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Inside:  **3** Romantic mobile phone calls and messages  **7** Journalists killed in 2006  **10** U.S. and World Bank support Yemen's public works project 

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Six Al-Qaeda escapees have been captured so far. Do you think the rest will be captured soon?
 I don't know (14%)
 Yes (20%) No (66%)
 This edition's question:
 Many analysts think the president's current visit to China is a reflection of cooler relations with the West, particularly the U.S. Do you agree with this?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
 Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

Yemeni relations heading east

Yemeni relations with eastern countries have been improving in recent years, especially with China. President Saleh is visiting China and meeting President Hu Jintao to further promote these relations.

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

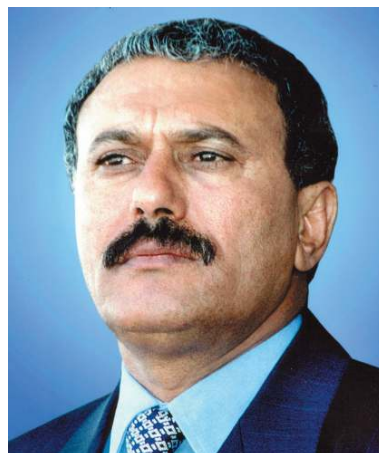
SANA'A, April 5 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh began a visit to China Wednesday, April 5, on a tour of several Asian nations, including Pakistan, accompanied by a delegation of key officials and businesspersons.

The tour's most important visit is to China, which is aimed at signing agreements in the fields of trade, economy, security, information and culture. According to government sources, the visit will open wide Chinese investment opportunities in Yemen, especially in sectors like oil and gas, transport and industry. This comes in light of the investment environment which recently witnessed marked improvement. In the past few years, Yemen has become an important market for Chinese exports, with many Chinese products and goods now flooding Yemeni markets. China, whose development is

increasing, continuously is seeking consumer markets for its various products.

The president's visit, the third in 20 years, has several perspectives. Yemen, which experiences difficult economic conditions, is looking to enhance economic cooperation, which will bring proceeds into the public treasury to meet expenditures. Media sources confirmed that Saleh's talks with the Chinese will tackle economic cooperation and trade exchange between the two countries, which will sign 19 projects and bilateral cooperation programs. Programs and executive agreements on the agenda include double taxation and an executive program for educational cooperation for 2006-2008. An information agreement and a program to encourage and protect investment until 2008 also will be revealed.

A September net news source close to the presidency said projects ready



President Saleh



President Hu Jintao

for signature include expanding Bajil cement plant at a cost of \$116 million, electrical power line projects in Al-Haswah, costing \$35 million, and a \$200 million second natural gas power station with a 400 megawatt yield in Marib.

The Chinese side is expected to offer investment suggestions for Belhaf natural gas station in Shabwa and Ma'abar natural gas station in Dhamar, as well as establish and prepare Al-Saleh

Medical City in Sana'a at a cost of \$150 million. Other projects include establishing new docks in Hodeidah port, a \$200 million Dhaba port project and a strategic multipurpose port in Mokha port. Such projects are in addition to many oil services projects and a railway line to be constructed for use in extracting and transporting mineral wealth.

Economic and technological agreements include China providing a 40

million Yuan (\$5 million) grant to Yemen and a profitless 40 million Yuan loan, in addition to another 200 million Yuan (about \$25 million) soft loan with two percent interest.

Yemeni-Chinese relations recently have witnessed development for several reasons. Statistics reveal that trade exchange between the two countries rose to more than YR 435 billion in 2005. Statistics add that Yemeni exports to China reached YR 380.9 million, as China is considered Yemen's top trade partner. China rates Yemen fourth in trade partnership.

Observers attribute the success of Yemeni-Chinese relations to a number of factors, topped by Chinese products' suitability for Yemeni consumers because they cater to Yemeni economic situations, as well as simple procedures China provides for Yemeni merchants. China's contribution to Yemen's development is another factor. The most important Chinese products in Yemeni markets include food and chemical items, electrical systems, metal products, clothing and shoes. Chinese imports from Yemen include Yemeni petrol, fish and scrap metal.

Continued on page 2

Government constitutional amendments enrage Parliament

By: Adel Al-Khawlani

SANA'A, April 5 — Parliament refused on Wednesday to read the government's constitutional amendments before distributing them to MPs. According to MPs, the amendments grant the Shoura Council some parliamentary authorities and approve increasing Shoura Council members from 111 to 151, stating that members must be elected by local councils.

Dr. Rashad Al-Rassas, State Minister for Parliament and Shoura Council Affairs, began reading President Ali Abdullah Saleh's letter highlighting the amendments. But the majority of MPs interrupted him, as the letter violates parliamentary bylaws stipulating that any new constitutional amendment must be presented to the presidency and then discussed in Parliament before approval.

MP and Constitutional Committee member Abdurrazaq Al-Hijri said parlia-

mentary bylaw Article No. 219 states: "The presidency must study and review any new amendment project for three days and then forward it to the Constitutional Committee for approval by a majority of MPs, which is more than 150. After two months, the project must be approved by three-fourths of MPs, except for articles necessitating public referendum, such as Article No. 69."

Continued on page 2

25 killed and houses destroyed during heavy rains

By: Yemen Times Staff

Sana'a April 5 — Floods and lightning killed at least 25 people and injured more than 15 others over the past two days, according to the defence ministry.

"Heavy rains and flash floods over the previous two days have killed 25 people, including 12 children and four women, in addition to 15 injuries." The ministry site added that heavy rains also destroyed 60 homes and caused considerable damage to scores of others. Livestock and roads were also affected.

Mohammed al-Shaba'an, head of the Crisis Management Unit at the interior ministry's Civil Defence Department, stated to Reuters that there is lack of solid information on the extent of the damage. "We don't have any official reports on the flood damage, so I can't be definite about the numbers of casualties," al-Shaba'an said.

Witnesses say flooding killed three young brothers Monday, when floods swept a huge rock over their house in Dhamar governorate, approximately 100 km. (60 miles) south of Sana'a.

Five people, including two young girls, were killed in Hodeidah province, approximately 270 km. west of Sana'a. Rains have fallen on Seham, Mour, Rema'a, Serdoud and Zabid valleys for the past two days. Two cars loaded with asphalt and cement material, and other three Hilux model vehicles, were swept by floods resulting from the rains,



Rains destroyed homes and agricultural fields in Dhamar governorate.

PHOTO BY FOUAD AL-HARAZI

which amounted to more than 64.5 million cubic meters.

Another six people were struck dead by lightning Monday in Mannakhah province in Yemen's mountainous southwest, according to the official Saba News Agency.

Meanwhile, Al-Ayyam newspaper reported that three people were reported dead due to heavy rains and thunder which hit Raimah governorate. One child also was missed during the rains, while three houses were destroyed and three cars swept away in Al-Ta'am district. Many mountainous agricultural fields also were damaged by heavy rains in Bani Al-Dubaibi and Mazher districts.

Al-Sahwa net reported that three

children were swept away by floods in Ibb governorate. They were found seven kilometers from their district in Al-Barah. Rains also damaged agricultural fields and destroyed six water wells.

Floods caused by torrential rains in Yemen also destroyed dozens of houses, agricultural land and livestock in other provinces.

Meanwhile, the Aviation Authority has warned that more heavy rains could be expected in several governorates.

Last August, flash floods killed 12 people in Yemen. The worst rains to hit the country in recent history fell in 1996, which resulted in hundreds of casualties and property damage worth an estimated US \$1.2 billion.

Al-Moayed alleges mistreatment, requests Yemeni political pressure

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, April 4 — Sheikh Mohammed Ali Al-Moayed, convicted of financing terrorism in the U.S., complained again about mistreatment in his U.S. jail, urging official pressure by Yemen's government to secure his release.

Al-Moayed, 75, serving a 75-year prison sentence in a Colorado jail, was quoted by his son Ibrahim as complaining of hard physical labor he must undertake as part of his sentence, which led to deterioration in his health. He also complained that U.S. authorities, under the excuse of paying his fines, deduct \$30 every three months from monthly sums sent by his family.

Ibrahim told September 26 daily on Monday that his father recently contacted the family and informed them that prison authorities barred him from meeting with his defense lawyer in private and that their talks were held behind glass while he was handcuffed.

Quoting his father, Ibrahim said the lawyer hired by U.S. authorities appeared pessimistic about any success in the appeal unless there is political pressure.

Ibrahim said his father urged him to inform President Ali Abdullah Saleh

about the development of his case, which needs political pressure more than law.

Al-Moayed was taken to the hospital a couple of times in 2005 when his health began deteriorating. Al-Moayed's family warned of the consequences of keeping him in unsatisfactory conditions due to his asthma, diabetes and high blood pressure.

In a related development, Yemeni lawyer Khalid Al-Onssi said Monday that the U.S. embassy refused to grant him an entry visa to join the team defending and following up Al-Moayed's case.

He said the Foreign Ministry addressed a memorandum to the U.S. embassy in Sana'a stressing Yemen's insistence on following up the case of its citizen held in U.S. jails via lawyers the state has appointed. In the memorandum, the ministry renewed demands for granting Al-Onssi an entry visa to be able to join U.S. lawyers defending Al-Moayed in the appeal phase.

Al-Moayed, a leading Islah party member, and his assistant Mohammed Mohsen Zayed, 32, were arrested January 2003 in Germany. They were turned over to the U.S. after the German government approved extradition under approval by the German Federal Constitutional Court on November 13, 2003.

A Yemeni CIA agent named Muhammad Al-Ansi induced Al-Moayed from Sana'a to Germany, wherein he was arrested by order of the U.S., which accused him of having a



Sheikh Al-Moayed

connection with members of Al-Qaeda organization and the Islamic resistance movement Hamas.

On July 28, 2005, a Brooklyn, N.Y., court sentenced Al-Moayed to 75 years in prison and fined him \$1.25 million. The sentence caused disappointment and discontent among Yemeni political parties, tribal leaders and citizens, who turned out in many demonstrations, denouncing inhumane treatment Al-Moayed and Zayed face while detained in U.S. prison.

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Yemeni-Saudi agreement signed to develop exports

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, April 5 — A \$3 million project financing agreement was signed last Sunday in Sana'a between Yemen's governmental Cooperative and Agricultural Credit bank (CAC) and the Saudi Export Fund. CAC head Hafiz Mi'ad signed on Yemen's behalf, while Ahmed Bin Mohamed Al-Ghanam, General Manager of the Saudi Fund for Export Promotion, signed for the Saudis. The agreement will support Yemeni importers who import Saudi products.

In a press release, Mi'ad confirmed that signing the agreement will open an investment line enabling Yemen's private sector to import several Saudi goods, adding that CAC will be a direct financier and warrantor of Yemeni importers in Saudi banks. He confirmed that merchants wanting to use the financing can present a feasibility study to CAC, which will send the study to the Saudi Export Support Fund for approval, under CAC's warranty.

Mi'ad recommended that, like the Saudis, a Yemeni export support fund be established, confirming that



CAC Bank Chairman Hafez Meyad (Right) with Ahmad Bin Mohamed Al-Ghanam from the Saudi Exports Fund while signing the agreement.

Yemeni agricultural and fish exports need support. He disclosed that Yemen's government now is studying creating such a fund.

Mi'ad assured that signing the agreement will serve Yemeni

exporters, adding that instead of buying commodities and paying 100 percent of the price, they will buy on appointed terms and pay later.

Mi'ad assured that the Saudi Export Fund's choice of CAC did not

come from nothing, but was due to developments the bank is witnessing. Al-Ghanam confirmed that the agreement aims to promote Saudi exports and provide facilities by opening six developmental channels at a cost of \$3 million. Such channels represent the first step in encouraging Yemeni investors in this field.

A scientific study prepared by Dr. Shabir Abdullah Al-Harazi at Sana'a University's Faculty of Agriculture called for establishing a development bank to support and finance exporters, saying it secures exports by reducing exporters' risks. The study called for exempting exporters from loans and facilities costs, as well as calling for state contribution toward the costs of export companies' participation in foreign exhibitions.

Al-Harazi's study also recommended there be special care of Arab and African markets, with efforts exerted to export local products to these markets. A modern database system and statistical information also require special attention in order to be presented to producers, marketers and exporters.

48 fake medicines in Yemeni markets

SANA'A, April 5 — The total number of fake medicines in Yemeni markets has reached 48 varieties, according to last week's report by the High Authority for Medicine.

Customs authorities destroyed five tons of fake medicine containing more than 190 varieties caught at Haradh border inlet in cooperation with the authority. The total worth of the medicine was estimated at YR 30 million. Another 38 varieties of fake medicine also were destroyed in Hodeidah and Taiz.

Dr. Abdullah Abdul Khaliq, General Manager of the High Authority for Medicine, said the authority still is holding another quantity of fake medicine at Sana'a airport and Aden customs. They are awaiting a destruction decision. Khaliq confirmed that the authority is exerting efforts with judiciary control apparatus to fight the faking phenomenon.

Consumer Protection Committee minutes published last month regarding destroying fake medicine disclosed that the authority destroyed 81,366



Dr. Abdullah Abdul Khaliq

tons of fake medicine in 2005. The minutes pointed out that a car filled with fake medicine was caught last month. Another quantity from airports and the governorates now is being held in Aden customs.

Foreign investment in Yemen declines

SANA'A, April 4 — According to official scores, Arab and foreign investment in Yemen has declined to its worst level over the past few years.

A recent economic report prepared by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation's research unit revealed that Arab investment declined from 27.1 percent in 2002 to 8.1 percent of total investments in Yemen in 2004. The report indicated that investment declined to 22.1 percent in 2003.

Foreign investment decreased from 11.4 percent in 2002 to 0.6 percent in 2004, with the ministry acknowledging

that many challenges and obstacles caused the decline. The survey identified such challenges and obstacles by evaluating investment and private business environments. The ministry implemented the survey in collaboration with the World Bank.

Lack of government, political and economic stability, tax increases and poor performance of tax and customs authorities, corruption, bribery in government systems and the high cost of business licenses constitute the most prominent obstacles, the ministry noted.

Survey findings revealed that there

is unjust investment competition due to smuggling via Yemeni outlets, plus the declining level of infrastructure services and high estate prices.

Rising costs, prolonged procedures to obtain funding, the legal system's poor performance and lack of skilled human resources are the most prominent challenges, the survey found.

According to the report, 60 percent of Arab and foreign investors implement business related to providing education, health and transportation services. The industrial sector attracted 27 percent and tourism 15 percent of Arab and foreign investment, thereby occu-

pying second and third place respectively.

The report attributed Arab investors' concentration on services to the availability of electricity and transportation in cities where they establish their projects. Additionally, these investors provide security services in such densely populated areas, taking their attention away from rural areas, despite the fact that only 16 percent of Yemen's population live in cities.

The report mentioned that the above reasons are behind lack of investment in agriculture and transformation industries.

Security authorities allow U.S. to investigate terror suspects

ADEN, April 4 — Khalid Abdunnabi, leader of the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army (AAIA), stated earlier this week that Abyan's Political Security Organization arrested several AAIA elements.

He added that U.S. investigators interrogated the captured suspects about their plans to travel to Iraq to fight foreign forces there.

Abdunnabi told the London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper that they have no intention to travel to Iraq, denying the presence of Islamic fighter training camps in Abyan.

He also denied that the AAIA receives support from Ali Muhsen Al-Ahmar, following news of a government program aimed at training militias and giving them military rank.

Antiquities discovered in Bilqis Shrine

MARIB, April 4 — Antiquity discovery work at Bilqis Shrine, implemented by the American Human Studies Establishment, discovered some interesting antiquities in the past two days.

Well-informed sources told 26 September weekly that the new discoveries date back to the first century.

They include a 60cm-long and 40cm-wide bronze portrait containing inscriptions and Musnad writings, in addition to statues and other pieces used as gifts at that time.

Sources added that the new discoveries reveal historical tales about the life of ancient Yemenis and provide details about that period.

Somali refugees in Yemen feel oppressed

SANA'A, April 5 — Somali refugees in Yemen urged the National Authority for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) to intervene in the issue between them and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Somali refugees requested HOOD settle negotiations between them and the UNHCR, which forced them to conduct a sit-in in front of UNHCR premises in Sana'a last November and December.

In their letter, the refugees mentioned

that they no longer want to live in Yemen, as their demands remained unmet. They said there is no plan for refugees' education, nor do they have medical services, despite the fact that there are many health centers but they are not supplied with medical equipment.

They indicated that their cards do not ensure them the right to travel around the republic, nor do they ensure education or work. They complained that they are denied the right to appoint lawyers to defend themselves, as they often are

subjected to arrest and arbitrary conduct by police.

"We need a sound solution. We do not want chaos," the refugees added. They pointed out that UNHCR officials are not ready to discuss their issues or fulfill their needs. They called for dialogue with the UNHCR to list their demands, including compensation for what happened to them and tackling their issues.

"Concerning the transfer of refugees to another country, we believe that the UNHCR office in Yemen is unable to fulfill this task, and if it can, this will

take a long period of time," HOOD Chairman, lawyer Mohamed Najji Allow, said in a statement.

"Other demands including the right to education, work, health care and protection are the duties of UNHCR. We notice that UNHCR is remiss, as it never defends refugees. We told it to do its duty toward refugees, but it did not respond, despite the fact that it contracted with lawyers to tackle refugees' issues," Allow added. HOOD pledged to help the refugees and tackle their issues at various levels.

Police raid Sana'a school for punishing officer's son

SANA'A, April 2 — Police raided Al-Hawrash School in Sana'a at the request of a security official's son who quarreled with the school's deputy principal.

Informed sources told media that the son of the security officer, who works in the capital's Criminal Investigation Bureau, tried escaping

from the school by jumping the fence. When the deputy principle punished him, the student resorted to the police station, returning to school with three soldiers who raided it in an arbitrary manner.

Soldiers attempted to seduce the deputy principal and take him to the police station, but mediation efforts

succeeded in settling the dispute at the school. Mediators persuaded the deputy principal to apologize to the student.

Soldiers raiding the school sparked fear among students and teachers, sources said. They added that the student's father threatened school officials by phone about dire

consequences for allegedly punishing his son, confirming that security officials' children must not be treated like other students.

Teachers are subject to harassment nationwide due to striking in protest against their deteriorating living standards and the government's new wage strategy.

Continued from page 1

Yemeni relations heading east

Yemeni-Chinese cooperation began in 1956, with China providing much assistance throughout such cooperation, topped by economic, educational and health assistance. The most important achievement in the roads sector is construction of the Sana'a-Hodeidah road, as well as much other unconditional aid that China has furnished.

Observers of Yemeni-Chinese relations believe China's government has strengthened its relations with Yemen by using several factors, including political ones, such as taking advantage of Yemen's cool relations with some influential countries. Observers attribute this to China's non-intervention policy in internal affairs and its respect for all Yemeni governments, which attracted Yemen's government, as well as Yemeni citizens' respect.

Observers also see that Yemen recently granted China immense investment facilities in all fields, including oil discovery and building projects. Observers are also of the idea that Yemen's fondness for the east suits its situation, as Yemen suffers several problems like those experienced in third world countries, which recently were developing themselves; and besides, the cost of fusing with such countries is not expensive.

Government constitutional amendments enrage Parliament

Article No. 62 amendments include establishing another legislative chamber, in addition to the current legislative chamber represented by Parliament, Al-Hijri noted. The article's amendments grant the Shoura council legislative authority after increasing its membership to 151, the majority of whom are to be elected by local council members while the others are to be appointed by the president.

Al-Hijri continued, "The amendments are not good, since those who framed them for President Saleh cared for their personal interests at the expense of public ones." He commented that the amendments constitute a democratic setback.

He expressed curiosity at granting the Shoura Council legislative authority. "This is one of Yemen's amendment scandals," he said.

Dr. Aidarus Al-Naqeeb, head of the Yemeni Socialist Party parliamentary bloc, stated that reading any constitutional amendments without distributing them to MPs three days in advance is one of Parliament's random and confusing procedures.

"Parliament deserves such random amendments because it showed no reaction to financial and administrative corruption in many governmental bodies," MP Abdulkarim Shaiban said. "The president was supposed to use his power and dissolve Parliament in lieu of presenting these amendments.

"We do not oppose establishing another legislative chamber in addition to Parliament if it is elected by citizens rather than by the executive authority. If these constitutional amendments are approved, democracy will be out of place in our country," Shaiban commented.

Many MPs held Parliament's Executive Office accountable for not presenting the current budget or announcing the past year's financial accounts.

Parliamentary Financial Committee member Zakaria Al-Zakari affirmed that the current budget was not presented to his committee for discussion, considering this one of the violations committed in Parliament, coupled with its approval of the state general budget for fiscal year 2006.

Hospital negligence may have claimed 2-day-old infant's life

The Ministry of Health and Population has set up an investigative committee to discover the cause of a 2-day-old infant's death at Al-Sabeen Maternity Hospital in Sana'a. Last weekend, the ministry received a complaint about an infant death two days after her birth. The complaint suspected that employee negligence during the delivery process could have caused her death.

Composed of several specialist physicians, the committee is entrusted with investigating circumstances of the infant's death by evaluating all medical and treatment procedures from her birth until her death. The committee also is instructed to reveal complications causing her death and whether there was any negligence following her birth by those in charge of the hospital's midwifery section.

Israeli policies resulting in humanitarian disaster in Gaza

Poverty in Gaza seldom makes the headlines but it is blighting the future of the Palestinians.

Gaza Strip is on the verge of major humanitarian disaster as a result of shortage of money and food, UN aid organizations warn according, to an article published by Ha'aretz.

There's a sharp rise in poverty levels in Gaza, and a creeping humanitarian disaster is overwhelming the Palestinian people.

Decades of Israeli curfews, checkpoints, and road closures have robbed the Palestinians of self-sufficiency and fostered a culture of dependence and powerlessness, according to waronwant.org.

A report by the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which states a significant increase in the number of hungry people since the cut of foreign aid, also warns of a lack of basic food supplies as a result of Israel's frequent closures of the Karni crossing which prevented many goods and basic supplies from

reaching Gazans.

Unless immediate action is taken, Palestinians living in Gaza will face a humanitarian crisis as bad as the one in Kosovo, David Shearer, head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), told Foreign Ministry officials.

The chief cause of this crisis in Gaza is the Israeli policy of systematic closures, blockades, and curfews which have created shortages of medicine and food, including infant formula and powdered milk.

Israeli policies are also making it difficult for workers to get to their jobs. And the result is a surge in unemployment rates, which means that, even when store shelves are stuffed with goods, Palestinian families can't afford to feed their children adequately.

The closure policy is also denying



A creeping humanitarian disaster is overwhelming the Palestinian people.

Palestinian children a regular education.

According to World Bank statistics, unless a dramatic change is

made, 75 percent of Palestinians will be below the poverty line in less than two years. The current rate is 56 percent, compared to 22 percent in

2000.

Punishing Hamas movement, now the ruling government, Israel has decided to withhold the transfer of some NIS 200 million a month in tax funds to the Palestinian Authority, ignoring the negative impact that would have on the Palestinian nation.

Also Washington and many European allies followed Israel's footsteps and froze monthly financial aid payments coming to some \$45 million, Ha'aretz article added.

There are over 120 Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which when added to roadblocks, divide the West Bank into 300 enclaves and Gaza Strip into three separate sections.

The denial of freedom of movement for Palestinians has made any semblance of normal life almost impossible. Even children can't get to their schools or to hospital while arbitrary and random nature of curfews is designed to make it impossible for people and civil institutions to make any plans.

UNRWA officials have voiced concern over the fact that PA workers

have not received their salaries this month, as a result of Israel's decision to withhold the tax money.

37 percent of employed people in the Gaza Strip, about 73,000 people, work for the PA, according to the United Nations estimates.

Another issue highlighted in UNRWA report is the fact that 850,000 fowl are suspected of having contracted bird flu, money from donor nations is badly needed to fight the virus.

World Bank said it plans to transfer more than US\$2 million in aid to Palestinian poultry farmers whose chickens were infected with the bird flu virus.

The decision came after a request by Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, who spoke with the Bank's President Paul Wolfowitz, following talks between senior bank officials and Foreign Ministry Director General Ron Prushor.

Livni demanded that the Bank gives incentives to the Palestinian farmers to exterminate the infected birds.

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“Iraq led to London bombings”

SPY chiefs warned the British Prime Minister Tony Blair that joining the United States in its unwise decision to unjustifiably invade Iraq has made Britain more vulnerable to terror attacks “for many years to come.”

But first time it's being officially recognized that the Iraq war motivated the four four-British-born men of Pakistani descent, accused of carrying out the brutal bombings that hit the British capital in July 2005 was by the government in a major report into the 7 July attacks, according to The Observer.

According to The four-page memo, entitled International Terrorism: Impact of Iraq, Iraq war has “exacerbated” the threat by radicalizing people provoking them carry out anti-western attacks, and inspiring the four bombers who are responsible for the July incident.

A top-secret memo released by the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), the senior intelligence body in Britain responsible for issuing assessments of the extent of threats to Britain's national security, contradicts the British Prime Minister's public speeches, and attempts by Downing Street to play down suggestions that the conflict has made Britain a target for terrorists and that the invasion of Iraq has instigated a war against Britain.

“It has reinforced the determination of terrorists who were already committed to attacking the West and motivated others who were not,” said the memo, approved by Eliza Manningham-Buller, the head of MI5, John Scarlett, the chief of MI6, and Sir David Pepper, head of GCHQ, the government's eavesdropping centre.

“Iraq is likely to be an important motivating factor”

The Home Office inquiry into London bombings concluded that the attackers were inspired by UK foreign



Photo from Anti-War Demo in Sheffield (UK)

policy, mainly the decision to join the United States in attacking Iraq.

Shortly after July attacks in London, Blair blamed an “evil ideology”, not the war, for motivating the bombers:

“If it is Iraq that motivates them, why is the same ideology killing Iraqis by terror in defiance of an elected government?” the British PM said.

In a separate speech he dismissed suggestions that London bombings were inspired by Iraq war:

“What they want us to do is to turn round and say, ‘Oh it's all our fault.’”

“The people who are responsible for

terrorist attacks are terrorists.”

Also, Charles Clarke, the home secretary, following the attacks in London, accused those who said that the war led to the bombings “serious intellectual flabbiness”.

The findings of the report, written in April last year and circulated to Blair and other senior ministers before the July attacks, will prove highly embarrassing to the British Premier, who boasted at the beginning of Iraq war that invading the country would make Britain safer.

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Iran test-fires “world's fastest” torpedo

Iran successfully test-fired what it says is the world's fastest underwater missile, designed to evade radar and destroy huge warships and submarines, military commanders said, according to BBC.

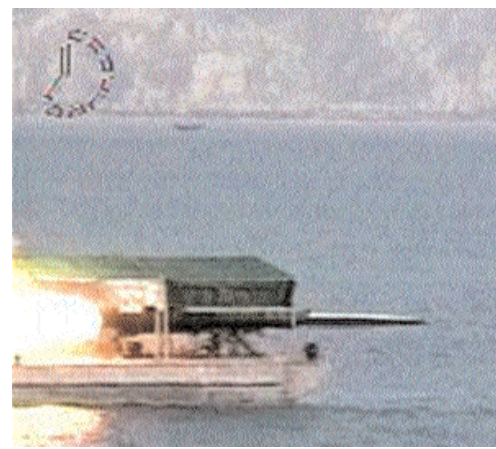
The new torpedo, called the “Hoot”, or “Whale”, could be deployed on Iranian ships in the oil-rich Gulf area, where the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet is based.

Military chiefs said the new missile is capable of traveling at 360km/h, three to four times faster than most conventional torpedos.

“Today we have successfully test-fired a high-speed underwater missile with a speed of 100 meters per second, which is able to overcome the enemy's sonar and radar,” Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi, the deputy commander of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards naval force, told state television on Sunday.

“Even if enemy warship sensors identify the missile, no warship can escape from this missile because of its high speed.

“Its powerful warhead is capable of destroying large warships and submarines, and the missile itself can be launched from any launching pad,” Fadavi added.



A TV grab from Iran's state TV shows the test-firing of the new underwater missile.

The test came two days after Iran tested another locally produced missile capable of evading radar detection and hitting several targets at the same time

Both tests come during week-long military exercises by Iran's elite Republican Guard troops in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

An Iranian military chief said that Tehran will test more missiles during its war games, Reuters reported.

“Tomorrow, we will see other missile test firings by the

Revolutionary Guards in the ‘Great Prophet’ war games,” Rear Admiral Dehqani said.

“We are going to have very important news that will make our nation proud in the next few days,” he added.

Iran already has medium-range Shahab-3 missiles with a range of 2,000 kilometers.

Western states have been watching developments in Iran's missile capabilities with concern amid a standoff over the Iranian nuclear program.

The Islamic Republic denies Western accusations that it is seeking weapons of mass destruction, insisting that it has a legitimate right to work on a peaceful nuclear program as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Last week, the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved a non-binding statement giving Iran 30 days to halt uranium enrichment activities.

sanctions.
www.aljazeera.net

Oil for food scandal

By: Paul Michaud
Paris Newsfile

As France continues to be implied in the Oil for Food scandal, a leading French magistrate, Judge Philippe Courroye, until now largely involved in the country's massive anti-terrorist effort, decides to go to Baghdad

To see what really the US-directed government has on several French citizens, not least among them former Interior minister Charles Pasqua as well as an ex French ambassador to Washington, with governmental

sources suggesting that the persistent naming of a number of French individuals as being involved in the affair might very well be simply part of American retribution for France's go-it-alone role in leading international public

opinion against the US-led March 2003 invasion of Iraq, indeed is linked to the international boycott against French writers and journalists, largely led by Washington and London, with French president Jacques Chirac said to be “furious” over the matter, all the while urging French

authorities to not react to the recurrent attacks against France in the US and British media, telling them to “show them you're better educated than they are” (montrez-les que vous etes mieux eduves), still very intent on giving France an all-news satellite service that would allow Paris to present its version of what is happening in the world, the French head of state increasingly concerned that the British BBC and US-based CNN are, to this day, giving nothing but their own tainted version of what is going in France.



The United States Embassy in Sana'a, Yemen is seeking proposals from interested shipping companies to provide the following services:

1. Process all incoming and outgoing US Embassy shipments for household goods, unaccompanied baggage, privately/governmental-owned vehicles, and government equipment from air and sea ports located in the republic of Yemen.
2. Process exemptions, clearance, and deliveries for the release of shipments for the US Embassy by securing timely approvals from the Yemen ministries of foreign affairs, customs, security and other necessary offices as required.
3. Submit Bills of Ladings and other administrative paperwork associated with receipts, delivery and shipment of these items.

Interested parties must call 755-2122/2037 before 4:30 pm by April 10th, 2006 to register for an orientation that will occur at the US Embassy at 9:00 am on April 12th, 2006. Interested parties will receive copies of solicitations and instructions at this meeting. All solicitations must be submitted to the US Embassy no later than 12:00 pm on April 26th, 2006.



www.clintonfoundation.org

President Clinton Tours Cipla Factory in India

Last night I flew to Goa, India, A former Portuguese colony on the Arabian Sea, Goa is a beautiful city flush with beaches and lush tropical forests. I'm here to tour a factory run by Cipla, an important partner in my Foundation's HIV/AIDS initiative's work, and we had a great tour this morning and I saw a lot of what is really a world-class facility.

Three years ago, we teamed up with Cipla and other drug makers to provide AIDS medication at affordable prices to people in the developing world. Today, because of partners like Cipla, we are able to provide life-saving antiretroviral drugs at prices reduced by 50 to 90 percent to people living with HIV/AIDS.

When Cipla and my foundation first started



working together, only 70,000 people in the developing world (outside of Brazil and Thailand) were receiving these life-saving treatments. Now more than one million people take antiretroviral medication in developing countries, including over a quarter of a million

people who get them under my Foundation's agreements.

The AIDS medications produced at the Cipla factories provide hope for the 5.1 million people living in India with the virus - but this is only the first step. When people start on anti-retroviral

medication, they're making a lifetime commitment. For long-term treatment to remain effective, many patients must eventually move from cheaper first line antiretroviral drugs to much more costly second-line combinations. We have made progress in cutting the prices of these medications, but we still have a long way to go before they are available to all of those who need them.

It won't be easy to overcome the challenges posed by the virus in India, but we can't afford to fail. With the help of companies like Cipla and proactive governments like India's I'm confident that we will succeed.

Cipla's commitment to the expansion of care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS in the developing world is commendable. I am pleased to be here at Cipla's facilities, where so many of the AIDS drugs that are needed to keep people alive in the developing world are produced. I am grateful for our cooperation and thank Dr. Hamied, Mr. Lulla, and all of the Cipla team for their contribution to providing affordable antiretroviral drugs to the developing world.



I came to visit this factory because Cipla has been a leader in the provision of more affordable world-class antiretroviral medication for many years and we have been partners for 3 years.

And as a result of that partnership an enormous number of people are alive in the world today who would not otherwise be alive."

"I have to tell you that of all the countries that work in including the United States, India is the only country I am

aware of that does not have a significant shortage of doctors in rural areas. And I think it's because in your society it's still a great honor to be a physician in a small town, in a rural area ...even if people don't make a lot of money, they have a lot of standing from their fellow citizens and I hope it's something you never lose."

Bill Clinton
Former President of the USA
at Cipla Goa
18 February 2006

Thank you for welcoming me, and for your wonderful work and of course, for our partnership to save lives
Bill Clinton
18 February 2006



Romantic mobile phone calls and messages

With development and technology spreading around the country, citizens have the chance to experience a different side of life. For example, mobile phones are being used for sending messages or chatting with beautiful romantic words.

By: Hakim Alasmari
hakim_almasmari@hotmail.com

“How much I like you and how much I care for you.” “During the nights, I dream of waking up and seeing you standing beside me.” “I love you so much, but you’re killing me with your ignorance.” “If loving you is wrong, I don’t want to be right.” “My love for you is brighter than any light.” “The way we must go is long, but we will win every fight.” “Sometimes, when you miss someone, you look at his picture. But when I miss someone special like you, I close my eyes or look at the moon.” “Never frown if you are sad - you never know who could be falling in love with your smile.”

These are some of the many roman-

tic messages sent from one mobile phone to another to attract both men and women. It’s becoming a widespread phenomenon, especially among the younger generation. A few years ago, this type of issue almost never existed. Mobile phones were rare and limited among citizens; therefore, the spread of this phenomenon was rare. As years passed and mobile phones became more widespread, more and more youngsters began indulging in romantic conversations and sweet messages.

According to a limited survey conducted with university students in Sana’a, 35 percent of those surveyed blamed satellite channels for the spread of such ideas among Yemenis, while 30 percent blame Gulf tourists who flock to the country and the different mentality they bring with them. “Gulf residents visit Yemen, spreading what bad

they already have there to Yemen,” said 25-year-old Abdul Rahman, worried about the phenomenon’s rapid spread.

Sami Mohammed, 18, admitted that he sends an average of 10 messages a day - all to different women. “I know what I’m doing is wrong, but it’s only a stage that we pass through. Eventually, in time, we will think of it as inappropriate and wrong.”

Young men and women in Sana’a are beginning to view mobile phones as a part of life. It has become more like an addiction, with sending or receiving calls or messages becoming an obligation in everyday life. “I can’t live without it. I receive or call at least 30-40 times during the day,” said 22-year-old Wael Al-Salahi, admitting his mobile phone use. “If our financial situations were any better, I don’t know how selfishly we’d end up using mobile phones for useless reasons,” he added. Locals realize that such use’s spread



in cities far exceeds that of villages and urban areas. Only in rare incidents will a villager send a message or contact the opposite gender by phone. The reason

for this is that villages are small, making it easier for such news to spread to family members or neighbors, thereby causing more trouble and bad than good. Cities are larger and parents are busier, making the chance of getting caught by a guardian harder and more difficult.

Recently, the father of a female university student happened to take hold of his daughter’s mobile phone. Shockingly, more than 40 sent love messages were saved in her phone. The father canceled the phone line at once. “She could be innocent, but these messages reveal how widespread this crisis has become,” the girl’s father said, preferring to remain anonymous. “This is the last time my daughter will possess a phone as long as I’m alive,” the worried parent added.

Many question why this phenomenon is spreading at such a quick pace. Najib Ali, a psychiatrist living in Europe, said, “Yemenis were not exposed to the many developments that happened around the world in the late

’90s. When the chance was given to them, it was almost impossible to resist.” Originally from Syria, Ali now is living in Germany. “This was expected to happen to all countries in the world, not only Yemen or the Middle East,” he added.

Some parents fear that the phenomenon’s spread could harm their children’s future and erase all cultural values from the life of the next generation, whereas others view it differently. “We were all young, and at that age, children and teenagers want to experience new ideas and prepare themselves for the future ahead of them,” said father of four Ali Salman, who experiences problems with his children regarding the issue. “I am having problems with my children, but it’s only fair to have them learn from their mistakes,” he added.

It is claimed that such incidents can damage cultural values and the respect citizens have for each another. Culturally in Yemen, if a man respects and loves a woman, he has full right to ask for her hand in marriage. But with the spread of such romantic phone calls and messages, it is easier for men to toy with women’s feelings, in some situations leaving them alone to suffer the shame and outcomes of these relationships.

Human Rights-based approach to MDGs

Are human rights and development two separate approaches or can they be used complementarily? In context of women’s human rights and development, my view is that human rights approach is essential for achieving development. Human rights approach recognizes that all human beings irrespective of the boundaries that divide them, including gender, are entitled to certain fundamental rights that are prerequisites to secure human dignity and fulfil basic needs. Let’s take the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to understand this. The Millennium Declaration includes eight MDGs and six commitments that the state and other parties make to uphold and promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, democracy and good governance, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the rights of migrant workers and families, inclusive political processes and freedom of the media and people’s access to information. The



By: Nisha

eight goals and six commitments taken together represent a good combination of economic and social rights. In principle, they show the shift from poverty eradication approach towards development to a recognition that without human security and empowering people, and making a social intervention to address existing inequalities human development is not possible.

Now let’s talk about the way we are trying to achieve the MDGs. In Yemen, like most other developing countries, MDGs are currently being implemented using frameworks which are mainly economic. So while one hears of the eight goals one does not hear of the six commitments. In common manner of speaking, the tendency is to bring up the goals separately from the Millennium Declaration. The implication of this way of approaching the goals is that it may end up only with the analyses of gender needs (read women’s needs) in economic terms but may not lead to the integra-

tion of a gender perspective into all policies, programmes and projects. A consequence of using only economic framework to implement MDGs would be that the social aspects of women and men’s interests and needs will remain out of focus and additional initiatives to enable women to articulate and express their perspectives and to participate in decision-making processes will not be either thought of or taken up.

In order to achieve the MDGs in true spirit of the Millennium Declaration, it is essential to link the goals beyond macro level economic analyses and policy process. It is critical that the initiatives to achieve MDGs encompass human rights based interventions that make it possible for the individual to feel empowered to participate and make decisions, that attempt to change cultural norms and practices preventing women from participation and decision-making, and that provide facilitative environment to women at institutional and organisational levels. Without such interventions, the traditional and structural causes of gender-specific discrimination that violate women’s human rights will continue to obstruct women’s equal involvement in the development of Yemen. And without women’s equal and active involvement in development processes, MDGs cannot be truly achieved.

The eight MDGs and six commitments must go hand in hand because certain human values and standards like non-discrimination; extra efforts to ensure participation of the marginalized groups including women; rights to conducive environment for free mobility, participation in the public sphere and economic self determination; etc are particularly significant in addressing the problem of poverty. Also, from the perspective of gender development poverty should not be construed only in terms of income whether of household or of individual. Women’s unconstrained ability to access, own and control resources whether their own income or family assets with the support of state legislation and without the fear of family and social reprisal are keys to their ability to enjoy economic and social rights as well as to contribute to the country’s development. But social norms in Yemen and legal frameworks not only place constraints on women’s social mobility and economic participation rather also make women more vulnerable to family violence. Linking women’s ability to enjoy the full range of human rights with development is essential if development is meant to be egalitarian and for the benefit of the entire population. In other words, there is a need to integrate human rights approach in the MDGs related policy and programming processes.

Embedding a broader understanding of poverty and gender responsive programming that take into account socio-political, cultural and human rights considerations affecting women and men would make development programmes more context sensitive, responsive and effective in achieving MDGs. Adoption of a broader understanding of poverty implies that poverty may be interpreted differently in Yemen. It may require different set of strategies and timeline to achieve the goals here. This flexibility

will ensure that the MDGs once achieved will be longer lasting. The guidelines and recommendations to achieve MDGs, which are heavily economic in nature, should not be treated as prescriptive but must remain what they are, guidelines and recommendations. That means depending on the context they could be modified and adapted to ensure an inclusive process.

Nisha is an Indian activist working in development and gender. She is a campaign and advocacy expert and has published many research papers around the world.

Research in Yemen by the UNICEF, Women’s National Committee, Oxfam GB and many other development organizations has demonstrated that the two most significant obstacles to girls’ education are stereotypical socio-cultural perceptions of women’s roles and practices that prevent girls and women from accessing and benefiting from opportunities. Among the most frequently identified perceptions and practices are low estimation of girls’ worth, early marriage, early pregnancy and unpaid work. These issues are related to rights of girl children and women, which the Yemeni government must ensure if it is committed to achieving MDGs 2 and 3.

In Yemen, girls of any age could be married lawfully if their parents think it is in their interest although the same law suggests 15 years as the right age. Many people in Yemen usually begin considering a girl as a grown up woman when she has her first menstruation. The gaps in the law and poor understanding of girls’ physical and sexual health among a large number of people suggests that the condition needed for achieving universal primary education and eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education is far from being realized. Unless the Yemeni government and the people of Yemen realize that low estimation of girls’ worth, early marriage, early pregnancy and unpaid work not only preclude girls from school, but also violate their rights as children and women. Early marriage is an especially noteworthy reason behind young girls pushed to be adults and therefore denied the rights they should have as children, including the right to education.

Expressions of Interest

Republic of Yemen Ministry of oil and Minerals Consulting Services

The government of the Republic of Yemen represented by Ministry of Oil and Minerals (Ras Issa Project management Unit) carried out a feasibility study for Ras Issa proposed Crude Export Terminal Facility in 2004, and intends to develop this study, as well as prepare the project design concept of Crude Export Terminal Facility, to be launched for International competitive bidding procedures, the purpose of this EOI is to invite interested qualified and experienced Consultants for prequalification. The result of prequalification will yield short list for the most competent, qualified and experienced Consultants who will be eligible for request for proposals RFP in a later stage. The General main frame work of the assignment will be :-

1. develop the current project preliminary study for the crude export terminal facility prepared by VECO – USA 2002- 2004
- Design of a grassroots marine terminal complete with land storage, pumping and metering facilities, marine facilities for ocean –going oil super- tanker loading and all infra structures and systems to ensure that the facilities are self supporting and independent.
- Cost estimate based on adequate engineering basis for the entire project for all facility components, services and systems

Crude Export terminal Facility main Components

A) On shore facilities

comprising floating roof storage tanks phase 1 total capacity is two million barrels 2,000, 000 barrels in the first project phase to be expanded by additional storage tanks of 1000, 000 barrels capacity in the second phase later if possible.

- Tank capacity may be 250,000 or 500,000 barrels whichever is the most adequate and feasible.
- All required pipelines and pumps and other services etc,

B) Offshore facilities

Recommend the various options for the replacement for the floating storage and off loading facility (FSO) the existing " SAFER " located at latitude N 15 07' and longitude E 42 36' in the Red Sea offshore of the Republic of Yemen. The existing FSO is aging and the objective of the study is to indicate the most efficient solution / and or option for further use of the port.

2. prepare the overall project design concept and bidding documents based on Turn key basis (finance, design, build, operate, including all other studies required geotechnical studies / environmental impact studies etc. as well as prepare the overall project TOR and guide lines of all facility components.
3. Participate in the Project evaluation of bids received and prepare the evaluation report with recommendation to select the most appropriate firm who may be awarded the contract, based on detailed technical and financial analysis for all bids received, clearly define all advantages and disadvantages for each bid.

It is anticipated that the assignment will be spread out through 3 months

The Ministry of Oil and Minerals (Ras Issa Project Management Unit) now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 0800 to 1500 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below; the deadline will be 30th of April 2006.

Ministry of Oil and Minerals
Ras Issa Project management Unit
P.O. Box: 15564
Republic of Yemen
Sana’a,

OR
Hadda Street – Yemen Oil & Gas Corporation Building,
5th floor, Ras Issa Project Management Unit,
Attn: Dr. Alameri
Fax: 00967 1 440723
E-mail: ras_issa_proj@yahoo.com

VACANCY NOTICE

Title: **Administrative assistant**
Date: **April 01, 2006**
Grade: **G-6**
Deadline for application: **20/04/2006**
Contract type: **Fixed term appointment**
Duty station: **Sanaa**
Duration: **two years**
Unit: **Office of the representative WHO-Sanaa**

Description of duties:

Under general supervision of the head of the office, the incumbent performs administrative support functions as follows:

- Advise and assist other staff in area of office management
- Arrange for and/or attend meetings on day to day administrative matters and makes recommendations for follow up action
- Coordinate the secretarial services of the office, distribute special assignments to other secretaries and clear correspondence for the supervisor’s signature.
- Prepares on own initiative, correspondence, reports, evaluation and justifications, as required on general administrative or specialized tasks.
- Briefs and assists international personnel on general administrative matters relating to visas, licences, security, provides advice and ensures administrative support as required.
- Receive, screen, log and route incoming correspondence and prepare/despatch outgoing pouch.
- Arrange appointments and maintain supervisor’s calendar and receive high ranking visitors
- Draft non substantive correspondence and ensure follow up
- Maintain policy, confidential and general management files
- Compiles data, maintains documents and drafts reports related to WHO joint programmes.
- Assists visiting MoPH staff in programme related matters and makes local administrative arrangements for WHO meetings and seminars.
- Keep list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of ministers, government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

Qualifications required:

- Completion of secondary school with further college or technical training and knowledge in office, commercial, administration and computer system.
- Minimum five year experience in similar function.
- Very good knowledge in English and Arabic.

Applications should be sent to: **World Health Organization, Ministry of Health building – El Hasaba Area P.O Box 543 – Sanaa, Republic of Yemen**
Only candidates under serious considerations will be contacted for interview and test.



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

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

WEBMASTER/GRAPHIC DESIGNER– Reference No. 052

Reporting to the Head of Public Relations, the job holder is responsible for keeping the Yemen LNG Company Website/webpages up-to-date with accurate information; for developing and maintaining an Intranet for documentation and information sharing within the company and for building and maintaining an electronic library for photos, videos and public information materials. The successful applicant will also produce and reproduce multimedia products in the required formats, including photos, audio-visual and other information material and will carry out graphics work as required. The role also involves the design and preparation of the company's public presentations and slides within requested timeframes.

The successful candidate must have a Higher Diploma or University Degree in Computer Science or Electronic Engineering, together with 2-3 years' previous experience in web design & management, automated solutions & databases and excellent graphic designing skills. This permanent staff position is based in Sana'a.

COST CONTROLLER– Reference No. 053

Reporting to the Cost Control Supervisor, the job holder assists with the control and maintenance of financial planning, budgeting and corporate cost control systems, the preparation of cost reports against budget for management and shareholders and the provision of advice and assistance on budget and cost control matters to the various departments in the company. The successful candidate must have an Accounting / Finance degree or professional qualification, plus 3 to 5 years' experience in cost control and budgeting, preferably within the Oil and Gas industry, and ideally with some international experience. This permanent staff position is based in Sana'a.

GENERAL LEDGER SUPERVISOR– Reference No. 054

Reporting to the Head of Operations Accounts, the job holder develops Monthly Financial Ledger Closing Schedules in discussion with the Financial Reporting section and other involved parties for distribution to Company Divisions. He / she also carries out project reviews, and prepares and inputs Journal Vouchers to the Ledger subject to the necessary signatory approvals. The job holder also is responsible for monitoring the section operation to ensure the necessary data is received for input to the General Ledger by the scheduled system closing dates and reviews monthly Accruals before input to Ledger and after production of the First Look Report which is circulated within the Finance Division. He / she is also responsible for reviewing requests for additions and deletions to the Chart of Accounts as per business requirements, in conjunction with the System Administrator. The successful candidate will assist both internal and external

Auditors as necessary and develop staff through external training courses and internal mentoring commensurate with Finance roles. The successful candidate must have an Accounting / Finance degree or professional qualification, plus at least 6 years' General Ledger experience preferably within the Oil and Gas industry. Exposure to international experience would be an additional advantage. This permanent staff position is based in Sana'a.

SITE LIAISON OFFICERS - Reference No. 055

Construction of the Company's gas pipeline from the Marib governorate to the Balhaf plant in Shabwa Governorate is now beginning and the Company is committed to maintaining excellent relations with local communities along the route. Reporting to the Pipeline Construction Manager and also liaising closely with the Sustainable Development Manager, the job holder will be responsible for maintaining cordial relations with local communities and local governmental representatives by explaining YLNG Project Team needs and how local labour is to be hired in each district. The job holder will also note local community proposals for mutually beneficial, sustainable initiatives in each district and will refer these to YNLG management for evaluation and consideration. The ideal candidate will have excellent knowledge of the Marib and Shabwa governorates and previous experience with sustainable community projects. A high degree of personal credibility and the ability to live and work in a relatively isolated environment, plus strong report writing skills are essential qualities. The incumbent will work a rota of 4 weeks on site followed by 4 weeks of rest period leave. This is a temporary position which will cease in December 2008 when pipeline construction is complete.

SECRETARIES – Reference No. 056

Several positions for highly experienced secretaries have now arisen within the organization. The successful incumbents will be fluent in spoken and written English and Arabic and will have a sound grasp of technical English. An ability to work rapidly and accurately under pressure and willingness and ability to work to deadlines are essential. The successful applicants will be qualified to degree level and will be able to demonstrate a sound track-record in a similar environment, ideally within the oil and gas industry. Applicants will be required to undergo English language proficiency and Computer aptitude (Microsoft Office) tests as part of the recruitment process and must be willing to undertake additional varied support / secretarial / administrative roles as and when required. These permanent staff positions are based in Sana'a.

HR Assistant – Reference No.057

• Reporting to the Head of HR Administration, the successful applicant will also

assist the Payroll Officer and HR Administrator and will be expected to master the basics of their roles in order to be able to provide cover during absences. The job holder will also liaise closely with the HR Assistant (Recruitment) to ensure that recruited staff and their personal details are transferred effectively and accurately between the two sections. The HR Assistant will also input employee data into the HR and Payroll Databases, welcome new recruits, conduct the HR stages of the induction process and conduct periodic checks during probation. The incumbent will also receive and process staff timesheets and assist with data entry to, and report-writing from the Payroll and HR databases. The successful candidate will also develop personal knowledge of National and Expatriate terms and conditions of employment in order to be able to respond to queries accurately and to explain local practice. Candidates should have previous experience of working within the HR department of an international company, and some prior knowledge of the above processes. This permanent staff position is based in Sana'a.

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

Closing Date: Sunday, 16th April, 2006

Applicants should send their CV mentioning their personal ID numbers with a short covering letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for the post either to the address below, or preferably by e-mail to

HR@YEMENLNG.COM
Human Resources Department
Yemen LNG Company
P.O. Box 15347
Sana'a, Yemen

Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Yemen LNG. Please send your CV once only and do not telephone to discuss your application.

Vacancy Adv.

Based in Sana'a, Mercure Hotel-Sana'a is seeking to recruit a Yemeni executive secretary M/F with the following requirement.

- 1) Excellent command in English and Arabic languages.
- 2) Excellent Communicational skills.
- 3) Business Administration or any related field is a must.
- 4) Personable.
- 5) Age should not exceed 30.
- 6) A minimum of two years Experience.
- 7) Experience in computers and communication equipments usage.

Job description:

- a) Coordinate/schedule all appointments, meetings and engagements.
- b) Disseminate information to Group Heads and Area G.Manager
- c) Attend to visitors and record all telephone calls.
- d) Maintain, update and forward all confidential file work and records.
- e) Process sensitive and confidential information with judgment and tact.
- f) Remain up to date on organizational changes.
- g) Maintain a good filing system.
- h) Sending and follow up of directives and orders issued by the Area G.Manager
- i) Perform other duties as assigned.
- J) Prepare memorandums outlining and explaining administrative procedures and policies to supervisory workers, and monitors compliance.
- k) Arrange Ticket & hotel reservation
- l) To assist Area Manager with all administrative requirements

*Interested applicants can send CVs with a cover to the
Fax 212 487- Sana'a*

Vacancy Announcement

EQUIPI-Yemen, a USAID funded project working in the field of education development has the following vacancy for Yemeni nationals only:

Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant (MEA)

Tasks:

The MEA will be responsible for the following:

- Use EQUIPI-Yemen field guide to collect monitoring data from governorate and district offices of education, governorate literacy and adults' offices of education, targeted schools, and communities.
- Participate in entering, organizing, analyzing, and presenting collected data.
- Assist in extracting information from data to monitor program progress towards its objectives and improve performance regarding program implementation.
- Participate in evaluation processes in terms of successes to be replicated and shortcomings to be overcome.
- Participate in producing quarterly monitoring reports.
- Carry out any other related tasks as required by program management.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- University degree in computer sciences or related field.
- Excellent command of Access, Excel, and databases' programs.
- Three years of demonstrated expertise in monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs.
- Work experience in international development projects/organizations.
- Familiarity with the field of basic education.
- Excellent computer skills.
- Excellent command of both Arabic and English in communicating and reporting.
- Flexible to travel to remote areas in the country.

Interested and qualified applicants may send their CVs with supporting documents of experience with similar programs no later than two weeks after date of announcement to the following address:

Attn.: M&E Advisor
Fax: + 967 1 304109
P.O.Box 22377
Sana'a – Republic of Yemen

Qualified females are highly encouraged to apply.
(Only short-listed candidates will be contacted)

Committee to Protect Journalists special report(CPJ):

Journalists killed in 2006

CPJ research indicates that the following individuals have been killed in 2006 because of their work as journalists. They either died in the line of duty or were deliberately targeted for assassination because of their reporting or their affiliation with a news organization.

CONFIRMED TOTAL: 10

CHINA: 1

Wu Xianghu, Taizhou Wanbao, February 2, 2006, Taizhou

Wu, deputy editor of Taizhou Wanbao, died from serious injuries sustained when traffic police in the eastern coastal city of Taizhou, Zhejiang province, attacked him in October 2005 for an expose that embarrassed them, according to international news reports.

Wu, 41, died of liver and kidney failure after months of hospitalization. State-run Xinhua News Agency reported that the assault had damaged his liver, which was already compromised due to a previously existing medical condition.

On October 20, 2005, dozens of uniformed traffic officers arrived at the offices of the Taizhou Wanbao evening newspaper, assaulted Wu, carried him from the building and forced him into a police van. The attack stemmed from a report in the previous day's newspaper on high fee collections for electric bicycle licenses, according to local news reports.

Senior officer Li Xiaoguo was removed from his post for his role in the incident, Xinhua reported in October. Li had called the other police officers to the scene after his demands for an apology for the October 19 report had led to an argument with Wu. "I am not a policeman today," Li said during the attack, according to local news reports.

Taizhou Wanbao defended the report, saying that it was done in cooperation with local government agencies.

The Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted an unnamed staff member at the Taizhou News Group who said that authorities had prevented local media from reporting on Wu's death, and that his colleagues believed that criminal charges should be filed in the case.

Journalists who report on local crime and corruption in China's newly competitive media environment face increasing incidents of violent attack in retribution for their work, according to CPJ research.

INDIA: 1

Prahlad Goala, Asomiya Khabar, January 6, 2006, Golaghat

Goala was murdered near his home in Golaghat district in India's northeastern state of Assam after writing a series of articles on corruption in the Assamese-language daily Asomiya Khabar that linked local forestry service officials to timber smuggling.

Local journalists told CPJ police arrested forest warden Zamman Jinnah in connection with the death. He was released on bail. Two other suspects, who were not forestry service employees, remained in police custody, the local journalists added.

Jinnah had made death threats against Goala soon after his articles on corruption in the forestry service appeared, The Assam Tribune reported.

Goala, 32, was riding a motorcycle near his home some 160 kilometers (100 miles) east of the state capital Guwahati when he was apparently rammed by a truck. When police arrived at the scene, they found that Goala had been stabbed several times.

Local journalists' organizations and civic groups staged a protest in Golaghat on January 10 and called for a full investigation into his death.

IRAQ: 7

Mahmoud Za'al, Baghdad TV, January 25, 2006, Ramadi

Za'al, 35, a correspondent for Baghdad TV, was shot during clashes between U.S. forces and Sunni rebels in Ramadi, an insurgent stronghold 70 miles (113 kilometers) west of Baghdad.

Reuters quoted witnesses as saying Za'al was covering an insurgent attack on two U.S.-held buildings when he was wounded in the legs and then killed moments later in a U.S. air strike. The U.S. military denied it had launched an air strike in Ramadi that day and declined comment on the clashes or Za'al's death, the agency reported.

Staff at Baghdad TV told CPJ that U.S. soldiers briefly questioned Za'al 15 minutes before he was shot.

Staff said several of the station's correspondents had been detained by U.S.

troops in the past few months. Baghdad TV is owned by the Iraqi Islamic Party, the biggest Sunni political group. Za'al had worked for the station for one year.

In another case involving reporting on fighting in Ramadi, Dhia Najim, a freelance cameraman working for Reuters, was shot in the head by a U.S. sniper on November 1, 2004, according to his colleagues.

Atwar Bahjat, Al-Arabiya, February 23, 2006, near Samarra

Khaled Mahmoud al-Falahi, Wasan Productions and Al-Arabiya, February 23, 2006, near Samarra
Adnan Khairallah, Wasan Productions and Al-Arabiya, February 23, 2006, near Samarra
The bodies of correspondent Atwar Bahjat, cameraman Khaled Mahmoud al-Falahi, and engineer Adnan Khairallah were found near Samarra, a day after the station lost contact with the crew, editors at Al-Arabiya told CPJ. Bahjat, 30, was a well-known on-air figure. In a statement, Al-Arabiya said she recently joined the channel after working as a correspondent for the Arabic satellite channel Al-Jazeera.

Al-Falahi, 39, and Khairallah, 36, were employees of Wasan Productions who were on assignment for Al-Arabiya. The crew was on the outskirts of the city covering the bombing of the Shiite shrine Askariya, also known as the Golden Mosque. Bahjat's last broadcast was at 6 p.m. Wednesday, The Associated Press reported.

Al-Arabiya Executive Editor Nabil Khatib said the station lost phone contact with the crew early Wednesday evening as it was filing a subsequent report to Dubai. The station was investigating the account of a fixer for Wasan Productions who said armed men driving a white car had attacked the crew after demanding to know the whereabouts of the correspondent. All three victims were Iraqi.

Munshir Abdallah al-Khalidi, Baghdad TV, March 7, 2006, Baghdad

Unidentified gunmen in west Baghdad shot Al-Khalidi, a presenter for of the Iraqi television station Baghdad TV which has been threatened and shelled by insurgents.

Al-Khalidi, 35, was killed as he was driving from the Iraqi capital with three passengers to interview poets in the northern city of Mosul for his program, Baghdad TV deputy director Thaeer Ahmad said. The assailants stopped the car and fired three bullets into al-Khalidi. One passenger was also killed and the other two passengers injured. Al-Khalidi presented an educational and cultural show focusing on Middle Eastern poetry.

On March 1, Baghdad TV came under artillery fire by insurgents, according to Ahmad. Four employees were injured by two shells which hit a parking area. The station has been receiving e-mail threats this year because of its criticism of insurgent attacks, Ahmad added.

Baghdad TV is owned by the Iraqi Islamic Party, the biggest Sunni political group. In the last year two correspondents for the station have been killed by U.S. forces' fire.

Amjad Hameed, Al-Iraqiya, March 11, 2006, Baghdad

Hameed and his driver Anwar Turki were shot and killed by gunmen apparently affiliated to Al-Qaeda in an ambush in central Baghdad. Hameed had been head of programming for Iraq's state television channel Al-Iraqiya since July.

Hameed, 45 and the father of three children, had just left home for work when he was shot several times in the head and chest.

Al-Iraqiya, which receives funding from the U.S. government, suspended regular programming and aired verses from the Quran after the attack. The killings were widely condemned, and the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate said it would ask the interior minister to allow journalists to carry firearms in self-defense, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Iraq claimed responsibility for the attack in Internet postings, but those claims could not be independently verified. "Your brothers in the military wing of the Mujahideen Council assassinated on Saturday Amjad

Hameed, the editor of Iraqiya ... which always broadcasts lies about jihad (holy war) to satisfy crusader masters," said a statement posted on a Web site often used by militant groups and attributed to the group, Reuters reported. According to the statement the station was "the mouthpiece of the apostate government."

CPJ has documented the killing of at least six journalists and five media workers from the station and its affiliates since 2004. Most were killed by insurgents. Al-Iraqiya offices have repeatedly come under mortar attack.

Anwar Turki, Al-Iraqiya, March 11, 2006, Baghdad

Turki was driving Amjad Hameed, the head of Iraq's state television channel Al-Iraqiya, when their car was ambushed in central Baghdad by gunmen apparently affiliated to Al-Qaeda. Hameed was hit in the head and chest and died instantly. Turki died later in the hospital.

Al-Iraqiya, which receives funding from the U.S. government, has frequent-



Atwar Bahjat, 30, had joined Al-Arabiya this year from Al-Jazeera

ly be the target of insurgent attacks. CPJ has documented the killing of at least six journalists and five media workers from the station and its affiliates since 2004.

Muhsin Khudhair, Alef Ba, March 13, 2006, Baghdad

Khudhair, editor of the news magazine Alef Ba, was killed by unidentified gunmen near his home in Baghdad, becoming the third journalist killed in Iraq in a week, Reuters and Agence France-Presse reported.

The shooting took place just hours after Khudair attended a meeting of the Iraqi Journalists Union, which discussed the targeting of local journalists in Iraq.

Reuters said. The killing continued two trends in Iraq: the vast majority of victims have been Iraqi citizens; and most cases have been targeted assassinations rather than crossfire.

SRI LANKA: 1

Subramaniyam Sugitharajah, Sudar Oli, January 24, 2006, Trincomalee

An unidentified gunman killed Tamil journalist Sugitharajah as the reporter was on his way to work in the eastern port town of Trincomalee.

Sugitharajah, a part-time reporter for Tamil-language daily Sudar Oli, was killed just weeks after he reported on the January 2 killing of five Tamil students in Trincomalee, according to news Web site TamilNet. Military spokesmen initially said that the men were killed by their own grenade in a botched attack on the army, but photographs taken by Sugitharajah showed that the men had died of gunshot wounds. The government has ordered a probe into the deaths.

"Mr. Sugitharajah was a fearless reporter and we believe he was killed to demoralize journalists working in the northeast," Sudar Oli Managing Director E. Saravanapavam told The Associated Press.

The offices of Sudar Oli were attacked repeatedly last year; on August 29, 2005, a grenade attack at the printing press killed a security guard. Just days earlier, activists from the People's Liberation Front (JVP) political party turned over to police a photographer for the newspaper and accused him of spying for the LTTE. The newspaper and its Jaffna-based sister publication Uthayan have come under attack by both LTTE and anti-LTTE forces in recent political violence.

UNCONFIRMED TOTAL: 5

ECUADOR: 1

José Luis León Desiderio, Radio Minutera, February 13 or 14, 2006, Guayaquil

León, 43, host of a daily news program "Opinión" on local Radio Minutera, was shot in the coastal city of Guayaquil. León often denounced gang violence and police inaction in the city, Alejandro Alvarez, a reporter for the daily El Universo, told CPJ.

León left his home at 11 p.m. on February 13 to meet his wife, Jenny Piza, at a nearby bus stop, but the two never met. León's wife and daughter found his body near their home early the next day, February 14. A neighbor said that she had heard gunshots, Piza told CPJ.

Press reports initially said that León had been shot three times, but his wife told CPJ that León was shot once in his head. He was not robbed.

Piza told CPJ that León had received a text message on his cell phone threatening him with death a few days before his murder. According to Hugo Asencio, news director for the radio program, a few weeks before the murder León had told him that a group of unidentified men hurled stones at his house. León often reported on gang violence,

drug trafficking, and the lack of police presence in Guayaquil's suburbs, the local press said. León also worked at a printing press and was studying journalism, Piza told CPJ.

On March 2, Guayaquil prosecutor Manuel Alvear Hernández ordered the national police to launch an investigation into the murder. The prosecutor asked Radio Minutera to provide audiotapes of the program to investigators. Since the day of the crime, León's wife and daughter have received threatening calls on their cell phones, warning them that they will be the next ones to die.

MEXICO: 1

Jaime Arturo Olvera Bravo, freelance, March 9, 2006, La Piedad

Olvera, a freelance photographer and former correspondent for the Morelia-based daily La Voz de Michoacán, was shot to death outside his home in La Piedad in the central state of Michoacán.

Olvera left his home around 8 p.m. with his 5-year-old son. While they were waiting at a bus stop, an unknown assailant approached Olvera and fired at close range, according to local press reports. A bullet struck Olvera in the neck, and he died at the scene. His son was unharmed.

Olvera worked for La Voz de Michoacán until April 2002 when he resigned to become a salesman for a processed meat company, the paper reported. But Olvera continued working as a freelancer, providing photographs and crime tips to local media, the Mexico City-based El Universal said.

The special prosecutor for crimes against journalists opened a preliminary investigation and said it would formally take the case if it finds evidence that Olvera's murder was related to his journalism.

PHILIPPINES: 2

Graciano Aquino, Central Luzon Forum, January 21, 2006, Morong

Aquino, a columnist for the weekly newspaper Central Luzon Forum, was shot by unidentified gunmen twice in the back of the neck at a cockfight in the town of Morong, 52 miles (84 kilometers) north of Manila. CPJ is investigating to determine whether Aquino was killed because of his work as a journalist.

Rolly Cañete, Freelance, January 20, 2006, Pagadian

Unidentified gunmen killed radio broadcaster and political publicist Cañete in the southern city of Pagadian. International news reports said the attackers fled on a motorcycle. Police are investigating the motive for the attack.

Cañete was a part-time broadcaster on three radio stations, two of which are

controlled by congressman Antonio Cerilles and his wife provincial governor Aurora Cerilles, the reports said. Both politicians employed Cañete as their publicist.

RUSSIA: 1

Ilya Zimin, NTV, February 26, 2006, Moscow

Zimin, a 33-year-old correspondent for the national television station NTV, was found murdered in his Moscow apartment. Colleagues went to Zimin's home on February 27 after the reporter failed to show up for work or answer his phone, according to local press reports. They found his heavily beaten corpse lying face down in a pool of blood and much of the furniture overturned in what appeared to be a sign of a violent struggle, according to local and international press reports.

Medical experts determined that Zimin probably died around 3 p.m. the day before, February 26, as a result of head trauma. The Moscow city prosecutor opened a murder investigation. A laptop computer and cell phone were stolen from the apartment, and a bloody fingerprint belonging to someone other than the victim was found on a light switch, local news outlets reported.

Authorities said the killing was probably not related to Zimin's work at NTV. Prosecutor Anatoly Zuyev said the murder was most likely a common crime resulting from an argument. He said there was no sign of forced entry, suggesting that Zimin knew his assailant, according to press reports.

NTV News Editor Tatyana Mitkova said she did not rule out the possibility that the murder was linked to Zimin's work for the station, the news Web site Polit.ru reported. Zimin worked as a correspondent for NTV's investigative program, "Profession: Reporter." Colleague Vadim Takmenev said Zimin had recently used hidden cameras to prepare an expose of health violations at expensive Moscow restaurants, Polit.ru reported.

Authorities did not immediately identify a suspect, according to the Moscow daily Kommersant. A concierge at Zimin's apartment building initially reported that three men with police identifications visited the reporter at 10 a.m. on February 26 and left an hour later, but authorities said they determined the three had visited another apartment in the building, according to Kommersant.

Zimin was assaulted, robbed, and hospitalized with a broken leg in April 2005, but he did not link the attack to his journalism work, the Moscow daily Novoye Izvestiya reported. Born in the far eastern city of Vladivostok, he had worked as a local correspondent for state television GTRK and NTV before moving to Moscow in 2000.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with its project "Masila Community Water Sanitation Project"

Post Title: Gender & Health & Hygiene Team Leader (SC-7)
Location: Resseb/Masila

Responsibilities

- Work in close collaboration with all team members and particularly with the Project Manager, International Training and Capacity Building Specialist and Gender, Health & Hygiene local team to coordinate activities and ensure timely delivery of required Project outputs.
- Guide the work of the Gender, Health and Hygiene Team, mobilize and report on the inputs of the team members.
- Assist in the ongoing assessment of health and hygiene awareness level at the community, District addressing these issues.
- Assist in the preparation of an appropriate water and sanitation-related health and hygiene training strategy at community and District levels.
- Continuous development of training material and delivery mechanisms, through the guidance of the PHAST materials, or equivalent.
- Assume the lead role in delivery of gender, health and hygiene training for the local team and evaluate their performance in delivering training at targeted communities.
- Coordinate public health training activities with training activities of other Team members to secure the timely realization of outputs planned under the component.
- Contribute to the preparation of monitoring and progress reports as required by the UNDP Project Manager.

Qualification

- A university degree in Medicine, Public Health, Community Health or any other related field.
- Minimum five years experience in public health, particularly at the community level and experience in working with donor-funded projects, and familiarity with the UN project implementation rules will be an added advantage.
- Significant hands on experience development of appropriate training strategies will be required.
- Fluency in English and Arabic with proven communication and training skills.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/yemen-undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: registry.ye@undp.org
The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 15 April 2006

إعلان لوظائف شاغرة

شركة رائدة في مجال البناء والإنشاءات تعلن عن وجود وظائف شاغرة للوظائف التالية:-

- 1- مدير شؤون الموظفين على قدر عالي من الكفاءة ولديه خبرة كبيرة في نفس المجال العمل في المكتب-صناعة
- 2- مشرف إدارة
- 3- مسئول تقني أرشفة
- 4- شيف (طباخ)
- 5- منسق

على ان تتوفر في المتقدمين للوظائف اعلاه التالي:

- 1- خبرة لاقل عن 5 سنوات كحد اثنى كلاً في مجال عملة
- 2- ان يكون لديه طلاقة في الالمام باللغة تشريفه اساسي (عربي/ إنجليزي)
- 3- خبرة في مجال الكمبيوتر كلاً في مجال عمله (لوظائف المطلوب لها الالمام بالكمبيوتر)
- 4- الرغبة للعمل في الموقع
- 5- قادر على التعامل مع المغتربين العربيين
- 6- المرشحوين يجب ان يكونوا مواطنين يمنيين

من يري في نفسه الخبرة والمؤهله ويانه المرشح للصبغ لشغل الموقع اعلام، عليه ارسال السيرة الذاتية على العنوان التالي

صندوق البريد: 13302، صنعاء اليمن

الفاكس: 420798 - 01

لبريد الإلكتروني: cyyemen@gmail.com

لتعلم ان الوظائف مجزية

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A leading maintenance & construction company in Yemen seeking the following candidates for immediate placement.

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All the above positions should have the following experience and qualifications:

- 1- Minimum 5 years experience ideally in the maintenance/construction or oil & gas catering projects
- 2- Good language skills(Arabic/English)
- 3- Computer literate
- 4- Willingness to work in the site.
- 5- Able to deal with western expatriates.
- 6- Candidates should be Yemeni nationals.

If you feel you are the right candidate to handle the above position, please forward your CV to

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Yemen and civil community

Yemen is a country with unique features and characteristics.

Like other third world countries, according to researchers, Yemen never went through the five stages. It never knew a single line of human development stages, according to European centralization "Marxism." As

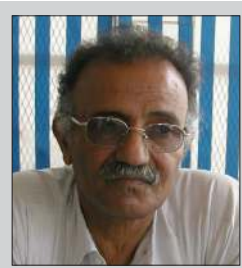
human development stages overlap, social partitions overlap within its social fabric. Class-consciousness is a distinctive feature in Yemen and no evolutionary theory applies to it, nor is the European civil community easy to apply.

Yemen, Kuwait and Bahrain remain closer to the interpretation of Marxist intellectual and innovator Intonyo Ghranshi in detecting the civil community's birth.

No one can argue that the European capitalist state was built by civil community organizations contrary to the modern state in the third world. In these countries, state is responsible for evaluating the civil community. Interpreting civil community organizations' experience in southern Yemen gives a clear image of society's emergence, development and roots.

During World War II, labor syndicates were formed at Aden and Al-Bureiqah refineries. These syndicates later improved and expanded until they became a main part of the political equation across the country. Labor syndicates played a wonderful role in establishing journalism and the political movement. The National United Front, following from these syndicates, has a pioneering role in unity work. Mohamed Abdu Nu'man is the group's chief.

Also, there are the National Socialist Union and the Arab Nationalist Movement whose roots extend to the six



By: Abdulbari Tahir

labor syndicates. Mohamed Muhesen Al-Aini was the laborers' representative in the Arab Labor Union. Martyrs Abdullah Abdulmajeed Al-Salafi and Hussein Al-Qadhi are two leading figures in the six syndicates.

These syndicates backed the national struggle for independence and defending the Yemeni September 26 and October 14 revolutions. In brief, the modern political movement, which is a main part of civil community organizations, is a testimony to the development of labor syndicates. Traditional parties like liberals and unity parties were isolated from the syndicate's movements.

Press freedom flourished, as the 1940s and late 1950s witnessed issuance of Al-Hikma Magazine, a pioneering intellectual, cultural and literary magazine founded to innovate various intellectual and creative areas. Dozens of newspapers were founded in Aden, the most important of which were Ganat Al-Jazeera, Sawt Al-Yemen and Al-Mustaqbal, to which intellectual Abdullah Abdurrazaq subscribed. Literary clubs, charitable societies and Al-Mahajer newspapers flourished, particularly Hadrami ones, in East Asia and Africa.

These parties, clubs, newspapers and charitable societies marked the beginning of great transformations in Yemeni community. They contributed to the revolution's outbreak September 26, 1962 and to achieving independence November 30, 1967. The revolutionaries' victory in northern and southern Yemen is ascribable to the support extended by civil community organizations, social establishments, syndicates and societies.

Civil community and the tribe
Civil community in Yemen is real denial

of the tribe, which is part of the political community, although researchers considered it part of civil community organizations. The Yemeni state was born from the tribe's womb, while the two constitute a unified part of the same body whose parts will feel pain, fever and remain sleepless due to the pain of a single part.

Commenting on research prepared by Baqer Al-Najjar on the Gulf and Arabian civil community, Dr. Mohamed Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakil is of the opinion that the tribe played a primary role in Yemen's independence. It also played an important role in maintaining social stability in the absence of the central state, as well as in limiting this state's oppression. These days, the tribe still has an integral role in creating balance that helps restrict armed forces oppression and they constitute a popular militia some regimes use to confront armed forces.

Sociological researcher Dr. Fuad Al-Salahi said the tribe has a dual role in creating balance and harmony between political civil societies. The tribe's role is prominent in being part of political society via reading the history of the modern state that emerged in 1962 following the victorious September 26 Revolution. This facilitated exploring a number of social, political, economic, local and external factors and restrictions that helped the tribe play its dual role as part of the political community and the civil community as well. The tribe is a power backing modernization policies, while at the same time hampering such policies.

Thus, Al-Salahi verified what Dr. Matrouk Al-Faleh indicated in further explaining his study on society, democracy and the state in Arab nations. Referring to Azmi Bisharah's critical study, he noted, "In this study, we employ a deductive method that is not confined to criticizing the concept of the civil community, as some people exempted us from this task.

"Arab region policies aim to eliminate the idea of the civil community and weaken its function. This should not be discussed from the authority's point of view and general cultural and social restrictions imposed on the civil community. They should be discussed, taking into account social functions, powers and systems, as they are thought of as overlapping themes between countryside and urbanization in the Arab world," he added. "These policies work on forging urbanization and blending it into the civil community, its power and effectiveness toward democratic transformations."

He then highlighted how the European city is distinguished from the Arab one, as the former embraces social engagements and cultural surrounding for social fabric in its framework called civil community. But the modern Arab city has no parallel function to the European one, as rural activities began to dominate urban ones. Consequently, social activities and their relation to the Islamic system create a meaningless idea out of civil community. The result is Arab nations breaking relations between civil community and democratic transformation. The study recommends the private community replace the civil community. Meanwhile, traditional effective elements and forces ruled out by the civil community concept will exist.

Here, both researchers Al-Salahi and Al-Faleh reach consensus on homogeneity between civil and private communities, having no controversy on what Al-Mutawakil presented in his comment. Civil and private community integration never will express the spirit of reality, it never will serve development, nor does it respond to any viewpoints or forceful tactics that researchers fight hard, particularly Al-Faleh, who was arrested and exiled for his scientific and enlightening viewpoints.

The private community's power, including the tribe, does not justify pri-

vate and civil community integration, as Al-Salahi believes, nor does it give the tribe civil community's role, as Al-Mutawakil believes. Also, it does not play a role for the sake of marginalization or homogeneity, as Al-Faleh believes. Al-Faleh purifies oppression from society's shedding of blood, democratic obstacles and establishing civil community.

Dr. Azmi Bisharah does not deny civil community's existence but he criticizes it, setting accurate conditions as he realizes that the history of intellectual development requires innovation. He says the civil community may be useful to the Arab battling for democracy in case it is understood well. It is sometimes harmful to democracy while another time, it may liberate Arab man.

Bisharah criticizes ready-made answers presented by the civil community about the authority of a single party in secularist states through establishing a social reference outside the country. This is a response to decision making bureaucracy and centralization in liberalist states. It also is a response to the markets' economy, social life, health, culture and art, as well as a reaction to third world dictatorships on one hand and organic and traditional structures on the other.

Variety in understanding and employing the civil community is an expression of a political crisis on the part of change movements and critical forces after defeating ready-made answers that never follow Yemeni historical, economic and political analysis. These answers derive from philosophical horizons and the like.

Bisharah criticizes the current civil community's status, expressing curiosity about jumping over various stages and favoring prepared solutions. It is obvious that seeking justice, freedom, equality and solidarity between nations surpasses all that can be expressed through liberalist and democratic countries. It also surpasses what has been expressed in the state of social luxury and socialism.

A famed intellectual questions, "What is the theoretical framework for such modern anticipation timed by the West against the civil community?" I think the theoretical framework is awareness growing through various stages of history for a list of features:

1- Insisting on separation between the state and the community or between governmental institutions and civil community organizations as a historical condition, social awareness or historical development.

2- Understanding the difference between the state's policies and the economy's mechanisms as a condition historically developing with the Industrial Revolution and the emergence of the bourgeoisie.

3- The individual should be respected as a citizen of a particular country, regardless of his political party affiliation.

4- Insisting on differences between social institution mechanisms, their goals and functions on one hand, and the economy's mechanisms, goals and functions on the other.

5- Making at least a theoretical distinction between social organizations formed by liberals and organic structures into which man is born.

6- Stressing the difference between representative democracy in liberalist states, direct democracy (so-called face-to-face democracy) and active participation in decision making, at least theoretically, in voluntary societies and modern social institutions.

These are the historical conditions for the emergence of the civil community idea with its modern and distinctive concept distinguishing it from other political ideas of the age.

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

Yemen and the Gulf: shared emotions and economic interests

Extravagant fanaticism is the primary reason behind Arabs' failure to utilize common geographical and historical features and other components to establish relationships and interests achieving integration - the ideal desire for the majority of the Arabs. We tend to think about unity from a negative aspect in our nomadic and tribal cultures (*alashabiah*). The situation has been complicated as we have also lacked for a rational mechanism necessary for achieving such aims.

Discussions of such issues seem to be the victim of misunderstanding of the present trend in international relations, namely regional integration. Thus, it is common to read efforts intending to differentiate between the economic benefits or emotional components. The latter include elements such as geography, history and culture etc.

Such efforts think our problem is the result of mixing the two and that the solution will be solved by separating them from each other. People backing this viewpoint cite the European experience claiming that the success in Europe was due to focusing on the economic interests.

The European example
Human emotional aspect in the European Union's experience is not neglected; rather it is a significant point. Europe includes several countries and each belongs to a different nation and has its own language. The European intellect remained engaged in developing relations between the European countries since Westville's peace conferences in 1664, which was held to end the famous war lasted for almost three decades. For nearly three centuries, the Europeans failed to achieve the goals of Westville's and their continent experi-



By: Fadhel Al-Maghafi

enced a spate of conflicts and wars.

The human was the axis of mature thinking in Europe in the 1950s, despite the fact that the European Union began to move in iron and steel areas. The continent has just gotten rid of World War II; however, Europe was the primary cause of that in our nomadic and tribal cultures (*alashabiah*). The situation has been complicated as we have also lacked for a rational mechanism necessary for achieving such aims.

war. Peace, which fathers failed to achieve following Westville's 17th century conference, became the goal sought by 20th century grandchildren.

The European countries expanded the areas of cooperation, as prosperity and sustainable stability were their main objectives. After that, they paid closer attention to development and established special relationships even with countries west of the continent that have no EU memberships but only abide by EU conventions.

After the Cold War was over, the EU countries invited other countries in East Europe to join the EU in a sincere effort to make all these countries EU members. This continent extends southward to North Africa and the Mediterranean countries to establish constructive relations. Security, human rights and stability were among prime objectives. This historical experience is not less important than connecting the common human qualities with the economic interests. All these matters are some of the conditions for the EU entry and they are also the main duties of EU apparatuses in Brussels and other European cities.

Common division remained present in many areas helping Europeans unite before federal laws without any distinction. European citizens enjoy the same rights, e.g., any French national residing in London has the right to vote in British local and parliamentary elections and can be a voter or a candidate even though political unity has not been

achieved yet. It has become customary for any citizen to resort to the European Court if he felt oppressed in local courts. So, people expected declaration of a unified European country and European identity after those countries unified their currencies.

One can say that Europeans made search for qualities in common means to fulfill national needs in the framework of aspirations of the region to which they belong. This process aimed to further stability and luxury via equal opportunities and rights, with all governments undergoing exemplary standards EU institutions utilized to monitor economic, political and legal performance of governments without any distinction.

Aiming to make a common human division, new legislation approved by European countries restricted those coming from outside the continent. Such legislation opens the door for nationals in the continent who have similar culture. The new European regulations included language and culture tests. It is necessary to pass such tests to be allowed to reside and work in the continent, as well as to obtain the European citizenship. Social integration and security for these countries is the main purpose.

Yemen and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries

Cooperation in development between countries in the Arabian Peninsula is due to provide many advantages better than what a single country can achieve. Single nations have become less able to fulfill their progress and development ambitions and confront challenges. Nowadays, other standards - more important than the commercial scale and debtor and creditor accounts - govern international relations.

It is the right of politicians and economists in the Gulf to think deeply before approving Yemen's GCC entry, but it is wise that Yemen's GCC admission must be based on economic comparisons? The persistent question is: Do

Gulf countries benefit from the lack of balance between Yemen's situation and the situations of its neighboring countries?

Nowadays, Yemen is the poorest country and the comparison between Yemen's average per capita income estimated at \$510 and other Gulf countries at \$13,500 is terrible. Average per capita in the United Arab Emirates exceeds \$40,000. We should not be amazed at these figures, as Gulf countries still suffer infringements, violations and lack infrastructure, roads, schools and universities. Although rich, Gulf countries cannot claim that they have strong economic infrastructure and are able to face challenges and fulfill future needs.

According to U.N. reports, GCC countries depend on a single commodity and their economic problem is attributed to this fact, while specialized economic studies confirm that wealth is not guaranteed and label these countries under the so-called "Bubble Economy." Consequences the Gulf experienced following Kuwait's 1990 occupation pro-

vided clear-cut evidence about their ailing economies which have only recovered following the rise of oil prices over the past few months.

International relations in the era of globalization and the small village turned out to be complicated and overlapping, until it has become difficult for anyone to differentiate between what is national and what is international. Today's global challenges include terrorism, natural disasters, spreading diseases and smuggling, plus a large number of international affairs representing international work components. The world seems to experience cross-border issues.

In the shadow of globalization, Gulf countries are obliged to adopt legislation permitting naturalization and granting foreigners ownership and citizenship rights. However, Yemenis were deprived of these utilities and tended to work in illegal manners. GCC countries are requested to approve Yemen's GCC admission and establish brotherly ties to achieve peninsula Arabs' goals and ambitions for cooperation and integra-

tion. Every Gulf nation must think deeply about how to confront challenges to their daily affairs.

Efforts to establishing an effective regional system between the Gulf countries and Yemen will succeed if it is based on unified standards and all the countries concerned must undergo evaluation and tests similar to those adopted by other successful examples. The belief that Yemen is the only country that needs to be qualified is not true, as all must be qualified for regional integration work and interaction in a single political, economic and social circle.

To sum up, the days to come are expected to reveal that Gulf national interests will profit from this partnership before such partnership turns into a brotherly contribution to Yemen. What Yemen offers is not merely emotional; rather, it is related to economy, politics and security.

Fadhel Al-Maghafi is a Yemeni diplomat. He is the chief editor of 'The Diplomat' magazine.

Letter to the Editor

The emancipation of Vincent

The brooding sunlight encompassing the peninsula of the proclaimed Islamic republic holds a different truth. Here, every dawning day isn't exactly a new day with the mesmerizing sunlight dissecting through your bones. Rather, it is a redundant and clumsy projection of stagnation. Who are we and where do we go from here? It is not long before someone personifying the impersonation of radicalism spurts out and ticks us off. Welcome to my world, where "nothing is what it seems" and "what you see is what you get" are the last things on your uncharted brain.

Life seemingly holds a different perspective from the trigonometry whose rules are bonded on a rather ridiculed and

abrupt manner than on guidelines of the holy prophet. Have you ever thought what is this and why we, the subjects, are pertained to so much peculiarity? Maybe you do. That's why this whole underdog exchange thing popped up. Whatever seems to be the pretext, what lies ahead is for us and it's a blessing!

These ideologies, or should I say "myths," are blown up magnanimous evils rotting in our country. We the people are living in the shackles of their self-proclaimed prophecy of raising up the upright and bringing down the evil. It seems their horizons are to be altered every time there is a nod. Who are they?

Who am I and what do I do? Am I some sort of war junkie trying to bring the government down because it didn't let

us have our pinnacle? I am just another of its victims who got lost in the translation.

Truth in God's message is eternal. It's all I have to cling to. Sometimes it's vivid and sometimes it's a distant second, but it is eternal. Life seems partial and unflashy when you have directions to heaven.

Why exactly am I doing this? It's not your next door kid thing. It's time we emancipate and do what we're supposed to do. Walking down the airport stairway en route to the U.S. won't be a walk to stardom. Rather, it is a walk in the hall of fame, where every brooding step of ours will be sunshine in the shadows of lingering death.

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Press freedom shrinks

North Africa and the Middle East - Reporters Without Borders Annual Report 2005

Legislation in the region's mixed bag of countries stretching from Morocco to Iran is the first block to press freedom, whether emergency measures or press laws. Pan-Arab satellite TV stations have been on the air since the late 1990s, pioneered by the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera, but authoritarianism and crippling official corruption prevents the growth of truly free news. The Israeli media, protected by laws and court rulings, are very bold and energetic however.

27 journalists were jailed in the region in 2004 for defamation, "insulting the head of state," "insulting Islam" or "putting out false news," half of them in Iran. The threat of prison hangs over Arab journalists and most write very respectfully or just censor themselves. Most Arab governments keep a tight monopoly of radio and TV broadcasting.

When state control of news is not enough to keep the media in line and deny the population's democratic aspirations, the regimes use threats and physical attacks. The many state security services in the worst dictatorships - Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Tunisia - crack down on any attempt to report events honestly and investigate sensitive topics such as corruption, Islamic fundamentalism, social and religious taboos and relations with the United States.

A grim record

The Middle East was a deadly area for foreign and local media workers in 2004 and the 21 journalists killed there were nearly half the total killed worldwide. Iraq was the most dangerous country, with 19 killed while trying to

cover operations by Iraqi guerrillas and the chaos in the country since the US invasion overthrew President Saddam Hussein in 2003.

An Italian journalist taken hostage, Enzo Baldoni, was executed by his kidnappers on 26 August and at least 16 other reporters were seized and used to try to extract political concessions or financial reward. French journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, along with their Syrian guide Mohammed Al-Jundi, were held for four months by the "Islamic Army in Iraq." The journalists were freed on 21 December and returned safely to France.

The number of foreign journalists in the country sharply declined during the year because of the lawlessness and impossibility of moving freely around the country. For the first time, a journalist was killed in Saudi Arabia and another seriously wounded in a bomb attack on 6 June blamed on Islamic radicals fighting to overthrow the absolute rule of King Fahd. The two journalists, working for the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), had gone to Saudi Arabia to investigate a suspected Al-Qaeda attack in the eastern oil town of Khobar that killed 22 people.

A Palestinian journalist was killed in the Gaza Strip on 1 March, probably as part of Palestinian in-fighting and score-settling during a year that ended with the death of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. In the Palestinian Territories, security disorganisation was accompanied by increased violence against the media, aggravating the obstructions caused by the Israeli army.

Dictatorships maintain their iron grip

Five countries in the region scored very low on the Reporters Without Borders 167-country 2004 World Press Freedom Index - Tunisia (152nd), Libya (154th), Syria (155th), Iran (158th) and Saudi Arabia (159th). The supposed opening-up of broadcasting in Tunisia to private ownership in 2003 has changed nothing. The media remains enslaved to President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, who strictly controls all news. The police regime ensures that citizens and Internet users do not openly criticise the "Tunisian model" vaunted by the president. There is still no press freedom in Libya, despite the astonishing international rehabilitation of President Muammar Gaddafi.

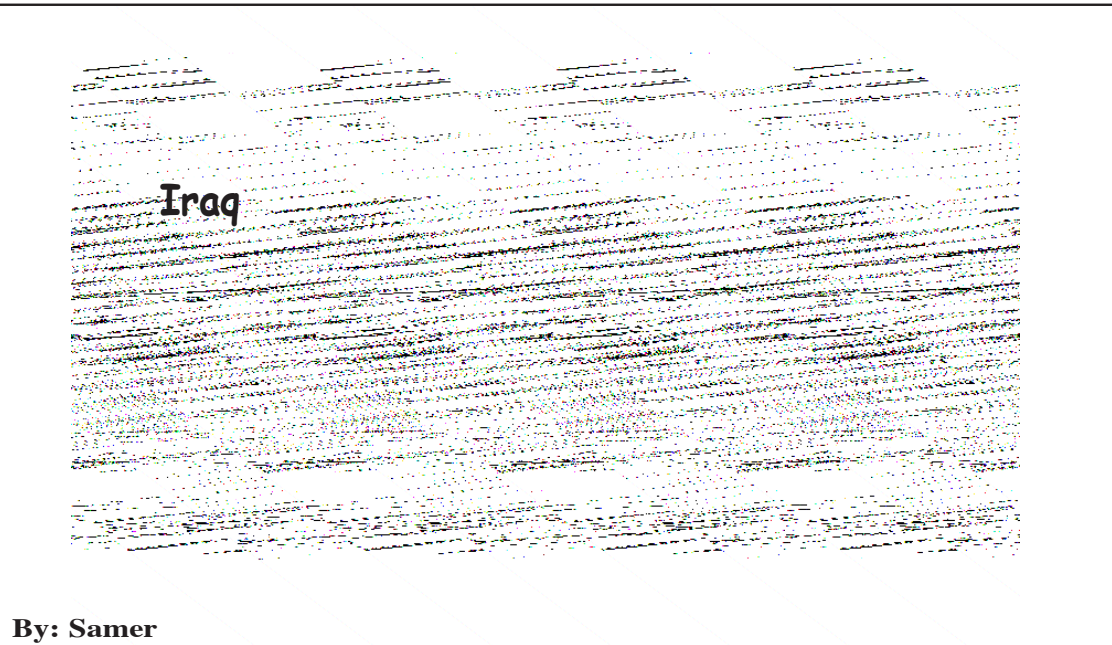
The media in Syria is suffocating under the heavy surveillance of the "mukhabarat" secret police and the Baath Party's corrupt hold on power for the past 40 years. None of the reforms promised by the young President Bashar al-Assad affected the media, which remain outdated and backward.

Iran is still the region's biggest prison for journalists, with 13 thrown in jail during the year by judges in the pay of the mullahs and hardliners. Some were put in solitary confinement, without trial or access to lawyers. Others were tortured and mistreated to make them confess. At least 60 were summoned during the year, either officially by a court or unofficially by police or intelligence officials. About 20 newspapers and magazines were suspended or censored and the Internet media was also restricted.

The monarchy in Saudi Arabia does not even try to hide its censorship and control of news and the government and information ministry regularly summon leading newspaper editors to tell them what they can say. Nothing or

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By: Samer

very little changed concerning press freedom, despite the wealth of the local media.

Insidious but effective threats

Press freedom sharply worsened in Yemen in 2004, with one journalist sent to prison for a year and five others given suspended jail sentences. The one imprisoned, Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani, was convicted of libelling President Ali Abdallah Saleh and "supporting a rebel movement" and his weekly paper Al-Shura (The Council) closed for six months. Local journalists, who were still under physical attack, took it as an open threat. The president's promises of reform and to "work to abolish" prison terms for press offences were not followed by action.

Relations between the privately-owned press and the government in Algeria deteriorated rapidly after the April 2004 re-election of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. Several papers that had campaigned against him were the target of tough reprisals, strong financial pressure or frequent summoning of their reporters. Bouteflika, who

had vowed to fight "press mercenaries" and accused some journalists of harming the country as much as "terrorists," moved to tighten up the 1990 press law that had allowed the rise of an independent press.

Four journalists were imprisoned and editor Mohammed Benichou, of the now-closed daily Le Matin, was still in jail at the end of the year, officially not for a press offence but for tax arrears, though the authorities clearly wanted to silence him and others.

Press freedom had a mixed year in Morocco. The blanket pardon of all journalists in prison or whose trials had not yet started was not followed by the expected end of forbidden topics for the media. Two more journalists were imprisoned and some matters remained especially sensitive for the regime, which nevertheless announced it would end its broadcasting monopoly in 2005. In the Gulf states (Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain), links between the media, the governments and powerful businessmen are so close that self-censorship is often the only way possible for journalists.

Privately-owned newspapers and

radio and TV stations exist in Lebanon despite some threats and physical attacks on journalists. But many topics remain out-of-bounds, including relations with "friendly" countries such as Syria and Saudi Arabia. The pro-government and privately-owned press in Jordan merely reported official policy and radio and TV was boring and unadventurous, which made a US government-run station, Radio Sawa, popular with young people.

Leading journalists in Egypt, even some with regional reputations, were kept in line by financial pressure, fierce social puritanism and self-censorship related to continuing prison sentences for press offences, despite the promises of President Hosni Mubarak.

Reporters Without Borders defends imprisoned journalists and press freedom throughout the world. It has nine national sections (Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland). It has representatives in Abidjan, Bangkok, London, Moscow, New York, Tokyo and Washington. And it has more than 120 correspondents worldwide.

Israel's new realism

By: Barry Rubin

Kadima's victory in Israel's elections is the country's most important political turning point in 30 years, if not longer. The new party—barely six months old—has realigned Israeli politics by transforming the entire framework of ideological assumptions underpinning the country's security strategy.

Everyone knew that Kadima would win and form a coalition with the moderate left Labor party, which managed a respectable second-place finish. As a result, some Kadima voters stayed home, while other potential supporters voted for Labor to strengthen its hand in pushing social and economic issues in Kadima-led coalition.

On the right, the Likud party, which Sharon abandoned to establish Kadima, did very poorly, partly because many conservative voters also deserted it for religious, immigrant, and other parties. In fact, a wide variety of small political groups, including three Jewish religious parties, Arab parties, and a pensioners' party won seats. Since Kadima and Labor will not have a majority even as coalition partners, they will have to bring in some of these groups.

But the importance of the distribution of seats pales in comparison to that of the longer-term changes in Israeli politics implied by Kadima's victory. Indeed, having attracted leading figures from both Labor and Likud, Kadima is now established as the most successful centrist party in Israel's history. With few political stars left in either Labor or Likud, Kadima may become the country's dominant party for many years to come.

Ehud Olmert, the party's leader and now elected prime minister, has been a maverick of the center since his student days - a fitting symbol for the rapprochement of left and right. But the rapprochement itself is, of course, mainly the work of Ariel Sharon, whose influence is by no means

diminished because he is in a coma. Kadima is built on Sharon's charisma and program, which reversed the most basic Israeli strategic thinking of the last half-century.

For 30 years after the 1967 war, Israelis agreed on the need to keep control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip unless or until there was a comprehensive peace agreement with the Palestinians and the Arab states. From a security standpoint, the occupied territories constituted critical terrain for defending Israel against an attack on its borders by Arab states' armies. Moreover, from a diplomatic standpoint, the territories were regarded as bargaining chips ("land for peace") to be used in achieving a negotiated solution. The Oslo agreement in 1993 and the ensuing peace process embodied that expectation.

The strategy ran aground in 2000, when Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered to give up almost all the occupied territories and accept a Palestinian state in exchange for real peace. The Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat turned him down flat and instead returned to a massive campaign of terrorism against Israel.

The entire Israeli political spectrum was thrown into confusion. The left had maintained that Arafat would make a deal and honor it; the right claimed that Arafat would make a deal and violate it. Everyone was wrong: there would be no deal to honor or violate. With the collapse of the strategy's most basic premises, what should Israel do?

Sharon formulated the answer in 2004, concluding that Israel did not need the territories. They were no good as bargaining chips, because there was no one with whom to bargain. Nor could they be annexed to Israel, owing to the demographic problem implied by continued control over so many Palestinians. Finally, with the USSR gone and the United States the world's sole superpower, the geostrategic situation had changed entirely. Arab states, preoccupied with other issues in the post-Cold War era, were less interested in the conflict, while the

security situation in the territories themselves had become a problem.

Sharon's solution was unilateral withdrawal and the idea that Israel would decide on its own interim boundaries with a view to what it would claim if there was ever a negotiated agreement. Moreover, Sharon now agreed that a security fence, which historically was favored by the Israeli left, would enhance Israel's defenses. The country would then focus on domestic issues such as economic development, improving its public institutions, and raising living standards.

This approach appealed to the vast majority of Israelis, regardless of their political loyalties, and the victory in January's Palestinian election by Hamas, which extols terrorism and demands Israel's extinction, only reinforced the new strategic consensus. In fact, the new consensus is shared by most of Labour and the main opposition within Likud. The dream of peace, the nationalist fervor, and the purported religious redemption that animated Israel's political combatants for a half-century are gone, replaced by a resigned pragmatism.

That may inspire little enthusiasm, but the Israel that Olmert has now won a firm mandate to lead is by no means demoralized. On the contrary, public opinion polls show that citizens remain highly patriotic and optimistic about their personal lives. They have merely concluded that politics will not bring miracles, and that the most they can expect is to keep external threats to a minimum. That is Sharon's legacy. And, in Israel, fulfilling it will be no small achievement.

Barry Rubin is Director of the Global Research in International Affairs (GLORIA) Center of Israel's Interdisciplinary University and editor of the Middle East Review of International Affairs (MERIA). His latest book is The Long War for Freedom: The Arab Struggle for Democracy in the Middle East. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2006. www.project-syndicate.org

Is Peru next?

By: Ángel Páez

Translated by: Kena Nequiz

On April 9, when Peruvians elect a new President, they will choose between Ollanta Humala Tasso, a nationalist former army commander who proposes radical economic and social change, and Lourdes Flores Nano, who would maintain the country's current neo-liberal policies. Whoever wins, the results will echo across Latin America.

A victory for Humala would seem to confirm the waning appeal of the neo-liberal policies that have dominated the continent since the 1980's. It would bolster the informal axis of Venezuela's populist Hugo Chávez (also a former soldier) and Evo Morales in Bolivia, but also the line supported by Brazil's Lula da Silva and Argentina's Kirchner who combine administrative efficiency and left-leaning rhetoric.

On the other hand, a victory for Lourdes Flores would stand out as an exception in the area, together with Alvaro Uribe in Colombia, whose reelection at the end of May seems certain today.

Flores, a Social Christian candidate representing a rightist alliance, wants to maintain present President Alejandro Toledo's neo-liberal policies, which have boosted economic growth, foreign investment, and exports spectacularly over the past four years. The problem for Flores is that half the population has not yet benefited from Toledo's policies and lives under the poverty line, giving Humala his political opening. Humala calls for overhauling Peru's economic policy in particular by revising foreign companies' concession contracts, increasing taxes on the rich, and lowering the salaries paid to congressmen and government members - "old fashioned populism that will ruin the country," claim his opponents.

Flores, who was the favorite for most of the campaign, has now lost support as a result of popular frustra-

tion over the distribution of wealth and because of her links with powerful domestic and foreign business interests. Her running mate, Arturo Woodman, is an old associate of the richest man in Peru, Dionisio Romero, a businessman who had no qualms about asking favors from Vladimiro Montesinos, the loathed adviser to President Alberto Fujimori, who is now in jail on corruption charges.

But Humala is hardly a saint. He concealed information about his military past when the election campaign started, and is now under investigation for alleged human rights violations. In 1983, he attended a course at the infamous School of the Americas, the counterinsurgency training institute where many of the region's most brutal military officers learned their craft. In 1992, he commanded a military base in an Amazon village where coca leaf was grown - and where Sendero Luminoso guerrillas and drug trafficking bands worked together. Families of the disappeared, killed, and tortured told the press that Humala ordered the atrocities.

In November 2000, Ollanta Humala led a small-scale military uprising against Fujimori's dying regime. But Humala's detractors claim he took up arms to help the escape of Montesinos, who was already wanted by the law, but managed to flee aboard a sailboat towards Galapagos on the day of the coup.

Humala denies everything, and none of the allegations has harmed him. Even so, not only foreign investors and local big businesses are worried by his rise in opinion polls. The United States is also concerned.

In its most recent report on the global trade in illegal drugs, the US State Department stressed the increase in coca leaf crops in Peru and Bolivia last year. It attributed the rise to the "nationalistic preaching" that has taken root in both countries. Washington believes anti-drug policies will fail, to the benefit of drug dealers, if coca growers continue to identify themselves with nationalists

who vindicate the leaf's production.

Ollanta Humala opposes compulsory and mass coca eradication, claiming that he would industrialize and export the product to keep it from falling into drug dealers' hands. In a meeting with Evo Morales, he spoke of a joint agenda to discuss the issue with US officials. But for the US, an anti-drug policy designed by nationalist leaders whose countries account for more than half of America's cocaine market hardly inspires confidence.

The same is true for investors, particularly those from Chile, who have assets worth \$1.5 billion in Peru. Humala glorifies two Peruvian military dictators: Cáceres, who fought against Chile, and Velasco Alvarado, who nationalized oil and mining companies, redistributed land, and controlled the press. In fact, Humala has singled out Chilean contracts and investments as targets for revision. At the same time, he has spoken of reinforcing the armed forces, which implies buying weapons.

Flores, by contrast, offers legal security for businessmen and investors. At the same time, acknowledging that in Peru there has made little progress in fighting poverty, she is promising to create 650,000 jobs a year. Regardless of whether that promise is realistic, many consider her candidacy important for maintaining democratic continuity, whereas Ollanta Humala proposes to overhaul the political system by drafting a new constitution.

When Peruvians vote on April 9, after many years of poverty and inequality, it is likely that popular indignation will prevail. That emotion has led many candidates to victory in Latin America. The last of them was Evo Morales, an explicit and staunch supporter of Humala[APC1].

Ángel Páez, a teacher and researcher at Universidad de Lima, Perú, is Head of the Investigative Team of Lima's newspaper La República. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2006. www.project-syndicate.org

New scheme to encourage oil industries investment

Cooperation and coordination with various international oil companies aims to raise Yemeni oil production and exploration.

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

Yemeni Minister of Oil and Minerals Khalid Mahfoudh Bahah announced that his ministry has drawn up a future plan to encourage investments in the oil and minerals industries, affirming that such fields are profitable for investors and that Yemen possesses promising oil industry investment opportunities, as well as a distinguished geological staff in the minerals field.

During a recent visit to Aden Refineries Company, Bahah said Yemen possesses abundant investment opportunities in minerals, mentioning that his ministry has begun negotiating with the World Bank to fund studies in this regard aiming to motivate Yemeni and foreign investors in this promising sector.

Bahah further clarified that his ministry currently is coordinating with Canadian oil company Calgary to increase production at Malik oil block 9 in Hadramout, where production recently began, by an average of 2,000 barrels per day (bpd), as well as complete con-

structing an oil pipeline to block 18 in Marib. He also revealed that negotiations are being held with Austrian oil company OMV, which is working in block 2 in Shabwa, to announce commercial oil discovery in the near period.

Bahah said positive indicators and promising prospects resulting from new exploration and production soon will be announced, pointing out that Yemen's current oil production is 400,000 bpd. He said 123 new exploratory wells will be dug this year, upon which the ministry attaches great expectations.

Bahah said the ministry intends to hold numerous promotional activities, mainly organizing Yemen's third oil and gas conference expected to be hosted in Mukalla city. He also announced that there is joint visualization in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and several other ministries to present a railroad project with help from the World Bank. The railroad is planned to pass by Al-Jawf via Marib and Sana'a and then to the coast, possibly reaching the two seaports of Mokka and Bir Ali for exportation. The railroad is expected to reduce minerals transportation costs.



Yemen has drawn up future schemes and plans to encourage investments in oil and minerals.

The economic importance of attracting investment (Part 1 of 2)

By: Dr. Ahmed Ismael Al-Bawab

By all scientific and practical standards, Yemen is exerting efforts to enact investment laws and legislation providing stable facilities, guarantees and climates. Yemeni government efforts are focused on realizing benefits for local, Arab and foreign investors. Such efforts have been ongoing since achieving Yemeni unification.

Nevertheless, it's not enough to say that we are preparing the investment climate, passing laws or removing restrictions. The important thing is to draw up an investment map with clear characteristics and distributions portraying investable opportunities.

The question is not merely attracting capital because if such capital doesn't find feasible and ready projects, they'll have to wait. If forced to wait long, they will tend to back down and shift toward speculation and other parasitic

economic activities. Ultimately, such capital will be forced to depart, consequently giving a negative impression about the investment climate's inconvenience or that it is not ready. It then would be difficult to bring back that capital once more to the same specific region.

Many good opportunities exist in Arab economies in general and in Yemen's economy in particular. There are investment opportunities in electric energy, airports, seaports, roads and communications that have burdened the state in building them. Such areas have become necessary and useful and it is certainly important they be undertaken by the private sector to sell their products at their economic prices.

Unwise subsidy simultaneously benefiting both the needy and the able also should be canceled. The problem of the needy should be treated within a wider social framework wherein alms tax legislation is rendered to the state to undertake spending on those deserving

of it.

In Yemen and other Arab countries, there are very important investment opportunities in rehabilitating floundering projects and installations, removing their struggles and restoring them to the economic cycle, thus rescuing huge amounts of money spent to build them. This type of investment needs support, encouragement and motivation at a level similar to new investments.

Hence, we must not forget the great role played by Yemen's financial and banking sector as the essential and effective actuator of the investment climate. It is imperative to develop it and put modern technology in its possession, as well as enable it to keep pace with national economies requirements and effectively respond to modernization requisites.

The sector also must undertake an effective role in encouraging saving, supporting money markets and financing direct investment processes.

Therefore, it's necessary to establish large Yemeni-Arab banks possessing modern diversified financial instruments. This is what Yemen is endeavoring to do as a first step in this direction, by virtue of support and encouragement from its political leadership.

The Yemeni government recently decided to merge some banks owned by it, with part of their shares possessed by contributors. In cooperation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, it formed specialized committees, whose goal is to face challenges and difficulties and form a strong economic and financial block.

Nevertheless, the role of Arab banks and financial establishments in recycling available capital in international financial markets in favor of Arab markets has remained nonexistent due to weakness in mechanisms allowing this type of activity. This is also because of intense world competition to attract such capital, as well as the role of major

economic blocks.

The coming years offer a real challenge to Yemeni banks and financial establishments and Arab world nations which must restructure themselves and determine their directions in compatibility with existing challenges and difficulties. They must depart from the narrow mediation process and not suffice themselves with lending and borrowing.

There must be comprehensive renewal and modernization in structures and patterns, as well as in the field of technology and communication. They also must exert efforts to establish financial instruments to gather savings and attract significant capital from international markets, as well as support and develop financial markets in Yemen and other Arab nations.

We live in an age of economic conglomeration and banking and financial groupings, which must be activated in favor of Yemen, sisterly countries and other parties.

U.S. and World Bank support Yemen's public works project

By: Yemen Times Staff

With the rise of poverty cases and an increased number of needy families, Yemen's public works project has received \$18.2 million in additional support from the United States government and the World Bank to finance new services and development projects in various Yemeni areas. The U.S. has offered \$10.2 million while the World Bank has offered \$8 million.

The U.S. assistance is to be allocated to finance projects in the agricultural, animal and health development fields in Taiz, Hodeidah, Hajjah and Al-Jawf governorates. The World Bank's \$8 million assistance will be used to support Yemen's health sector to finance civil works in 22 health projects in Sana'a, Hodeidah and Ibb governorates. The projects

also will include operations to expand and maintain hospitals and health centers.

Saeed Abdeh Ahmed, director-general of public works projects, said the total cost of new projects to be implemented in various Yemeni governorates through 2008 amounts to \$151 million and will include the education, health, agriculture, water and sewage, roads and vocational training sectors. He affirmed that more than 400 projects will be executed in 2006.

Ahmed said the project's plans are focused on small and medium projects aimed at employing the largest number of unemployed unskilled labor to help limit the unemployment rate and poverty while providing



Public works projects implemented in Yemen aim at providing citizen services as well as recruiting labor to contribute to reducing the unemployment rate.

basic public and infrastructure services as part of the state's social safety net.

By the new projects to be implemented in the third phase, funding of more than 2,400 projects will increase to \$300 million. Those projects so far have provided more than 400,000 job opportunities – both permanent and temporary – and increased the proportion of students joining basic and secondary schools in areas covered by education projects by 141.4 percent.

Projects also have achieved positive returns in areas where they were implemented, as witnessed in increased water storage capacity and the proportion of main and branch water distribution networks.

Business In Brief

A government delegation chaired by Planning and International Cooperation Undersecretary Abdullah Hasan Al-Shatir heads to Vienna next week to hold talks with OPEC Fund administration regarding supporting and financing Yemeni development and water projects in Hodeidah governorate.

Al-Shatir said meetings with officials at OPEC Fund for Development will discuss ways to activate joint cooperation areas between the two sides and possibly support and finance development projects set in Yemen's third five-year plan.

Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawakil, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, will attend Technical Committee meetings in Riyadh next week to prepare for a conference to promote Yemeni investment opportunities. Besides Yemen, the committee includes representatives of Gulf Cooperation Council Finance Ministers.

On April 16, the Specialist Penal Court will decide complaints by the defense for chairman and members of Watani Bank for Trade and Investment's board of directors accused of squandering depositor and shareholder funds estimated at more than YR 19 billion.

Ahmed Ali Al-Hamdani, the first defendant among Watani board members, said depositors' funds were not squandered and he is ready to repay such funds if returned to his former job.

A Yemeni government delegation recently participated in meetings of the sixth session of World Trade Organization (WTO) experts in Beirut. Salem Salman, undersecretary of the industry and trade ministry for international relations sector, said the meeting discussed the extent of implementing results from the WTO's sixth ministerial conference.

Salman added that over two days, attendees heard several proposals by participating states on the process to join the WTO. He pointed out that during the meetings, he submitted Yemen's efforts in the process to join the WTO and negotiations between Yemen's negotiating team and WTO members.

Abdulsalam Al-Jund, director of the Ministry of Electricity's renewable energy department, said funding of three strategic projects by the United Nations Regional Program for Environment will be discussed with program director Habib Al-Habir during his expected visit to Yemen.

Al-Jund indicated that the ministry has finalized all studies related to the projects, which include a project to generate power from heat emitted from inside the earth, another to improve energy in Yemen and a third to decrease air pollution resulting from vehicle emissions.

Al-Habir is scheduled to arrive in Sana'a the middle of this month for a several-day visit.

In a meeting with the German ambassador to Yemen, Khalid Mahfoudh Bahah, Yemeni Minister of Oil and Minerals, discussed several issues related to the oil, gas and minerals sectors, as well as German firms' participation in exploring and producing oil and gas in Yemen. Bahah stressed Yemen's keenness for the German side's participation in this vital sector by offering all necessary facilities to them, indicating a desire to strengthen relations between the two countries.

Bahah extended Yemen's invitation to German companies interested in becoming acquainted with Yemeni investment opportunities in oil and gas. The meeting also touched on the possibility of German government support for the ministry to receive German experts to qualify Yemeni staff in the areas of oil, gas and minerals.

Exchange rate of some currencies

Date: Tuesday, 4/04/2006

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	196.1800	196.3600
Euro	236.6400	236.8600
Sterling Pound	338.9200	339.2300
Saudi Rial	52.3100	52.3600
Kuwaiti Dinar	671.7600	672.3700
UAE Dirhem	53.4100	53.4600
Egyptian Pound	34.1700	34.2000
Japanese Yen	1.6550	1.6565

Source: www.centralbank.gov.ye

Vacancy Announcement

For the execution of the project "Support of Yemen's Accession to the WTO", funded by the European Commission, GTZ International Services (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, International Services) will employ a Yemeni computer soft- and hardware specialist for up to 30 months.

1. Qualification and skills

University Degree or Diploma related to Information & Documentation (I&D) / Public Relations (PR), computer hardware and software knowledge, very good command of the English language, at least 3 years of experience in similar position, preferably in an internationally aided project or international company/organisation.

2. Duties

- Maintain and up-date a documentation centre on WTO-related issues inside the CCO-WTO (WTO Reference Centre);
- Set up and maintain CCO-WTO website and co-ordinate Internet presentation of the Yemeni WTO accession process;
- Supervise installation and maintenance of the CCO-WTO computer network;
- Oversee and manage the maintenance of the required security standards pertaining to computer hard- and software;
- Conduct on-the-job training and backstopping for other local personnel;
- Oversee the publication and distribution of the CCO-WTO NEWSLETTER;
- Any other task related to I&D.

Yemeni Nationals of suitable qualification are invited to present their application in English prior to Saturday, 22 April 2006 at the following address:

**Coordination and Communication Office with the World Trade Organization Project Management Unit,
c/o Dr. Achim Seiler, GTZ,
P.O. Box 8278,
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel.: (01) 561 114 Ext. (118), Mobile: 733 777 398**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to come to the GTZ office in Sana'a for interviews at the end of April.



The Embassy of the United States of America announces for immediate jobs opening within its organization.

"Fraud Prevention Unit Supervisor"

The Fraud Prevention Unit Supervisor (FPUS) is responsible for all aspects of the Consular Section's Fraud Prevention Program. The FPUS defines the Embassy's counter-fraud goals in consultation with the Consul/Fraud Prevention Manager, devises work-plans to achieve said goals, conducts fraud orientation to new personnel, provides day-to-day supervision of two investigators, advises all personnel in various consular matters, is responsible for all pertinent fraud information and correspondence, ensures all unit functions are completed in an efficient manner, and performs other duties, as directed by the Consul.

Qualifications:

- a. Education:** Bachelor's degree in any related field that required extensive analysis, research, writing, prioritizing, problem-solving and creative thinking.
- b. Prior Work Experience:** 3-5 years investigative and/or analytical, 1 year supervisory beyond job-related experience and 1 year administrative and/or general clerical.
- c. Language Proficiency:** Level IV English and Level III Arabic, inclusive of writing skills, are required.
- d. Skills/Abilities:** Must adapt Standard Operating Procedures to comply with new regulations, devise new investigative techniques to combat emerging fraud trends, devise waste management control measures to better manage a steadily increasing workflow, must develop interview techniques to coerce applicants into being truthful, must identify potential vulnerabilities to consular services through the analysis of several collective factors and put preventative measures in place before this potential develops, must practice methods that enables the incumbent to manage multi-taskings and unanticipated circumstances, etc. Must also have adequate computer skills and excellent social, language and communication skills.
- e. Knowledge:** Familiarity with U.S. and Yemen government immigration, citizenship and civil status laws, procedures and documents, global terrorism, DNA parentage testing standards, U.S. health regulations, operational tendencies of various U.S. government agencies/facilities, Islamic law, local traditions, customs and tribal code, host-country airport security and inspection procedures, investigative techniques, Yemeni migration history, interview techniques, and record keeping.

Grade/Salary: *EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-04 (to be confirmed by Washington)
*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-10

How to apply: All interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 755-2000, Fax: 303-182 no later than the April 20, 2006.

NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.



The Embassy of the United States of America announces an immediate vacancy in the Financial Management Office.

Voucher Examiner Position

Examine appropriate and required supporting documentation and. payment vouchers for utilities, telecommunications and other supplies of goods and/or services provided by local and overseas based suppliers. Performs this work for the agencies supported under ICASS. Reviews reimbursement vouchers submitted by the Mission's employees for medical claims for correctness and verifies that they conform to regulations and the provisions of the medical plan. The position reports directly to the Voucher Section's Locally Engaged Staff (LES) supervisor.

Required Qualifications:

Education: Completion of equivalent of a 4-year degree from a recognized college, with course work in Accounting, Finance and/or Business Administration is required.

Prior Work Experience: 3 years in the field of accounting and finance with a sound knowledge of double entry and generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Language Proficiency: Fluent in Arabic (native speaker) and in English.

Knowledge: Internal Control procedures and Management control. Operating procedures, instructions and guidelines. Department of State Standardized regulation. 3FAH, 4FAH, 6FAH. Have a sound knowledge of all aspects of the Departmental travel regulations.

Abilities: Level I in typing, use of calculator, word processor, and spreadsheets is required.

Grade/Salary: *EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-08 (Trainee- to be confirmed by Washington)
*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-06 (Trainee), upgraded to FSN-07 upon satisfactory completion of stipulated training period of not less than 6 months and confirmation of the appointment.

How to apply: All interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 755-2000, Fax: 303-182 no later than the April 20, 2006.

NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.



The Embassy of the United States of America announces for immediate jobs opening within its organization.

"Info. Mgmt. Assistant – Consular Section"

The **Information Management Specialist (IMS)** is primarily responsible for developing and/or maintaining FPU databases, investigation files, investigative tools and equipment, contact lists, references, fraud alerts and developing anti-fraud training programs and training materials. The IMS is also an anti-fraud investigator and acts as the primary training coordinator, systems/applications consultant, internet researcher, legal researcher, statistics analyst and records keeper. The IMS is the primary liaison for host-government airport, military, information and telecommunications officials as well as commercial/financial institutions and area translators. The IMS also acts as a Back-up Visa Assistant in both immigrant and non-immigrant visa services.

Qualifications:

- a. Education:** Bachelor's degree in computer science, information technology, or software engineering.
- b. Prior Work Experience:** 3-5 years of progressively responsible experience in investigative/ consular work. 2 years of experience in computer or information technology field. 1 year of clerical experience.
- c. Language Proficiency:** Level 4 English and level 4 Arabic. Familiarity of all Windows operating systems, use of the Internet and electronic tools and equipments.
- d. Skills/Abilities:** Technical computer skills and creation/ development/ maintenance/ administration databases capability, "Access, PowerPoint, Adobe Acrobat, etc" are a must. Capability of using internet/intranet for research. US and host-government immigration, citizenship and civil status laws, procedures and documents. Airport procedures on document inspections. DNA parentage testing standards, US health regulations. Islamic law, local traditions, customs and tribal code. Investigative techniques. U.S. and Yemeni business licensing law.

Grade/Salary: *EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-06 (to be confirmed by Washington)
*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-08

How to apply: All interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 755-2000, Fax: 303-182 no later than the April 20, 2006.

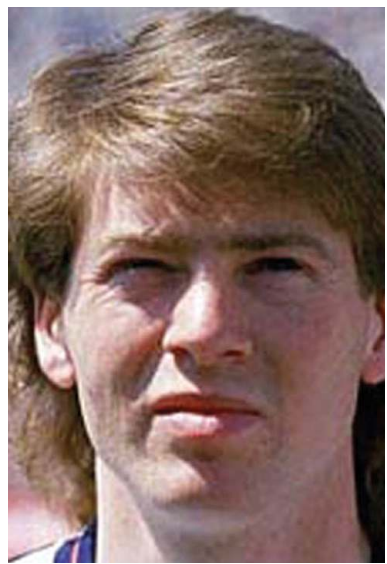
Note: All ordinarily resident applicants must be residing in country and have the required work and residency permits to be eligible for consideration.

Gascoigne, Waddle set for Masters battle

DUBAI — Legendary footballers Paul Gascoigne and Chris Waddle landed in Dubai last night to start preparations for the first Masters Football Dubai Cup 2006, which is brought to the Middle East by Sport Solutions, exclusive promoters of premium sporting concepts.

The Masters Football Dubai Cup will be held on Thursday at the Dubai Tennis Stadium and will feature football legends from English Premier League giants Liverpool, Manchester United, Chelsea and Newcastle.

Ali Haidary, managing director of Sport Solutions, said "We are thrilled that Paul Gascoigne and Chris Waddle are here to support the inaugural Masters Football Cup which has had a very positive response from fans, spon-



Chris Waddle

sors and the media alike. We are looking forward to the arrival of the remaining players leading to the big kick off this Thursday evening."

Paul Gascoigne joined Newcastle United as an apprentice and made his league debut for them in 1985. His skills as an attacking midfielder immediately brought him to the attention of several of the top managers at the time and in July 1988, Spurs coach Terry Venables paid a record £2 million fee to bring him to Tottenham.

Gascoigne went on to make his debut for England a year later and for the next seven years was a regular in the national side, amassing 57 caps and receiving cult status the world over after his performances in the 1990 World Cup. In 1992 Italian side Lazio paid £5.5 million for Gascoigne and he spent three years there before returning to the UK with Scottish giants Rangers in 1995, helping them to win an eighth consecutive SPL title as well as being named Scottish Player of the Year.

In 1998, he joined Middlesbrough and later Everton, bringing down the curtain on a career that for many defined football in the 1990s. In 2002 Gascoigne played an unofficial Masters game for a British team of legends in the first European event and he makes his long awaited official Masters debut for Newcastle in the upcoming Dubai Masters Football Cup.

Chris Waddle on the other hand began his career as a midfielder at non-league Tow Law Town. He was taken on by Newcastle in 1980 and did well at the club, scoring 46 goals in 169 appear-



Paul Gascoigne.

ances and was picked for the England Under-21s playing with legends such as Kevin Keegan and Peter Beardsley.

The desire for greater success took him to Tottenham Hotspur in 1985 for just under £600,000. Waddle played 173 games for Spurs and scored 42 goals as well as becoming a regular for England — he was in the squad which reached the quarter finals of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico linking up again with Beardsley.

Like Gascoigne, Waddle is looking forward to his first ever Masters appearance at the Masters Football Cup Dubai. Tickets, priced at Dh100 for grandstand seats and Dh250 for premium seats can be purchased at the Aviation Club Box

Office, online at www.timeouttickets.com, and through the ticket hotline 8004669 and selected retail outlets.

Masters Football is presented by Dubai Sports City, in association with DHL and the Courtyard Marriott at Dubai Greens Community. Official sponsors include The Aviation Club, Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, The Rights Lawyers, Masafi, The Big Bus Company and Gulf Technical Printing. Official media partners include Dubai Sports Channel, SKY Sports, Emirates Today, Time Out, Dubai Eye 103.8 FM and 92 FM.

Source: <http://www.khaleejtimes.com>

Armstrong trades two wheels for four

Indianapolis - Lance Armstrong, the seven-time Tour de France cycling champion, was named here on Tuesday as pace car driver for the 90th Indianapolis 500 auto race.

The 34-year-old American retired from competitive cycling after last year's seventh consecutive Tour title but will guide the Chevrolet Corvette pace car ahead of the 33-car field here in the May 28 Indy Racing League event.

"For me to be selected and asked to come, it is a huge honor," Armstrong said. "It is something that I am very excited to do. Hopefully I can not mess things up, if that's possible."

Armstrong will circle the 4km Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval ahead of the field before a quarter-of-a-million people, veering off into the pits as cars prepare for the green flag and full-speed racing.

"It will be a rush driving around with 250 000 people there," Armstrong said. "In the opening laps is probably when they are the loudest they could be screaming for their favorite driver. You try to take all of that in."

"It will have been almost a year since I have heard that as a



sportsman. It will be neat to get a little of that back."

Armstrong, whose fitness was at top levels to handle the climbs and endurance test of the Tour, respects the skills needed by auto racers, whose events relatively fly by in comparison.

"When comparing cycling to other events like the Indy 500, sometimes in motor-sports, people don't consider them to be athletes, but they are extremely fit," he said.

"I know a lot of drivers that spend a lot of time on the bike and a lot of time in the gym, and I can tell you they are athletes."

Armstrong said he is still far more comfortable behind handlebars than the wheel of a fast car.

"I spent 20 years racing the bike professionally, so I've gotten used to that," he said. "Driving a high-powered vehicle like that is totally different. I'd have to pick the bike as easier to handle."

Source: www.sportnews.com

Toyota suspend Gascoigne

Toyota have suspended technical director Mike Gascoigne indefinitely after what the Japanese team described as a 'fundamental difference of opinion'.

After enjoying their best season to date last year, finishing fourth in the constructors' championship, Toyota endured a difficult start to their 2006 campaign. They scored just one point from the first two races, but looked to have turned a corner at last weekend's Australian Grand Prix, where Ralf Schumacher finished on the podium.

However, in a statement the team said on Wednesday that: "Due to a fundamental difference of opinion



with regard to the technical operations of its Formula One team, Toyota Motorsport has suspended its Technical Director Chassis, Mike Gascoigne, until further notice. Toyota Motorsport will not make any additional comments on this matter at this time."

Gascoigne, one of the most highly-regarded engineers in Formula One racing, joined Toyota at the end of 2003 after successful spells with Jordan and Renault.

Source: www.formula1.com

Local Sport News

Yemeni under-15 judo team wins Arab Championship

A delegation from Yemen's under age 15 judo team has just returned to Sana'a after winning first place in the Arab Judo Championship for juniors, which wrapped up last Friday in Egypt.

The national team's Iranian coach, Dawood Meqati, pointed out that participation in the championship achieved distinctive results, as players benefited from the internal camp. He said players performed well and

deserved the victory, confirming that the team's ambition is to win the Arab and Asian championships in order to qualify for future Olympic Games.

Yemen's under-15 team won seven gold medals and a bronze medal in eight weights of a total 10-weight competition to occupy top place. Kuwait placed second with one gold, two silvers and three bronzes, while Syria was third with two silvers and three bronzes.

Track and field team training camps being held in Sana'a

The national track and field team is holding training camps in Sana'a to prepare to compete in the March 10-13 Arab Championship in Bahrain's capital, Manama.

Team coach and assistant captain Mohamed Al-Khawlani explained that the team has been holding camp for 45 days in order to select the best players. The coaching staff selected the top 17 players from five Yemeni governorates: the capital, Amran, Al-Beidha, Dhamar and Hajjah.

Al-Khawlani pointed out that the

coaching staff prepared preliminary exams for the 17 players, seven of whom were dismissed from the camp. He mentioned that the team continues practicing in the morning and the afternoon according to a program prepared by coach Badr Saleh Ali. He said the players have high morale which may help them occupy top places and win gold and silver medals in the championship.

According to Al-Khawlani, no injuries or difficulties are expected to impact players' progress in the training camp.

Yemen wins 10th Arab Friendship Championship

Yemen's youth futsal team won the 10th Arab Friendship Championship between embassies and international organizations working in Egypt. Futsal is a five player football game.

Yemen's team beat its Palestinian counterpart 3-0 in the final match at Al-Ahli Club Hall, organizer of the

championship.

In previous matches, Yemen beat Myanmar, Eritrea and Sudan, qualifying for the quarterfinals. The team next thrashed the United Arab Emirates to qualify for the semifinals before advancing to the finals to defeat Palestine.

Republic Championship volleyball qualifiers conclude

The Republic Championship volleyball qualifiers concluded last Monday in Al-Mahwit, including 13 teams in the governorate. The games were organized by the Volleyball Federation's office in Al-Mahwit.

Shabab Al-Rajm defeated Shabab

Al-Mahwit 3-1 to win the Governorate Cup in the final match at Al-Fawz Secondary School. The winner will represent the governorate in the Republic Championship. Competitions lasted for 20 days at Al-Fawz Secondary School.

UAE bid to host World Athletics Championship

By: Sayed Ali

Dubai: The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) announced that it received a bid from the UAE to host the 13th World Athletics Championship in 2011.

This was announced by Major General Mohammad Hilal Suroor Al Qaabi the UAE Athletics Federation President in a press conference held recently. Al Qaabi said that the IAAF during its meeting in Osaka in Japan revealed the countries which bid to host the 2011 World Championship.

"We bid to host the World championship after the visit of Lamin Diyak the IAAF President to the UAE at the end of last year. He visited many clubs and stadiums in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah and he was very pleased with what he saw."

"General Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, received Diyak who said that the UAE can host the World Championship in 2011 according to the excellent infrastructure,

stadiums and hotels, which can help the UAE to organise one of the most successful World Championships," said Al Qaabi.

He added that General Shaikh Mohammad Bin Zayed accepted that and instructed to bid officially for hosting the 2011 championships and to coordinate with Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The six countries who bid to host the 2011 championships as was announced by the IAAF are: UAE, South Korea, Morocco Spain, Russia, Australia.

Dr Abdullah Abdul Karim, the UAE AF financial manager, was appointed to coordinate with the IAAF and make the follow up for the bid until UAE succeed in hosting the 2011 championships.

Previous cities hosted the World Championship: 1- 1983 Helsinki, 2- 1987 Rome, 3- 1991 Tokyo, 4- 1993 Stuttgart, 5- 1995 Stockholm, 6- 1997 Athens, 7- 1999 Seville, 8- 2001 Wellington, 9- 2003 Paris, 10- 2005 Helsinki, 11- 2007 Osaka, 12- 2009 Berlin.

Source: www.gulfnews.com

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

Frightful fable

By: Ameera Al-Haddad
Taiz University

One night, when I had lain down to see the moon and shining stars, the air was quite, the breeze danced with the curtains of my windows. I closed my eyes for a while. I dreamed a nice dream in my sleep. In my dream my curiosity tempted me to go out for a picnic at a near by place in my garden.

While walking with quiet footsteps, my eyes were filled with scenes in soft lights... Suddenly!!! I stared to walk in astonishment!!! I didn't know what had happened to me!!! The soft light had vanished! Where have the stars gone... the moon... the breeze???

Suddenly everything changed. I came upon a wide street full of alleys!!! I entered one of those alleys hoping to find the right way to the garden in my house. But No!!! I had come far away from my house!

I felt very cold. I was only wearing a light tunic and a small shawl on my shoulders.

Raindrops started falling! It was late. Nothing moved in those alleys. Nothing, except the echo of my steps and the rain... I slipped on the ground, and I looked around for a warm place. There was no shelter, anywhere.

Suddenly!!! I fell down. I stayed it seemed, for a long time like this. Then I heard a strange voice,; it didn't sound normal. There was no doubt, I wanted to turn and take a look back something blocked me.

And Yes!!! I felt fear like pillars of iron in me. I bent to get up, my eyes started to steal their way up and up little by little... till I finally looked up at the giant!!! He frightened me!!!

At the time, I couldn't believe he was a normal creature... the rain was heavy... He came nearer... I had no shelter to hide... I surrendered to disaster... My heart trembled... My tongue was stuck at the rook of my mouth...

But it's all right!!! As long as it is what is to befall me, I will face whatever it might be, I thought.

So I looked steadily again... I saw his face. It was like a block of jelly, moving, not tied to anything. Nothing was fixed in his face, all except his eyes and his mouth... He was like a block of messed up blood... His eyes were regular, above each other... his mouth as a zigzag... his teeth were sharp... but they were bigger than his head!!!

He was bald, this giant except for one long braid coming out of the middle of his head... His eyebrows were like curly ropes dropping down to his neck!

I lowered my eyes gradually to look at the rest of his frightful body. His neck was long and thin with swollen veins as if they would spew blood at any second... Two huge hands hung from his shoulders with ten fingers. Each finger had sharp claws like forks.

His body was like barren ground which didn't know water not even to build a small house with a garden... His shanks were thin... His legs were broad... and what amazed me

most: he had broad fetters around his feet!!!

He came nearer looking at me with a fierce frown... What could I do??! He pulled me from my place, nailing me inside his hand. I knew he wanted to devour me like a grain of mustard between his jaws!!! But what stopped him??! I didn't know!!!

He started to speak to me. His voice was like fearful thunder claps... With every boom repeated, flames came out from his open jaw... He whispered to me that he wanted to eat me!!!

But!!! He asked that I make just three wishes and after that I would not see this world again!!!

At the moment, in that particular situation, I had only one wish and no more! I wanted out, to disappear for ever!!!

However, I wanted to seize the opportunity to ask for many wishes... or at least some... I thought quickly... I remembered poor people and wild vagabonds. As I had a chance to live, I should make a new life for those poor, weak vagabonds... I had no chance to live... I should make a new life for the poor, for the weal, for the vagabond. For all those who are powerless.

Oh!!! I just forgot! I was still lying down on the palm of his hands... and he looked at me... and fear came to me... he asked me, what was my first wish? I answered, "The first, I wish love and cooperation to spread among people who have hearts. Second, selfishness and self love my love must die in hard hearts. Third,

that you become small like us humans, possessor of a tender heart and be a kind and handsome man to deal with people in kindness after you eat me!!!

After that I don't know what happened! I stood before him... his formed changed... his features became nice... He spoke to me in a tender voice... What a charming man!!! He kissed me on my head, asking me to forgive him...

He granted me my wishes as if life had restarted... he didn't eat me... Yet! He became an intimate friend to me. He said he admired me strongly... Why, because I preferred other's lives to mine. He said that his frightful form would not change unless a kind creature would come to change it. That creature was me... Who change his frightful features into kind ones... I just got back my life twice over!!!

The rain stopped... the breeze blew gently... life was renewed on that night... a moonlit night!!

While I continued my conversation with him, I looked back to give him a smile... but I did see him... I turned left and right... but I didn't find him. I had just gotten acquainted with his name, so I called him by it... I should loudly to find him... and looked up to the sky... I found a sole brilliant star shining in the sky... I recognized that it was that good person... I felt happy to find him again in whatever shape he might be...

Now every night I stay for some time in the balcony of my house looking up to the sky to greet that wonderful star.

Seeking professional experience

By: Fareed A. Ba-Sa'aida
fareed407@hotmail.com

When a company needs to recruit new people, it may decide to advertise the job in newspapers. People interested can then apply by sending a letter of application and their curriculum vitae (CV) containing details of their personal information, educational background, skills, and professional experience among others.

Professional experience, however, is a real problem for recent graduates looking for a suitable job. These applicants may not have professional experience. What can they do about this? Where and how can they obtain

professional experience? For example, we sometimes read in a recruitment advertisement for the Job Vacancy section in newspapers:

XYZ company in Yemen looking for accountant ... all interested candidates should have a minimum of 2-5 years professional experience and other qualifications - all interested candidates should send their CVs with supporting documents of experience...

That's unfair, such an advertisement is frustrating for many potential candidates.

As far as I am concerned, it is necessary to recruit those candidates first. Once recruited they can learn and develop themselves through their work, gradually gaining solid work experience.

Dawn peace

By: Fuad Noman
fn_0012000@yahoo.com

Love carrying flowery spring glory
It is my peacefulness palace and fort
As a replacement for angst and fury
But hatred is sinful narrow court
Love has a charming story
As sailing into spaceless sky
By my soul's dory
Hatred is a poisonous worry
My matchless novel
My sun document approval
His color is my despair refusal
Love has a striking perfume smell
As our life has its incomparable dell
When our dawn peace sings with nightingale
Love becomes a divine paradise

His kernel can't be inherent in harmful gale
Love is a blissful seventh heaven
Despite the fact that
Hidden hatred is a well of hell
Love can stand proudly high with will
For God respectfully kneeling down
Love has radiant sense in pure depth
It is God's praiseworthy wealth
When Life's chalice is full of contentment
On betrayal twin bed
Our souls' syrupy moment can't cover forty winks
Love is building our golden shed
To save us from harm of evil and snake's head

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Aerialist's precautions
- 5 Fish dish
- 8 Option
- 14 Certain three-digit number
- 16 Resurrected
- 17 Lamenting woefully
- 19 Annual-report item
- 20 Kind of energy
- 21 End for chariot or auction
- 23 Records again, in a way
- 27 It may be checkered
- 31 Org.'s kin
- 33 "Reflections on Ice-Breaking" poet
- 34 Napoleon cousin
- 36 Marketing or vision attachment
- 39 Rose-rose connector
- 40 Celebrate in style
- 43 Ford Explorer, e.g.
- 44 In that case
- 45 Calm
- 46 Palmist's words
- 48 Heckled
- 50 Fruity drinks
- 51 Dinnerware, collectively
- 54 Dry ___ bone

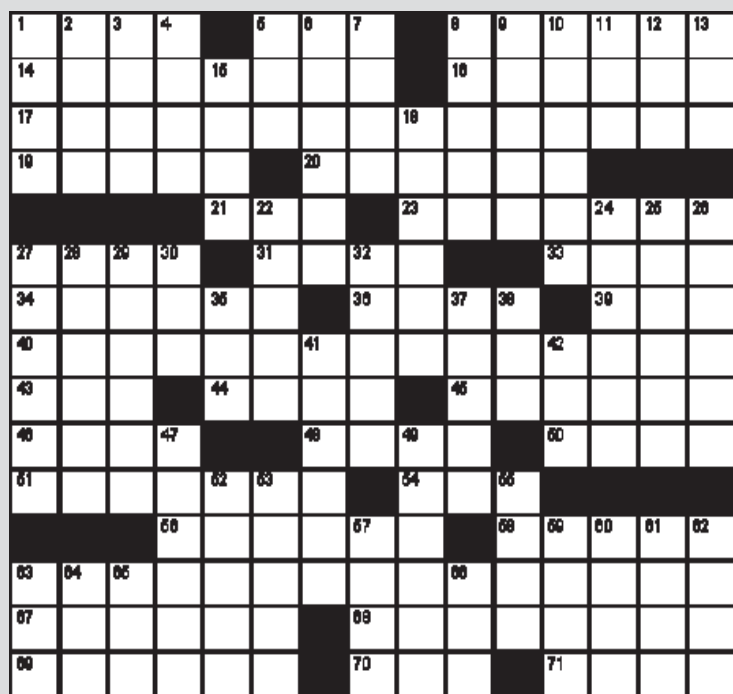
- 56 Wholly absorbed
- 58 Libertines
- 63 Like Prince William, e.g.
- 67 Thin soups
- 68 Hardly comedic
- 69 Detects
- 70 Fast way to the U.K., once
- 71 Clueless

DOWN

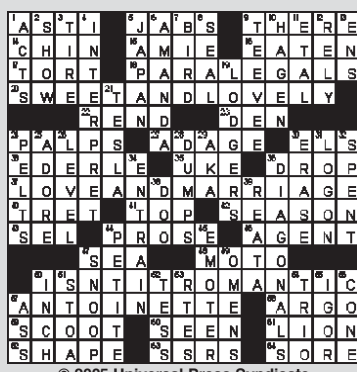
- 1 Voyager insignia
- 2 Discordia's counterpart
- 3 A score has two
- 4 Spice rack member
- 5 Billion-year stretch
- 6 Awards for mystery writers
- 7 Riga man, e.g.
- 8 ___ de menthe
- 9 Sister's outfit
- 10 "The Wizard of Oz" prop
- 11 Ames, Iowa campus
- 12 Mediocre mark
- 13 Trixie's husband, et al.
- 15 Mention
- 18 It stings
- 22 Buck's "The Good ___"

- 24 Coupled
- 25 Ancient Palestinian Jew
- 26 Cool cats may wear them
- 27 Some pops
- 28 Some James Dean film title words
- 29 Chip off the old block?
- 30 Work with hides
- 32 Pad type
- 35 "The Addams Family" cousin
- 37 Misplaces
- 38 Lamb source
- 41 Contract adverb
- 42 Firearms org.
- 47 Happenings
- 49 Library stamps
- 52 Genesis beginning
- 53 Word with Red or Blue
- 55 Jack-in-the-pulpit, e.g.
- 57 Coveted degrees
- 59 Of the mouth
- 60 ___ snuff (adequate)
- 61 Connecticut Ivy Leaguers
- 62 Splinter group
- 63 Some small shot
- 64 Vein contents
- 65 Howard of "American Graffiti"
- 66 Butter measure

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PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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AUS students had a glance on the real business world through window of Florida

By: Mohammed Fadhel

“It was a great experience to visit Multinational Corporations such as GM, Caterpillar, Motorola, IBM, Deloitte, and FedEx. I got a lot of benefit since we linked the theory we studied in University to the really business world.” This is what Mohamed Fadhel, the Yemeni student from AUS (American University of Sharjah), has to say about the study tour.

Under the guidance and direction of Miss Carol Houser, the director of community relation at the university, a group of 26 students from the American University of Sharjah visited the top American business entities in Florida, the United States. It was the 13th international study tour, which has gone to Germany, Switzerland and the USA. The trip, mixed with fun and education at the same time, allowed the students to experience the both i.e. American culture and business.

The students started the trip in Miami where they visited Royal Caribbean, Caterpillar, Motorola, IBM, Deloitte & Touché, FedEx and General Motors. The professional visits included meeting with the CEO's and the top managers from the above



Student from American University of Sharjah (AUS) visiting some Multinational Corporations.

mentioned companies which allowed the students to interact and increase their awareness about the management style they follow. The CEO's readiness to teach the student matched with the latter's enthusiasm to learn, which provided an opportunity for a highly informative conference room interaction.

At the Royal Caribbean Cruise ship, the students went on a tour inside the ship and learnt how a small-size ship is managed. The second visit to Caterpillar distribution and training center allowed students to learn how the company gained the competitive edge i.e., by valuing its relationship

with the employees and agents in the distribution channel. In addition, they went to Motorola headquarters and saw the complex process of manufacturing cell phones.

The next visit to General Motors gave the students an opportunity to find out how the company conducts business in the LAAM (Latin American, Africa and the Middle East) region. At FedEx students were amazed to find out the significance of time management to the business, as Carlos, one of the senior managers pointed out that being ten minutes late could cost millions of dollars in expenses to FedEx.

The visit to Deloitte and Touché was interesting for students as it gave them the opportunity to meet with the trainees and the recruitment manager who informed the former of the current selection criterion.

At IBM, the last professional visit in Miami, students were surprised to know that the business made most of its profit from providing services, rather than from producing and selling laptops. The students were even more amazed at the demonstration of IBM's latest voice command technology which is installed in Honda Acura.

The next stopover was in Orlando, where the students visited Universal Studios and Disney World. Students carried out mystery shopping activities and assessed the service quality at the parks. At Disney World, students were delighted to be part of the International Youth program, where they had an opportunity to dress up in their national costumes and meet people from different countries. Not to mention, the students interacted with other students from various countries around the world, and learned from each others cultures. As Ahmed Al Hashimi, a UAE student from AUS said “it was thrilling to tell the other students about UAE, and how Dubai is filled with technology and better yet, it's still growing.”

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Damt: Yemen's Natural Spa

By: Hakim Alasmari
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Many countries around the world invest millions of dollars to build their country and turn it into a tourist attraction for visitors and tourists from around the globe. But in Yemen, nature has its role in filling the country with natural attractions, resulting in beauty, wonders and unforgettable moments.

With its beautiful weather and naturally steamy hot waters, Damt, a city south Sana'a and a growing tourist site, has become an attraction for many visitors. Medically, the water plays a role in curing many sicknesses ranging from aching muscles to diabetes and cancer. “Natural medicine is always the better and safer alternative. Doctors around the



Beautiful places attract a lot of people.



A lot of people visit Damt to enjoy themselves.

country instruct their patients to visit the natural spa as part of their treatment,” says Abdullah Al-Ra'eani, a doctor living in Damt.

Locals claim that the water is naturally hot and has been for thousands of years. At times, water temperatures reach 300 degrees Fahrenheit, hotter than any human can bear. This unusual circumstance is what draws people to the city. Hundreds of shops selling all types of swimming paraphernalia are available to ease the way for visitors. Those desiring a special hot pool for the family can rent it for the equivalent of \$5 per family. Cheap prices and the area's friendly hospitality are keys to the city's sudden fame.

Hundreds of locals and tourists flock to the city daily. On weekends, it is nearly impossible to book a decent room in one of the city's hotels. Hotel owners estimate that more than 100,000 local and foreign tourists visit the city annually. “The number of visitors multiplies every year and will only increase.”

Similar naturally steamy waters exist in other Yemeni locations, including Sana'a, but none are more famous or entertaining than Damt. Investments also have grown in Damt, with hotels and shops spreading faster than ever. More than 30 hotels now exist in the small city, compared to only one five years ago.

Damt Tourist Hotel was the city's first hotel, opening its doors to tourists in 1987. Owner Marzook Ahmed Al-Sabahi said, “My hotel was the only one until five years ago. Nowadays, most buildings on the main street are hotels serving the many flocking tourists. Business here is extremely strong and only recently did the government finally realize the importance of this great tourist attraction.”

Unfortunately, the government is not doing enough to help the city flourish. A

major problem the city and its tourism industry faces is absence of electricity an estimated 12 hours daily. Hotel owners resort to buying private generators to meet their customers' needs. “By 11 p.m., the electricity cuts off and stays off until noon the next day,” said Abu Muaz, owner of Al-Nasr Tourist Hotel. “As citizens, we will do what is needed to serve

the city from our side and we ask the government to provide what is necessary for the city's progress from its side,” Abu Muaz added.

Foreign tourists become attached to the city's beauty and what natural beauty it possesses. “It's amazing, unique and

one of a kind,” said a Slavia Todorovski, a European tourist visiting Yemen. “The time I spent in Damt was memorable and unforgettable,” she concluded.

100,000 tourists visited the country in 2005 and the number is expected to rise even higher and the beauty of Damt is one of the reasons.

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