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Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 The US Administration announced a military action against Iran over its nuclear program. Do you think this will happen in the days to come?

I don't know (4%)
 Yes (35%)
 No (61%)

This edition's question:
 Tensions between the regime and opposition parties run high as presidential elections draw near. Do you think opposition will attain the political reforms for which it is calling?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know

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Amid alleged attempts to postpone presidential poll Negotiations between ruling, opposition fail

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 19 — Negotiations between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and General People's Congress (GPC) leaders on one hand and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) on the other regarding Yemeni political reforms have failed.

Saleh met opposition parties to discuss their attitude toward the electoral process and listen to their letter calling for political reforms, but the dialogue between the two sides failed. Opposition leaders attributed the failure to ruling party leaders' objection to JMP calls for comprehensive national reforms.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, JMP spokesman Mohamed Qahtan said, "GPC leaders ignore the fact that they are pursuing a scorched earth policy. Consequently, they are directing the country toward an unprecedented catastrophe. Their policy still has a few steps to go before becoming like that pursued by Somali President Mohammed Siyad Barre."

"Ruling party leaders are unable to

understand why opposition insists on comprehensive national reforms. They cannot understand the situation's risk, the country's poor conditions, nor do they perceive the fact that political reform is key to other reforms," he added, "Only political reform can resume the republican regime and rescue government institutions from dire situations."

According to Qahtan, political reform is necessary to reshuffle government institutions based on proper constitutional principles, political plurality and peaceful transfer of power. Such reform will help separate authorities and provide principles of accountability, transparency and good governance. Conducting free and fair elections is the first step toward reform.

Yemeni Socialist Party Secretary-General Dr. Yasin Sa'eed Nu'man expressed concern about statements by ruling party leaders who attempt to divide JMP unity and disgrace opposition leaders. "The JMP sent a joint letter to the president containing their viewpoints on political reforms, topped by those ensuring free and fair elec-

tions," Nu'man explained.

He added that the JMP letter included numerous violations committed by the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) and the GPC. Both sides formed supervisory and voter registration committees contrary to the law, thereby depriving other political parties of participating in controlling electoral registers.

Regarding the reasons leading Islamist Islah Party Secretary-General Abdulwahab Al-Anisi and other opposition leaders to quit negotiations, Nu'man explained, "We quit negotiations because GPC Assistant Secretary-General Sultan Al-Barakani defamed opposition leaders, calling them liars before the president."

"Al-Barakani's statement does not deserve any reaction and there is no need to engage ourselves with him. We feel sorry when the GPC addresses

people with such superficiality," Nu'man commented.

Al-Barakani told media that the JMP's malicious intents are the primary reason behind the dialogue's failure, claiming that opposition leaders merely are seeking excuses.

Responding to the causes for Al-Anisi's quitting the dialogue, Al-Barakani said, "Long discussion with JMP leaders ended, as Al-Anisi quit following sharp controversy between both sides of the dialogue." According to media, Al-Barakani hinted that JMP leaders demanded government posts.

Regarding alleged GPC attempts to postpone this September's presidential elections, an opposition leader wishing to remain anonymous stated, "Some GPC leaders indirectly attempted to persuade opposition parties to accept postponing presidential elec-

tions to another time, under the pretext that opposition demands are too difficult to fulfill within the remaining time period."

GPC political office member Dr. Mujeeb Al-Ansi told the Yemen Times via telephone, "Statements about the presidential elections' postponement are not true and this suggestion was not presented in the GPC's Seventh General Congress. Above all, there is a legislative staff for the GPC. The Constitution and the law are the sole references specifying the time of the presidential poll."

A GPC political office member stated that the dialogue failed because opposition leaders insisted on a stance and presented false proofs. He commented, "By doing so, JMP leaders want to gain personal interests that never serve the nation, its achievements or the democratic process."

Spanish embassy in Yemen inaugurated

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

SANA'A, April 18 — Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos and Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi participated Wednesday, April 19, in raising the Spanish flag to inaugurate the opening of Spain's embassy in Yemen.

Al-Qirbi affirmed that raising the Spanish flag not only will be the beginning of good relations between the two countries, but also strengthen a relationship that began in the 1950s. Moratinos said opening the Spanish Embassy will contribute to promoting security and stability in the Middle East.

During the bilateral discussion, Al-Qirbi welcomed the Spanish delegation, noting that it is the first time a Spanish foreign minister has visited Yemen.

"Yemen and Spain have many important fields of joint cooperation," Moratinos said, "Spain has special relations with Arab states. This visit is very important, as we need a vital partner like Yemen. It is time for us all to work hand in hand."

The two sides signed an agreement in fields of education, science and culture, whereby the two nations will develop



Miguel Moratinos (right) and Al-Qirbi signing the agreement between Yemen and Spain.

their relations and exchange educational materials and research.

On the same front, Moratinos and his delegation met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, discussing cooperation aspects between the two countries in fields of tourism, energy and fisheries. They also discussed topics related to security and counterterrorism.



Saleh also welcomed Spanish investment in Yemeni territories, whether in fields of energy, gas, tourism or fisheries.

According to the official state-run web site, Saleh mentioned Al-Jazeera correspondent Tayseer Allouni, who has been detained in Spain, and called on Spanish authorities to free him.

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, April 18 — In a special statement to the Yemen Times, Abdo Mohamed Al-Janadi, information secretary for the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER), confirmed Wednesday that committees formed from the Civil Service's graduate job seekers list received final training to check and alter voter lists beginning Thursday. He added that observation committee heads were chosen from those with higher university degrees.

Al-Janadi said the SCER will make August's local and presidential elections a success, adding that it will not heed parties' demands because it held many fruitless talks with them.

He noted that the committee members are the best and will prove their distinction because they are performing their task in a highly dependent, legal and professional manner. They will show that they are for all parties and all

those who are independent and they will develop the democratic experience.

Asked about partisan accusations that the SCER has become illegal and should be reformed to conduct free and fair elections, Al-Janadi said that casting doubt upon the SCER should have been done in a civilized manner, adding that such accusers should resort to the Constitution and the law.

He noted that the SCER is ready to discuss any documents or proof of violations committed by any SCER committee member, adding that anyone proven guilty will be referred to the judiciary.

He denounced opposition's fierce campaign against SCER members, describing it as "election fever" accompanying upcoming elections. He added that such a campaign should not cloud the parties' minds, pointing out that the attacks turned into insults and false accusations. Al-Janadi assured that the



Al-Janadi

SCER will tolerate all this because it believes in the saying, "Do whatever you think to be right and let others say what they like."

Continued on page 2

Court sentences anti-U.S. plotters, delays Al-Ahdal verdict

By: Amel Al-Arqi

SANA'A, April 18 — On Wednesday, April 19, the Specialized State Security Penal Court (SSSPC) sentenced 13 Islamic militants to prison terms of up to seven years for planning attacks against American and other Western targets in Yemen.

The Sana'a court handed down jail terms between 18 months and seven years to the men, also convicted of plotting to attack Yemeni military and security installations like the Ministry of Interior and Political Security, as well as

possessing explosives and weapons.

Group leader Ali Sufyan Al-Amari received seven years in prison for his role in founding the group, which intended to kidnap foreigners to negotiate release of prisoners and bomb Western interests in Yemen. Other group members received prison terms ranging from 18 months to six years.

One defendant, Faisal Abdul-Aziz, was acquitted because he turned himself in and cooperated with the investigation.

During the trial, the defendants denied all other charges, saying they had been planning to travel to Iraq and fight

a holy war against U.S.-led forces there. They were not charged with belonging to Al-Qaeda. The 14 Islamic militants were arrested May 9, 2004 and their trial began January 4, 2005.

In other news, on Tuesday, April 17, the SSSPC wrapped up the trial of Mohammad Hamdi Al-Ahdal, the suspected second-in-command of Al-Qaeda's terrorist network in Yemen, and set April 26 for pronouncing the verdict. Al-Ahdal, 35, is charged with being part of an armed gang formed to attack foreign interests and damage Yemen's security and stability.

During the trial, public prosecutor Khalid Al-Mawri called for the maximum penalty for Al-Ahdal, who prosecutors say received up to \$50,000 from Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden to finance the network's operations in Yemen and aid detained group members' families. Prosecutors alleged that he received approximately \$150,000 from a fellow Al-Qaeda member identified as Saudi national Abu-Omar Al-Usaimi.

"The defendant raised funds inside and outside the country and was in touch with Al-Qaeda leaders and opera-

tives in neighboring countries," Al-Mawri told the judge, adding, "He discussed with them directly or through coded messages how to plan and carry out bomb attacks."

In his final court testimony, Al-Ahdal rejected the charge of financing attacks in Yemen, alleging that his trial is politically motivated. "All of the accusations are political in nature and the United States is behind this trial, as senior Yemeni officials themselves have told me that U.S. President [George W.] Bush wants this," he said.

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Yemen to join GCC economy

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, April 18 — In a press conference held Monday, Abdul-Rahman Al-Attiyah, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), said the Yemeni economy's stability ensures stability of Gulf countries' economies and affirmed the Yemeni economy's integration with the GCC as "an irreversible objective."

Al-Attiyah also stressed that Yemen's economic reforms constitute genuine insurance for investors to establish developing projects in Yemen. "Economic reform agendas are going so well that there are no worries about Yemen's economy. We appreciate the Yemeni government's role in economic reforms, which are characterized by transparency," Al-Attiyah noted.



Abdul-Rahman Al-Attiyah

He indicated that national reforms to promote judiciary independence, the Control and Audit Committee and the High Tender Board, in addition to transparency in derivative industries, are all important to investors and donors alike.

For his part, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, Minister of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs, said Yemen's government has estimated \$45 billion to integrate with the GCC economy in a 10-year term.

activating the joint working group, whereby accepting Yemen as a member in many GCC institutions and commissions was approved at the 2001 Mascot Summit.

The second issue involves arranging the donor countries' conference as agreed in technical committee meetings which included GCC finance ministers, the GCC Secretariat Office and Yemen's Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. An investment opportunities conference also will be held in Yemen next February 2007. The last area pertains to a Gulf funds meeting that would finance Yemen's infrastructure, as suggested by Yemen.

As for security-related issues, Al-Attiyah pointed out that Yemen's security is part of the Gulf's. He also expressed concern about Iran's nuclear strategy, affirming that diplomatic dialogue will ensure a solution to the nuclear crisis.

Al-Attiyah left Sana'a after a three-day visit, during which he held talks with Yemeni officials on promoting cooperation between Yemen and GCC members. He also met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who awarded Al-Attiyah in appreciation of his efforts to promote relations and cooperation between Yemen and GCC members.

AstraZeneca products in Yemen

SANA'A, April 16 — The National Trading Company (Natco) held a ceremony Monday, April 16, to mark its cooperation with a new international pharmaceutical company.

"We are now the agent for AstraZeneca pharmaceutical company," Natco Deputy Managing Director Mohamed Abdulqawi announced, adding that AstraZeneca is considered one of the world's largest and most famous multinational pharmaceutical companies. "Internationally, it's ranked seventh at the moment," he noted.

Held at the Movenpick Hotel, the ceremony also officially announced the launch of medication for gastro-esophageal reflux diseases (GER) like heartburn and ulcers.

Abdulqawi pointed out the importance of providing Yemeni patients such medication. "It is very important to treat heartburn and gastro-

esophageal reflux disease to avoid completion which may cause cancer." According to Abdulqawi, the GER medication has obtained international approval from patients.

Dr. Abdullah Abdulkhaliq, General Manager of the Medication Authority, confirmed that smuggled international medicines are in Yemeni markets "because their companies' agents do not register these medication types and some international companies have no agents in Yemen."

He referred to the importance of dealing with international firms to provide Yemeni patients with good quality drugs. "Providing medication from international companies is for the sake of the Yemeni patient. Therefore, the fund encourages international companies and their agents in Yemen to register medication types."

Attended by approximately 300

doctors and pharmacists, the ceremony included a scientific presentation wherein AstraZeneca specialists discussed clinical studies involving patients with heartburn and GER. According to the studies, 40 percent of adults in the Western world regularly experience heartburn and 10 percent have GER.

AstraZeneca formed April 6, 1999, through the merger of Sweden's Astra AB and the UK's Zeneca Group PLC — two firms with similar science-based cultures and a shared vision for the pharmaceutical industry.

Established in 1980, Natco, a large corporation owned by Said Anam, represents some of the most famous multinational brands in pharmaceuticals, electronics, home appliances, air conditioning, electromechanical, auto and business information systems.

A medical camp in Mukalla

MUAKALLA, April 18 — Approximately 1,000 patients are expected to be screened in a medical camp arranged in Ibn Sina General Hospital April 10–May 10 in the city of Mukalla, sources said this week.

This year's camp is being organized by Tayba Welfare Association (TWA) and the Developing Khailat Boughshan Foundation, both non-governmental and non-profit associations dedicated to human services like health, education and social assistance.

A group of Saudi surgeons from King Fahd and King Abdulaziz Hospitals as well as the kingdom's medical faculties are invited to partici-

pate in the camp. The Saudi doctors will perform only about 500 highly complicated operations, with minor surgeries being the duty of their Yemeni counterparts.

Organizer Dr. Omer Soheal said one of the camp's aims is to help patients receive inaccessible health care. "We have invited medical experts from the kingdom to perform extremely difficult operations which patients cannot afford," he noted.

The camp is for all and will handle ear, nose and throat cases, children's surgery and plastic surgery. "Doctors will use in their operations high-tech equipment available in the hospital and

others brought from Saudi Arabia," Soheal added.

The camp is the fourth of its kind being held at Ibn Sina Hospital and the 20th total in Yemen sponsored by TWA. The first camp was conducted in the 1970s. Regarding future medical camps, Soheal said the next one will be in Shehar specializing in eye diseases.

The camp's advantages are restricted not only to patients, but also for local doctors, as it is an opportunity for new graduates of Hadramout University's Faculty of Medicine to practice their knowledge and benefit from the know-how of Saudi specialists.

Comprehensive 2005-2006 educational survey to launch

SANA'A, April 19 — A training course for researchers and assistant inspectors for a comprehensive educational survey launched last Saturday, April 15. Beginning April 20 in all governorates, the YR 140 million survey targets 2,000 educational institutions with support from the basic education development project.

The survey will be conducted by 2,000 researchers and inspectors who received theoretical and practical training in listing and codifying data.

The Minister of Education announced to all media that it is conducting the survey in order to obtain a database. The database will contain the status of educational

institutions, their constituents, contents and the number of students according to age, as well as teachers according to qualifications, specialization and years of employment.

The minister assured that the educational survey aims to develop, study and analyze correct information.

OCIS director visits Yemen

By: Yemen Times Staff

Dr. Farhan Ahmed Nizami, founding director of the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies (OCIS), recently visited Yemen to discuss Islamic issues with statesmen and intellectuals, as well as promote the UK-based center's activities, which aim to show Islam's civilized and humanistic nature.

Nizami met with several high-ranking governmental officials, including President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Shoura Council Chairman Abdulaziz Abdul-Ghani. His meeting with the president included a discussion of current Muslim world

events, as well as challenges that lie ahead.

The director briefed Saleh on the center's role and activities it organizes. He also appreciated Yemen's provision of traditional construction materials, such as bricks used in Yemeni architecture, for the OCIS.

Nizami underscored that the OCIS is keen to exchange visits and invite Yemeni researchers to further strengthen mutual bonds. He pointed out that throughout history, Yemen represents a model for peaceful coexistence among different religions.

OCIS provides a meeting point for Western and Islamic worlds of

learning. At Oxford, it contributes to multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary study of the Islamic world.

Established in 1985 to encourage scholarly study of Islam and the Islamic world, OCIS is assisted by an Academic Advisory Committee consisting of senior members of the university.

The center is governed by a board of trustees composed of representatives from Oxford University and scholars and statesmen from various parts of the world. The late S. Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi was the founding chairman of the trustees. Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef is the current chairman.

U.S. warns citizens against traveling to Yemen, again

SANA'A, April 13 — The US government has issued a new Travel Warning against its citizens traveling to Yemen last Thursday.

According to the Department of State the security threat level in Yemen remains high due to terrorist

activities in Yemen. It urged U.S. citizens to consider carefully the risks of traveling to Yemen and to exercise caution and take prudent measures to maintain their security.

The warning also added that "from time to time the Embassy may

temporarily close or suspend public services for security reasons."

It is worth mentioning that the current travel warning supersedes the previous Travel Warning for Yemen issued last year on October 28.

Egyptian ship seized for fishing Yemeni waters

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

HODEIDAH, April 18 — Judge Isaac Mohamed Salah, chief of Public Funds Prosecution in Hodeidah, stated that it has completed investigating the crew of an Egyptian ship named Anwar Makkah, seized during piracy acts and while fishing in Yemeni regional waters without permission.

The ship did not abide by navigational laws, as it discarded fish waste and oil into the sea, thereby destroying the marine environment — including pearls — and causing an estimated \$1.7 million in damages.

Salah noted that the Egyptian ship has been fishing in Yemeni waters for nearly two months, until it eventually was caught at Hodeidah Port. He indicated that authorities could not seize the ship earlier because it hid among other Egyptian ships with permission, as part of a mutual cooperation agreement between Yemen and Egypt.

Well-informed sources revealed that Yemen's government enacted effective procedures to protect international

navigation and fight piracy acts and random fishing in its regional waters.

The same sources said the government deployed organized patrols from Yemeni coast guards working round the clock to observe illegal activities in Yemeni regional waters and combat piracy acts targeting Yemeni fishermen and ships.

They confirmed that the government supplied the coast guards with modern boats and equipment to protect international navigation and set permanent observance checkpoints to offer navigational services and guide ships sailing in Yemeni regional waters.

Many local fishermen were exposed to and detained during piracy acts by Somali pirates, but Yemen's government later contacted Somali authorities, which released them.

Two days ago, a U.S.-flagged yacht with three people aboard was attacked by pirates wielding rocket launchers off Yemen's coast, the Italian coast guard said Sunday, after an Italian freight ship reported a distress call.

"Around 9:45 a.m., an Italian

container ship, the Jolly Platino, called to say it had heard an SOS message from an American sailing vessel, the Tir Na Nog," an official from the Rome headquarters of the coast guard told Reuters.

The Italians informed U.S. authorities in the region of the incident, which happened some 25 miles (40 km.) off Yemen's coast. The official said two U.S. and one Dutch military vessel in the area were told of the attack, but he did not know how any rescue attempts were progressing.

Cmdr. Jeff Breslau, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain, said, "Coalition forces are investigating the incident." He gave no further details.

A Yemeni coast guard official in Aden said he did not have any information about the incident, adding that it occurred outside Yemen's territorial waters.

Yemen shares territorial waters with Somalia, whose coastal waters have become among the world's most dangerous in the 14 years it has lacked a central government.

Continued from page 1

Al-Janadi: Opposition justifies failure by attacking SCER

Al-Janadi went on to say that despite prejudice against the SCER, it is convinced in what it is doing, adding that opposition should not impose its failures on the SCER. He added that the opposition is doing this because it wants to hold the SCER responsible in case they fail in the elections.

On behalf of the SCER, Al-Janadi called on all international organizations, election observers and donor countries to draw closer and take an arbitration role between the SCER and the opposition. He accused opposition of alleging that elections will be counterfeited, which is not true, adding that opposition wants to convince the international community

that the SCER is working outside the law, which also is untrue, because all democracy promoters are working with us.

Regarding election observation, Al-Janadi assured that 27,000 local observers are registered to observe election procedures, adding that observers from other countries asked to observe the elections and they will be given this right. He added that the SCER is sure of transparency and freedom in the elections, confirming that there will be no chance for forgery.

A great dispute erupted between opposition on one hand and the SCER and the ruling party on the other, wherein opposition refused to join

procedures conducted by the SCER, saying it is illegal and demanding its reform as a first step to political reform.

Due to these differences, the SCER cancelled all parties' participation in forming its working committees, depending instead on Civil Service job seeker lists. Both public and secret talks were held to resolve the differences.

Opposition submitted suggestions for settling their differences to the president on Monday. If the problems remain unsolved, opposition threatens to resort to peaceful public protests which may escalate to sit-ins and demonstrations. This is what the coming days will reveal.

Court sentences anti-U.S. plotters, delays Al-Ahdal verdict

However, Al-Ahdal did admit to aiding families of Islamic militants held in the custody of the U.S. or Yemeni authorities. "Yes, I have been giving financial aid to families of Mujahedeen (holy warriors) and I'm happy for doing that," Al-Ahdal stated.

He further stated that U.S. and Saudi investigators interrogated him during his detention in a Sana'a jail.

Yemeni authorities believe Al-Ahdal, who was arrested in 2003, was the deputy of Ali Qaed Sinan Al-Harithi, alias Abu Ali Al-Harithi, who was killed in a November 2002 CIA missile attack on his car in eastern Yemen. Harithi was described by Yemeni officials as the

top local Al-Qaeda leader in Yemen.

Regarding the 23 Al-Qaeda prison escapees, local press reported that 23-year-old Zakaria Yafii, one of the 23 who fled Central Intelligence Prison in Sana'a in February, was arrested Monday.

Al-Rai daily quoted a security source as saying that security forces raided an apartment in Shumaila neighborhood south of Sana'a where they seized Yafii, who made no attempt to resist arrest. He was returned to Central Intelligence Prison.

Yafii is considered the seventh runaway Al-Qaeda prisoner to surrender or be arrested in the past two months. His surrender is

believed to have resulted from negotiations between the intelligence service and tribal leaders, as were previous deals that led to the surrender of six other runaway prisoners. He is one of six suspects awaiting trial on charges of belonging to Al-Qaeda and planning terrorist attacks against foreign interests in Yemen.

Yemen, which is cooperating with the U.S.-led War on Terror, cracked down on suspected Al-Qaeda militants in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S., convicting several presumed extremists, including a number in connection with the USS Cole and Limburg attacks.

Celebrating the prophet's birthday in Hadramout

Celebrating the Prophet Mohammed's birthday in Hadramout has its own flavor and is linked to several governorate traditions, as locals receive the day with a variety of ritual performances.

By: Hassan Ba-Udan
and Saeed Al-Batati

With the advent of Rabi' Al-Awwal on the Islamic calendar, Muslims all over Yemen are keen to attend this month's celebration of the Prophet Mohammed's (pbuh) birthday, as it reminds them of the greatest personality in history. Therefore, many religious rituals are performed to express delight on this occasion.

However, these religious ceremonies are not all alike in Yemen. The 12th of Rabi' Al-Awwal can be recognized easily in Hadramout, with voices of anasheed (Islamic songs) blaring from mosques and incense perfuming the air.

Al-Mawlid (the prophet's birthday celebration) is said to have initiated in Tarim, a prominent Hadramout city whose mosques are mostly under Sufi control. Citizens there joyously share with one another using a variety of approaches, the most common of which is reciting the Mawlid story in mosques and homes.

Throughout the month at mosques, preachers remind citizens of Mohammed's biography, particularly his birthday. On the first Friday sermon of the month, speakers talk about his death, exhorting citizens to remember it during the month.

Celebrations reach their pinnacle on the 12th of Rabi' Al-Awwal, which is Mohammed's birthday. The night before, a large gathering is held in Baalawi mosque, considered Tarim's most sacred mosque. Some rise before dawn in the same hour Mohammed was born to read Al-Mawlid. This is done in Dar-Al- Mustafa and some homes.

After the dawn prayer, another large Mawlid takes place in Al-Mihdar mosque, famous for the longest minaret built by Sheik Omer Al-Mihdar. Other large gatherings to read Al-Mawlid are arranged in Rubat Tarim, an Arab and Islamic science institution, and in Al-Sagaf mosque.

Tarim becomes a destination on the eve of the birthday, as citizens from outside Tarim, like Sayoun and Taribah cities, flock to attend Al-Mawlid.

The prophet's birthday is a time of rest from work in Al-Ahaff University and Sufi-oriented institutes, as well as many individuals like construction workers and carpenters. Children are dressed up, girls' hands are dyed with henna and folk dances like "Al-Shabwani" and "Al-Razeeh" are held in the streets.

Local authorities in Sayoun have arranged activities in which scholars talk about the event. "We Muslims must confirm to the whole world – particularly those who tried to distort our prophet's personality – that our messenger is alive in our hearts," one scholar said, "Such commemorative activities are not enough. The real celebration is for Muslims to follow the prophet's example and adhere to all of his teachings."

In fact, Hadramout locals have different ways to celebrate Mohammed's birthday. Carpenter Madi Blis'ad says, "On Monday, I listen to the prophet's attributes and miracles. I also listen to his birthday story in the early morning. I congratulate my relatives and friends on this happy occasion. At home, all of my family comes together and listens to the prophet's attributes." College student Zain Bin-Ageel notes, "I celebrate the occasion by listening to the prophet's biography and birthday story. On 12 Rabi' Al-Awwal, I wear new clothes and read Al-Mawlid with my family. Reciting the prophet's biography strengthens the love for this prophet. Many people do not understand the benefits of Al-Mawlid." Student Omer Karamh says, "I am very happy on our Prophet Mohammad's birthday. We celebrate this day to show our gratitude and thankfulness to this prophet who rescued us from hell. I celebrate this occasion by listening to the prophet's attributes and I want all Muslims to do the same."

In Mukalla, another prominent Hadramout city, major celebration events take place in Omer mosque, where citizens gather to recite Al-Mawlid, after which scholars deliver speeches. Preacher Fuad Bin Sheik Abu Baker emphasized the importance of the auspicious occasion and demanded it be a national holiday. "Our



Celebrating the Prophet's birthday is a tradition of most people of Hadramout.

prophet deserves better. This day should be an official holiday in all Islamic countries and different activities should be performed on this occasion."

Muslims have been celebrating the

prophet's birthday for centuries. Professor Ali Mohammed recalls the memories of his '30s: "A very large celebration was organized during the Kuwaiti Sultanate, attended by the sultan and his cronies. It was a national

holiday. But when the Communists took power in South Yemen, they publicly banned any religious festivals."

Salafi and Sufi Muslims are at loggerheads over Al-Mawlid celebrations. Salafis consider the celebration to be an

innovation, saying that the prophet and his companions didn't practice it during his lifetime. But Sufis respond that the prophet practiced Al-Mawlid when he praised fasting on Monday, the day on which he was born.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with its project "Clean Development Mechanism"



Post Title: National Project Manager/ SC-A

Duration: 12 months

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- Establish norms of work between the Consultative Council.
- Monitor the progress of the project activities against the work plan, and recommend and implements remedial actions as appropriate.
- Manage the human resources of the project.
- Assess, prescribe and manages the changes which may be necessary in staffing, procedures, office layouts, and budgets.
- Ensure fielding of project staff (international and national experts and consultants) as per agreed schedules.
- Co-ordinates project training activities, workshops and study tours.
- Pursue co-ordination with key Government institutions, Civil Society Organizations, private sector and other bodies, which will have an impact of the project and their institutions.
- Perform other duties that related good governance related activities, when requested.

Qualification

- A Master degree in Political Science or equivalent.
- Minimum five years experience in the same field of study, not less than three years experience in managing any of governance programmes/projects and/or worked under governance portfolio and good experience in Government administrative structure.
- He/she will have strong communication skills as well as analytical and writing abilities.
- Fluency in English and Arabic.
- Excellent Computer skills.
- Excellent ability to foster involvement of relevant stakeholders

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org.ve/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, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.ve@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 29 April 2006

يعلن المعهد الأمريكي للتدريب واللغات (آتي)

بأن الأخ/ حسام عبدالرقيب المخلافي

لايمثل المعهد إطلاقاً أمام الغير وأي إتفاق

أو تعامل معه لايلزم المعهد ولايترتب عليه أي أثر

وهذا للعلم.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَبَشِّرِ الصَّالِحِينَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أُصْبِحُوا وَآلَاءُ اللَّهِ وَأَنَا إِلَهُ الْجَعُونَ

فقدت اليمن هذا الأسبوع المناضل

طه مصطفى محمد

أحد الشخصيات الإجتماعية الكبيرة الذي قدم للوطن خلال مسيرة حياته خدمات جليلة

وبهذا نتقدم بأحر التعازي والمواساة إلى أبناءه

السفير/ محمد، الأستاذ/ نصر والأستاذ/ خالد

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان...

«إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون»

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الأستاذة/ نادية عبدالعزيز السقاف – رئيس مجلس الإدارة- رئيس التحرير

الأستاذ/خيرالدين النصور- نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة

الدكتور/ همدان زيد مطيع دماج – مدير التحرير



Vacancy Marketing Manager

Marie Stopes International (MSI) is a multinational NGO based in London, that provides reproductive health care in more than thirty countries, including Yemen.

MSI-Yemen requires a Marketing Manager. This is a new position in the Social Marketing Department, which is introducing a Contraceptive Social Marketing Project.

Applicants should send a CV plus a covering letter. Mail to: Director, Social Marketing Department, Marie Stopes International, (Behind Bashiri house), P.O. Box 16160, Hadda, Sana'a. Fax: 425906.

Email: mcsmdirector@y.net.ye

Job Description:

The Marketing Manager will have a lead role in planning, organizing, budgeting, outsourcing, launching, monitoring, assessing and reporting on all aspects of the Department's marketing activities. He/she will report to the Social Marketing Director and will act as Deputy Director on occasion. He/she will lead and manage a staff of three managers: Sales Manager, Behavior Change & Training Manager, Research Manager.

Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will have an appropriate university degree or equivalent experience in relevant activities and will have five or more years experience with private firms that undertake similar work in Yemen, for example marketing of Fast moving consumer goods, such as health products or pharmaceuticals. He/she will have personally produced a variety of progress reports, proposals, budgets, multimedia presentations and plans such as Action Plans, Marketing Plans and Work-plans in excellent English and in excellent Arabic using Microsoft Office. Experience will also include guidance, supervision and on-the-job training of employees.



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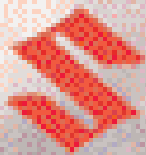
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Arab democracy's plight

It is true that Arab democracy was born with an ailment. Arab revolutions achieved independence and sovereignty, promising liberty, socialism and unity. But these revolutions have relaxed or grown old before fulfilling their promises.

The destructive collapse led citizens to insist on their liberty and democracy, which were sacrificed for the sake of better living, independence, unity and Palestine's liberation. After half a century, Arab citizens discovered that the Palestinian case was more complicated and there was a retreat from the Arab revolution.

It became clear that absence of liberty was the main reason for abandoning the Palestinian problem and the compromises over it, besides the collapse of the Arab stronghold tower of Baghdad. The dangers facing Sudanese unity and the spread of poverty and illiteracy in most of the Arab world are other threats.

Again the problem of democracy is presented as the Arab world agenda. The call for constitutional democracy – adopted by Arab citizens and intellectuals – has been a public demand since the beginning of last century.

It is realized in the calls of Moroccan Independence Party leader Al-Fasi, the reforms of Khair Al-Deen Al-Tunisi, and the struggle of Abdulgader Al-Jaza'ari's. The scenario in Egypt – as a leader country of the Arab world – was more lively and effective due to Mohammed Ali's reforms, Orabi's revolution and national leader Saad Zaghloul's founding of the Egyptian Liberal Party. With political intellectual trends emerging since the beginning of the century, constitutional calls dominated Egyptian public life



By: Abdulbari Tahir

before the 1952 Egyptian revolution.

Sudan acquired independence through democracy. The Mahadi and Khatmi parties took the lead in founding the national state, whereas in Syria, the country's Ba'ath party was closer to liberal trend than coup thinking.

As for Yemen, the constitutional call began with World War II. Al-Hikma magazine was the first incubator for this rational demand in the kingdom of the dead (Yemen) as Salvatore Abonti called it. The founders of enlightenment movements, writers and intellectuals were calling for an Islamic Shoura state ruled by a constitution and an elected Parliament, at least partially. However, such scholars were accused of what was unthinkable: they were accused of abbreviating the Qur'an.

Yet in southern Yemen – particularly in Aden – during British occupation, the British protectorate became a destination for the liberal northern opposition. The Liberal Party was the mother party of the Yemeni Mutawakili state and the voice of Yemen in 1946. Labor syndicates appeared, from whose cloak political parties such as Ba'ath and Marxist movements emerged. Al-Rabita, "Bond of Southern Arabia," was the first representative of these political streams.

Revolutionaries blamed liberals for not attaining independence; however, the accusation was not innocent because it aroused hostility against the crippled democracy, accused of committing to colonization. Hence, military dictatorships were established, constraining liberties, suppressing opinions and declaring martial law. Dictatorships canceled public participation. As a result they failed to protect autonomy, besides failing to fulfill its promises for unity and

socialism. This situation enabled some of their factions to overtake power resulting in the democratic banner being raised again.

Arab nations found themselves between the hammer of colonization, which can pass their interests in the name of democracy against democracy-thirsty nations, and the anvil of tyranny, which is hostile and scared to death of freedom.

The Iraqi and Palestinian experiences are distinctive models. The U.S.-British occupation found no way out other than encouraging democratic elections. Elections were meant to be the last justification for Iraq's occupation, following the lie about comprehensive destructive weapons and the lie about Saddam Hussein's Al-Qaeda role.

Democracy is "an inevitable evil", but Iraq's plight brought sectarian build-up, in which all civil and modern streams were dissolved. This sectarian gathering became the real obstacle to the democratic experience in that it returned Iraq to a pre-state period. U.S. occupation also was implicated in this plight.

Despite the fact that Palestinian elections were clear proof of democracy and transparency, it contradicted U.S. and Israeli interests. Hamas was met with aggressive hostility and U.S. credibility in freedom, democracy and reform was contradicted.

Democracy's breakdown in Iraq failed to cover the U.S. occupation's disgrace. The unexpected election result in Palestine drove the U.S., which is disloyal to democracy and wants to defend its interests even if they contradict the nations' interests, into confrontation with Palestinian and Latin American experiences, which are struggling for democracy.

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

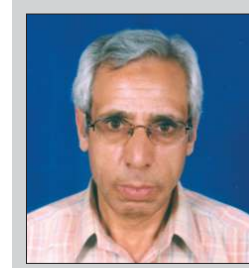
Dear: The bull gives no milk...

Each time the nation turns hopefully towards the Arab League; they face with the Egyptian proverb as it extends over all Arab lands saying: "I tell you that it is a bull and you insist on milking it."

The truth is the Arab League needs major reconstruction. This isn't an author's attitude coming from national Arab institutions. Nor is it part of the hidden intrigue against Arab unity, as it is represented by the Arab League, home that brings all Arabs together. Its truth that doesn't tolerate falsifying. Simply said this political institution needs an overhaul. This reconstruction should be based on Arab objectives, not on the basis for which it was originally founded.

The foundation upon which the League was established in the mid-forties has remained the same to this day. The Arab nation and its people were not the beneficiaries when the League was founded. An it is the futile hopes and desires of Arabs still looking to the League for results that stimulates and actively this Egyptian proverb.

Like the Seizeif absurdity of the room suspended in its mountain summit, so does the Arab individual remain suspended with his hopes awaiting the next summit. He hopes for the day when this Arab League, as an institution, can remove the grief dominating the Arab nation. Nevertheless, for the sake of this absurdity let us have a quick glance at the conditions of the birth and establishment of the Arab League. We do this so it isn't just an emotion, a pretense or the craziness attached to the



By: Atif Awad

enemies of the nation and its institutions, even when it prevents the Arab from taking the bull's milk and feeding upon it.

Great Britain, with its lion's share over Arab territory, alongside France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Turkey; were the powers that have

dominated the world in the last century. They are the same powers that have shaped the Arabs according to a framework that suits the objectives of these international forces and their empires. The Arabs had no other alternative that to implement.

The controversy generated by the conflict between these powers results, at the beginning of the last century, in the evolution of two major powers. The Arab region and its people are directly affected by these influential and impacting changes. The first to top the list is the Great Arab Revolution led by Sharief Hussein and his sons. Subsequent events during both World Wars would bring France and Britain to adopt the Arabic structure of the "Arab League".

The first of these events would be the Belfor's Promise given by Britain to colonial European forces. The second would be the Sykes-Picot Agreement that would impose geographical an populace changes on the Arab map with the addition of the creation of the Jewish agency. Beyond this and other factors inspired by these colonial Zionist forces, Britain also pushed to form an Arabic entity from within ist Arabic cloak. This entity was meant to guard British plans and her colonial, Zionist and capitalist alliances which Briatin used to tower and dominate over the Arab region. The "Arab League" as an entity was supported by Britain on the condition that is should achieve the following:

- Support Arab regimes created on the geo-political map, in order to protect the Zionist entity formerly agreed upon.
- To use Arab League leader's, with tricks, shrewdness, and duplicity to

frustrate the plans of all those who stood in the face of British and Zionist colonial forces in the Arab region.

-Using wealth, Fatwa and men to counter any emerging Arab leader who tried to divert the Arab League, with its summits and institutions, in the direction of good for its Arab People and its nation, and tried to divert this structure from the course for which it was created.

America, the new imperial force, inherited the Old Lion's files. It became the only inherent power of the Arabian nations contained in the collapsing British files. Following the collapse of its Socialist rival pole at the end of the previous century, America becomes the only international pole, the Hegemon.

Because the Arab League was one of the important files; America did not keep this file outside the reach of its objectives, especially at the beginning of this century. It stood overtly, severely, and flagrantly behind the objectives of the Zionist forces.

In light of all that has been mentioned, was there any concern in the Arab League, for its conferences and functions to be about the people of this nation?

What was the concern it showed when it was supposed to deal with the occupation of Iraq to Kuwait? Or what concern had it shown when its meetings were suspended for ten years? What concern had it shown when the Americans invaded Baghdad? Did it even show concern when Sharon imprisoned Yasser Arafat in a room within his offices so that he could not attend the Beirut summit? Isn't it queer that the Arabs and the Arab league in this summit flattered Sharon, by offering him a treaty, which he disgracefully ignored? Has the Arab strategic option, with its recommendations and resolutions been any different from the Americana - Zionist desire to maintain the assignment already laid out for this institution?

I ask the same question again: Does an ox give birth, and can it be milked?

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

The Yemeni triangle of wisdom!

During its history, Yemen has been ruled by two women. Will a third woman revive Yemen's glorious civilization?

Yemeni society is based on an interwoven texture of male-female roles and their presence shoulder-to-shoulder in a variety of different fields of life – economic, political and social. Agriculture was the backbone of Yemeni life, mingled with many difficulties resulting from constant conflict with harsh nature and terrain that would reject them and yield nothing except by force. Therefore, women lived their lives just as men did. Their struggle on the field was equally, if not more remarkably vivid in the memory of their agricultural society.

In his "Social Approach to the Study of Arab History and Heritage," Dr. Hamoud Al-Awdi mentions, "Throughout history, the relation between Yemenis and agricultural lands is more than mere economic benefit necessary for survival. Such a relation tends to represent the approach and the main dimension of these people's characters, mindsets and economic, social and ideological relations."

It is natural that this is reflected upon women and their independent personality, which outline those relations. It was not strange to see women present in the most private male places, whereas it is commonplace today to find things thought to be for men and others spe-

cific to women – at both social and political levels.

Such relations are influential at the economic level, as apparent in the childlike way Yemenis show gratitude to their lands. Men and women gather in circles singing and dancing on the eves and at harvest times, celebrating the bounty of their Motherland, before whom they – however old – feel young and whom they view as too big for their love to contain.

The freedom of Yemeni women in olden times did not come from symposia, nor did it come from slogans promoted here and there. Their freedom came from their productive position in society and their real involvement and empowerment to play their role. Wherever work was available – no matter what it was – women's true freedom was found. The more women inextricably are linked to their society and land, the more their freedom is stable and fixed.

Al-Awdi adds, "For ancient Yemenis, the belief in and practice of different types of labor by different social classes were the fundamental components of society and its economy. Not only that, the standards of personalities, relations and regards, as well as social relations among people, were not based on sex or race, but on labor and production in the case of the

individual and the group. The profound belief in labor, its respect and prevailing cooperative spirit were the main components that enabled society to cope with, subdue and harness tough nature and its changeable conditions."

Such strife did not offer Yemenis a chance to think of marginal issues, which prefer the surreal to the real, because only emptiness and luxury could have allowed such matters.

As stated above, it was a must that Yemeni women were present in ancient Yemeni society literally in all fields without exception. Productive work conducted by men similarly and excellently was done by women. Most often, one would join the other to do the same job.

Perhaps the most apparent sign of society's health and vitality and sophistication of its thought and mentality is that while women either were buried alive or, at best, toys for enjoyment in other cultures, Yemeni women were ruling queens or at least respected ladies with status resulting from necessity and the nature of land.

It was "taboo" cultures – popularized by successive imamat, the Ottoman invasion and alien thought – that marginalized and displaced women. All of them wanted to transform Yemeni women into dumb owls and night creatures afraid of the light. The enemies of women relied on misinterpretations of religion and on their hatred of this soci-



By: Nashwan Dammaj

ety's humanness, advancement and civilization.

Yemeni women should follow the model of Arwa bint Ahmed Al-Sulaihi, a Yemeni woman who told her husband several centuries ago: "The woman who is meant for bedding can manage nothing. Let me do what I want (i.e., governance)."

That is the logic of Yemeni women. That is Arwa, the sublimely ideal queen who ruled Yemen under Islam. She resented being what others wanted, except what she wanted herself to be.

This shows unlimited ambition and self-confidence – two factors that gave her the leverage to rise to power. She was not less than another Yemeni queen, Bilqis (the Queen of Sheba), who experienced the pomp of power thousands of years earlier. Bilqis and Arwa embodied the most inspiring examples in Yemeni man's mind of woman as she should be.

A question now poses itself as to whether the third part of the triangle of Yemeni civilization is to be fulfilled by a third people-ruling woman? After a few months have elapsed, presidential elections shall answer this question.

Nashwan Dammaj is a Yemeni writer and a poet. He is Yemen Times correspondent in Ibb.

Letter to the Editor

Yemenis residing in India

I am an Indian citizen, who has written to you before without getting a reply. I would like your paper to highlight the conditions of Yemenis residing in India. Aren't they the part of Yemen now? Poverty is thriving among these Yemeni families: No education, high illiteracy and no health services. They are humiliated now and then for being Arabs. Please bring their problems and sufferings to the attention of the people of Yemen, since the authorities don't pay any heed.

Take the example of ISRAEL: they have collected all their tribes from every nook and cranny of the world. I hope you will pay heed.

*Alkathiri Ahmed Abdullah
aalkathiri@yahoo.co.uk*

The sacrilegious caricatures

Just when one was thinking how and when these raging protests over the sacrilegious caricatures would calm down and the Muslim world be pacified, the BBC came out with the comment that the difficult moment was over. There appears to

be no understanding of where this new development is leading to. The fact is that the West needs to address this issue 'now'.

*Syed Rehan Ali
rehan117@yahoo.com*

Thank s to Yemen Times

It is needless to say that your newspaper has been able to occupy a leading and significant place in the world of media press. The way it covers news and events at the local, as well as, international level is particularly impressive. For immigrant birds, Yemen Times is as essential as food and water.

Genuineness, reliability, honesty, and professionalism are among the distinctive features that makes Yemen Times deserve top-of-the-list within the ranks of Yemeni newspapers. We, as Yemeni intellectuals, are really proud of having such a free, independent, and non-compromising institution.

I wish Yemen Times and its professional staff all success and prosperity.

*Adel Mohammed Qadaha
adel75q@yahoo.com*

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With new improvements and flights

Yemenia Airways announces the summer-flights schedule

Under the patronage of Yemenia's Chairman, Cap. Abdulkhaliq Al-Qadi, Yemenia Airways held an eminent celebration Saturday on the occasion of announcing the summer-flights schedule, which starts as from 26 March until 28 October 2006. Distinguished guests from embassies, companies, and media attended the celebration.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Mutarreb, commercial Director of Yemenia, initiated the key speech on behalf of Cap. Abdulkaleq Al-Qadi, chairman of Yemenia. In his speech, Al-Mutarreb gave an overall idea about the summer-flights schedule, mentioning at the same time the improvements, modifications, and changes that Yemenia adopts in the framework of its future plans.

Yemenia makes two main changes in its flights twice a year, one during the summer schedule and the other during the winter flights schedule. The winter flights schedule starts from 30 October until 25 March, while the summer flights schedule starts from 26 March until 28 October.

Regarding the summer-flights schedule, Al-Mutarreb said the new summer flight schedule was designed to "serve the interests" of Yemenia's passengers and to "meet their comfort needs".

Yemenia Airways has a new policy as to increasing the flights and making them non-stop.



Capt. Abdulkhalek Alkadi

Royal of tourism in Yemen. Yemenia Airways always plays a tremendous role in uplifting tourism. It has been a pioneer in this regard. Yemenia has been participating in international exhibitions since 1986, and it has different means of promoting tourism such as distributing brochures and stickers about Yemen. Mr. Zaghloul Ba Zara'a, general Director of Ba Zara'a Travel Agencies, said "Yemenia Airways has offered a good service to tourism through its internal flights. Flights are scheduled everyday, and are likely to increase towards Mukalla and Seiyun. Also, Yemenia encourages tourism agencies as part of improving internal tourism. I think Yemenia is the first to translate president Saleh's directives to uplift internal tourism."

At the end of the celebration, a draw of 33 free tickets was distributed among the attendants.



Year 2006:

- on-board telecommunication
- e-ticketing
- daily non-stop flights
- on-line services
- highest safety standards
- highly qualified staff
- destinations worldwide

"The summer flights schedule would include new flights and add more flights to some destinations. Yemenia seeks to focus on enhancing flight schedules by operating non-stop flights and increasing the number of flights to some destinations. For example, three non-stop flights per week will be scheduled to Paris instead of two. Four non-stop flights per week will be scheduled to Frankfurt instead of three. Twelve flights will be scheduled to Jeddah per week. Eleven flights per week will also be scheduled to Dubai. Everyday there will be a flight to Cairo. There are five non-stop flights to Addis Ababa per week. A new flight will be added to the flights

scheduled to Beirut, and the like," said Al-Mutarreb.

By this, Yemenia Airways seeks to focus on two main goals: non-stop flights and increasing of flights to each destination worldwide. It also seeks to make schedule daily flights so that passengers can travel any day of the week, and this can be achieved gradually by adding new flights at the beginning of each new flight schedule.

With regard to other improvements, Al-Mutarreb said Yemenia will start the use of e-tickets, on-board telecommunication in addition to other services via the Internet this year. The use of e-ticketing system will start as from August

2006.

"Yemenia is offering its services via the internet. Our clients would be able to book and know the tickets price via the internet. Passengers would be able to make telephone calls on board to any place worldwide. This service will start next month" he explained.

Yemenia will also use Billing and Settlement Plan (BSP) system, he mentioned, and this service would help clients benefit from Yemenia services everywhere in the world.

Regarding the employees' skills, Al-Mutarreb said "2006 is the year of training. Yemenia has obliged all its employees to develop their language skills. So far, Yemenia has sent 150 employees to MALI institute to receive English Language Courses. On the same front, Yemenia will start training its employees on e-ticketing systems as from August 2006. Now, we have a contract with Cyber International Co. regarding airline consultants so as to improve Yemenia's programs. In June, Yemenia will start using Emirate's booking system instead of the American booking system."

The changes Yemenia Airways has made to the schedule would significantly play a big role at the external and internal levels. The Yemenia fleet includes some of the most technologically advanced airplanes ever manufactured like Boeing 737-800, Airbus 330-200, and 310-300. Now, Yemenia Airways has signed an agreement with Airbus in order to buy ten A350s for its long-haul fleet modernization program. The delivery of the A350s will start in 2012.

Yemenia is working hand in hand with seven Arab Carriers to establish an alliance named AEABESK. It includes Yemenia Airways, Saudi Airlines, Gulf Air, Egypt Air, Middle East Air,

Jordanian Air, Tunisia Airlines, and Oman Airlines. With this unique arrangement, all the air carries in ARABESK will be having Code Share Agreements. By this, Yemenia Airways adds 500 destinations to its 33 destinations.

Dr. Yahya Al-Shu'abi, Mayor of the Capital, said, "Yemenia Airways is witnessing tremendous improvements and remarkable moves. It is also notable in offering its services. I expect such developments and changes continue in the next phases. This is evident in the company's project to qualify and train its employees as well as announcing new flights to new destinations. I would like to add that Yemenia has become punctual in its appointments, and this makes passengers trust it."

Not only Yemenia offers services to its passengers, but it also contributes to the promoting



Winners of free tickets

Name	Work place	Ticket to
Suzan Plot	USA Embassy	JKT
Laith A. Haidar	Spacetel	FRA
Himair Al-Si'r	Ministry of Electricity	DXB
Ahmed Al-Gharasi	Al-Gharasy Trading Est.	AUH
Mohammed Al-Sanosi	Sudanese Embassy	PAR
Sami Allos	Sabafon	DAK
Yahya Al-Wazir	Al-Zahara Trading Est.	JNB
Nouet Bernerd	AMEC SPIE HAWK LTD	MRS
Qutaiba Khalaf	Dentist	BEY
Adnan Al-Nawa'a	Teacher	YVA
Osama Al-Sharjahi	Huawei Technologies	BOM
Abdullah Al-Arasi	Yemen International Bank	ROM
Samir Al-Hamdani	Yemen-Kuwait Bank	DAM
Essa Al-Haddad	Journalist	CAI
Yahya Al-Thawr	Modern German Hospital	AMM
Samir Al-Sanabani	PRESS CLIPPINGS	DAR
Chin Min	Huawei Technologies	DOH
Tariq Al-Dali	Yemen International Bank	RIY
Adel Al-Saqqaf	Al-Barwan Oil Company	HOD
Meg Smaker	YALI	KUL
Joel Fort	Yemen LNG Company	TAI
Fuad Al-Aghbari	Tadamon Islamic Bank	ADE
Hisham Addali	Spacetel	JED
Anisa George	Mali	GXF
Mustafa La'jem	Huawei Technologies	ADD
Aref Mutaher	Tadamon Islamic Bank	RUH
Zakaria Hashim	SPACETEL	JIB
Abdulaziz Al-Sheikh	Tunis Embassy	LON
Huda Kurbaisy		ASM
Salim Al-Kibsi	Al-Thawra Industrial Complex	SCO
Muqbil Al-Hada	Telecommunication Est.	BAH
Jabril Rafiqallah	Brotherhood Libyan Office	AAY
Abdulqudos Al-Bishari	Yemen Enterprises	KWT
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Yemenia اليمنية



Education For All

Literacy the foundation of learning (Part-II)

EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 (2/9)

When 164 governments adopted the six Education for All (EFA) goals in 2000, they espoused a holistic vision of education spanning learning from the first years of life through adulthood. In practice, achieving good-quality universal primary education (UPE) and gender parity, two of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, has dominated attention. As the United Nations Literacy Decade unfolds, the *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006* aims to shine a stronger policy spotlight on the more neglected goal of literacy – a foundation not only for achieving EFA but, more broadly, for reaching the overarching goal of reducing human poverty.

Literacy is a foundation of learning. While schooling is the principal route for acquiring reading, writing and numeracy skills, an exclusive focus on formal education for children ignores stark realities: first, too many pupils leave school without acquiring minimum literacy skills; second, one-fifth of the world's adult population – 771 million adults – live without the basic learning tools to make informed decisions and participate fully in the development of their societies. Women form the vast majority, heightening their vulnerability and the chance that their daughters will not benefit from education. Tackling the global literacy challenge is a moral and development imperative. It is rendered all the more urgent by globalization, which is further increasing demand for literacy in multiple languages.

In line with the Report's broad monitoring mandate, Part I of this summary assesses overall progress, including towards quality universal primary education and gender parity, highlighting national strategies for speeding up progress in the decade to 2015.

Each year, the *Global Monitoring Report* tracks progress towards the six goals agreed by 164 countries at the World Education Forum in Dakar in 2000. This year it draws on data from the 2002/2003 school year to report on change since 1998 and to project which countries are likely to achieve the goals of UPE, gender parity in primary and secondary education and a 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy by the target year of 2015. Although these projections may not fully reflect the impact of recent changes in policies, they are a useful monitoring tool.

The slowly closing gender gap

Both the EFA agenda and the Millennium Development Goals call for the achievement of parity in enrolments for girls and boys at primary and secondary levels by 2005, and of gender equality at all levels of education by 2015. A total of 104 out of 180 countries with data available in 2002 had reached gender parity in enrolment at the primary level. Major gender disparities that impede girls are concentrated in

- The 2005 gender parity goal has been missed, and eighty-six countries are at risk of not achieving gender parity even by 2015
- HIV/AIDS threatens EFA achievement in Africa
- New teachers are needed in big numbers
- Low-cost school health and nutrition interventions improve learning and need more attention
- Public spending on education increased as a share of national income in two-thirds of countries between 1998 and 2002

the Arab States, South and West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Very rapid progress has been achieved in several poor countries with low enrolment ratios, notably Afghanistan, Benin, Chad, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, India, Morocco, Nepal and Yemen. Nonetheless, even before 2005 data are available, it is clear that the 2005 goal has been missed in over seventy countries.

At the *primary level*, gender disparities stem first and foremost from unequal access to school. Parity at this level has not been achieved in 40% of the 159 countries with available data. In the majority of cases, girls are the ones facing discrimination. Important change is occurring, however, with several sub-Saharan African countries recording dramatic progress between 1998 and 2002. South and West Asia presents a diverse picture: Pakistan has one of the largest gaps in access to school, with a gender parity index of 0.73, while in India and Nepal, nearly as many girls as boys enrol in the first year.

At the primary level, gender disparities stem first and foremost from unequal access to school. In the majority of cases, girls are the ones facing discrimination

At the *secondary level*, only 57 of 172 countries reached gender parity in 2002. Disparities at this level can favour girls or boys. In 56 of the 115 remaining countries, more girls than boys are enrolled. When access is not limited by resource constraints, more girls than boys participate, especially at uppersecondary level, and they perform better. Disparities favouring boys are wide and found almost exclusively in low-income countries. Those favouring girls are narrow and observed in a large number of countries with very different levels of per capita GNP, from Lesotho to Denmark. Among the seventy-nine countries that are unlikely to achieve gender parity in secondary education by 2015, forty-two have lower

male than female enrolment ratios. This point requires policy attention; it explains why several developed countries (including Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom) are at risk of not achieving gender parity at secondary level by 2015.

The problem of lower male than female ratios is also increasingly common in middle-income developing countries, especially those of Latin America and the Caribbean. Gender parity is exceptional in *tertiary* education, found in only 4 of the 142 countries with data available for 2002. Expansion at this level since 1998 has particularly benefited women, and disparities favouring the latter are even more frequent than in secondary education. Gender disparities favouring men are found in most countries of sub-Saharan Africa, and South and West Asia, in some Arab States and in a few Central Asian countries. Integrated strategies focusing at once on actions inside schools, within the community and at broader societal level have an impact in countries where girls have very limited access to school or drop out prematurely. The 2003/4 Report made a detailed case for gender parity and documented proven ways of increasing it. Women teachers, fee-free schooling, schools closer to home with basic sanitation and separate toilets, protection against sexual violence and community support for girls' education are essential elements of a strategy towards greater gender equality. Ensuring that teachers, curricula and learning materials do not reinforce stereotypes but create positive role models for girls can deeply influence achievement. Targeted scholarships for secondary education encourage girls to continue their schooling. The Niger's strategy to eliminate gender bias in schooling integrates eight dimensions, ranging from local actions in rural areas promoting girls' enrolment to gender-based training for teachers and prizes for the girls who achieve the best grades in science subjects.

More broadly, public policies must go far beyond initiatives that focus on enrolment ratios alone, and also promote equal opportunities in society and the labour market. This aim recognizes that gender equality – not simply the numerical concept of parity – is the goal towards which countries should be striving.

Prospects for achieving UPE and gender parity

Progress towards UPE is proxied by the total primary NER. Among the 163 countries for which data were available in 2002, 47 had achieved UPE. Projections could be run for about 90 of the remaining 116 countries, on the basis of trends observed between 1990 and 2002. These showed that: Only twenty additional countries are likely to achieve UPE by 2015 beyond the forty-seven that had already done so by 2002.

Forty-four countries, most of them

starting from low levels of enrolment, may not achieve UPE, though they are making good progress. For example, Burkina Faso's NER increased rapidly from 26% to 36% between 1990 and 2002, but is still very low. Bangladesh's NER rose from 78% in 1990 to 88% in 1998 but then stagnated.

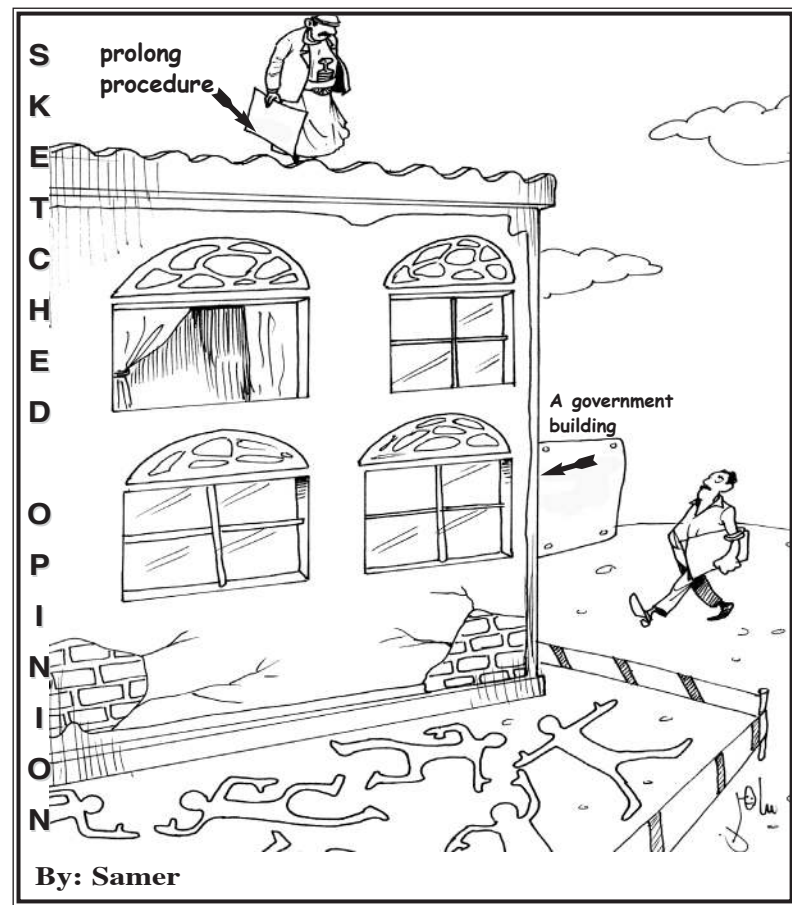
Twenty countries are at risk of not achieving the goal because of decreases in their NERs. Most are countries in transition in Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia whose school systems have yet to recover from the break-up of the Soviet Union. Three countries are at serious risk of not achieving UPE by 2015: Azerbaijan, Papua New Guinea and Saudi Arabia have NERs that are below 80% and decreasing.

Country prospects for achieving gender parity are assessed on the basis of trends from 1990 to 2002 in GER by sex in primary and secondary education. These projections are made for both 2005 and 2015 for 149 countries. Three main categories emerge: Forty-nine countries have achieved gender parity in both primary and secondary enrolment. All EFA regions are represented, and large Asian countries such as China and Indonesia belong to this category. Six more countries are likely to achieve both goals by 2005 and eight others by 2015.

Forty-three countries have achieved gender parity in primary education (and twelve more are likely to achieve it by 2005 or 2015) but will probably not achieve it in secondary education by the target date. In most of these countries, gender disparities favour girls. However, there are also countries, such as India, where female enrolment is rapidly increasing at the primary level, but female transition rates to secondary schooling remain low. Twenty-four countries are unlikely to achieve parity at either level by 2015. In those countries, disparities favour boys and the school systems are underdeveloped at both the primary and secondary levels. Thus, among the 100 countries that had not achieved gender parity in either primary or secondary education or at both levels by 2002, only 6 are likely to have reached it at both by 2005 and 8 more by 2015, while 86 countries are at risk of not achieving gender parity by 2015, ten years after the 2005 target (7 in primary education, 55 in secondary education and 24 in both).

National planning and financing to reach EFA

Accelerating the pace of change to meet the EFA goals in ten years' time requires urgent and sustained attention to planning, strategies to address access and quality, and adequate domestic resource allocation. The extent to which countries are tackling the EFA goals is reflected in planning and public financing. A recent study of national education plans from thirty-two countries showed that those in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa clear-



By: Samer

ly place top priority on achieving UPE. Where enrolment rates are relatively high, reaching severely disadvantaged target groups receives stronger emphasis. All thirty-two have strategies to improve quality (better teacher training, for example) but only eighteen detail measures to enhance access for girls and women. Twenty-five give attention to literacy. Only seven have plans that include all six EFA goals; a further eight give explicit attention to at least five of the six goals. The study also suggests that overall financing levels may not match countries' ambitious national education goals. For the thirty countries with data available, ten spent below 3% of GDP on education, fourteen between 3% and 5% and six between 5% and 9%.

A comparison of country papers prepared for the 2001 and 2004 sessions of the International Conference on Education showed nearly all countries paying consistent attention to UPE and education quality, and a noticeable increase in attention to gender and to issues of inclusion and HIV/AIDS. Although the appropriate level of spending depends on many factors, there is clearly a minimum level below which government expenditure cannot sink without serious consequences for quality. Public education spending relative to national income shows that regional medians are highest in North America and Western Europe, and in East Asia and the Pacific. In nine countries, including Indonesia and Pakistan, the share is less than 2% of GNP. It exceeds 6% in about one-quarter of the countries with data. Public spending on education as a share of national income increased between 1998 and 2002 in about two-thirds of the countries with data, in some cases almost doubling (e.g. Cameroon, Malaysia and Madagascar). Education's share of the national budget, which is an indication of its ranking among other national expendi-

ture categories, typically ranges between 10% and 30%. More than half the countries in sub-Saharan Africa with data available spend over 15% of the government budget on education. Countries where education accounts for a quarter or more of total government expenditure include Botswana, Guinea, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand and Yemen.

Public spending on education as a share of national income increased between 1998 and 2002 in about two-thirds of countries with data

Higher levels of national expenditure do not in themselves assure good practice and good quality. Efficiency in terms of how resources are used in the education system requires greater attention. Central education ministry resources do not always reach schools: studies show that only 16% of non-wage resources arrived at designated schools in Senegal, and in Zambia only 40%. Holding education stakeholders accountable for their performance can help reduce leakage. Uganda, for example, launched a public expenditure tracking survey in 1996, widely publishing and broadcasting the amount of funds transferred to schools every month. An evaluation of the campaign showed great improvement between 1995 and 2001 in the per capita amount of grant money reaching schools. Equity is another important dimension to be considered in any analysis of public spending: too often, public spending is unequally distributed across income groups or geographically. In Mozambique, for example, the capital city is home to 6% of the population but receives almost one third of all public education spending. Strategies that are inclusive of all children and adults, whatever their circumstances, are crucial in speeding up progress towards EFA.

Democratization in the Middle East:

A role for the US government?

By: Andrew Masloski

Many people throughout the world today rightly ask themselves why the United States government has become such a vocal advocate of democratization and broad political reform in the Middle East. For decades, the United States safeguarded its economic and political interests in the region through friendly relationships with autocratic Arab regimes. However, speaking before the National Endowment for Democracy in November of 2003, President Bush said that, "60 years of Western nations excusing and accommodating the lack of freedom in the Middle East did nothing to make us safe, because in the long run stability cannot be purchased at the expense of liberty." Only ten months earlier, then-Secretary of State Colin Powell had established the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), under the direction of the Department of State. According to information provided by MEPI officials, it is a presidential initiative that aims to "support economic, political, and educational reforms in the Middle East."

The Middle East Partnership Initiative divides its goals for the region into four "pillars," each focusing on a different

aspect of development. MEPI's stated objectives include reform of the economic, political, and educational arenas, as well as reforms to provide equal opportunities for women in these arenas. MEPI is currently in its third year. By the end of 2004, MEPI had spent just over \$103 million to meet its goals, and Congress allocated an additional \$160 million since then.

Economic reforms include supporting economic growth through expansion of the private sector. Political reforms involve the expansion of the public sphere such that citizens have a choice in governance and there is respect for the rule of law. Educational reforms are aimed at supporting educational systems that will provide both boys and girls with knowledge and skills to compete in the present economy.

MEPI works to support reform through several means. These include providing technical assistance to government agencies in the region, allocating grants to non-governmental organizations to work with local politicians to improve their campaign skills, and providing funding for translating English-language books into Arabic for use in schools. MEPI also distributes small grants to local grassroots civil society organizations working toward various

reforms in the region.

Despite MEPI's reformist rhetoric and stated reform objectives, the Initiative has received criticism from two prominent scholars of democratization and political reform in the Middle East, Tamara Cofman Wittes of the Brookings Institution, and Thomas Carothers of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In November of 2004, Tamara Cofman Wittes wrote a piece entitled "The Middle East Partnership Initiative: Progress, Problems, and Prospects." In it, she accused MEPI of lacking a "coherent strategy" for pursuing reform initiatives, of subsidizing Arab governments' "attempts to build a kinder, gentler autocracy," and of failing to win solid and tangible US government support for its programs and goals.

According to Wittes, MEPI's lack of a coherent strategy for meeting its objectives is the result of substantial pressure on staff to quickly spend the money allocated to the Initiative in order to justify requests for additional funding. In addition, the Initiative as a whole is under pressure to demonstrate quickly achieved short-term successes, despite the fact that other approaches to reform have greater potential to meet long-term reform goals.

At its founding, Wittes points out that

MEPI was distinguished by a stated commitment to rejecting reform through programs and projects working specifically with Arab governments. Instead, MEPI committed itself to prioritizing funding for and working with local grassroots civil society organizations in the region whenever possible. Despite this, by the end of 2004 only 18% of the funds allocated to MEPI went to American or Arab NGO's conducting work in the region. In providing nearly 70% of allocated funding to programs favored by or directly benefiting current Arab regimes, Wittes says that MEPI is "effectively choosing to support regimes' chosen strategy of 'controlled liberalization.'"

The above-mentioned obstacles would be less significant, Wittes says, if MEPI succeeded in winning policy support from high-level officials in the current Administration. It seems that the President's rhetorical commitment to reform in the Middle East remains strong, but evidence suggests that opportunities for discussions with Arab leaders about human rights and democratic political development are consistently missed. In the end, Wittes writes that none of MEPI's reform goals will ever be adequately achieved without sincere support from and action on the part of top Administration and foreign policy offi-

cials.

In February of this year, Thomas Carothers, who directs the Democracy and Rule of Law Project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, issued a policy brief entitled "A Better Way to Support Middle East Reform." His critique of MEPI echoes many of the concerns Wittes expresses, but is coupled with a concrete method for reforming the Initiative to help it better attain its objectives.

Because many people in the region are suspicious of American intentions there, Carothers says that the only way MEPI will become effective is when it becomes a separate entity from the State Department and is "re-launched as a private foundation." Both the Asia Foundation and the Eurasia Foundation serve as precedents for this sort of reform initiative. As government-funded but privately run foundations, they have proven to be viable alternatives to direct government sponsorship of reform in foreign countries.

In addition to the negative impact of an association with the American government, Carothers says that the State Department is not the ideal place to house MEPI because the long-term vision for reform needed cannot be fostered in a "crisis-oriented and often

politicized policy bureaucracy." If MEPI is removed from the State Department and reestablished as a private foundation, it will be staffed by people hired in a competitive and open process that will ensure a staff knowledgeable about the region and committed to achieving development there. Also, as a private foundation the Initiative could receive funding from a wider range of sources and would be permitted to work closely with organizations on the ground in the region without having to worry about remaining within the confining boundaries of official government protocols.

In the end, President Bush's calls for economic, educational, and political reform in the Middle East appear to be aimed at achieving a level of stability in the region. While cozy relationships with autocratic Middle Eastern leaders remain difficult to change quickly or drastically, the President seems to understand that such changes are imperative to the region's development and prosperity. Though riddled with flaws and thus far unimpressive in its achievements, MEPI remains the single US governmental initiative dedicated to reform in the Middle East and retains the potential to become an effective means of positive change.

Source: *Taqdir Washington*
(<http://www.taqdir.org>)

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

Will things still be the same?

By Don Barrick
balto_db@yahoo.com

This writer has previously voiced his concern about the ignorance that Americans have, regarding Islam, the Middle East and other, related issues. There is no question but that we, in the U.S. and other Western areas, should be far more educated about such topics. Were we more educated in these areas, President Bush may not still be in the White House; for it is the fear that the American public has, based on ignorance, that the Bush Administration used to have itself re-elected. And it is that fear, borne of ignorance that allows the U.S. Government to use the strong-arm tactics on its own people we now experience, in the way of domestic spying and eavesdropping.

There many of us that detest what is occurring here. And what is happening in Iraq. And many of us use our democratic voice to attempt to change the Government, from within. But we don't routinely try to kill our leaders, as has been the case in Pakistan and other Islamic countries.

Moslems can walk the streets of America, without fear. Is there crime here? Certainly. But the crime is sporadic and general. There is no daily, wholesale slaughter or intimidation of Moslems in the United States. There is no daily bombing in our streets. There is no regular kidnapping of people, simply because of their nationality, their beliefs and how they communicate their ideas.

Foreign-born Moslems come and go freely, with only sporadic identification checks, in various Government buildings – the same as those of us born here, whether Moslem, Jew, Christian, agnostic and others.

But can I walk the streets of Yemen, as I once did? Probably not. Can I sit safely and without fear in Pakistan? Not really. And even those who work diligently for peace in largely Islamic countries are subject to kidnapping and potential beheading. Moslems can walk with impunity in the Vatican; can

Christians do the same in Mecca?

Is this Islam? Is this what your YT writers talk about, in terms of Islam being a religion of love and tolerance?

And now we have the issue of the cartoons. This writer could not agree with your editorial staff more, in stating there is no real reason for something like this, other than hate. We have the same problem here, with "artists" deciding to use Christian religious pictures in ugly, sacrilegious ways. But we don't beat them up. We don't trash buildings. We don't kill people over it. That is apparently left to...who? You tell us.

In fact, you are very big on telling us all about conspiracies and blame. Some of the Imams have stated that it was Israel that caused the cartoons to be published, in response to the Hamas election win. The question would be: Why?

What possible reason would they have for that? Is there nothing else that would be more politically damaging, that to publish such rubbish? In fact, would that not do exactly what has occurred, and united the Moslem World, for a change? Would not that have defeated their purpose?

More and more, the Moslem World is being viewed as a people of rage and hate. Not of tolerance, but of pettiness and violence. How many of the buildings that have been damaged or destroyed in the riots, had no real connection with the cartoon? How many people have been hurt by bomb blasts in Indonesia, who did nothing to harm Islam in general, or any individual Moslems in particular? How many children died in the 9-11 attacks?

Please, do not suggest that it was God's Will, because they were the children of guilty people. That would not be the mark of a loving religion.

Because, if that is the case, if killing children is appropriate in a state of war, and the children of your enemies are fair targets, then the people of Pakistan should shut up about the recent American bombing.

Or, we could reason together. Find mutual respect for each other. Work together toward peace.

By: Alawi Abdulla Abu Bakir Taha
adam_taha2000@yahoo.com

The question is, "do you know your worth, the value of life?" Yes? Then learn to live instead of learning to die and embrace the challenges to come, and go the extra mile because the ones who take average steps live a life of mediocrity -but those who do take the extra mile, achieve what we call, PEACE OF MIND. God then will give men, women, and the community the success they dreamed of because He knows they will value it, nurture it, and share it with whomever they meet. But first, change your life, the way you think; tame your thoughts, the way you talk, speak what you want and not what you don't want, and be bold, adventurous with your dreams. The world is waiting for dreamers. It awaits for a person, that real you which resides within you. Once a father was walking with his son and he said:

"Son, I have two people fighting within me."

The son asked, "Which one will win? Which one father will win?"

The father turned to his son and replied, "The one I feed my son. The one I feed."

Who then will you and I feed? Hope or negativity! Dreams or skeptics? Do we feed victory or do we dwindle our thoughts to past failures? Will it be adventure or mediocrity? Shall we sit in our comfort zone or do we go the extra mile and impact the lives of thousands?

This world is waiting not for politicians or for social studies. It is not waiting for words but for action. Action from people who have a great dream to make a difference in this world today. I believe, no matter what climate we live in today, we shall see more multi-millionaires and billionaires to come. I believe, that the business world, the world of education will change; that men and women of vision will realize the value of life, of what God has given to them and battle

Change your life (ii)

with our demons to overcome them with our submission to truth. When we look in the mirror and see what we have within us by the grace of God, then we shall outdo what many have seen in the past.

I believe, men and women who have true faith in God will make this world a better place because they will see the person not where they are but where they can be and what they can become. The real question is, when will we learn to value life no matter of what color, creed and religion and not play double standards to gain votes, support from countries or any super power within the world we live in? Everything, whether it is trouble within our homes, or the strife within our communities, or the games of war within our world, to the small petty things we argue on, has a solution. We as individuals must change.

This is also for my own country, Yemen, for the US, for England and to other countries around the world. We must make positive changes within our own homes, our own land, within our own educational system, our judiciary system and the way our country runs. When a country has to ask for help to help its country's growth then this country does not belong to them. Like I always say in the business world as I mentor many entrepreneurs:

"It is not your business if you are not willing to invest in your own materials, in your own people, in your own business, in your own country, in your own home, in your own life. It belongs to the very person who builds it. So invest, take responsibility for your own business, stop blaming everyone else, and be accountable and be a leader amongst men. Be a queen amongst women."

It always starts with you. The corruption in our communities, our mosques, our homes, our businesses, and our educational system exists because we let it happen. What we are saying with this is, "we do not value our own lives, the lives of our children, the lives of our wives' or husbands', and the life God has given us".

Europe Aid/Fisheries MCS/YE/2006/1/W



The Yemen MCS Fisheries Project intends to award a works contract for an extension to the existing Ministry of Fish Wealth building in the south Al-Safiah District of Sana'a Republic of Yemen with Financial assistance from the Asia & Latin America (ALA) programmer of the European Communities The tender dossier is available for inspection at:

Yemen Fisheries MCS project, Ministry of Fish Wealth.
Djibouti Street, Sana'a

Po.Box 12145, Republic of Yemen.

Tel :- (01) 444156 Fax :- (01) 444157 PLT Mobile:- 711453300, PIU Director Mobile:- 733200207, Email: degmfwy@v.net.ye The deadline for submission of tenders is before close business 10 May 2006.



بِقِطَامٍ مُرَافِقِ رَبِّهِ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ معرض اليمن الدولي الثاني للتعليم لعام ٢٠٠٦ 2nd YEMEN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR 2006

Date : 26th - 28th April 2006 التاريخ : من ٢٦ - ٢٨ أبريل ٢٠٠٦ م
Time : 9:00 am - 1:00 pm الوقت : من ٩ صباحاً إلى ١ ظهراً
: 4:00 am - 8:00 pm ومن ٤ عصراً إلى ٨ مساءً
Venue: Sana'a Trade Center المكان : مركز صنعاء التجاري

EXHIBITORS

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia | ■ Nilai International College (Malaysia) |
| ■ National Accreditation Board of Malaysia | ■ Tourism Malaysia |
| ■ Universiti Sains Malaysia (Malaysia) | ■ MidEast Aviation Academy (Jordan) |
| ■ International Islamic University Malaysia (Malaysia) | ■ Bronte College (Canada) |
| ■ Multimedia University (Malaysia) | ■ RACUS, Russia |
| ■ Sunway University College (Malaysia) | ■ AmidEast (Yemen) |
| ■ INTI International Group of Colleges (Malaysia) | ■ University of Modern Sciences (Yemen) |
| ■ Binary University College (Malaysia) | ■ British Council (Yemen) |
| ■ KBU International College (Malaysia) | ■ Shabab Yemeni News (Yemen) |
| ■ Taylor's College (Malaysia) | ■ Future University for Management Science & Information Technology (Yemen) |
| ■ Universiti Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) | |
| ■ HELP University College (Malaysia) | |

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للاستفسار : سبأ للاستشارات والخدمات التعليمية - ت : ٤٠٥٢٦١ - ٢٢٢٥١٠٢٥١

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Some water and sewage establishment branches to be privatized

By: Yemen Times Staff

The state water and sewage establishment is working to finalize a policy to privatize some of its branches in several Yemeni governorates. The aim is to turn them into financially and administratively independent institutions aimed at developing an operation mechanism and improving the standard of services they offer to the public. The mechanism will provide pure drinking water and sewage services.

Sources said the privatization measure is meant as part of the establishment's organized supervisory role over the water and sewage sector and its conversion to decentralization principles in terms of finance and administration. They indicated that the change and qualification operation, which may take up to 10 years, will modernize and provide sewage service for cities the establishment is to include in its service coverage by the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007.

In the context of this year's investment program, sources added that the establishment will implement a sewage project in Halaen, Attaq and Shabwa cities, in addition to a study on providing those services to Ghadha, Ma'abar and Abs



The state water and sewage establishment plans to privatize its branches in some governorates.

cities.

They also pointed out that a workshop the establishment organized last week on encountering requirements of future human resources development in the water and sewage sector affirmed the importance of training aimed at improving performance in the establishment's vital organizational fields.

Such training especially pertains to maintaining the water distribution network and reducing losses, reducing costs through efficient use of resources and planning and implementing projects.

Additionally, the workshop focused on training with regard to qualification through a group of courses aimed at leading establishment staff in production and distribution, maintenance, repair, construction work and subscriber relations. This goal is to be accomplished through qualifying relations officials entrusted with water meters, as well as qualifying them in administrative skills.

The workshop, in which 40 national experts participated, also confirmed the necessity of circulating an experimental diploma program in areas of water supply and sewage skill in Aden, Taiz, Mukalla and Hodeidah governorates, provided that the project's beginning should be initiated practically in those governorates by the beginning of September.

Business In Brief

Yemen will participate in the fifth session of the Chinese exported consumer goods exhibition in China June 8-12. Yemeni activities will be represented by a number of Yemeni businessmen and trade establishments.

Yemen's participation comes in response to an invitation by the economic and trade office at the Chinese consulate in Sana'a and out of the significance of exhibition activities. The aim is to become acquainted with Chinese industries and create opportunities to encourage trade exchange and investment between the two friendly countries.

Preparations are underway for a meeting of the Yemen-South Africa trade committee scheduled in the South African capital at the beginning of May.

Information sources said the meetings will cover topics related to enhancing the two nations' exchange of trade and economy. The sides also will discuss South African companies' investment in minerals and in Aden free zone.

The Yemeni side will be represented by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the investment authority, the exports council, the geological survey authority and Aden free zone. Sources pointed out that the meetings are in follow-up of the South African trade minister's visit to Sana'a last year.

Yemeni tax revenues collected during the first quarter of this year have risen to more than YR 46 billion – an increase of more than YR 15 billion – compared to the same period in 2005.

A presidential decree recently was issued to establish a state land, survey and construction planning authority. Under the decree's provisions, the survey department, land registry, state lands and estates and the Ministry of Public Works and Roads' urban planning sector will merge. According to the decree, the new authority enjoys body corporate and independent financial security in order to conduct its activities under Ministry of Public Works and Roads supervision. The decree stipulates that the new authority will be headquartered in Sana'a capital secretariat.

The decree defines the authority's objectives according to the utmost benefit from state lands and estates, using them in the best way and determining priorities in dealing with them to serve development purposes. Its tasks also include creating a suitable environment to attract investment, encouraging and offering necessary facilities to build major scientific and technical bases for all survey and aerial photography, as well as preparing different types and measurements of maps of the republic.

Exchange rate of some currencies

Date: Tuesday, 18/4/2006

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	196.1800	196.3600
Sterling Pound	344.8700	345.1900
Euro	238.8900	239.1100
Saudi Rial	52.3100	52.3500
Kuwaiti Dinar	671.7200	672.3400
UAE Dirhem	53.4100	53.4600
Egyptian Pound	34.1000	34.1300
Japanese Yen	1.657835	1.659356

Source: www.centralbank.gov.ye

Draft law on fighting corruption before Parliament

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

Both Yemeni government and opposition have been lashing out at the corruption issue more than any other phenomenon, as it is

very important in the political and economic reform process.

After the government finalized and submitted it to Parliament, Parliament has begun discussing a draft law resulting from Yemen's endorsement of the United Nations agreement to combat corruption at the beginning of last June.

Consisting of 47 articles distributed over five chapters, the law's first chapter deals with general provisions, the second with the topic of a national higher authority to fight corruption, the third tackles legislative arrangements, society's participation and international cooperation, the fourth deals with cor-

ruption crimes and punishments and the fifth is specified for concluding provisions.

Both the authority and the opposition are focusing on corruption as a phenomenon with the aim of winning the electorate's votes in upcoming local and presidential elections.

Following up the draft law's contents, it targets preventing corruption and staves off its dangers, as well as its impacts. It aims to pursue corruption perpetrators and freeze, retain and retrieve returns resulting from such criminal acts. It also will enhance the principle of cooperation and participation between states and international and regional organizations in international projects and programs aimed at combating and preventing corruption.

The law also aims to strengthen principles of justice and transparency in economic, financial and administrative dealings in a manner guaranteeing wise management of state property and revenues, activating the accountability principle and enhancing concerned apparatuses' monitoring role.

It stipulates facilitating measures to enable individuals access to information and approach to concerned authorities, as well as encourage and activate civil society organizations' role and participation in preventing and fighting corruption. The law's aim also is to enlighten individuals on causes and various dangers of corruption and ways to prevent and tackle it.

The new draft law considers crimes

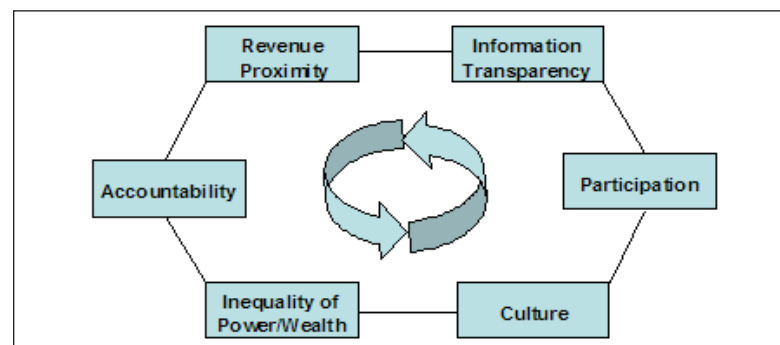
stipulated in the law of crimes and punishments, customs and tax evasion and cheating in tenders and biddings also are considered among corruption crimes in the law on fighting corruption.

According to Article 4, the law will be applicable to all corruption crimes, some of which are perpetrated inside Yemen's territorial boundaries, regardless of the nature or nationality of the perpetrators. The law's authority extends beyond this to crimes occurring outside Yemeni territories and is the specialization of Yemeni courts, as stipulated in the law of punitive procedures and the law to fight money laundering, as well as agreements and pacts endorsed by Yemen's government or joined by them.

Prosecutions and courts specialized in public property will consider corruption cases, also deeming correspondence, information and reports related to corruption crimes as among secrets that must be preserved.

The law grants those involved in such crimes the right to benefit from acquittal and mitigation of punishment and also the initiative to report them to concerned authorities and offer information facilitating detection and arrest of perpetrators.

The national higher authority to fight corruption will be supervised directly by the president and composed of nine members. It will enjoy full independence and neutrality to practice its specialties, with no side having the right to interfere in its affairs in any form, as such interference will be considered a crime pun-



Environmental factors of corruption.

against the national economy, public service, violating justice and private sector embezzlement crimes of corruption. Among corruption crimes the draft law stipulates is bribing foreign employees and those working for international organizations with the purpose of making them work or decline from doing something in violation of their duties in order to obtain commercial benefit or undeserved advantage.

Forgery related to corruption and falsi-

shable by law. Higher authority officials also will be granted legal authority.

Among actions against corruption is the higher authority's coordination with concerned apparatuses to study, evaluate and develop employment and financial systems, purchases, tenders and biddings, as well as revenue management systems. The higher authority also will coordinate in developing various monitoring mechanisms and arrangements pertaining to the private sector.

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Hodeidah: history, beauty and the sea

By: Taiz Bureau

Hodeidah is a unique pearl on a wonderful string shaped by the Creator. It is the bride of the Red Sea and the jewel of Yemeni cities. Looking from across the Red Sea, the city looks more marvelous.

Now, Hodeidah is awaiting you to tour it and enjoy its diverse topography, including coastal pains, highlands, green islands and fascinating beaches. If you visit the city for the first time, surely you will make another visit to purify your concerns in the sea and taste Hodeidah's unparalleled fragrance.

Hodeidah: land of history

Hodeidah is a historic area rich with ancient ruins, sights and attractions. Antiquity team reports indicate that the city enjoys many ancient sites, such as the Mastour Mountains and libraries in Hees, Bajel and Zabid, which date back to the Himyarite era.

In olden times, Hodeidah was known as "Tihamat Al-Yemen," as the city stretches along the Red Sea coastline, as well as due to its heat and motionless air. The term "Tihama," meaning mountain, was included in ancient Yemeni inscriptions.

In the 14th century, Hodeidah was a travelers rest station and it later developed into a small village inhabited by fishermen. As fishermen settled in the village, it became a station to guide international ships.

In the final years of the 18th century, it grew into a medium-sized town. Yemeni sailor Ibn Majed referred to Hodeidah in his book entitled, "Profits of Sea Principles and Bases," while famed historian Ba Makhrama gave an explanation about the town in his 1920 book, "Aden Mouth."

The Walled City

This term stands for the Old City of Hodeidah and today is known as the zone inside the wall, which is considered one of the city's oldest zones. Touring Old City lanes makes you feel as if you are in another world. The city's unique buildings with their high floors, wood ceilings and doors decorated with distinctive geometric shapes bewitch your sight.

The wall surrounding the Old City with four gates was destroyed except for Mashraf and Al-Qala'a gates. The zone inside the wall features many ancient sights that still tell about the greatness of a city that never accepted defeat despite the challenges of time.

Bab Mesharraf Fortress

This is an old fortress on the old wall in Bab Mesharraf zone. Built of red brick and painted with white plaster, the two-story fortress was built by Hussein Bin Ali when he dominated the area in Hijra year 1256. Bab Mesharraf Fortress still exists today but is used as a police station.

Bab Mesharraf zone

This is one of the city's oldest zones and its gate is what remains from among four gates that were part of the wall surrounding the Old City. Bab Mesharraf zone includes ancient buildings built more than a thousand years ago, with its buildings, lanes, roads and markets resembling those in the Old City of Sana'a. When touring Bab Mesharraf zone, you will see popular markets merchandizing all that is ancient and old.

The Great Mosque

Situated within the walled zone, the Great Mosque is one of Yemen's most ancient, dating back to the 12th century Hijra. It was built in Hijra year 1111 by a charitable woman named Fatma Bint Ahmad Al-Razzaq, daughter of a Hodeidah merchant who came from Oman.

The mosque was expanded throughout different stages until Hijra year 1294,



Hodeidah is rich with beautiful and attractive places.

when it was demolished completely and reconstructed. At 31 meters long and 18 meters wide, its exterior walls were built of colored stones and its interior walls painted with white pebbles. The mosque's windows and arches are shaped evenly, adding more beauty to it.

Religious symposiums and sessions are held daily at the mosque, in addition to interpretations of Sahih Al-Bukhari in the month of Rajab every Hijra year.

Cisterns

Among the city's ancient ruins are cisterns that were used to store drinking water that passed through ditches from north of Hodeidah. The cisterns are said to be built by the Ottomans with rigid stone brought from Al-Salif and Kamaran Island. Built underground, citizens used to descend to the cisterns via stone stairs. The cisterns also had domes built of mud and stone.

Cisterns existed in different areas of the city, but only a few remain. Some were built in the vicinity of mosques, such as the one near the Great Mosque, which provided water for prayers and neighborhood locals. This cistern still exists today.

neighborhood locals. This cistern still exists today.

Hodeidah and the sea

Hodeidah and the sea are two natural elements. The sea calls you to stand on its sands where the tide plays with you. You can see white seagulls hovering over the sea and at sunset, one can



Hodeidah is also famous for traditional places.

observe a fascinating view of the sun, which is difficult for skilled artists to imitate. The sunrises melt into the color of the sea tides, reflecting the glory of the Creator.

Many parks, hotels and restaurants dot Hodeidah's coastline, with resort and restaurant projects under construction in Al-Kuttayeb area. In this area, one can

voyage to any nearby island.

Hodeidah is a bride

The city of Hodeidah developed and witnessed immense construction of buildings in various areas. Today, Hodeidah looks like a bride, with beauty begetting beauty, particularly as it prepares to host 16th anniversary Reunification activities.

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