annually is currently being provided. Were it not for civil society initiatives like the Global Campaign for Education and corporate foundation investments such as those in

Global Governance Initiative



India, there would be even less good news to report.

A hundred million children are still not enrolled in primary school, a number that will not fall substantially unless more resources are committed in 2006. Several dozen countries are devising workable education plans, and donors must boost Fast Track Initiative funding to help turn these plans into reality.

Health score: 5/10

2005 provided no shortage of warning signs about the importance of global health. HIV/AIDS continued to spread. Malaria died upwards of a million more people. And the world did little to reduce the underfive mortality rate and maternal mortality ratio.

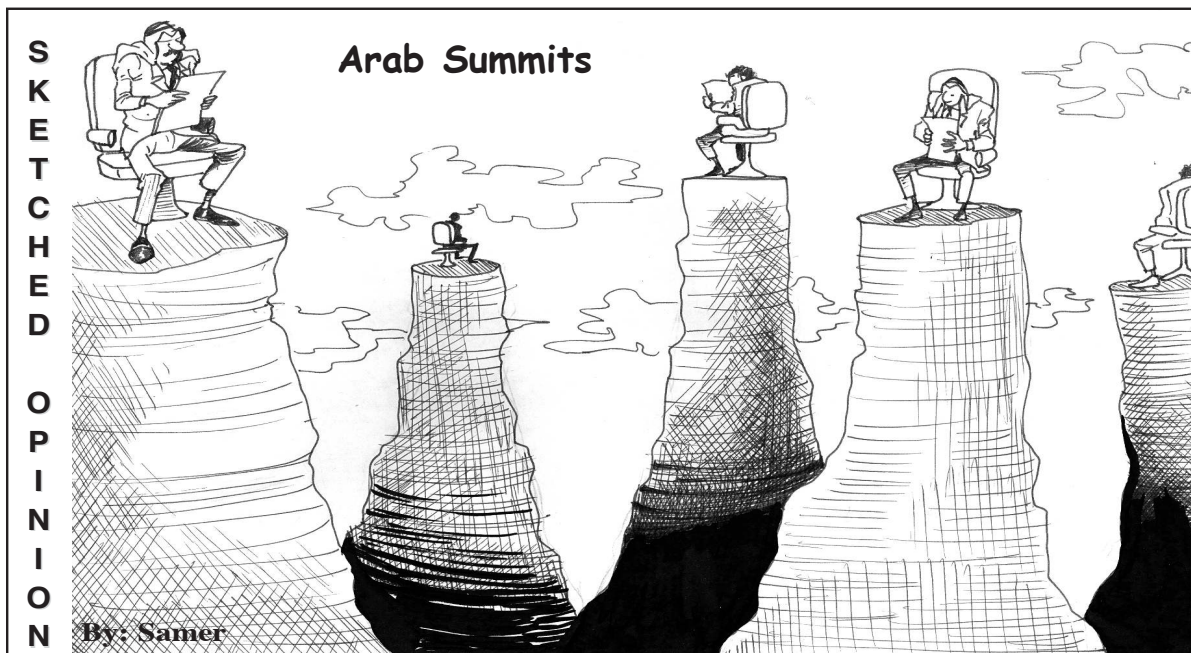
Funding boosts for immunization from the European Union and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation contributed to improving the world’s overall score to 5, but nowhere near enough is being done to address myriad shortfalls. The woeful state of the world’s public health infrastructure, the lack of access to laboratory supplies, drugs and medications, and the shortage of health workers make it highly unlikely that Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Oceania will meet the goals. In Africa 35% of children face a greater risk

of dying prematurely than a decade ago, while AIDS remains the leading cause of early death. Even though addressing malaria mainly requires deploying known treatments, very little progress was made in 2005 due to only small funding increases for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and poor organization of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. To reverse the decay of crumbling health infrastructure and information networks around the world will require the commitment of significant additional long-term resources, along the lines outlined in the Millennium Project’s reports.

Environment score: 2/10

The world’s environmental goals—to stabilize atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations at safe levels, reverse biodiversity loss and cut in half the proportion of people without safe access to drinking water and sanitation—require but did not receive high-level political commitment.

Few countries managed to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gasses. Ecosystem protection frameworks are simply absent. And hundreds of millions of people, particularly in Africa, remain without clean water or sanitation, threatening the achievement of goals on curbing hunger, eradicating poverty and combating disease. High energy prices helped spur renewed attention towards clean and efficient technologies. Local governments and some corporations moved boldly ahead of their national leaders on emission reduction initiatives. And in Asia, particularly in China and India, access to clean water and sanitation has improved, and there is some hope of reaching the goal there. For 2006 the world must take advantage of high oil prices to boost investment in clean energy



On such key issues as human rights and the environment, the world actually did worse than it had in previous years. That matters not only because of the inherent importance of these issues, but because progress in one area depends so heavily on progress in the others. Global public health, for example, requires access to clean water and sanitation. Climate change is already exacerbating malaria, malnutrition and diarrhea throughout the world. The world’s poorest people need sustainably managed ecosystems to preserve their livelihoods, and the scarcity of natural resources can fuel violent conflict

and technology transfer. The private sector must emulate General Electric’s new-found commitment to clean technology and emissions reduction, but the market alone will not be our saviour. Other governments must follow the lead of the European Union to take serious action on climate change. And all actors should begin to heed the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

Human rights score: 2/10

The status of human rights in the world continued to decline in 2005. Not only did persistent challenges remain unaddressed, but the serious erosion of human rights by counterterrorism policies accelerated.

The International Criminal Court issued its first warrants. But up to 2 million people in Darfur, Sudan, still faced the violent attacks and total impunity of the perpetrators, indicating how far the world has to go to prevent crimes against humanity in the year that marked the 60th anniversary of the Nuremberg Tribunal. And it is still unknown whether the precedent-setting trial of Saddam Hussein will deliver impartial justice or be a political

show. From the United Kingdom to Thailand, laws passed in the name of fighting terrorism shifted the center of gravity from protecting rights to restricting them—with uncertain consequences for democracy. The continued practice of outsourcing torture to countries with scant human rights protection, the refusal to end the legal black hole in which Guantanamo Bay prisoners languish, the failure to deal with the systemic attitudes that led to the Abu Ghraib torture—all were unfortunate features of 2005. It remains to be seen whether the proposed Human Rights Council will achieve more legitimacy than its predecessor in the United Nations.

One notable area of progress occurred with the growing requirements and regulations on the private sector to report on the social impact of their activities, measures driven by both the European Union and the voice of civil society. In 2006 much more should be done to spread economic and social rights norms, which will require civil society to continue to strengthen its demands to move from charity to rights.

Global Governance Initiative

This is the third in a series of annual assessments by the World Economic Forum’s Global Governance Initiative (GGI). The GGI evaluates the world’s efforts to achieve its goals, as laid out in the UN Millennium Declaration and other widely accepted international agreements. Over the course of each year, groups of the world’s leading experts assess the efforts of governments and non-governmental actors alike, grading the world on a zero to ten scale across the full range of security, development, environmental and human rights issues so fundamental to global stability and prosperity. Ten represents the level of effort needed for the world to be on track to achieve its goals, and every number below represents a step down from what is needed. One indicates that the world accomplished little or nothing, and zero means that policies and initiatives over the year moved us in the wrong direction. The GGI is overseen by an eminent steering committee, in whose name this report is released.

Milosevic’s trial was not in vain

By: Aryeh Neier

Slobodan Milosevic cheated justice, and by doing so demonstrated the futility of attempting to deal with war crimes and crimes against humanity through international prosecutions. That, at least, is the conclusion that some people have reached after Milosevic’s death in a Hague prison: the fact that he was able to drag out his trial for four years and still escape a verdict is considered proof that the international community is wasting its resources by putting such people on trial for their misdeeds.

Even the most dedicated partisans of international justice concede that the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) has had many shortcomings. All those associated with it were new to such proceedings, and had to learn on the job, as there had been no such bodies since the courts at Nuremberg and Tokyo after World War II.

Moreover, the post-WWII bodies were tribunals in which the war’s victors judged the losers, and those prosecuted were already in custody. The ICTY, by contrast, has no capacity of its own to arrest defendants. It must rely on persuasion to secure cooperation by others—cooperation that is still being withheld in the case of the two most notorious defendants from the Bosnian War, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic.

Until Tony Blair and Robin Cook became, respectively, Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom in 1997, four years after the ICTY was established, NATO troops in Bosnia failed to arrest indicted suspects even when they ran into them. By now, of course, 133 defendants from all parties to the wars in ex-Yugoslavia have

appeared before the Tribunal, charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity, and even genocide.

These are highly complex cases, frequently involving not only novel issues under international law, but also thousands of witnesses—often traumatized by their suffering—dispersed to many lands, the constant need for high-quality simultaneous translations, and disruptive tactics by some defendants. Yet the proceedings against 85 of them, including appeals, have been completed.

In trying them, the ICTY has been a model of fairness at all times. The mountains of evidence in its records make the horrendous crimes committed in the wars in ex-Yugoslavia comparable in the extent of their documentation to those by the Nazis. Inevitable efforts by demagogues to revise the history of what took place in ex-Yugoslavia in the 1990’s will be complicated by the availability of that evidence, including the facts compiled during the Milosevic trial.

Far from being a failure, the ICTY has inspired the establishment of several other such courts, including those for Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, and the permanent International Criminal Court. Even heads of state have not escaped these bodies.

Milosevic, the former president of Yugoslavia, and then Serbia, died in prison. Biljana Plavsic, the President of the Bosnian Serb Republic after Karadzic, expressed remorse for her crimes, pled guilty, and is serving a prison sentence. Jean Kambanda, former Prime Minister of Rwanda, pled guilty to crimes against humanity and genocide and is serving a life sentence in prison.

We are thus slowly reaching the point where some of those contemplating crimes such as those committed by Slobodan Milosevic must recognize that one day they could be held accountable.

Charles Taylor was President of Liberia when the Tribunal for Sierra Leone indicted him. He had to flee his country, paving the way for the democratic transition that resulted in the recent election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Taylor still faces the prospect of trial and, another former dictator, Saddam Hussein, is now on trial before a national court in Iraq.

Persisting on the path of international justice will continue to require substantial resources. Great as they are, the costs are trivial in comparison to the expense of humanitarian aid, international military intervention, and reconstruction assistance. Most important, of course, is the need to prevent the suffering caused by the crimes that lead to international prosecutions; and when those crimes cannot be prevented, we must provide some comfort and redress to the victims and their families by doing justice.

Of course, the slow, tortuous process of international justice is often frustrating to the victims. But it would be worse if those responsible for great crimes got away with it, as happened all too often in the past. In the wake of Milosevic’s death, Karadzic and Mladic should be brought before the ICTY, both to reinforce its work and to demonstrate to their victims that the international community is resolved not to allow their suffering to be forgotten. The ICTY’s mission is as valid and as vital as ever: to show that the era of impunity for some of humanity’s worst crimes is coming to an end.

Aryeh Neier, the president of the Open Society Institute and a founder of Human Rights Watch, is the author most recently of *Taking Liberties: Four Decades in the Struggle for Rights*. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2006. www.project-syndicate.org

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Yemen is seeking to recruit for its offices in Sana’a a qualified personnel to fill the positions of:

1. ASSISTANT TO OPERATIONS SECTION
2. ACCOUNTANT

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Chargé d’Affaires, the incumbents shall perform the following main responsibilities:

Assistant to Operations Section:

- 1- Assist with all stages of the project cycle for development activities in Yemen (programming, identification, formulation, implementation and evaluation)
- 2- Assist in monitoring and follow up of implementation of on-going development activities in Yemen in the different priority sectors
- 3- Maintain good and effective contacts with local operators in the field, national authorities and donor representatives
- 4- Assist in producing and disseminating results of EC-funded projects and programmes
- 5- Undertake field visits to monitor project’s progress and performance

Accountant:

- 1- Management of the Delegation’s Imprest Account
- 2- Management of budgetary operations relating to running costs credits
- 3- Preparation, programming, monitoring and control of running costs’ budgets
- 4- Regular budget and financial reporting to the Administrative Assistant and Chargé d’Affaires
- 5- General accountancy of the Delegation

Qualifications and skills required:-

- Post-secondary education or secondary education and relevant working experience of minimum 3 years
- Proven relevant working experience of min. 5 years for accountant
- Proven working experience with donor-funded activities for assistant to operations section.
- Excellent command of English and Arabic (oral and written); knowledge of a second EU language is considered an advantage
- Ability to work within a team, high sense of responsibility and initiative
- Very good sense of organisation, managerial support with ability to prioritise and plan
- Excellent computer skills
- Ability to meet deadlines, strong sense of responsibility
- Ability to take initiatives and possess a problem-solving attitude

Candidates are requested to send their application along with curriculum vitae to:-

Dr. Ralf DREYER, Chargé d’Affaires
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or fax: (00 967 1) 440887

Applications received after 5 April 2006 will not be accepted; only short-listed candidates will be contacted for a personal interview

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Youth Forum

The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

A modern “to be or not to be”

By: Salwa Yehia Al-Eryani

This is the phrase Shakespeare coined centuries ago and I consider it a very up-to-date question. Also, I bet we all

continuously have repeated it inside our souls for the past few years, especially after the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Should we be against the invasion of Iraq only? Or should we become braver and fight against all that the U.S. has brought up in our society?

The U.S. not only has occupied an Arab and Muslim land, insulted and tortured Arab and Muslim peoples who are part of our nation, but also impudently shown wild violence, sexual abuses and disrespect on all satellite channels. The whole world saw the extremely nasty face of the U.S.

Honestly, the U.S. has inflicted harm upon us. This country is undertaking many hostile actions behind a mask of freedom and justice. Some superficial individuals find this convincing and I'm sure they are making a tremendous effort to believe it is so. They simply hate their governments and life difficulties. Because they suffer, they think the U.S. is the shelter. For that, they welcome any breeze coming from the land of Uncle Sam. Such individuals exist. We live with them and we shouldn't try to deny them. For example, those participating in the depiction of naked female bodies in nearly all video clips attempt to appear free, civilized, modern and unrestricted by any chains, even if those chains are of religion or social traditions.

Those allowing SMS messages 'exclusively for chatting' to appear in music channel subtitles and even established channels surely are trying to appear free and modern. This also is evident on programs like "Star Academy" where even kissing occurs.

Young men and teenagers wearing baggy pants, caps curved backwards and sleeveless T-shirts also are imitating the West, more specifically the U.S. Those who admire Western music and different dances like break dancing are doing it to appear modern. Those who say "Wow," "Hi" and "Thanks" in English are doing the same thing. Girls who wear very short skirts, show too much of their bodies and have boyfriends are simply sick.

However, seeking the West's satisfaction also can take another form, for example, Yemeni women appearing in our government in different ministries. While I encourage such a move, I would ask a simple question: Why only recently have our government's decision makers allowed women to participate? This should have happened a long time ago. Are women now being used as decor to complete

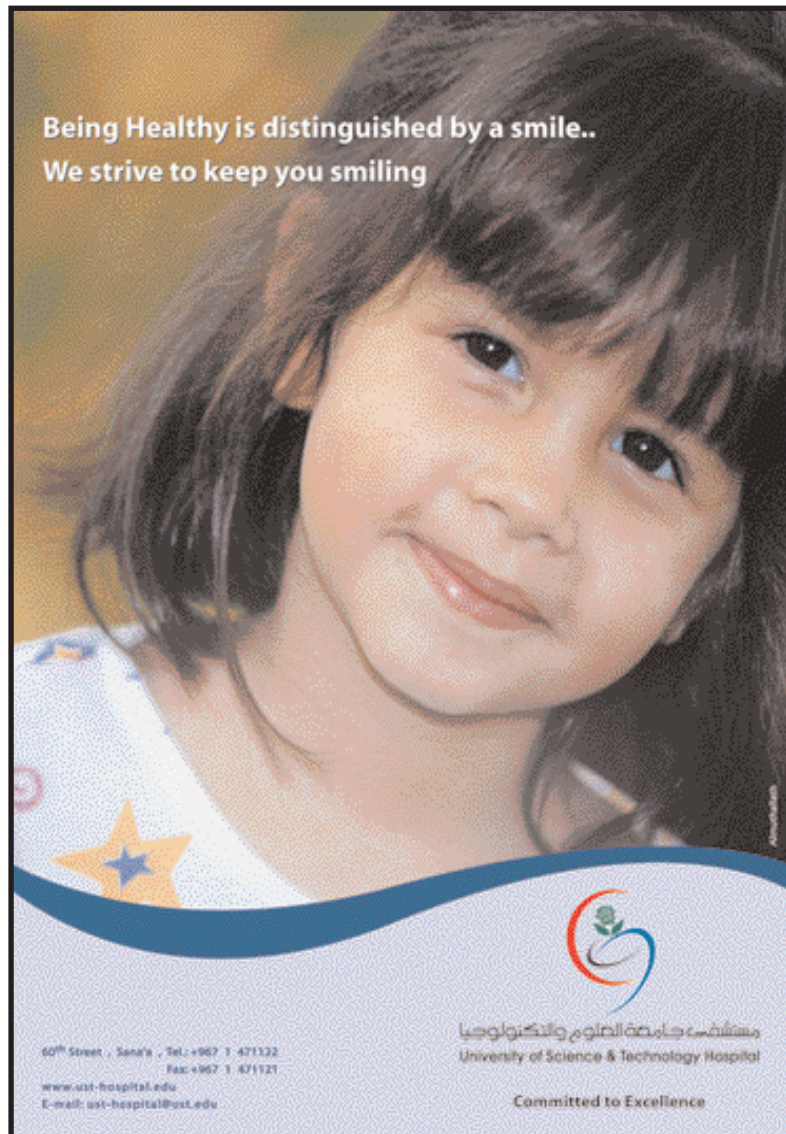
the scene?

Materialism is another hateful guest in our society and relationships, as there is a price for any and everything. If you do someone a favor, then you surely want a reward or something in return. In other words, nothing is free of charge. For example, being around or close friends with a rich individual is mentioned with tremendous pride, even if that person is corrupt and acquired his wealth in an unlawful manner. Such people wait for some type of monetary reward, lunch, dinner or qat; they may even expect a ride in an expensive new car. The language of exchanged advantages is a very rubbery and varied one.

So, finally I'm afraid we are a people who cannot or are not yet qualified to distinguish the good from the bad.

Therefore, to be always on the safe side, I prefer one decide either to be extremely against what the U.S. has brought up in our society or completely for it. This way, things are easier, like teaching the English alphabet (ABC) in our schools' kindergartens until the whole thing is finished, then learning the Arabic alphabet (Alif Ba Ta). People disagree and discuss which alphabet should be given first to kindergarteners: the Arabic, as it is our mother tongue, or the English, as it is the international language. Honestly, it is a question we must ask ourselves: "To be or not to be?"

Salwa Yehia Al-Eryani is a Yemeni short-story writer with several literature publications. She published a 1991 short story collection entitled, "A Moment of Sorrow."



The educational system

By: Syed Rehan Ali
rehan117@yahoo.com

It is said a nation is strong when its educational system is strong. Education here does not involve scoring the highest marks in examinations. Nowadays, however, most students are in a race for the highest marks and they use illegal methods to obtain these scores. They may cheat or they may bribe their teachers with money or other sources they may have at their disposal to increase their overall marks. But despite these illegal means most students, especially those at the SSC and HSC levels, often make fatal mistakes that can cost them their grades:

• Number of Supplements Attached
Many students think that by increasing the amount of supplemental pages to their exam sheets they will be able to score better. They use tactics like skipping lines in between when writing; using wider margins on both sides of the page that decreases the amount written between

theses two margins and necessitates more pages; others will write in large fonts. These measures put off the examiner and affect the final score. To avoid this, one must write in a medium sized, clear handwriting. Do not waste pages just so they can be attached as supplements, it only increases the weight of the copy -not your grade.

• The Use of Multicolored Pens

Never use red or green pens in the headings, as these two colors are used by examiners to check and indicate the marks obtained by the student. You are to use blue or black markers for this purpose.

• Headings That are Too Large or Too Small

Students should beware of using large headings which only waste space and of writing so small that it becomes barely readable. You headings should be in a comfortable and readable font size.

• Writing the Question Instead of the Question Number

I have observed some students (though not all) who write the whole question on their answer sheets. This is a waste of time and space. The student should simply write the number of the question and begin the answer.

• The Use of Colors

There are students who use extra colors in their copies, especially when denoting figures. You can use colors to indicate different aspects of your figures but please do not make it a rainbow.

• Writing comments and Requests on Answer Sheets

While checking HSC-II exam copies I observed written comments at the end of the answer sheets, in which students requested examiners to grant them passing marks because they were facing some domestic problems and could not prepare for the exams. This is unacceptable.

Being a teacher I suggest that you avoid at all costs these loathsome practices in your examinations.

Home Appliances Seminar for Panasonic

Panasonic ideas for life



The Panasonic represented by Alfa Company has been organized an exclusive seminar for the dealers all over Yemen. The seminar was mainly for kitchen appliances in which they have been targeted to demonstrate the peculiarities and advantages of Panasonic products comparing to it's major competitors. The seminar hold on last Thursday, 23rd March at Taj Saba hotel in Sana'a. The dealers from Aden, Hadramout, Hodeidah and Sana'a itself were attended the seminar as specially invited delegates, besides the prominent press reporters.

The main attraction of the seminar and highlighted with most importance by the presence of the responsible delegates from Panasonic, such as Mr. Takashimaru Yamamoto the general Manager of Home Appliances, Mr. Shoaib Tareen the Marketing executive and Mr. Mirza Fazal the in charge of Yemen market.

«We feel proud to launch such a big seminar and its zen percentage sure that will reflect positively in our current and future business. We made a self study and became aware of the weaknesses lying behind us and now herewith started to sort it out and we revealed that

which is most necessary to continue our monopoly in home appliances business» Mr. Pratheep, the planning and marketing manager of Alfa Panasonic told us.

The seminar started with the traditional opening by the recitation of holy Quran. Mr. Hussain M. Al Rushidi made his welcome speech. «I'm proud to arrange such a seminar with the presence of factory people, which shall be very helpful to get even small suggestions from the customer and apply the necessary changes in production, if need» he added in his speech. Followed up, Mr. Yamamoto San addressed the audience and delivered that Panasonic is very sensitive with Yemen market and being very much care even for small alterations for the convenience of Yemeni end users. This privilege is giving since the beginning of Panasonic in Yemen» He added. The demonstration of products even with comparison of it's competitor product has been made by Mr. Shoib. He explained the functions, specifications and additional advantages of each product from others. He tried with competitor products and Panasonic products in front of the audience to prove and derive the positive differences of Panasonic. The audience appealed and encourages him as



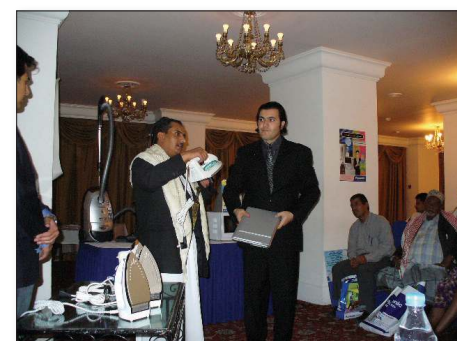
admire and appreciation for his easy and comprehensive presentation. Mr. Anwar Mothana, the Asst. GM cum Sales Manager of Alfa translated the messages and words to Arabic all over the presentation.

The main product wise features explained by Mr. Shoib as follows.

Panasonic uniquely having super big capacity plastic body washing machines with advanced soakmatic power. Different models are coming out with unique features specially produced for Arab families.

Drain pump washer models are also available with different capacity. Vacuum Cleaners having different kinds such as Canister type, Bag less type and Semi-industrial type. The major features are Anti-bacteria filter, super silent mechanism and high durability of both body and motor. Irons having

five major series like steam, heavy weight dry, light weight dry, cordless steam and cordless dry irons. The top features are detachable water tank which will enables to go through and press each and every corner of the any kind of wearing dress, round ride function helps to move very smoothly even with a finger hold. Selected Refrigerator models are having a icy water dispenser which enables the customer to take the drinking water



without opening the door and through that save the electrical power. Also having Bottom freezer models specially designed for the convenience of Arab housewives. Blenders are having two different colored mills to easy classification. Special safety measures are attached to protect the motor. New stronger models of Air conditioners are displayed in the seminar hall. Alfa is being well-prepared to serve their customer in forthcoming summer season and assured the availability of Air conditioners and refrigerators much quantity in stock enough to fulfill the requirements.

Panasonic delegates collected the comments and suggestions from customers and commented that they are really valued it and will handover to R&D division.

Mr. Fazal Mirza was monitoring the seminar and expressed his confidence in Yemen market. Panasonic conducted a Lucky draw for all delegates attended in seminar and the draw took placed at the end of presentation. The winners got their surprise gifts like Big capacity Washing machine, two televisions, Radio cassette Play/Recorder and five irons on place wise. The seminar wind- up with lunch and press meeting.



Production and marketing of Yemeni natural gas

By: Ahmed Ali Al-Mohanny

The more human society develops and advances in scientific knowledge, the more such society benefits from its natural resources. The opposite is true as well. Oil and gas are examples of natural resources that could be a blessing or a curse, depending on the state of development of society and its political system.

Natural gas is of great importance to Yemen as a natural resource and the alternatives the state could pursue regarding its optimal exploitation. Discovering such a resource does not necessarily require its immediate development and marketing, if circumstances in terms of price are unfavorable. In this case, natural gas could remain underground until such circumstances change.

The sound alternative is using natural gas for domestic purposes. Used domestically, natural gas could become a significant key factor in Yemen's development. However, such use depends on Yemen's ability to borrow outside knowledge and funds. This in turn depends on its credit worthiness in the international financial market and the extent of international oil and gas companies to participate in projects involving developing natural gas for marketing and domestic use. Such firms seldom exhibit any degree of enthusiasm in this area regarding the developing world. The other alternative is to export natural gas, if possible.

Gas producing countries in the Gulf states used a substantial amount of natural gas for domestic purposes before they embarked on exporting it. Natural gas was used extensively in power generation, water desalination, fueling cement factories and, to a less degree, as a petrochemicals feedstock.

Before proceeding further on this subject, it is essential that the non-technical reader be acquainted with natural gas from a physical and chemical point of view. The term natural gas is applied to gas produced from underground accumulation of hydrocarbon. Natural gas can exist underground in association with oil while some can exist alone; therefore, it can be associated or non-associated.

Natural gas exists as a gas under normal temperature and atmospheric pressure, like methane, ethane, propane and butane, and others as liquids under normal pressure and temperature. Underground natural gas accumulations are due to two factors: coal



Yemen has been in the international natural gas market for the past few years without any sign of success.

decomposition, which is rich in methane, and when large oil molecules break up as a result of heat and pressure. Associated gas may be found as a solution gas and a cap gas adjacent to the face of oil.

Problems are associated with natural gas, whether for internal purposes or for export to international markets. The most important element to be considered before any action is taken to plan and develop gas resources is defining a clear market for export or internal use. The market may exist but it is limited in relation to internal reserve amounts.

Natural gas is worth developing by those countries endowed with commercial reserves only if such gas's opportunity value to that country's economy is higher than the total investment cost in terms of development, production and transport to final market. Natural gas's opportunity value is set by the fuel it is supposed to displace.

A country's natural gas investment costs include the opportunity cost for domestic resources employed in the project and compensation paid to foreign investors, lenders and contractors. It is prima-facie for any government possessing natural gas reserves to embark on tentative economic appraisal to determine whether such gas's future opportunity value is likely to be higher than the direct and indirect costs the country would incur.

Problems associated with marketing natural gas are numerous. In most potential gas markets, energy requirements currently are met by utilizing an oil product. Despite the fact that oil and gas are similar as far as being major substitutes for other fuels, there is

major difference between them in marketing aspects.

Markets respond differently to oil and gas. If a country discovers oil reserves, it has a commodity it can sell readily and easily in that it can sell oil anytime and at any place. Over a wide range of markets, the normal fuel is oil and the market is sufficiently absorbent of new quantities for newcomers.

In contrast, gas can be developed and made productive only for a specific market outlet. So, if a market is identified, firm commitments can be made with a client via a solid contract, sometimes running 20 or 25 years in advance of planning or implementing any gas project.

Once a firm sale contract with any buyer or a group of buyers has been made, it may take at least five years to complete the gas project, another five years before the first revenue is received and several years' effect before investment capital is repaid, followed by several more years before the project can be said to show a true return. Gas project investment is capital-intensive and the risk level combined with capital exposure normally is large, which is why multi-party participants should be involved in gas projects.

The second major difference between oil and gas is in transporting it to the market outlet. Oil is transported from the central production unit to a storage terminal normally on the sea coast and from there to a ship which, in this case, involves a pipeline and a storage terminal. Oil enjoys great choice in both transportation methods and cargo sizes, while gas requires liquidation. To liquefy

natural gas (LNG) requires extensive investment if choosing the same methods of transporting oil.

Transporting natural gas from the field to a liquefaction plant normally on the seashore requires a thick steel pipeline two and half times the size of an oil pipeline to carry the same quantity with the same energy value. In other words, gas pipelines are much more expensive per BTU than oil pipelines. Additionally, the cost of transporting LNG to international markets can be five to 10 times the cost of oil shipment, depending on the distance, cargo size and other factors.

The distance between countries of use and the market outlet sometimes is important in determining natural gas prices. The further a producing country's natural gas source is from a receiving country, the less the advantage is to the producing country. This means a remotely located natural gas source will entail greater transport costs, which are higher than the market can bear or uncompetitive with more favorably situated suppliers.

Other differences in marketing natural gas versus oil include the fact that there is no spot market price in gas markets, as price is determined by the market value of related fuels (or oil products) that natural gas will replace. Additionally, there is a special relationship between producer and buyer in natural gas marketing. Due to oil's technical characteristics, a producer can deal with a multitude of buyers, whereas a natural gas producer can deal with only one buyer or a few buyers at most. Furthermore, the relationship between

buyer and producer inherently is long-term because of price links between the production site and the destination market.

Yemen has been in the international natural gas market for the past few years without any sign of success. Yemen recently targeted Japan as a potential market. For decades, Japan has been a market for Indonesian and Malaysian LNG, as well as receiving LNG from Gulf states. Presently, it is extremely doubtful that the Japanese market will have any room for Yemeni natural gas.

The most irrational and economically illogical thing for any country possessing natural gas resources is to negotiate a gas sale in the international market if doing so when oil prices are at an extremely low level. In such a situation, the natural gas market normally shrinks extensively, with a good number of gas users switching to oil and oil products. Some bulk natural gas users are power generating stations equipped with dual capacities to switch from natural gas to oil fuels and vice-versa.

It now appears evident that the optimal option for Yemen at present is for the government to consider natural gas as the first priority in its economic plans and develop its internal applications. Two things must be done, the first of which is immediately establishing a Yemeni energy institution responsible for planning and identifying long-term and continuing energy needs.

This institute would be the central coordinating body for all potential government agencies participating in energy utilization. Involved ministries include: Oil and Mineral Resources, Industry, Planning, Power Generation and Agriculture. These ministries could compose the institute's board of directors.

The second step is to seek international assistance to help Yemen formulate master plans for long-term natural gas uses. In my opinion, the World Bank and the government of the Netherlands are the most useful bodies already having provided Yemen the most effective and practical assistance in this area. The Dutch government is to conduct gas utilization study via: Flourdanil - LPG industries and household, Kema - Power Generation, Gasunie Engineering, BV - Natural Gas TNO - LPG Automotive.

Mr. Ahmed Ali Al-Mohanny is a former Minister of Oil and Mineral Wealth (1985-1990). He is currently a member of the Shoura Council.

Business In Brief

Yemen Airways Company (Yemenia) currently is studying to soon reopen its flight service between Sana'a and Dhahran, Dammam in Saudi Arabia.

Company sources mentioned that a Yemen Airways delegation currently is preparing studies to finalize procedures for beginning resumption of the route which has been stopped since 1990. Sources indicated that the route is scheduled to be inaugurated officially this summer.

A memorandum of understanding recently was signed at Sana'a Central Security command between the Ministry of Interior and the Chinese National Company for Aerial Technologies. Under the memorandum, the Interior Ministry agrees to purchase several helicopters and their training equipment in order to strengthen ministry capabilities to fight terror and crime, use for transportation, the Coast Guard and other security tasks.

Minister of Public Health and Population Abdulkarim Rassie revealed that administration of Marib city's President Hospital expected to open in August has been entrusted to an international firm under a tender for its operation. The aim is to realize the highest standard of quality and patient service in Marib governorate and other nearby governorates.

Barak Khalid Al-Marzouq, chairman of Kuwait's financial monitoring apparatus, is expected to arrive in Yemen the beginning of April to meet with Yemen's central monitoring and auditing apparatus. Apparatus head Dr. Abdullah Al-Sanafi said the Kuwaiti delegation's five-day visit aims to enhance relations between the two organizations, exchange expertise and discuss ways to develop relations between the two sides.

Yemeni Agricultural Cooperative Federation delegation, headed by Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Mohammed Bashir, will participate in the seventh General Conference of Arab Farmers in Kuwait continuing through March 30.

The delegation is to submit a number of proposals at the conference to activate economic partnership and establish several agricultural marketing companies.

Public Property Prosecution has completed network linking procedures among fellow prosecutions in five Yemeni governorates.

Such connection, involving capital secretariat, Hodeidah, Taiz, Aden and Hadramout prosecutions, aims to follow up public property cases and fight corruption in those governorates.

The third Yemeni businessmen's forum recently held in Lahj governorate discussed investment opportunities and activating the private sector's role in the development process.

Report reduces prospects for Yemeni incorporation with GCC

By: Yemen Times Staff

A report recently published in the Gulf by the Emirates Center for Studies reduced prospects of success of a 10-year plan concerning Yemen's economic qualification in introduction to Yemen's accession to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The report considers it not possible for the plan to realize its set-up objectives under large disparities between the two sides. It called for in-depth and more transparent dialogue to bridge the two sides' dissimilarities.

The report explained that the plan was forwarded by the Yemen government to the GCC on qualification of Yemen's economy under support of the GCC countries. The plan aims at pushing forward the process of development, reforming the infrastructures and qualification of manpower so that Yemen will be able to bridge the economic gap between it and the GCC states. That would qualify Yemen to join the GCC.

Upon that plan a GCC decision was taken for establishment of a technical committee grouping representatives from GCC states finance ministries, Yemeni ministry of planning and international cooperation and general secretariat of the GCC in cooperation with

international financial parties. The technical committee's task is to prepare necessary studies to determine Yemen's development needs and change them into a working plan according to an investment program up until the year 2015 at an overall cost estimated at \$40 billion.

The report mentions that the economic axis is the weakest link precluding Yemen's accession to the GCC. There are security, political, ideological and social problems that are more complicated than and more sensitive than the economic dossier, despite all of its dimensions and consequences. Nevertheless, the report mentions that the plan for bridging the economic gap between Yemen and the GCC states through fixed financial investments amounting to \$ 40 billion through ten years cannot bring close the growing economic gap between the two sides mainly because economies of the Gulf state are presently moving by bid growth rates, the highest in the region due to huge financial revenues and huge investment opportunities available for them while they are not available with the same amount for Yemen, at least under the recent rise of oil prices to standard levels.

The report considers that the two sides' economic gap is expanding continually. Gulf States generally enjoy the

world's highest per capita income level, as a Gulf citizen's average income exceeds \$135,000. Average individual income in Abu Dhabi alone is more than \$46,000, whereas 42 percent of Yemen's 21-million population live below the poverty line.

The average Yemeni income amounts to only \$510, less than four percent of his Gulf counterpart's average income. Added to this is the vast difference in the two sides' unemployment rates. Yemen suffers a very high unemployment rate of 22 percent and illiteracy levels reaching 50 percent, among the Arab region's highest rates.

The report considers these differences as a brief image of the state of social and economic differences separating Yemen and the Gulf states. They are differences difficult to overcome in the 10 years the plan has set for qualifying Yemen and bridging the economic gap with Gulf States.

The report also included requisites and demands for Yemeni qualification with more than a 10-year economic plan to recover Yemen's exhausted economy. According to the report, Yemen's accession to this grouping is an issue with complicated and intermingling dimensions, some connected to both positive and negative aspects of Yemen's domestic situation. Others relate to peculiarity of GCC states and similarity in their

political, security, cultural, social and economic systems, which differ from Yemen in many aspects.

This requires embarking on conducting a deeper and more transparent dialogue to reduce the two sides' differ-

ences and attain the highest possible level of success in achieving each party's interests. It also is intended to stabilize trust and remove fears regarding future horizons in developing the two parties' relations.

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