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Inside: ▶



5
Fulbright Scholar:
My experience in America



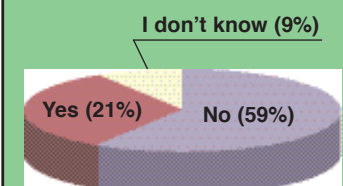
10
USAID funds rehab of
Thula's cisterns



12
Qadi Isma'il Al-Akwa'
looks back at his life

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
The homes of many poor inhabitants of Socotra Island – the 'Pearl of the Indian Ocean' – were washed away by heavy rains and flooding. Do you think the government will use military planes to provide prompt relief and aid?



This edition's question:

Do you think that the Gulf states are serious about certifying Yemen's economy for entry into the Gulf Cooperation Council?
- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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

The most prestigious award ever given to a Yemeni newspaper Yemen Times receives international recognition

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf

EDINBURGH, JUNE 3 — On behalf of the Yemen Times, Raidan Al-Saqqaf, a member of the newspaper's board of directors, received the International Press Institute's (IPI) 2006 Free Media Pioneer Award in a May 30 ceremony in Edinburgh, Scotland. The award was presented by Scotland's First Minister, Jack McConnell.

IPI Director Johan Fritz said, "The Yemen Times operates in a harsh environment known for government restrictions on free media." IPI chose the Yemen Times for the award because it continues providing accurate and timely news and information on Yemen and the region, as well as actively participates in efforts supporting press freedom, respect for human rights and political pluralism and democracy in line with the newspaper's mission statement: "To Make Yemen a good world citizen."

The award is one of the most prestigious that any Yemeni media establishment ever has won, which newspaper management said indicates the Yemen



Receiving the award (from left): IPI Director John Fritz, Raidan Al-Saqqaf, member of YT board of directors, and Scotland's First Minister, Jack McConnell.

Times' credibility and weight, especially on an international scale.

In his acceptance speech, Al-Saqqaf indicated that the IPI award is a

reminder of the role free press plays in societies' development and an important tool in reforming the country's governance and policies. "Yemen's

democracy still is in its infancy. We look forward to seeing it take its baby steps toward protecting Yemenis' human rights while serving national interests in political, social and economic development," he said.

Al-Saqqaf added that the award is a victory for every journalist, lawyer, educator and human rights activists who strives toward the bigger good of Yemeni society, sacrificing their own personal interests in the process.

More than a hundred representatives from the international community attended the ceremony, including those from award co-sponsor Freedom Forum, Freedom House and Amnesty International, among many other NGOs, academics and media establishments. The award ceremony concluded



Al-Saqqaf giving his acceptance speech.

the IPI's 55th general assembly and world congress.

IPI was established in 1950 in New York by a global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists.

Yemen, Saudi Arabia sign accords: Upgrade in bilateral relations anticipated



Sultan Bin Abdulaziz and Abdulqader Bajammal oversee signing ceremony in Al-Mukallah.

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, June 3 — The Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council's 17th session concluded its meetings Friday in the city of Mukalla, Hadramout governorate, with fruitful and considerable results.

The two sides signed the final version of maps for the international border treaty between the two neighboring countries. They also signed minutes on exchanging documents concerning a memorandum of understanding regarding preserving marine life diversity.

Other agreements signed included three loan agreements to finance road building projects, the first of which is the Haidan-al-Jimaa-al-Minzalal road project in Sa'ada governorate at a cost of SR 90 million. The second is the Majz-Omar-Razih road in Sa'ada governorate at a cost of SR 26.25 million and the third is for main road projects in various Yemeni areas.

Additionally, an agreement was signed to finance Saudi commodities and services to implement a number of electricity sector projects, for which SR 375 million was allocated. A fish wealth cooperation agreement also was signed,

as well as a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in social affairs and minutes on exchanging documents of endorsement regarding the two countries' customs cooperation.

The agreements were signed by the Yemeni and Saudi Ministers of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Planning and International Cooperation, Finance and Fish Wealth.

The council's session was different this year, as the Saudi delegation was headed by Saudi crown prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, who has been in charge of Yemen's dossier. With the crown prince's visit and signing several important agreements, Yemeni-Saudi relations initiate a significant and advanced stage, moving from a neighboring relationship to partnership.

It now can be said that the two nations' relationship is the best, after passing through various stages that weren't without difficulties and hindrances. The course of Yemeni-Saudi relations is connected with several factors that prominently constituted the nature and quality of those relations, such as historical, economic and political factors.

Continued on page 2

Chicken pox epidemic spreads in Barhan

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 3 — According to an anonymous Ministry of Health source, reports from Barhan village, 40km west of Sana'a, mention a highly contagious chicken pox spread involving 95 infected individuals.

Declining to be identified, the source said, "We actually were informed about the disease Wednesday and a ministry team rushed to the area that same night, diagnosing the diseases as chicken pox. We treated 95 cases all infected with the disease, prescribed necessary medicines and left behind a doctor and a nurse to remain in the village until the next day. After the doctor returned, we sent a message to the Epidemic Monitoring Department's director general, which told us it's a disease not subject to Health Ministry monitoring and that it's not dangerous. We were told to contact Director General Dr. Abdulhakim Al-Kuhlani, who refused to talk to us, giving certain excuses."

Barhan villager Ali spoke about the tragedy and horror residents are experiencing due to the disease's spread, saying, "We've sought the help of the Health Ministry, the Capital Secretariat, the local council and all concerned parties, but they've done nothing to protect our children from this horrific disease."

He added that more than a week ago, a medical team arrived in the village and were convinced about the presence of dozens of chicken pox cases, but did nothing and didn't take any of the individuals to hospitals, as they claimed to



The village of Barhan lies 40km west of Sana'a.

official media. The team promised to send doctors and medicine to the village, but nothing has happened thus far.

A teacher in the village said its population exceeds 1,200, yet there is no medical center, doctor, nurse or even a midwife. He also pointed out that there's no road leading to Barhan village, so consequently, the sick mostly die on the way to any hospital. "The only road we used to follow to reach our village was blocked by inhabitants of Al-Hamraa village, which overlooks the valley where our village is situated. It was a vengeance matter between the two villages."

Continued on page 2

Alouni's charges upheld

Former Al Jazeera correspondent Tayseer Alouni's conviction was upheld by the Spanish Supreme Court. Sentenced to 7-years imprisonment, Alouni was convicted in September 2005 of collaboration with al-Qaeda.

By: Yemen Times, Al Jazeera and agencies

SANA'A, June 2 — The Spanish Supreme Court acquitted Tayseer Alouni of being a member of al-Qaeda, yet upheld the 7-year jail term on charges of cooperating with the al-Qaida group responsible for the September 11th attack on the U.S.

Alouni was among 24 people tried in the High Court last year for belonging to al-Qaida. Among them also is Imad Eddin Barakat Yarkas, accused of being an Al Qaeda leader in Spain. Yarkas, will serve 12 years in jail for leading a terrorist group rather than the full 27 years to which he had been sentenced.

The High Court had ruled there was no proof that Syrian-born Yarkas took part in the attacks but said there was evidence he helped think up the plot, working with a radical cell in Hamburg. However, the same court maintained the 7-year term of Alouni.

The Arab Committee for the Defence of Journalists described this move as unjust and called upon all



Al Jazeera reporter Tayseer Alouni escorted by Spanish police after his arrival at a high-security building in Madrid, April 22. REUTERS PHOTO

civil rights and media groups to "uncover the truth" of Alouni's case, as reported by Al Jazeera. About the verdict, his wife Fatima Zahra told the press: "We will do everything we can to prove his innocence in the end." Moreover, there are concerns over Alouni's health who suffers from high blood pressure and problems with his spine.

Continued on page 2

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Islam and democracy: The Islamist challenge

By: Ammar Ali Hassan

As an alternative, Arab Islamists must ensure that their rise to power is founded on the guarantee of respecting democratic principles. Islamist groups and organizations in the Arab world have been waiting for their climb to power. If not to dominate rule and governance then at least to share them. Then, they expect to be able to practice their political activities freely, with no fear of clampdowns, surveillance and deliberate marginalisation that befell them in recent decades.

Proponents of the Islamist school of thought and political practice believe that they are entitled to lead their nations rather than those who subscribe to any of the other political trends that have surged across the Arab world over the past century. Although these revolutionary movements may have swept into power by overwhelming popularity, they, nevertheless, soon lost their initial dynamism and ultimately failed to deliver on the promise to steer the Arab peoples to sustained political revival and economic development.

Instead, these national revival movements fell into the grip of despotic rulers, grew ideologically divorced from reality and became mired in corruption benefiting primarily an elite of narrow-vested interests.

The uphill battle of Arab liberals

Arguing that their era has come, Islamists are implying that the time of Arab liberals is over. Although Arab liberals dominated the anti-colonialist struggle with independence, they receded into the background as Arab nationalist and more radical left-wing ideologies which took the fore.

Arab liberals today are fighting an uphill battle, the battle to regain their erstwhile status and prestige.

Indeed, the fact that many are eyed with suspicion as forming a "fifth column" for the American "Greater Middle East" project, which is targeting Arabism both as a framework for a regional political order and as an expression of cultural identity, has made "neo-liberal" something of a dirty word, also known as a conspiracy theory against arabs.

As a result, people who would class themselves in this category are too busy defending their personal reputations and loyalty to their nations to devote themselves to the tasks of winning people over to subscribe to their liberal their views and recruiting mem-



Islamists have been able to win a considerable degree of sympathy by projecting themselves as victims of political and religious persecution - as for instance in Egypt.

bers for their fragile political parties.

"Islam is the solution"

At the same time, traditional liberals are losing more and more ground by the day, secluded in their ivory-tower discourse and deemed incapable of competing with the appeal and organizational abilities of both Arab-nationalist and Islamist trends.

Islamists also believe that the Arab nationalist movement's era is also over, because it proved unable to safeguard the important gains of revolutionary governments which it had won in the period preceding and following national liberation.

To many Islamists, the right to prove that they can succeed where other political movements and ideologies have failed isn't simply theirs by default, but its a gained ideology; as their rhetoric - "Islam is the solution" - epitomizes, to them their right is not just political but in many ways an almost divine imperative, as suggested in the indoctrination of younger members and a spate of writings from Sayed Qotb through Mohamed Qotb and Anwar Al-Guindi.

"Resistance credentials"

Islamist groups rest their increasingly strident promotional PR campaigns across the Arab world upon several points. They cite, above all, their "resistance credentials". It is Islamic groups, they say, that have taken up the banner of resistance against the Israeli occupation in Palestine, Lebanon and the Golan Heights as well as the American occupation of Iraq.

Moreover, beneath the Al-Qaeda umbrella, these elements have taken the struggle to 'enemy' camps.

Terrorist operations abroad have forced the West into the defensive position, and that, in itself, marks a bold stride forward in thwarting Western designs to fragment the region, in liberating Arab and Muslim lands and in reviving the region's prestige and glory.

The confidence of "moderate" Islamists

They also point to the increasingly widespread confidence "moderate" Islamists are winning among the Arab public, testimony to which are their parliamentary and municipal electoral victories in recent years in, for example, Kuwait, Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world, whether through underground activity or by legitimate channels, Islamists are increasingly gathering more public support. In Syria, for example, the Muslim Brothers are regarded as the strongest popular opposition force and, hence, the one most likely to ascend to power in the event of the fall of the regime.

Islamists have also been able to win a considerable degree of sympathy by projecting themselves as victims of political and, sometimes, religious persecution, a claim they can easily substantiate with reference to their climbing numbers in international reports monitoring human rights violations and religious persecution in the Arab world.

Rightful heirs to power?

They go on to argue that since they are paying the heaviest price in the struggle against tyrannical and totalitarian regimes, they are the rightful heirs to

power following these regimes' demise.

Some Islamists have, at best, a very narrow view of democracy and democratic methods. While they may profess to subscribe to democratic methods and rule, this appeal is inconsistent with their belief that they are the culmination of the train of modern Arab political experiences.

Indeed, this very belief does little to reassure people that politicized Islamic organizations and groups have truly come to believe in political plurality and the principle of the rotation of power. Adding weight to such suspicions is the fact that an influential segment of the Islamist movement is openly opposed to democratic processes, as is borne out by a large portion of fundamentalist literature in the Arab world.

We recall, too, that Al-Qaeda's number two leader, Ayman El-Zawahiri, criticized the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt for taking part in the recent parliamentary elections.

Interacting constructively with the outside world

That the Islamists currently form the most vocal and dynamic opposition force, and that they have built up a large and widespread base of popular support, cannot be denied. Nor can we deny the legitimacy of their desire to promote the welfare of the people and to obtain the official recognition and legal license to better be able to do so, especially in view of how powerfully they have asserted themselves as a national movement.

Nonetheless, if they truly seek to contribute to the progress of the nation and spare it yet another catastrophe, they must radically change their political outlook. They must restrain their impatience in order to attain power by any means possible, they must demonstrate the sincerity of their belief in the right of other political beliefs and movements to continue to exist and work, and they must develop the ability to interact constructively with the outside world.

Above all, they must come up with a thoroughly studied concrete programme for lifting the Arab world from its current state of decay and fragmentation and they must ensure that their rise to power does not simply change the façade of all too familiar structures of political and social oppression.

The writer is director of Cairo's Centre for Middle East Studies and Research. © Al-Ahram Weekly 2006

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Libya's forgotten man

By: Hamid Skif

Since 1969 Colonel Gaddafi has taken a hard line against troublesome representatives of the media. This uncompromising stance is exemplified by his treatment of the Libyan journalist Abdullah Ali al-Sanussi Al-Darrat, who has been missing since 1973. By Hamid Skif In some parts of the Islamic world (Syria, Tunisia, Libya, Saudi Arabia), the media are so strictly controlled that even the mildest forms of protest are forbidden.

In other Islamic countries (Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Yemen), working conditions are somewhat easier; yet journalists still struggle to work under the eyes of a subservient judiciary tasked with applying a legal code that is inimical to freedom.

Critical journalists muzzled

Take Libya, for instance: "Jamahiriyah" ("the republic of the masses"), as Muammar Gaddafi would have it. This year, there has been an international campaign to secure the release of

around 500 journalists imprisoned there. In addition, there have been calls for an investigation into the case of Abdullah Ali Al-Sanussi Al-Darrat, a Libyan journalist who disappeared without trace in 1973.

Since the putsch that brought Gaddafi to power in September 1969, Libyans have been heavily burdened by a ban on all forms of freedom of expression. When asked about Al-Darrat's abduction, people are at a loss to explain why he was targeted or where he has been held prisoner.

Al-Darrat was never sentenced in any court, and while the Libyan Human Rights League has attempted to discover more about his fate, all such enquiries have so far fallen on deaf ears.

Most observers reckon that the missing journalist is long since dead, yet no one has the slightest idea about the circumstances under which his presumed death took place.

What is puzzling about Al-Darrat is the absence of any public campaigns on his behalf. Should "the forgotten man of the desert" still actually be

alive, he will by now have spent 33 years in jail without anyone having enquired about his fate.

The Al-Darrat case - a taboo subject in Libya

None of Libya's prominent state guests has ventured to ask Colonel Gaddafi about Al-Darrat's whereabouts, and no one in Libya has ever publicly demanded his release. With the current "normalisation" of relations between Libya, the USA and the European Union, the inevitable fear is that no further light will be shed on the matter.

This will remain the case as long as the political interests of the states involved carry significantly more weight than human rights.

Western leaders' public pronouncements in support of human rights stand in sharp contrast to their lack of concrete action. As a result, suspicions are strengthened in the Arab world that the West takes notice of such matters only when its own interests in the region are at stake.

Therefore, this year's World Press

Freedom Day should be dedicated to Abdullah Ali al-Sanussi Al-Darrat. His freedom should be demanded, or - at the very least - the Libyan government should be urged to supply verifiable information as to his whereabouts.

Despite the focus on Al-Darrat, other imprisoned journalists, in Syria and elsewhere, should not be forgotten. In Morocco, for instance, Mohamed Benchicou is currently serving a jail sentence for publishing a pamphlet criticising President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Translated from the German by Patrick Lanagan © Qantara.de 2006



Since the putsch that brought Gaddafi to power in September 1969, Libyans have been heavily burdened by a ban on all forms of freedom of expression.

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Fulbright Scholar: My experience in America

Mohammad Hifidhallah Yahya Al-Hamdani, 26, is a Yemeni Fulbright Scholar living in Radford, Va. He won his Fulbright Scholarship in December 2004, and arrived in the U.S. in early January 2005. He holds a B.A. in English from Sana'a University's Faculty of Arts. Currently, he is enrolled at Radford University, majoring in English with a concentration in American literature. He shares his story below.

By: Mohammed Al-Hamdani

I've been an ordinary Yemeni all of my life. I've excelled in school since first grade. I really never dreamed of leaving Yemen. To the contrary, I always thought Yemen's young sons should live in, build, and take care of it. These views were the result of the influential roles my father and eldest brother had on me.

The idea of leaving my country and trying to find a better place to make a living began emerging when I was a college sophomore. It was the first time I heard about the Fulbright Scholarship. My oldest brother introduced me to it in a very smart way, actually using it as a motivation to keep me going and maintaining my good work at school. He told me if I kept getting high scores in all my classes, it would be a lot easier to gain a Fulbright Scholarship.

After graduating as one of the top 10 students in my section, life just got tougher and harsher, as it was very hard to secure a decent job. I taught at schools, language institutes and even at a private college, but most were horrible experiences. It didn't take long to set my mind on leaving Yemen in search of more and better opportunities.

I remember the day one of my

friends called and told me the Fulbright Scholarship – which I always talked to him about – was available and that we should apply for it. We did apply and after the long, tough screening process, I was lucky enough to win. I was extremely psyched to know that through my hard work and determination, I'd finally reached one of my goals and it's worth every single fraction of a second I spent preparing for it.

When it was time to leave, it was a sweet yet sad feeling. I was excited, but also sad to leave my family, friends and the whole lifestyle to which I was accustomed. I flew to the U.S., which wasn't the most pleasant experience, as the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) held me at JFK (John Fitzgerald Kennedy) Airport for about six hours. I was very understanding and cooperative with the process and kept telling myself that it's better late than never.

Being in the U.S. was one of my biggest dreams. I was blessed to have my second oldest brother, who's lived in New York City for about 17 years, meet me. He and his family helped me greatly while I found my

The U.S. education system is nothing like in Yemen – it's far more engaging, wide-ranging, well-planned, and effective.

feet. The first couple of days at college were quite nice and I was excited and happy to be there.

Then, things totally changed, as it was the first wave of shock about which I was told in predeparture orien-

tation at AMIDEAST. There was this sense of loneliness and helplessness. I wanted to do many things, but I just didn't know how to proceed. I wanted to go shopping, but I neither had a car nor knew where the nearest shop was located. Simultaneously, my homesickness grew bigger.

As a Fulbright Scholar, I realized I had much cultural work to do, but I didn't realize the gigantic size of the responsibility lying ahead of me.

The second wave was the educational shock and it was absolutely overwhelming. The U.S. education system is nothing like in Yemen – it's far more engaging, wide-ranging, well-planned and effective. Classes contain fewer students and the teaching style is more engaging. Professors are more approachable and class discussion is stress-free, which makes students engage more in discussions. I know all teachers aren't the same, but this is what I've been experiencing.

On the other hand, students are allowed to bring food and drink into class, which is very distracting. They do many things that are OK in their culture, but not in mine and that's fine with me. Moreover, the student-teacher relationship can be imbalanced at times.

Another important aspect is students' engagement in school work. For example, I must write weekly journals, logs and seminar papers required in all classes, which provides a chance to progress and frequently supervise such progress. Throughout the semester, there are also long papers, quizzes and final projects, as well as research papers. The overall workload is just a lot bigger and heavier than I had in college in Yemen.

With growing stress at school, the idea of not being able to 'cut the mustard' began to creep into my mind. I thought I wouldn't be able to make it through college here, but thank God, I did better than I expected.

On a cultural level, things were kind of interesting, but at the same time sad-



Mohammed Al-Hamdani in New York City.

dening. It was interesting to explore and actually live in this new culture. As a Fulbright Scholar, I realized I had much cultural work to do, but I didn't realize how gigantic the size of the responsibility lying ahead of me.

It's been hard trying to ameliorate the image of Arabs and Muslims in the U.S., especially given the current political reality, but I'm doing the best I can to represent my Yemeni-Islamic culture. Most people have preconceived ideas that are hard to change and stereotypes flourish in certain areas and regions in the U.S.

I've had several bitter personal experiences; however, there are many peo-

work, trying to make a good impression and reflect the rich culture from which I come. For example, I gave a presentation about Yemen at the International Rotary Club in Radford. I also was featured in the RU College of Graduate and Extended Education newsletter. Additionally, I've been participating in local biblical studies, where I have the opportunity to speak about Islam and misconceived Islamic teachings.

I also have written three short stories about my experiences, highlighting Yemeni culture and lifestyle. These stories were for workshops in two of my creative writing classes. I feel so honored and privileged to be able to repre-

another country, they'll be able to fulfill all their dreams and live with flying colors. This is absolutely bogus, as it requires a lot of hard work and solid determination. Nothing comes so easily that one just sits there waiting for it to happen.

I've spent long, sleepless nights working hard to earn success that will take me to the next level. It takes a lot of heart, hard work and determination to succeed, but one can go get it and earn it. I feel I still have a very long path to walk. It's not always going to be another 'rags-to-riches' story, but one must give it his best shot.

The Fulbright Scholarship has been an awesome opportunity for me and it's really made me a better person. I feel so privileged to be a Fulbright and I'm determined to use everything I learn to improve my country. I want to be able to make changes, even if it's only in a person's life.

The Fulbright Scholarship has been an awesome opportunity for me and it's really made me a better person.

I feel so grateful to AMIDEAST and the Fulbright program for giving me this golden opportunity, but before that, I feel immensely indebted to my family for everything they've done for me and for making me the person I am. I don't know how to say it, but I want to thank the man who shaped the way I think and had the greatest influence in my life – my father. He passed away two months after I got to the U.S., but I wish he could've lived longer to see me as the man I am now.

Lastly, I hope this brief account of my story has been useful and helpful. I want every reader to know that this experience is a lifetime opportunity, contributing greatly to me in all aspects of my life. It's helped me discover things about myself I never knew existed. It also has made me appreciate my country, family and friends, as it really brought out the real Yemeni buried within me and I can say I'm more patriotic than ever.

I strongly urge everyone to go out and try to live this experience. However, bear in mind that you need to come back and use everything you learn to build your own home – Yemen – which has sheltered and brought us up.

I've always felt so enthused to be part of the Fulbright program and to help bridge gaps between our culture and American culture. In the end, I feel blessed to share my story with such respected readers. Thanks to The Yemen Times for allowing me this great opportunity.



Al-Hamadani at the beach with friends.

ple interested in knowing my culture. This could lead to people wanting to know me for the mere fact of gratifying their interest in my culture, but not knowing me for the real person I am. However, I've made a relatively large number of friends in about a year and half and it's been a pleasure getting to know them.

I've also been doing a lot of cultural

sent my culture and present the brighter side of Islamic and Arab identity and reality. It's really a great chance to bring our Arab culture together with American culture.

I want to let everybody who is dreaming about traveling know that the sweet dreams they have now won't come true easily. I know many who think that the minute they make it to



Al-Hamdani and other Fulbright Scholars pose for a photograph.

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Experience:

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For detailed information about the above posts, please visit our website: www.yemensoft.net.

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Announcement

Invitation to Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Three Nos. New Single Screw Mooring Boats

Yemen Ports Authority (Port of Aden) intends to announce for the above tender.

The tender documents is available to bidding companies at a cost of US\$100.00

Quotations are to be submitted on **10th July, 2006**

For collection of tender documents or more information, please contact:

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Fax: 967-02-205805 / 201541
Email: ddg@yemen.net.ye and
yaplaning@y.net.ye**

Job Announcement

**Position: Administrative / Financial assistant
Report to: The Administrative / Finance Director**

Job Summary:

The Administrative/Finance Assistant is responsible for providing the support to the Administrative/Finance Director to ensure the control of funds and the implementation of the financial procedures in compliance with Pathfinder policies and procedures, USAID financial regulations and the Yemeni Laws on taxation and social security. The Administrative/finance Assistant is responsible for assisting in the implementation of all Financial and Administrative functions of Pathfinder for the BHS Project in Yemen.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Work closely with project staff to ensure that adequate internal control procedures are being followed at the BHS Project with respect to the management of cash resources, assets and compliance with Pathfinder guidelines.
- Assist in the preparation and the review of the Travel Expense Vouchers (TEVs) and Travel Authorizations.
- Assist in maintaining filing systems and other related documents for Finance & Administration to ensure an adequate control system for monitoring the fund's expenditure.
- Assist in coordinating consultancy agreements and relevant payments as needed.
- Monitor the expenditure and payments to the local sub-contracts for construction/renovation and training.
- Prepare and update the sub-contract's report prior to the process of any new payment.
- Reconcile the sub-contract's reports with the monthly expenditure report from HQ.
- Provide support to the program/technical staff in preparing for training activities, meetings and other similar events.
- Review the staff advance settlements.
- Review the request for Petty Cash reimbursement.
- Perform other duties as required.



Job Requirements:

- Degree in Accounting, Finance or similar discipline and minimum of three years work experience in general accounting and administration, preferably with USAID-assisted projects and/or health or social service NGOs like Pathfinder International.
- Experience in a non-profit environment, preferably international.
- Good command of English language.
- Excellent organizational skills, detail oriented and high degree of accuracy; strong analytical skills and sound judgment.
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**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
UNDP Office in Sana'a is Expanding.**



We are seeking energetic and skilled Yemeni nationals to join our core team. Following are the positions we seek candidates for:

- **Team Leader for Governance & Gender Team**
become part of our middle management team and lead the implementation of our governance and gender programmes
- **Communications Officer**
manage UNDP's public relations through promoting the results achieved with the media and civil society
- **Programme Officer – Economist**
manage the poverty reduction and economic growth programmes to help Yemen address the needs of the poor and improve the status of the economy
- **Programme Associate – Human Rights and Elections**
manage the human rights and elections programmes to assist Yemen in improving its democratic governance and the participation of the Yemeni people in the betterment of their society
- **Programme Associate – Crisis Prevention and Recovery**
manage the crisis prevention and recovery programmes which will enable Yemen to better manage natural disasters and crisis
- **Research and Knowledge Management Associate**
manage the knowledge base of the UNDP Office and assist in research towards the development of new programmes and projects
- **Project Management Assistant (2 positions)**
help our Programme Teams to manage their many programmes and projects professionally, while supporting the achievement of results on schedule and on budget

There is a variety of positions and we are looking for different skills, to learn more about these positions please visit our website [www.undp.org.ye and go to Vacancies under About UNDP Yemen] for the details and find a position that fits you!

Only candidates with the specified education and years of experience as indicated in the Job Description/s will be considered . We look forward to receiving your application (only short-listed candidates will be contacted).

Deadline for receipt of applications is 30 June 2006.

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization, and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

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The Civils HSE Supervisor will be directly responsible for implementing the Company's HSE Management System and Policies and ensuring all construction and seismic operations are conducted in full compliance with this documentation.

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Candidates must demonstrate previous experience in HSE supervisory positions, will possess a valid driver's licence, (at least 4 years), be physically fit, competent in written and spoken English and have good computer skills including Microsoft applications and internet/email usage.

Full camp accommodation and messing will be provided while in the field.

This position offers excellent career prospects, including training and competitive salary.

Civils Supervisor

The Civils Supervisor will report to the Drilling Superintendent and be directly responsible for ensuring that the quality of the civil work performed on Site by the Contractor and its sub-Contractors is in compliance with Contract requirements.

The civils works will principally be the building of access roads, rig locations and associated operations.

The position is rotational and the majority of time will be spent in the field as part of a small team comprising of the Civils HSE Supervisor and the Community Affairs Officer.

Candidates must demonstrate previous experience in Civils supervisory positions, will possess a valid driver's licence, (at least 4 years), be physically fit, competent in written and spoken English and have good computer skills including Microsoft applications and internet/email usage.

Full camp accommodation and messing will be provided in the field.

This position offers excellent career prospects, including training and competitive salary.

Interested candidates are requested to submit applications to the HR Manager, together with a detailed CV by facsimile to: +967 1 410 314

Deadline for Applications is Wednesday 21st June



The Ministry of Public Health and Population (MPHP) in Sana'a is seeking assistance for the following task to be funded by German Financial Cooperation (KfW Development Bank):

**Consulting Services for a Compliance Audit
of the Social Marketing component
(Yemeni-German Reproductive Health Programme).**

For the implementation of the component, the MPHP signed an implementation contract with Marie Stopes International. Measures to be implemented by its branch in Yemen (MSIY) are among others: market assessment, procurement and distribution of contraceptives, promotional and social marketing campaigns, baseline- and evaluation studies on knowledge, attitude and preventive practice (KAP) of the target groups, etc. In order to evaluate and monitor the proper implementation (objectives and targets) of the project regular external compliance audits will be carried out through an independent company. The purpose of the compliance audit is, on behalf of the MPHP, to

- monitor, that the project is planned, managed and implemented by MSIY in strict compliance with its contractually agreed objectives, targets, implementation and management arrangements according to the laws, rules and regulations of the Republic of Yemen and the rules and regulations of German Financial Cooperation with Developing Countries;
- report to the MPHP and KfW and make recommendations as to required changes or modification in project management and implementation arrangements.

The participating companies must be qualified international audit firms with a local branch in Yemen or a regional branch in the MENA Region; for the latter a local partner should be included in the offer. Recent experience on projects of similar nature will be of advantage. The compliance auditor may subcontract certain monitoring tasks to qualified (local) companies. This is to be specified in the technical and financial offers. Tenders are invited to present their bids for the Consulting Services. Tender documents (incl. Terms of Reference and details of the evaluation process) are available at KfW Office Sana'a (Tel. 01-426351). The selection will take place under Quality and Cost-based Selection.

The final submission date is July 20th 2006 (45 days after initial publication on June 5, 2006). Proposals shall be submitted not later than July 20th, 18:00 and in two copies to KfW Development Bank, L III b/3 North Africa and Middle East, Attn.: Mr. Klaus Vöhringer, Palmengartenstrasse 5-9, 60325 Frankfurt / Germany. One additional copy of the Proposal shall be forwarded directly to MPHP.

Environmental ignorance reaches crisis proportions

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

“Beggary, qat, and electricity” were quick answers from various citizens asked the question, “In your opinion, what’s the main environmental crisis Yemen is experiencing?” Others requested further explanation of the question, while some said they needed more time to determine an answer to the question. These unexpected attitudes and answers reflect Yemenis’ environmental knowledge, with some citizens themselves confessing that they do not pay much attention to environmental issues.

Those responding immediately to the question did not give just one answer. Most agreed that Yemen is experiencing many environmental crises, to the extent that they couldn’t give just one answer. However, they

also insisted that public ignorance of how to deal with such issues aggravates the problems.

Environmental crises

Journalist Ismail Al-Ghabiri believes pollution due to vehicle exhausts and absence of sanitation services are Yemen’s main environmental problems. “Many cities are experiencing these problems. We really need a rapid move to solve this problem, which has become the main reason for the spread of many diseases in these cities,” he stated.

Printing establishment employee Ameen Mohammed Al-Kaml agreed that pollution due to vehicle exhausts is Yemen’s main problem. “Those who use diesel in vehicle engines don’t care about air pollution their vehicles cause and unfortunately, the law preventing diesel use in car engines has not been applied yet,” he said. “The absence of any plan or measures to regulate the waste dispos-



Student collects garbage in a cleaning campaign.

al process in many regions is another environmental crisis in Yemen,” he added.

Like her classmates, high school student Yusra Ahmed insisted that solid waste and garbage on the streets is the real environmental problem. “Although cleaners always make efforts to clean the street, people still throw garbage and papers because there are no containers for this purpose,” she explained.

Computer graphic designer Ramzy Al-Saqqaq considers groundwater pollution either by chemical waste or wastewater, as well as absence of green spaces in main cities, Yemen’s major environmental problems. Whereas manager Qaid Alrdhani believes overfishing is a “very serious environmental problem in Yemen, as our economy is based on the fishing sector.”

Housewife Umm Ahmed believes Yemen’s main environmental problem is overusing herbicides in spraying fruits and vegetables, as well as qat. “The problem lies in the fact that

many farmers use such herbicides randomly and extremely. These herbicides are the main reason for the spread of cancers in Yemen,” she stated.

Journalist Yasser Al-Mayasi referred to the same point, adding, “I believe any environmental problem can be solved later, but this problem must be solved as soon as possible. It’s a big issue that we eat fruits and vegetables contaminated with cancer-causing toxins.”

Environmental expert Khalid Harun stated that Yemen suffers many environmental problems. “However, if we consider each issue’s importance, we’ll find that the water reduction crisis is the most important environmental issue in Yemen.” He confirmed that Yemen’s water resources are very poor, making water reduction an extraordinary issue requiring more attention.

Risks and ignorance

Pollution, water reduction and herbicide overuse undoubtedly are environ-

mental problems in many nations. However, such problems become a serious crisis in Yemen, where there are many rules and regulations supposedly preventing any attitude that damages the environment. For example, there is a law preventing using diesel in cars, as well as many regulations regarding the process of digging wells for water. The environmental situation raises questions about such rules’ efficiency.

Fadhil Al-Amdi pointed out that many citizens don’t follow such rules because “they behave carelessly and selfishly.” He called for powerful authorities to force citizens to follow the rules. “For example, in Malaysia, there are fines against those who break the law and throw garbage on the street.”

Al-Amdi also blames local mass media “which failed to attract Yemeni citizens’ attention and educate them regarding environmental issues.”

However, Al-Saqqaq said some purposefully intend to break the rules. “Although there is a law preventing smoking in vehicles, many times I will find a smoker on the bus. I feel ashamed if I ask him to stop smoking, as if I’m the one who broke the rule,” he said.

Secretary Abeer Al-Shami mentioned that most Yemenis have little environmental knowledge or education. “They mostly have no idea about the consequences of their negative behavior toward the environment.”

She also blamed involved environmental authorities, which have not provided citizens facilities or abilities enabling them to follow the rules. “For example, there are no waste containers or wastebaskets in many neighborhoods, so citizens throw garbage on the pavements,” she added.

Harun acknowledged the public’s

inadequate environmental knowledge. “Involved authorities should handle this matter. If there’s no public awareness concerning environmental issues, it’ll reflect negatively in citizens’ behavior and attitudes toward the environment.”

Harun indicated that raising environmental knowledge is not a priority for many environmental officials or involved authorities. “Such environmental establishments mostly lack financial abilities to launch awareness campaigns or activities.”

Lack of knowledge is the main problem

Many environmental experts and organizations realize the importance of raising public awareness and therefore hold various activities in an attempt to enhance community participation in environmental issues.

For example, on Water Day, the Ministry of Water and Environment along with various NGOs arranged activities such as a drawing competition among school students, a children’s puppet show, plays and sketches performed onstage.

Today and on the occasion of June 5 International Environment Day, the Ministry of Water and Environment and the German Embassy, with the association of many local establishments, join forces in organizing a cleaning campaign at Hammam Damt.

However, such activities still are held only occasionally; therefore, their impacts are only temporary. Yemeni citizens need to be more in touch with environmental issues. They need to know more about the consequences of their attitudes toward their environment and how intentional or unintentional ignorance of any environmental problem in the present means facing environmental crises in the future.



Trash and notebooks litter Yemen’s public areas.

USAID funds rehab of Thula’s cisterns

Special to the Yemen Times

Like many Yemeni mountain villages, Amran governorate’s historic town of Thula collects rainwater in cisterns for domestic consumption, which allows the community to make the best use of scarce water resources. However, rainwater can become contaminated as it flows through collection channels into the cistern. Also, water stored in open cisterns can become spoiled from animal waste, trash; and dirt from clothing, shoes, hands, and buckets as women and children collect water.

Drinking contaminated water can cause various diseases, such as diarrhea, giardiasis and typhoid fever. Coming into direct contact with such water while collecting or swimming in it can cause skin rashes and possible skin infections.

To help improve and protect the health of those living in the Thula community,



Jadaan Cistern before rehabilitation.

the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is sponsoring rehabilitation of Jaadan

Cistern, the town’s main cistern. The “new” cistern has a traditional filter system and five hand-pumps enabling users



Jadaan Cistern after rehabilitation.

to fetch water easily.

The cistern renovation plan carefully considered the town’s historical and cul-

tural importance, by using mainly natural stone materials and the traditional “qadad” plastering method. The contrac-

tor selected for the project has a long family tradition of using qadad and is an expert in the special techniques required for its proper application.

The cistern renovation is part of a series of community-based environmental health interventions funded through USAID’s Partners for Health Reform project. USAID’s environmental health program components were designed via consultations and focus groups conducted with community and local council members in Thula district. Additionally, the project surveyed 269 households in 12 villages to determine local knowledge and practices related to water, sanitation and hygiene.

A locally elected project oversight committee composed of five men and five women will work with the local council to raise community members’ awareness, including children, about their role in keeping the cistern clean and assuring its maintenance.

Stressed out? Here’s what to do

By: Dr. Maha Al-Nakkash

Remember the last time you felt overwhelmed by stress? You may have noticed that your heart rate pounded a little faster than usual. Your palms began to sweat. Your muscles tightened. Inside, you felt that many of your bodily functions also were affected: digestion slowed, adrenaline and other hormones were pumped into the bloodstream and blood pressure rose. In fact, everyone experiences stress at various times in life.

Don’t let stress make you sick. If you’re a woman, you tend to carry a higher burden of stress, especially if you have many roles – spouse, mother, caregiver, friend and/or worker – and often you’re unaware of your stress levels.

It’s hard to stay calm and relax in our hectic lives. It seems almost impossible to find ways to de-stress; however, it’s important to find those ways, as our health depends on it.

First, you must learn to recognize

stress by listening to your body so that you know when stress is affecting your health. Stress can take on many different forms and can contribute to symptoms of illness. Common symptoms include: headache, sleep disorders, difficulty concentrating, short-tempereness, upset stomach, job dissatisfaction, low morale, depression, anxiety, exhaustion, frequent frustration, change in appetite, sleeplessness and oversleeping.

Simple ways to de-stress and relax

For many reasons, certain individuals may be at risk of vitamin, mineral and/or amino acid deficiencies. These include those in stressful situations: the elderly, children, adolescents, post-menopausal women, those suffering illness and/or in the recovery process, those following restricted diets, smokers and frequent alcoholic beverage drinkers, vegetarians, those who don’t get enough sunshine and those who don’t have time to eat a balanced diet.

Create an atmosphere that induces calmness throughout your home:

- Tranquil sounds. Your favorite music, sound machines and waterfalls

can help you relax and unwind. Sounds have the ability to alter our perceptions and instantly change our mood.

- Living plants. Live plants create a peaceful atmosphere. They improve the ambiance and air quality of indoor environments and induce positive energy around them.

- Soft lighting. Soft and adjustable lighting can create a soothing atmosphere. Look for light bulbs that are bright, but not harsh. Being able to adjust the brightness of your lighting will give you more control of your space’s mood.

- Pleasant smells A fresh and pleasant odor can transport you to a peaceful place and time. Open a window to get an exchange of air or use air purifiers or deodorizers to create the scent you find most pleasing.

- Comfortable textures. Use pillows, throws and soft materials to create a comfort zone. Our sense of touch has a powerful impact upon our feelings.

- Make time for yourself. It’s important to care for yourself. Think of this as an order from your doctor, so you

don’t feel guilty! No matter how busy you are, try setting aside at least 15 minutes in your schedule each day to do something for yourself, like taking a bubble bath or going for a walk.

- Sleep. Sleeping is a great way to help both body and mind. Your stress could get worse if you don’t get enough sleep. Also, you can’t fight off sickness as well when you sleep poorly. When you sleep enough, you can tackle problems better and lower the risk of illness. Try to get seven to nine hours of sleep every night.

- Eat right. Focus on fruits, vegetables and proteins. Eat whole grains, such as wheat breads and wheat crackers, and limit caffeine. Don’t deal with stress in unhealthy ways. This includes drinking too much alcohol, using drugs, smoking or overeating.

- Take nutritional supplements. Eating what we think is a “perfect” diet sometimes can’t give us enough key nutrients. Taking supplements is necessary to ensure adequate amounts in your system and cover any deficiencies.

- Get moving. Believe it or not, physical activity not only helps relieve

tense muscles, but works off stress and helps mood too. The body produces certain chemicals called endorphins before and after working out, which relieve stress and improve mood.

- Talk to friends. Talk to friends to help work through stress. Friends are good listeners. Finding someone who’ll let you talk freely about your problems and feelings without judging you does a world of good. It also helps to hear a different point of view. Friends will remind you that you are not alone.

- Write down your thoughts. Have you ever typed an email to a friend about your lousy day and felt better afterward? Why not grab a pen and paper and write down what’s going on in your life? Keeping a journal can be a great way to get things off your chest and work through issues. Later, you can go back and read through your journal and see how you’ve made progress.

- Relax. It’s important to unwind in your own way. Some ways include deep breathing, yoga, meditation and massage therapy. If you can’t do these things, take a few minutes to just sit or

listen to soothing music.

Yoga exercises hold postures that work the body’s muscles and breathing mechanism. Meditation often is integrated into the series of poses or exercises as a way to further quiet the mind and the body.

Massage therapy is controlled touching of the body that reduces stress, relaxes muscles and makes a person feel good. It also improves circulation, relieves congestion, strengthens muscle tissue and realigns weak muscle fibers.

The following is a simple breathing exercise you can do at home, in the office or practically anywhere. Deep breathing is a good way to relax. Try it a couple of times every day. Here’s how to do it:

Lie down or sit in a chair, resting your hands on your stomach. Inhale through your nose, slowly counting to four. Feel your stomach rise. Hold it for a second and then slowly exhale through your mouth while counting to four. To control how fast you exhale, purse your lips like you’re going to whistle and your stomach slowly will fall. Repeat five to 10 times.

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Jambiahs: A durable tradition

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri

“The jambiah is a distinguishing feature of the Yemeni uniform and I don't think there is Yemeni man who does not have a Jambiah”, said Awad Al-Samhi, a Jambiah maker. “The jambiah is important for Yemenis, it is part of our heritage, and Yemenis have been wearing it for hundreds of years. The tradition of making Jambiah has come down through generation after generation. I do not think that the Yemeni people will give up wearing jambiah as these are part of their public customs.”

Jambiah

The jambiah is a dagger-like device and it is usually 5 to 10 cm wide and 15 to 30 cm long. It is made of special types

of iron and it is linked to a handle called the head “al-Raas” which is made of rhino-horn and it is also studded with two small gold circles. The al-Raas gives the jambiah its distinguishing shape that can differ from one location to another and most of the time precious handles are confined to older jambiah.

The sheath (Al-Aseeb)

Abdu Al-Wusabi, one of those crafting jambiahs in the old city of Sana'a, when asked about the sheaths for jambiah explains that “the sheaths are different from one area to another in regards to shape and embroidery. The sheaths are made of a special wood called ‘Al-Tanb’ and it is sawed into two equal pieces and the lower part is curved to the right in order to give a good appearance to the jambiah. Recently, different sheaths have been added, some made from leather and some are made of



Jambiahs are sold in many shops throughout Yemen.

leather threads coated with special painting, while others are covered with gold or silver.”

When asked about the belt (Al-Hizam), Al-Wusabi said, “The jambiah's belt is made of leather covered by embroidered and colored cloth together with special clothes”. “A belt embroidered by hand will cost more than one embroidered by machine”, he added.

Types of jambiahs and their prices

“There are different types of jambiahs such as Al-Qabeth, Al-Basali, Al-Zaraf, Al-Zaraf heart (qalb), Asadi, Qalb Alasadi and Saifani.” said Awad Al-Samhi. “The prices of jambiahs differ in accordance with quality, shape, age. We can find jambiah of 10,000 YR and another one with 100,000, while another one can reach 1,000,000. Some other types of jambiahs may also reach 15,000,000 or even 20,000,000 as those owned by some Sheikhs and dignitaries

in different Yemeni locations.” Added Awad, “This shows that the jambiah has a special status for Yemeni, particularly in tribal areas as it is part of their custom to consider those one who do not wear jambiah to be of less influence and status. About wearing and using jambiah, we are told by Ahmed Al-Ausimi a dignitary from a tribal area, that “jambiah is a supplement to man and there are none but wears jambiah only those presumed mad or impaired. The one who doesn't wear a jambiah is called ‘Naked’ and he is likened to a woman. It is considered a a shame for someone to attend a tribal occasion without jambiah.”

Regarding the use of jambiahs, Al-Ausimi says, “the jambiah was originally the weapon by which a person could protect himself, later it became part of his personal adornment and weaponry. Problems are also solved by jambiah as the two opponent parties give their

jambiah to sheikhs as evidence that they are content with his judgment. It can also be used by sheikhs as a mark of asking the other party to join for a judgment.” He adds, “jambiahs are also used in the Yemeni public dancing ‘Al-Bara’ as dancers hold the head of their jambiahs and with different movements of jambiah to the left and right the spectators are shown the jambiahs and it is a way of pride in regards to a jambiah's age and price.” Awad concludes by saying, “jambiah can be used to obtain another's help and subsidiary when somebody is wronged or objects to a big problem. The person will come to those intended to help and breaks his

Jihaz ‘jambiah sheath’ before them and they will accept his demand whatever it is.”

The jambiah has been and still remains a distinctive Yemeni tradition over the years and ages. Wearing jambiah was prevalent in the north of Yemen and to a lesser degree in some areas in the South before Yemen's Unification. After rhinoceros hunting was banned, the producers of jambiah resorted to ivory, marble, fish-bones and wood, thus causing their prices to decrease making it possible for anyone to own a jambiah. Tourists are keen to buy a jambiah as a kind of memento to take back home.



The art of making the jambiah.



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