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Inside:

- 3** Israel pledges rocket attack reprisals
- 5** Jibla Hospital – then and now
- 8** Food security and Yemen's agro-economy

Next Issue:
 An exclusive interview with Prince Hassan of Jordan

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Joint-meeting parties (JMP) have recently declared its candidate to the upcoming presidential election. Do you think the authorities would allow the JMP to use the state media instruments to propagate for its electoral platform?
 I don't know (8%)
 Yes (20%) No (72%)

This edition's question:
 Do you think that the independent applicants for Yemen's upcoming presidential race will ever obtain the required number of Parliament votes for nomination?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know

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

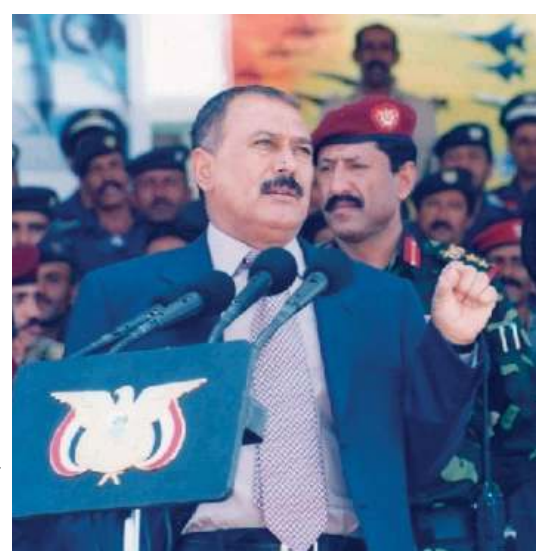
Saleh submits nomination documents to Parliament

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri
 SANA'A, July 5 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh presented his nomination documents for another presidential term to Parliament Tuesday, stressing obedience to the Yemeni Constitution, General Election Law and other bylaws in effect.
 "In response to the public's will and insistence, I rescinded my decision because there are several duties before the country, such as maintaining the revolution's achievements, freedom, democracy and unity and protecting them from secessionists, extremists and terrorists," Saleh stated to the media after submitting his nomination documents to Parliament.
 Musleh Ali Al-Samad, Mohamed Abdullah Al-Fardi, Abdullah Abbas Sa'ad and Mohamed Abdurrahman Al-Ulifiy also submitted their presidential nomination documents to Parliament.
 At its Monday meeting, Parliament's

presidency board announced receiving presidential candidacy applications as of last Tuesday. It also listed several requirements including legal procedures, the deadline for receiving applications and mechanisms for examining documents, plus duties set before those making bids for the presidency.
 Parliament's presidency board called on those with a desire to apply for president to submit their nomination documents within seven days following the announcement and during official working hours. It conditioned that applicants must enclose all documents addressing the following constitutionally-stipulated requirements.
 Under Yemen's constitution, a presidential candidate must: be at least age 40, from two Yemeni parents, not married to a foreigner, enjoy his/her political and civil rights, have good morals and abide by Islamic teachings, possess a record free of immoral crimes except if he/she was acquitted and compensat-

ed and be a registered voter.
 By law, Parliament's presidency board will provide the names of presidential applicants to the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) within 48 hours following joint Parliament and Shoura Council recommendations.
 As a side note, Parliament approved amending paragraph A of Article 19 in 2001's General Elections and Referendum Law No. 13 regarding adding two members via presidential appointment to the nine-member commission formed by republican decree. The nine must be appointed from among 15 who meet the legal requirements and are nominated by Parliament.
 The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) Higher Council released a statement accusing the SCER of violating an agreement the JMP reached with the ruling General People's Congress (GPC). The council indicated that the

SCER continues preparing for upcoming local and presidential elections before adding the other two members and making preparations accordingly.
 In a statement, the Yemen Liberation Party (YLP) said sensible Yemenis were skeptical that President Saleh wouldn't stand in the 2006 presidential elections, as he earlier declared. The statement reads: "this resolution is real and serious and anyone aware of the nature of the regime in Yemen understands well that Saleh mobilized his followers at the proper time to pressure him to revoke his decision."
Continued on page 2



The president calling political parties to participate in the upcoming elections while attending yesterday the graduation ceremony at the High Institute for Police Officers.

Journalist's murder decried

By: Yemen Times Staff
 SANA'A, July 5 — In a statement released Monday, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) denounced the murder of Abed Al-Usaili, a journalist and technical secretary at Al-Nahar newspaper. The 27-year-old journalist was killed Sunday evening in his birthplace, Belad Al-Qabael in Al-Haima district in Sana'a.
 The syndicate urged the Ministry of Interior to arrest the perpetrators immediately, transfer them to court and examine the motives behind the crime.
 The YJS statement confirmed that the journalism community knew Al-Usaili as a talented journalist and contributor to many local newspapers before his murder.
 In a statement, Al-Nahar newspaper mourned the loss of the prominent writer and demanded that concerned parties hunt the perpetrators, capture them and refer them to court to be sentenced for their crime.
 The statement asserted that Al-Usaili



Abed Al-Usaili
 was killed for publishing a short article entitled, "The Country of Tribes Suffers," in the newspaper's June 22 issue No. 210. The piece criticized Al-Haima district officials for obstructing a water project underway in the area.
 Following a dispute about the water project, the tribe to which Al-Usaili belonged had reached a truce with another tribe and under this truce, their dispute was settled via reconciliation.
 Press sources affirmed that armed men observed Al-Usaili during the night and shot him dead over his critical article. Security authorities dispatched 16 police vehicles to the area where the incident occurred, but haven't arrested those involved in the crime because they are being harbored by influential Al-Haima officials.
Continued on page 2

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Protest urges UN action in Palestine



Demonstrators gather outside of the UN headquarters off Sittin Street to protest UN's lack of involvement in defending the Palestians. PHOTO BY YASER AL-MAYYASI

By: Yemen Times Staff
 SANA'A, July 4 — Thousands of Yemenis demonstrated in solidarity with Palestinians on Monday against violations and abuses of Israeli forces against civilians. Requesting backing

for Palestinians, the demonstration set out from Al-Saba'een Street and headed to the United Nations office in Sana'a.
 In a statement submitted to Mohamed Coheen, acting U.N. resident representative in Sana'a the U.N. representative in Sana'a demonstrators from

parties, political organizations and NGOs, as well as political and social personalities and Hamas and Fatah representatives, called for supporting Palestinians and requested halting aggressive military actions against them.

Chanting slogans in support of Palestinians, the demonstrators called for lifting the siege imposed by Israeli forces, freeing all abducted ministers and Legislative Council members caught by Israeli forces.
Continued on page 2

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Yemenis ignorant of election date, survey finds

By: Adel Al-Khawliani
 SANA'A, July 4 — According to a public opinion survey on Yemeni citizens' electoral awareness and elections participation, 75 percent do not know when the upcoming presidential and local elections will take place.
 The survey found that 74 percent prefer a man of good reputation to run for president in the upcoming election while 66.3 percent favor one who abides by

religious principles. Forty-eight percent say they'll support the candidate whose electoral program addresses issues associated with the country's poor living standards.
 Seventy-one percent of those sampled hold the view that poverty is the most persistent problem Yemen faces, followed by high unemployment and administrative and financial corruption.
 The survey indicated that 79.5 percent of Yemenis have reached legal voting

age and have voting cards; however, only two-thirds say they'll vote in upcoming presidential and local elections.
 Fifty-four percent of the nation-representative sample are of the opinion not to participate in September's presidential and local elections, predicting that the voting results are known in advance and there will be no strong competition. They complain of being dissatisfied with the candidates and are convinced

that the country's economic, political and social situations won't change.
 The survey revealed that voter turnout drops over time, as 43 percent of eligible voters mentioned that they didn't vote in the most recent elections, compared to 54 percent planning not to participate in upcoming elections because they are dissatisfied with the performance of their constituency representatives in Parliament and on local councils.
Continued on page 2

Coast Guard thwarts oil smuggling operation

By: Yemen Times Staff

AL-HODEIDAH, July 4 — An official at the Yemeni Coast Guard said that his forces were able to frustrate smugglers from sneaking more than 10,000 liters of oil outside of Yemen by intercepting a tanker some 50 km out of Al-Luhiah, a part of the governorate of Al-Hodeidah.

According to Al-Motamar.net, an online news service, the "coast guard intercepted a civil marine tank last Thursday, near Qutama Island," carrying oil. On board the tanker that was heading towards Africa, the Coast

Guard found 50 oil barrels, containing 200 liters of oil each.

The Coast Guard said that investigations are being made with the captain of the tanker and the two members of his crew the subject of inquiry. Meanwhile, the tanker has been impounded at Al-Luhiah's port, while its fate is referred to the relevant authorities.

Owing to its then low price in Yemen, thousand of liters of oil were smuggled to neighboring African countries over the last two decades. When the Yemeni government raised its price last year, smuggling opera-

tions began to decrease in frequency. The difficult economic situations in many African countries and the surge in oil prices have encouraged smuggling once again.

Formerly, opposition media and economists accused military and government bodies of supporting smuggling operations. Many speculated that smuggling operations were a result of the extra provisions allocated to some military personnel. Furthermore, those in charge of oil derivative storage facilities in coastal areas pilfer oil and its derivatives to compensate for their mediocre, official salaries they receive.

Sisters' Arab Forum calls for quota system

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, July 4 — In a statement distributed last Monday, the Sisters' Arab Forum (SAF), a human rights organization, called upon all feminist groups, NGOs, writers, and intellectuals to request that the Parliament Council to adopt a quota system and allocate a fixed number of chairs to women in the upcoming elections.

Meanwhile, the Parliament Council agreed to amend an article in the Elections Law, adding two members to the existing seven-member Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER). In a statement described as urgent, the Forum called for pressure to be

put on the Parliament Council to adopt a quota system of not less than 30 percent of seats for women. It also called for amending the electoral system, allowing more representatives for women and other marginalized groups.

The Forum emphasized the importance of having a quota system within the lists of the committees formed to run the upcoming elections. It also expressed its hope that parliament members, whether linked to partisan blocks or independent, will respond to these demands, particularly when the Parliament Council has amended Elections Law No. 41 of 1992 in accord with the latest agreement between the General People's

Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP).

Although a feminist coalition—comprising feminist elements of the GPC, the Reform party (Islah), and the Socialist and Nasserite Unionist parties—was formed in an attempt to amend the Election Law and allocate a quota of seats to women, promises made by the parties to apportion a certain percentage of posts for women in the local elections have grown fainter.

When GPC promises came to nothing at its seventh conference held at the end of 2005, the opposition justified its setback by suggesting that such an amendment can be made only if the GPC wishes to.

Journalists call for their syndicate's political neutrality

By: Yemen Times Staff

ADEN, July 4 — Journalists from Aden, Lahj, and Abyan discussed last Tuesday the situation of their syndicate currently enduring hard times because of irresponsible actions of the partisan group that controls the council of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS). According to them, the syndicate has gone far beyond the norms of journalism from issues concerning membership to financial corruption.

The journalists discussed the fate of their syndicate and reviewed the dossiers on candidates for position of chairman. They stressed the importance of transforming the extraordi-

nary meeting planned to be held on July 12 into an occasion to rebuild the syndicate in light of resolutions issued at the Third General Conference.

The news syndicate failed to recognize these resolutions, evoking the wrath of journalists across Yemen. Afterwards, journalists demanded the syndicate represent all Yemeni journalists in the future. They demanded that the syndicate be rebuilt on democratic principles with guarantees to ensure that corruption is limited. The group suggested creating a committee for control and inspection.

The group further asked that the syndicate not be politicized, saying that it should be free from political

influence. The meeting issued a statement that called for broader discussions during the extraordinary meeting July 12 not limited to the syndicate's election of a chairman. Examples of issues that the group called for discussion over include the expansion of the authority of local branches and the distribution of the central budget according to the number of members and activities at each branch.

A reliable source at the YJS belittled the importance of the statement as the meeting had not held at the YJS branch in Aden. The source said that, "It was made by a group of journalists, with an aim of targeting YJS," in an attempt to taint the organization.

African immigration hits five-year low

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, July 4 — An official source at the Refugees Commissariat in Sana'a said that illegal immigration of Africans petered off during the last month, reaching its lowest level in five years.

The number of illegal immigrants in Yemen did not exceed 11 persons last month, even though Somalia is troubled with war, which was previously the main cause for migration, according to an article in Yemen News. The source at the Refugees Commissariat said that the slowdown is attributable

to rough seas and a relatively high tide level that occurs from June to October.

The number of African immigrants reached 41 last June. The source said that the let up is on transitory and that inflow of immigrants to Yemen will increase once the season of high tides and rough seas ends in October.

Media training workshop ends

SANA'A — A media training series organized by the Yemen Female Media Forum and sponsored by the U.S.-based National Endowment for Democracy ended on June 27. Aimed at training workers in the news sector on gender-conscious reporting practices, the program consisted of six workshops that dealt with gender-equality.

Eleven trainers took part in the workshops, covering areas such as online journalism, communication skills, investigative reporting, news coverage, legislative awareness, and gender. Professor Enas AbuYusof, director of the Women and Media Research unit at Cairo University, supervised the workshop.



Prof. Enas AbuYusof

Civil society symposium wraps up



Participants discussing civil society issues.

YT PHOTO

SANA'A, July 3 — The symposium on Civil Society, Citizenship and Local Governance concluded Monday in Sana'a city. Jean Lambert, head of the French Center for Archeology and Social Sciences (CEFAS), described how the participants hope to establish an effective dialog, focused on objective discussion. He also said that the symposium was an essential step towards improvements at a national level.

Felix Eikenberg, Resident Representative of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Sana'a Office, was concerned that the meanings of the terms "civil society" and "citizenship" are not clear to those working in civil society fields. He noted that the FES

is however used to dealing with this terminology, having worked with civil society institutions as a social and political NGO.

In the opening session, the Minister of Human Rights Khadija Al-Haisami stressed the importance of civil society in Yemen and pointed out that its structure had gone through several phases. Al Haisami explained that the institutions of civil society came about during several historical phases, and that their existence was strengthened by the reunification of 1990.

Meanwhile, the French Ambassador to Yemen Alain Moureau affirmed Yemen is an exception and has peculiarities in its civil society.

Twenty experts from Europe and other Arab States participated in the Symposium titled "Civil Society, Citizenship and Local Governance in Yemen", organized by the CEFAS, in coordination with FES, Sana'a Office, and the Al-Afif Cultural Foundation. It ran for three days starting from July 1. During each of the five sessions, participants tackled issues related to the Yemeni civil society, including factors from the country's long and short term history, such as the central state and local powers; civil society and political expressions. During the fifth and final session, the discussion focused on the internal difficulties and external constraints faced by the civil society of Yemen today.

Continued from page 1

Saleh submits nomination documents to Parliament

The YLP statement recounted the dire situations Yemenis suffer, particularly economic conditions and public funds plundering, as well spreading corruption. Further, it said official media prides itself on freedom of opinion and expression, while it's not embodied in real life. The statement indicated that

the YLP calls on citizens to help it establish an Islamic caliphate.

Inequality alleged

In a press statement, Rasheeda Al-Qili, who showed an earlier intention to apply for president, questioned whether there are first-class and third-class nom-

inees. She also inquired as to why security officials allowed President Saleh to enter from the main gate to submit his application, while other candidates were forced to enter from the rear. She further added that she clings to her right to enter from the main gate or remain there until her demand is met.

Journalist's murder decried

Yemeni journalists denounced the incident and expressed concern over persistent threats posed to their profession, considering what happened to Al-Usaili a false uprising against the press and press members. The flagrant crime against Al-Usaili occurred during just a few weeks of calmness following a series of threats and violence against Yemeni media personnel.

Both past and recent years have

witnessed numerous abuses and attacks against Yemeni journalists. A booby-trapped envelope machinated against Al-Nahar Managing Editor Haje'e Al-Jehafi under cover of a letter sent from a prominent sheikh in Ibb was one such malicious incident targeting journalists.

Many also have suffered assaults, beatings, murder threats and defamation, including Hafez Al-Bukari and his wife Rahmah Hujaira, Al-Wasat Editor-in-Chief Jamal Amer and

Qied Al-Tairi, a reporter for Al-Thawri newspaper, which is run by the Yemeni Socialist Party. Others were tried or jailed for criticizing corrupt officials and influential sheikhs.

Despite the fact that Yemeni press members have been subjected to illegal and arbitrary practices, Al-Usaili's murder is the most flagrant and necessitates quick reaction and joint efforts by media institutions and human rights organizations.

Protest urges UN action in Palestine

Their statement called upon all political parties, organizations, NGOs and all Arab and Islamic peoples to stand by Palestinians via political activities, demonstrations and sit-ins. Additionally, they called for gathering aid and donations for Palestinians.

The statement further requested all Arab and Islamic governments,

represented by the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization, to activate their previous outcomes regarding the Palestinian issue.

For his part, acting U.N. resident representative Coheen expressed his concern about actions in Palestine, including violence, killings and displacement of Palestinians. He

further assured that he would relay the angry crowds' message to concerned U.N. officials.

Several political parties' leaders addressed the demonstrators, including Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani, chairman of Islah party's Shoura Council, Sultan Al-Barakani, chairman of the General People's Congress, and many others.

Yemenis ignorant of election date, survey finds

Asked about their family living standards, 21 percent of those sampled explained that they don't have enough money to buy food; 29 percent pointed out that they have money for food, but can't cover the costs of medicine and clothing and 32 percent said they have money for food and clothing, but nothing to spare, compared to only 13.6 percent who can spare some money or buy expensive things.

Results of the survey, conducted by Yemen Polling Center (YPC) and funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), were discussed in a seminar at Hadda Hotel Tuesday in the presence of political party representa-

tives and civil community organizations.

"The survey results are very important to different political parties and organizations interested in democracy because the Yemeni electoral process still is one of the most controversial issues at the local level and regionally," YPC President Hafez Al-Bukari said, addressing attendees.

He added that the political parties' controversy over the election's credibility is sharp due to the nature of Yemen's political regime, coupled with lack of electoral awareness among citizens.

"The upcoming elections are due to witness a totally different atmosphere

from what was perceived in previous polls, which is why the YPC felt it's very important to conduct such a public opinion survey," Al-Bukari continued.

The survey was conducted on a sampling of 100 respondents in six governorates: the capital of Sana'a, Sa'ada, Ibb, Taiz, Hodeidah and Hadramout, selected randomly, except for Sana'a, which was selected intentionally due to its significance and being home to those from various rural and urban areas.

Researchers grouped Yemen's governorates into five clusters: north, south, east, west and central, and one governorate was chosen randomly from each cluster using a computer program

Israel pledges rocket attack reprisals

Israel's prime minister has condemned a rocket attack on an Israeli city as an escalation of "unprecedented gravity" and says there will be reprisals.

"This [rocket] attack ... will have unprecedented, far-reaching consequences [and] the Hamas organisation will be the first to feel them," Ehud Olmert said.

The rocket struck a school in the centre of the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon on Tuesday evening, causing considerable damage but no casualties, the Israeli army said on Wednesday.

The armed wing of Hamas, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, has claimed responsibility for firing the rocket. Palestinian fighters frequently fire makeshift rockets into southern Israel. They are generally inaccurate and have a maximum range of about 12km.

However, the rocket fired in Wednesday's attack appeared to have a longer range than most previous ones, bringing the threat of rocket barrages to a large Israeli population centre for the first time.

Deadline passes

On Tuesday evening, Israeli aircraft



The Palestinian interior ministry was hit for the second time.

struck the Palestinian interior ministry for the second time in a week.

Rescue workers said at least four people were wounded in the strike and witnesses said a building next to the ministry was hit, causing some damage. Hamas controls the ministry, which has nominal authority over some Palestinian security forces.

Israeli aircraft also fired missiles at a Hamas camp in southern Gaza and a Hamas-affiliated university in Gaza City. No one was hurt in either incident. The attacks came hours after a deadline set by Palestinian fighters holding an Israeli soldier passed, with Israel rejecting demands to release Palestinian prisoners.

Fighters have been holding Corporal Gilad Shalit, 19, since June 25, when he was seized in a cross-border raid which left two Israeli soldiers and two Palestinian fighters dead.

Israel has responded with more than a week of air strikes and a large military force remains poised on the northern part of the Gaza Strip.

Source: Al-Jazeera.net



No one was hurt at the university in Gaza.

Outcry over N. Korea missile test

World powers have condemned North Korea for test-firing a series of missiles, including one thought capable of reaching the US.

The seven missiles included a long-range Taepodong-2, which the US said failed shortly after take-off.

The US called the tests "provocative", Japan announced a range of sanctions, and South Korea, Australia and Russia also expressed concern.

The UN Security Council is due to hold an emergency meeting on the crisis.

The closed session was requested by Japan, which plans to co-ordinate its response to the missile tests with the US and other countries.

Pyongyang remained defiant. A foreign ministry official said such launches were a matter of national sovereignty, Japanese media reported.

Correspondents say Pyongyang may see this action as a way to get attention

and break the diplomatic log jam over stalled talks on its nuclear capabilities.

Analysts said the firing - Pyongyang's first test of a long-range missile since a self-imposed moratorium in 1999 - would seriously damage prospects for talks.

Heightened alert

North Korea launched six of the missiles as the US celebrated its Independence Day holiday and launched the space shuttle from Florida.

According to US officials, the six earlier launches took place over a four-hour period, beginning at 0332 Japan time (1832 GMT Tuesday).

Among them was the Taepodong missile - thought capable of reaching Alaska. US officials said it failed shortly after take-off, while the others fell into the Sea of Japan.

The seventh missile launch came hours later, at 1722 Japan time (0822

GMT) according to local media reports.

Nato said the move "posed a serious threat to the region and the international community at large".

Australia, South Korea and Russia also expressed concern.

The US and North Korea's neighbours have been on heightened alert in recent weeks amid suspicions that Pyongyang was preparing to launch the Taepodong-2, which has a range of up to 6,000 km (3,730 miles).

The BBC's Charles Scanlon in Seoul says the North has been feeling under pressure and ignored in recent months, with the US refusing to negotiate on its demands over its nuclear plans.



The Taepodong-2 may be able to reach Alaska. AP

Six-nation negotiations have been being repeatedly postponed as neither Washington nor Pyongyang are prepared to give ground.

The last time North Korea tested a long-range missile was in 1998, when it launched a Taepodong-1 over northern Japan.

Source: BBC

Turkish Airlines official visits Yemen

SANA'A, July 4 — Lale Kaplan, Turkish Airlines Regional Manager, paid a two-day visit to Yemen during which she met with the company's sole agent in Yemen—Universal for Travel and Tourism. She visited other international airways' agents in the country as well.

While meeting with Universal, Kaplan discussed various issues at a workshop at the Shahrani Hotel, according to Omar Mohamed Omar, General Manager of the travel group.

Although Turkish Airlines initiated its business in Yemen in February, it has already gained the respect of hundreds of passengers and obtained a good reputation. The company looks forward to establishing distinctive relations with customers and official parties in the near future, Kaplan told the Yemen Times.

Turkish Airlines flies to more than 130 stations worldwide, utilizing the strategic location of Turkey at the center of the world. Turkey connects Yemen with Eastern and Western European countries and the U.S. with its fleet of more than 110 modern planes.

"Around 25 million tourists visited our country last year. And, I invite all Yemenis to visit nice Turkey, their second country, via our company that has been offering distinctive services for over 70 years," said Kaplan.



REPUBLIC OF YEMEN MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT SANA'A BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT – IDA CREDIT 3774 – YEM

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION – IFF NO. SBWMP 1/2006 Civil Works

CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF TEN (10) EXISTING RECHARGE DAMS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE (5) NEW RECHARGE DAMS

This invitation for prequalification follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business Issue No. 660 dated 16 August 2005).

The Government of the Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Sana'a Basin Water Management Project (SBWMP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit toward payments under the contract for the rehabilitation of 10 existing recharge dams and the construction of 5 new recharge dams, Contracts No. NCB W1/002, NCB W2/002. Interested Contractors may apply for prequalification for one or more of the contracts. Bidding will be governed by the World Bank's eligibility rules and procedures.

The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of Sana'a Basin Water Management Project (SBWMP) intends to pre-qualify contractors and/or firms for the following works

No	Description of Contract's	Contract No.
A - Construction of the following 5 new recharge dam and appurtenant works:		
1	Bahman (series of 2 m high check dams - 10 off)	NCB W1/002 a
2	Shib Al-Ma'adi (about 18 m high)	NCB W1/002 b
3	Al-Melaah (about 8 m high)	NCB W1/002 c
4	Al-Sinn (about 8 m high)	NCB W1/002 d
5	Beryan (about 25 m high dam)	NCB W1/002 e
B - Rehabilitation works for the following 10 existing recharge dams:		
1	Al-Masham (17 m high earthfill dam)	NCB W2/002 a
2	Eial-Hussein (16 m high earthfill dam)	NCB W2/002 b
3	Mahali (12 m high CFRD)	NCB W2/002 c
4	Beni Naji (11 m high earthfill dam)	NCB W2/002 d
5	Al-Hayathem (17 m high earthfill dam)	NCB W2/002 e
6	Arisha (13 m high earthfill dam)	NCB W2/002 f
7	Thumah (18 m high earthfill dam)	NCB W2/002 g
8	Al-Ja'ef (19 m high masonry dam)	NCB W2/002 h
9	Tozan (25 m high CFRD)	NCB W2/002 i
10	Al-Lujma (16 m high CFRD)	NCB W2/002 j

It is expected that invitations to bids will be made in the September, 2006.

Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines for Procurement under IBRD Loans and Credit, January 1995, revised January and August 1996, September 1997 and January 1999, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information, and inspect the prequalification documents, from the PCU of SBWMP at the address below from 08:30 AM to 14:30 PM on normal working days. A complete set of prequalification documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Yemeni Riyal 10,000. The method of payment will be cash only. The document can be collected from the address below.

Applications for prequalification should be submitted in clearly marked envelopes and delivered to the address below at **12:00 Noon of July 30th, 2006** and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for NCB No. W1&2/002 (CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF TEN (10) EXISTING RECHARGE DAMS AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE (5) NEW RECHARGE DAMS. Component 2 - Supply Management and Recharge Improvement Project". Late applications will be rejected.

Ministry of Water and Environment
Sana'a Basin Water Management Project
Attn: Eng. Mohamed Harmal, Project Director, SBWMP
PO Box 11014,
Western 60 M. Road - Sana'a ROY
Tel: +967 1 469159/6/7
Fax: +967 1 469158
E-mail: sbwmp@y.net.ye

الجمهورية اليمنية وزارة المياه والبيئة مشروع إدارة مياه حوض صنعاء

دعوة لتأهيل مقاولين لتنفيذ أعمال مدنية لإنشاء عدد خمسة سدود جديدة وترميم عدد عشرة سدود قديمة في منطقة حوض صنعاء - دعوة تأهيل رقم (SBWMP 1/2006)

تعتبر هذه الدعوة الخاصة بتأهيل مقاولين لتنفيذ الأعمال المدنية المذكورة أعلاه إلحاقاً للدعوة الأولية المنشورة في مجلة التنمية التابعة للأمم المتحدة في العدد رقم (١٦) خلال شهر أغسطس ٢٠٠٥م

حصلت الجمهورية اليمنية على قرض من هيئة التنمية الدولية لمواجهة نفقات مشروع إدارة مياه حوض صنعاء قرض تنموي رقم (٣٧٧٤ يمن) وسيتم استخدام جزء من عائدات القرض لمواجهة تكاليف إنشاء عدد خمسة سدود جديدة وترميم عدد عشرة سدود قديمة في منطقة حوض صنعاء للمناقضتين رقم (NCB W1/002, NCB W2/002) وعليه تدعو وحدة تنسيق المشروع الشركات والمقاولين المتخصصين في تنفيذ المنشآت المائية والأعمال المدنية المماثلة لتقديم طلباتهم للمشاركة في عملية التأهيل لتنفيذ أي من أو بعض العقود المذكورة أدناه وهي:-

رقم المناقصة / العقد	المناقصة	م
	بناء عدد خمسة سدود جديدة في منطقة حوض صنعاء كما يلي:-	١-
NCB W1/002 A	سد بهمان - نهم	١
NCB W1/002 B	سد شعب المعادي - نهم	٢
NCB W1/002 C	سد الملاح - بني حشيش	٣
NCB W1/002 D	سد السن - بني حشيش	٤
NCB W1/002 E	سد بريان - بني حشيش	٥
	ترميم عدد عشرة سدود قائمة في منطقة حوض صنعاء كما يلي:-	ب-
NCB W2/002 A	سد المشام - أرحب	١
NCB W2/002 B	سد عيال حسين - نهم	٢
NCB W2/002 C	سد محلي - نهم	٣
NCB W2/002 D	سد بني ناجي - نهم	٤
NCB W2/002 E	سد الهياثم - نهم	٥
NCB W2/002 F	سد عريشة - نهم	٦
NCB W2/002 G	سد نومة - نهم	٧
NCB W2/002 H	سد الجايف - همدان	٨
NCB W2/002 I	سد طوظان - همدان	٩
NCB W2/002 J	سد اللجمة - بني بهلول	١٠

وستتم عملية التأهيل الأولي وإجراءات المناقصات وفقاً لدليل إجراءات البنك الدولي. وتعتبر العملية مفتوحة لجميع الشركات والمقاولين المهتمين المحليين والأجانب من الدول الأعضاء في البنك الدولي. ويمكن للشركات والمقاولين المهتمين الحصول على مزيد من البيانات والمعلومات من مقر وحدة تنسيق مشروع إدارة مياه حوض صنعاء المبين في العنوان المبين أدناه خلال ساعات الدوام الرسمي. كما يمكن شراء وثائق التأهيل الأولي (باللغة الانجليزية) ولجميع المواقع من مقر وحدة تنسيق مشروع إدارة مياه حوض صنعاء مقابل مبلغ لا يرد وقدره (١٠٠٠٠ ريال) فقط عشرة آلاف ريال لاغير نقداً. وآخر موعد لتسليم طلبات وثائق التأهيل وهو نفسه موعد فتح المظاريف يوم الأحد الموافق ٢٠٠٦/٧/٣٠م في تمام الساعة الثانية عشرة ظهراً. ولن تقبل أي طلبات تأهيل ترد بعد هذا الموعد.

عنوان المشروع:- شارع الستين الغربي - ص.ب. رقم (١١٠١٤) صنعاء
تلفون رقم: (٠٠٩٦٧-١-٤٦٩١٥٩/٦/٧)، فاكس رقم: (٠٠٩٦٧-١-٤٦٩١٥٨)
بريد الإلكتروني: bwmp@y.net.ye

Republic of Yemen
Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank
Sana'a, Head-office

International Tender Notice TENDER NO.:01/2006/CACBANK

- 1) The Republic of Yemen has received a Grant from the Government of the United State of America (USA) towards the cost of the "FY 2003 Food for Progress" and intends to apply part of the Grant proceeds towards eligible payments under the contract for consulting services for the upgrading and modernization of the Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank (CACBANK)
- 2) The Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank (CACBANK) invites qualified international consultants with a minimum experience of not less than ten years in restructuring of Banks and financial institutions, and shall submit their sealed bids for the following services:
 - a) To enhance CACB's management by possible identifying of three strategic hires for senior management positions and evaluating current staff, responsibilities and staffing levels;
 - b) To propose improvements to CACB's organizational structure;
 - c) To assess the strength of CACB's capital accounts in terms of present capital adequacy and future growth, evaluate new sources of capital, and formulate a plan to develop the existing public/private relationship;
 - d) To prepare a detailed plan to strengthen CACB earnings;
 - e) To review the CACB risk management system and make recommendations to bring it in line with industry norms and best practices;
 - f) To evaluate CACB's new accounting system for functionality and efficiency and propose an effective disaster recovery plan;
 - g) To review CACB's lending strategy and design work plans that will improve training, procedures, quality and oversight;
 - h) To design a multi-year strategy for CACB's banking activities; including rural sector and agricultural lending aiming to improve lending and minimize existing and future risks; and
 - i) To propose a methodology for assessing new product offerings and suggesting additional product offerings with a high likelihood of success.
 - j) The consultant shall carry-out a financial market survey to collect the required information and data in order to assess the level of liquidity available, new products demand, target groups, etc, to enable CACB to exercise different future banking activities.
 - k) The consultant shall look into the possibility of opening an Islamic window at branch level as part of CACB future products.
- 3) Consultants shall submit proposals for all of the tasks generally described above. Proposals will be evaluated based on both Quality and Cost, and compensation will be on a lump sum basis.
- 4) Interested Consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services for all of the project tasks.
- 5) Documents shall be purchased at below address on submission of a written application for non-refundable fee of US\$ 2000 (two thousand dollars), plus US\$ 100 for the courier charges for overseas delivery (if required) from the following address:

Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank
Saba Square – Head office
Sana'a- Republic of Yemen
P.O.BOX 2015 or 2850
Tel: (+967)-1-220089/ / (+967)-1-563810
Fax: (+967)-1-220088/ 220105
E-mail: cacbank@y.net.ye
- 6) Bids shall be accompanied by a bid security of a minimum of USD (\$20,000) or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency and valid for a period of 120 days.
- 7) Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days from date of submission and shall be delivered in sealed bids to the address mentioned above on or before 10:00 noon, Sunday 17th September 2006, late bids will be rejected and returned to bidders.

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More Than a Trip: Students gain first hand experience of business in Europe

By: Abdul Kazi

“Besides visiting and exploring top companies in the trip, making new friends and strong relations with the students was the most valuable thing for me” – Salem Al Ameeri says, one of the Yemeni students in the group.

30 students from the School of Business & Management (SBM) at the American University of Sharjah (AUS) recently returned from a 2 week Business Study Tour to Switzerland & Germany. The students belonged to different nationalities and backgrounds, creating a rich mix of cultures. Some were from India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Syria, Algeria, Saudia Arabia, UAE, and Yemen.

Carol Houser, Director of International Programs at AUS has been organizing these successful study tours for the past 6 years. “The study tours are one of the most beneficial activities the student can participate in. Students are able to see how what they have been learning about in their class is put into action. They are able to meet with Presidents, Vice Presidents and other top level management of some of the biggest companies in the world,” says Carol.

The group visited European headquar-



Students at Proctor & Gamble in Geneva, Switzerland.

ters of Daimler Chrysler, Oracle, Schindler, Proctor & Gamble, Credit Suisse, Swiss ReInsurance, Siemens and Motorola. The top management of these companies met with the group and presented an overview of the company, their products and their position in marketplace since foundation. Students gained vital information about the companies and learnt how business is practiced in real life. The students then had the opportunity to interact with these top level executives and questioned them about various strategies and issues in their respective companies.

Apart from serious meetings, the students had many cultural visits such as Linderhof and Neuschwanstein Castles, Deutches museum, and the Jungfrau Mountain. The students showed a lot of interest in learning about the history during their visits. The visit to Jungfrau Mountain in Switzerland was filled with excitement and fun. For most of them, it was the first time they had seen snow in their life.

This was a compact

trip including everything it could in the limited time. It gave the students a preview of the future by visiting the companies and a short synopsis of the past with the cultural visit. Other than that the students learnt to live independently and gained a lot of knowledge about Europe which they would not have learnt without such visits.

Other study tours conducted by AUS are to Florida during the spring semester, and one to Japan/Hong Kong during the fall. Every year students wait eagerly to sign up for the study tours which are one of the most important activities at AUS.

The study tour does not only end with the visit outside the country. Before leaving for the study tour, the students have to write a report which includes brief overview of all the different companies and cities they will visit. It is counted as a course for the students, where they gain 3 credits for it with follow up classes once they return and a visit to some of the local branches of the companies they visited abroad. In addition they write another final report and submit it on the last day of class, which includes what they learnt from each place they visited.

Amal Al-Ashtal, another Yemeni student says “The trip was an eye-opener. Visiting those leading companies broadened my perspective of the business world, extending beyond textbooks and lectures.”



Yemeni Students at Credit Suisse in Zurich, Switzerland. (Left to right: Mohammed Shamsan, Sameeha Hamada, Dr. Alex Widmer-CEO of Private Banking division of Credit Suisse, Amal Al-Ashtal, and Saleem Al-Ameeri)

Jibla Hospital – then and now

Jibla Hospital formerly was run by foreigners, but the government took over its operation in 2002, resulting in deteriorating administration.

By: Nashwan Dammaj

Spending more than 40 years at the hospital, the Baptist Association announced the end of its services and activities in Jibla city. As a missionary movement, the association established the hospital in the American style, in a way different from the performance of other public hospitals. During these years, the hospital was dedicated to caring for the elderly and orphans in both Ibb and Taiz governorates.

In 2002, Abdul-Razzak Kamil shot and killed physician Martha Myers, 57, hospital administrator William Koehn, 60, and business manager Kathleen Gariety, 53; while the Yemeni government took responsibility of the hospital. These two incidents (the three killings and government control of the hospital) initiated another phase: locals believed and still believe the hospital certainly will deteriorate, especially since it has become state-run.

Locals maintained that like other public hospitals, Jibla Hospital would last only six months or a year at best. For them, only good administration – whether foreign or local – can run the hospital. Four years have elapsed, during which the state-run hospital witnessed tension between it and Ibb governorate’s Health Bureau (HB).

Hospital administration regarded the HB’s decisions as a breach of the hospital’s order. It insisted on not allowing the HB to interfere in its internal affairs, which meant rejecting the HB’s decisions.

Disagreement

Disagreement between the hospital and the HB can be summarized in terms of money and staff workers.

Hospital revenues reached YR 67 million, 100 million and 140 million riyals in 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively. Such revenues were spent in the hospital’s



interest, as evidenced in medical equipment, medicine, etc.; thus, allocating part of the revenues for the HB seemed illogical to hospital administration.

On the other hand, the HB sent health workers to work at the hospital, but hospital administration rejected them, justifying that the hospital had sufficient workers.

Such disagreements led to sensitivities between HB head Dr. Amin Al-Rabyei and Jibla Hospital head, Dr. Abdul-Karim Hasan. Many said both men were dissatisfied with each other. However, Hasan was dismissed four years later and replaced by Dr. Abdullah Al-Matari.

Many locals and hospital staffers weren’t surprised at Hasan’s dismissal, as they expected the situation would end that way. However, what seemed strange to them was that he was detained at political security detention for five days without anyone knowing about it.

Jibla locals believe Hasan wasn’t dismissed due to poor performance, incompetence or failure. In fact, his stance against the HB’s funding demands from the hospital and in support of the Baptist physicians working there helped them discover the enormity of a man’s sticking to his stance in a country governed by intelligence apparatuses.

Dismissal

Two months ago, Hasan was invited to attend an urgent May 6 meeting at the governorate office, not expecting he would receive his ousting decision in an insulting manner. The meeting came three days after Japan’s ambassador visited Jibla Hospital to offer in-kind assistance to it. Ibb’s vice-governor also appreciated the hospital’s services, so such events were testimonies to the advancement of the hospital’s success.

However, during the meeting headed by Ibb governor Ali Al-Qaisi, Hasan was surprised by a handbill Jibla’s religious scholars allegedly released against him. According to those attending the meeting, Al-Qaisi didn’t name any particular religious scholar as he read it. The supposed handbill read, “The head of Jibla Hospital had relations with the Christians, who still exercise their missionary activities with his knowledge.” Therefore, the religious scholars supposedly requested his immediate dismissal from the hospital; otherwise, they threatened to kill him, as happened to the three foreigners Kamil killed. He was executed earlier this year as punishment for this crime. Jibla religious scholars denied issuing a handbill against Hasan.

The same sources (those attending the meeting) affirmed that Hasan had only two alternatives. He must be dismissed from the hospital, while the HB and governorate leadership would keep the matter secret without making the handbill public. The second alternative was for Hasan officially and immediately to dispense with the services of current Baptist Association physicians working at the hospital and return them to their countries.

In response, Hasan replied during the meeting that such a task (deporting the physicians) was for concerned authorities legally authorized to take such action against them. “I have no other alternative,” he added, meaning his dismissal. The hospital’s official reason for his dismissal is what was stated in the supposed handbill.

A few hours later, Political Security apparatus detained Hasan, while news of his dismissal – supposed to be kept secret – similarly was disclosed publicly. He since has been released.



International Finance Corporation
World Bank Group

The International Finance Corporation is a member of the World Bank Group promoting sustainable private sector investment in developing countries to reduce poverty and improve people’s life. In the framework of its Technical Assistance to Yemen, IFC is launching a Business Start-Up Simplification Project aiming to map and redesign business start-up procedures, train and build capacities of civil servants working in business registration and licensing to make the process time- and cost-efficient, thus fostering dynamic growth of the country’s private sector.

In relations to this project, immediate vacancies exist at the IFC Office in Sana’a for the following positions for the period of 18 months initially, eligible for renewal.

Two **Project Analysts**, one based in Sana’a and one in Aden (please indicate your preferred location when submitting an application):

The applicant is expected to meet the following requirements:

- Advanced degree in business, development or other related field.
- At least three years of relevant professional experience, preferably involved in private sector or economic development.
- Native knowledge of Arabic and excellent spoken and written English.
- Excellent computer skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- Ability to work independently and proactively.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to work in unstructured environment.

The incumbent will perform the following duties:

- Conduct various technical desk and field researches. Assist in conducting some of the mapping and survey tasks by researching relevant information.
- Closely coordinate consultants’ inputs and provide guidance and introductions to key stakeholders.
- Support the Project Officer in establishing working groups with the institutional counterpart staff and private sector representatives.
- Ensure constant integration and information flow between the project offices in Sana’a and Aden.
- Ensure constant working relationships with the Administrative Modernization and Simplification Project and its team.
- Draft project notes and concept papers.
- Participate in specific research work on international best practices in the business regulatory field in close coordination with IFC staff in Cairo office.
- Provide research and analytical support in monitoring outputs and impact indicators in coordination with the Project Officer.
- Support the Project Officer in drafting a brief monthly report including key project development issues in Sana’a and Aden.
- Assist in designing public awareness-raising campaigns at each project stage.
- Liaise with staff of the counterpart authorities and of the donor organizations in Yemen.

Project Officer based in Sana’a:

The applicant is expected to meet the following requirements:

- Advanced academic degree in Business Administration, Economics, Law or related field.
- 6-8 years of relevant TA experience including at least 3 years in a similar managerial position, preferably in the field of business enabling environment.
- Knowledge of and practical experience in similar TA projects.
- Preferably, previous experience in interaction with Yemeni senior civil servants and knowledge and understanding of the Yemeni private sector.
- Solid track record in managing and motivating teams with proven capacity to lead, organize and delegate.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English; fluency in Arabic is a must.
- Capacity to deliver high-quality work under pressure.

The incumbent will perform the following duties:

- Provide input to the project initial design and work plan, manage the project on a day-to-day basis, and conduct the project’s exit strategy.
- Oversee program implementation and reporting, including procurement, budget management, quality control and service delivery. Ensure high management standards on monitoring and evaluation procedures.
- Build strong relationships with senior government officials, primarily, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and GIA, the Free Zone Authority, and the private sector, to increase their “buy-in” and their understanding of objectives and support to the project.
- Establish coordination between stakeholders (i.e. information dissemination, set up and modernization of working groups, etc) with the primary objective of committing the concerned institutions to the streamlining and redesigning of procedures and developing their ownership of emerging solutions and reform, proposals.
- Oversee all areas of technical assistance delivery through local and international consultants, including mapping, re-engineering, system automation and civil servants’ training.
- Undertake field missions on a need basis to support awareness initiatives of business start-up simplification in MENA countries.
- Closely coordinate with fellow IFC colleagues operating in the same country to ensure full coordination of all assistance activities.
- Collaborate with IFC Monitoring and Evaluation staff to monitor impact indicators from the onset of the program to its completion.

All World Bank staff share the Core Values of high personal integrity, commitment, teamwork, openness and trust, empowering others and respecting differences.

For full consideration, please submit your letter of application clearly indicating the position accompanied by the CV attention: Office Administrator before July 25 via e-mail: WBYemen@worldbank.org
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Football requires freedom to flourish

The scene was repeated more than once with the beginning of the World Cup Finals. In their syndicate, thousands of journalists gathered with their eyes glued to a screen that showed the World Cup competition in Germany. Suddenly, the power cut off, and in a dark atmosphere, viewers vented their rage by badmouthing the Ministry of Electricity and the government which could not supply the capital with good electrical transformers, even during the World Cup.

One of the viewers shouted and announced that he had discovered a suitable resolution: to call the electrical station and tell them to put the power back on because journalists were having a meeting. The lie was not sufficient, as the group of journalists soon thought that employees at the electrical station might be sitting in front of television screen too.

Huge crowds sitting in front of screens are the result of the World Cup only being available on a pay-per-view basis, which has deprived millions of people from enjoying the event. Huge screens have been set up by the gov-



By: Mustafa Rajeh

ernment, in addition to other screens in syndicates, associations, and clubs. The monopoly over the distribution of the World Cup matches have created opportunities for satellite engineers to make money by using an African channel which is airing the event live instead of paying for the rights. Viewers, however, cannot understand the commentary since it is in a different language. Many say that enjoying the match is the purpose of watching, so there is no need for the commentary, which is not often good in any case.

Football commentary requires art and creativity, culture and capacity to avoid boredom on the part of millions of viewers. During the game pitting Argentina against Serbia, the excitement was high due to individual skills and distinctive performance of the Argentinean team. With each goal, viewers would turn their faces towards one another shocked by the style of the Tunisian commentator Essam Al-Shawali. Often, his comments were better than Argentina's performance.

We all know that football is the most

popular game in the world, but what we have seen over the past weeks has revealed that there is an exceptional adoration of the game on the part of Yemenis. This is traceable to the previous World Cup finals in Korea and Japan where stands were often empty of fans, matches were often weak with unconvincing performances, and games were usually played at noon Yemeni time. People in Yemen favor viewing matches during qat sessions that usually start in the afternoon.

Watching the World Cup on a pay-per-view basis have forced people to enjoy the event in groups, creating an electric atmosphere places like Al-Dherafi Stadium and Al-Sab'een Park. On all these counts, one can say that this World Cup is better in terms of organization, follow-up, and enjoyment. The days to come should prove this as the strong teams appear to be playing at their peak and the tournament involves several brilliant stars.

The most important thing is that football has learned to prefer individual skills and creativity as demonstrated by Ronaldinho, Kaka, Missie, Ricardo and others. In the past, creativity and a quick pace often conflicted with a coach's plans and tactics. But, football escaped the downsides of a coach's plans, which deny fans the right to

enjoy the game.

The ugly and depressive voices that used to criticize football and its fans in past tournaments have disappeared. In other words, these voices became isolated to some media outlets where free-thinkers hold the view that football shifts people's attention away from national issues.

I still remember a writer, who criticized the game four years ago saying that the World Cup is a futile event. There is no wonder that sporting activities should not be an alternative to people's interests, as sport is a culture and an exciting profession constituting one of the limitations in the human economic activities.

Football can prosper only in a free atmosphere and freedom is the key to everything. No sporting activities can flourish in an oppressive community that imposes restrictions on individuals, and therefore hinders the discovery of talented athletes. For football to flourish, it requires an atmosphere similar to that made out of a former taxi driver, a coach the quality of Beckerman for the Argentinean team and the shoemaker Lula a president for Brazil.

Mustafa Rajeh is a Yemeni journalist and human rights activist

Of goats and wolves

President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced his decision last July not to run for president in this September's elections, many senior government officials who were in attendance shouted: "No... no." In reply, Saleh said, "No need for exaggeration, I am



By: Ali Al-Sarari

fed up with me." Saleh's decision aroused widespread interest in the region and many Arab writers went on encouraging the president to implement his decision until the end, while others were cautious, expecting that Saleh will behave like other Arab presidents: reversing his decision as a response to the will of the public, who say "we will accept no alternative to Saleh." The president gave directives preventing government employees and ruling party members from staging demonstrations with the chant: "With soul, with blood, we protect you Ali." But the directives failed to prevent ruling party leaders from issuing contradictory declarations, some of them gracing television screens and the pages of newspapers. They warned that the decision to run is not Saleh's, rather it is his party's and that members of the General People's Congress (GPC) will force him to stay in power. One of the official daily papers placed a prominent slogan on its front page reading, "For the first time, the public say 'No for President,'" meanwhile its editor has shown no fear of any consequence. Over the past 15 years, Yemeni authorities have shown interest in the political experiences of other countries, demonstrating tendencies toward democracy and vowing more political reforms. They have battled shrewdly to renew their legitimacy, a necessity unnecessary in other Arab countries.

Meanwhile, the authorities failed to persuade the international community that Yemen is an exception and is different from the Arab norm, characterized by authoritarian control and oppression. With the passage of time, the shrewd political maneuvers of authorities in Yemen have descended into meaningless tactics to remain in power without any concrete action on moving toward democratic transformation. The authorities, however, have not endeavored to cure their failures by taking practical steps to rescue the democratic experiment in Yemen from recession and stagnation. This failure can be attributed to the depletion of their political analysis skills. So, the situation led these authorities to borrow the Arab typology, which is based on renewing the legitimacy of the ruler through the use of propaganda instead of relying on public participation to generate the ruler's legitimacy. Ordering people to demonstrate and insisting on President Saleh to renege on his decision is a facile manner of negotiating politics in Yemen

that is well-known in other Arab countries. Saleh's decision made last July has changed into another cause of embarrassment with the passage of time. To overcome the condition, the Yemeni authorities need exceptional cures, which are the rarest of the kind. Without any authentic evidence, Arab regimes usual-

ly claim that they enjoy support of the public; meanwhile, weak opposition parties cannot reduce the value of such alleged support. Opposition parties are capable of influencing voters to compete against the authorities which use allegation as a means of gaining profit. In Yemen, there are dozens of opposition parties that are hiding in secret venues at security apparatuses. Therefore, they were handed the task of pushing for Saleh to retract his decision. They lack, however, the necessary skill to play a convincing role. The ruling party leaders seem worried over disputes with the allocation of money from their party's financial department. A few days ago, some prominent GPC leaders felt disappointed with the use of pliant opposition parties, as the leaders of these parties quarreled with each other at the GPC's Permanent Committee over the money owed to them. The unique Yemeni style in demonstrating the support Saleh enjoys will not survive unless a real opposition plays a key role in the ploy, but GPC attempts to win opposition support went awry. These attempts succeeded only in co-opting the Baath Party, led by Qasem Sallam, a fact leading GPC media to promote Sallam's statements just days after he quit the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP).

As GPC attempts failed to attract the JMP to back Saleh in this case, a new ploy of attributing statements to many opposition leaders failed to convince the public that Saleh would be the national consensus candidate and that the opposition was the chief party insisting on Saleh to back out on his much-discussed decision. Amid this pile of failures, the ploy metastasized into the private sector. A committee of businessmen known to have good relations with the opposition parties announced its plan to convince Saleh to run for president and collect one billion Yemeni Riyals for his electoral campaign.

As these businessmen are not nouveau riche who have become prosperous thanks to their relations with authorities, which are exploited for influence and illegal benefits, the matter fails to arouse curiosity. Instead, it leads to doubts. Tell me, when were goats at the service of the wolf? When have goats felt safe with wolves?

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni Socialist Party.

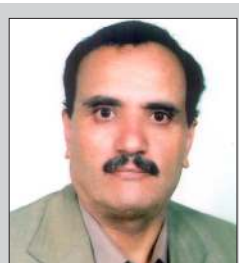
Yemen political attitudes guarantee better relations

The Yemeni leadership has emerged as a well-known model in the region for its successful political tactics in consolidating co-relationships with neighboring countries, based on its complementary role in enhancing partnership and security throughout the entire region.

Modern Yemen attributes the set-up of its effective government to the political experience of President Saleh, who has systematically stabilized the country's political regime.

One of the most essential norms of the current political system is that it is based on the people's absolute will and freedom of choice for their leadership. This governing regime is in total harmony with the different constituents of civil society and is well-implemented to monitor people's affairs, freedoms, rights and relations in terms of the rules and regulations as specified by Yemeni law.

It was a great achievement that Yemen had defined clearly its bound-



By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

aries enabling it to establish a better security condition internally as well as externally, that is with other countries.

Yemen is indebted to President Saleh for the role he played during the pre-unification era in Yemen, in molding the political structure of the country and, in collaboration with other pro-unity supporters, in achieving Yemen's reunification and in safeguarding it against further conspiracies of secessionism.

Having ensured the political stability inside the country, firstly, the President was concerned with settling the long-standing issues of boundaries with adjacent countries and enabled the completion of boundary agreements with both the Sultanate of Oman and Saudi Arabia. This step was essential in eliminating any possibility of escalating tensions between the neighboring countries. The agreement further enhanced the relationship between Yemen and both Oman and Saudi Arabia, which resulted in fruitful yields for the people of the three countries.

The finalization of the border agree-

ments has enabled the concerned parties to cooperate in fighting terrorism, monitoring trade movement, and combating smuggling over the borders, and furthermore the agreement enhanced the stability and security of the whole region.

Secondly, the President has wisely responded to the issue of conflict between Yemen and Eritrea over Hunaish Island by resorting to international mediation. This approach has cut off all foreign plots and interfering attempts aimed at fuelling the differences between Yemen and Eritrea at that time. By adhering to the arbitration judgment over this issue, both sides have evaded falling into the trap of a series of conflicts that might have had bloody and destructive consequences.

Thirdly, the Yemeni leadership has realized that the area of Bab Al-Mandab and the Horn of Africa has long remained a strategic target for foreign powers.

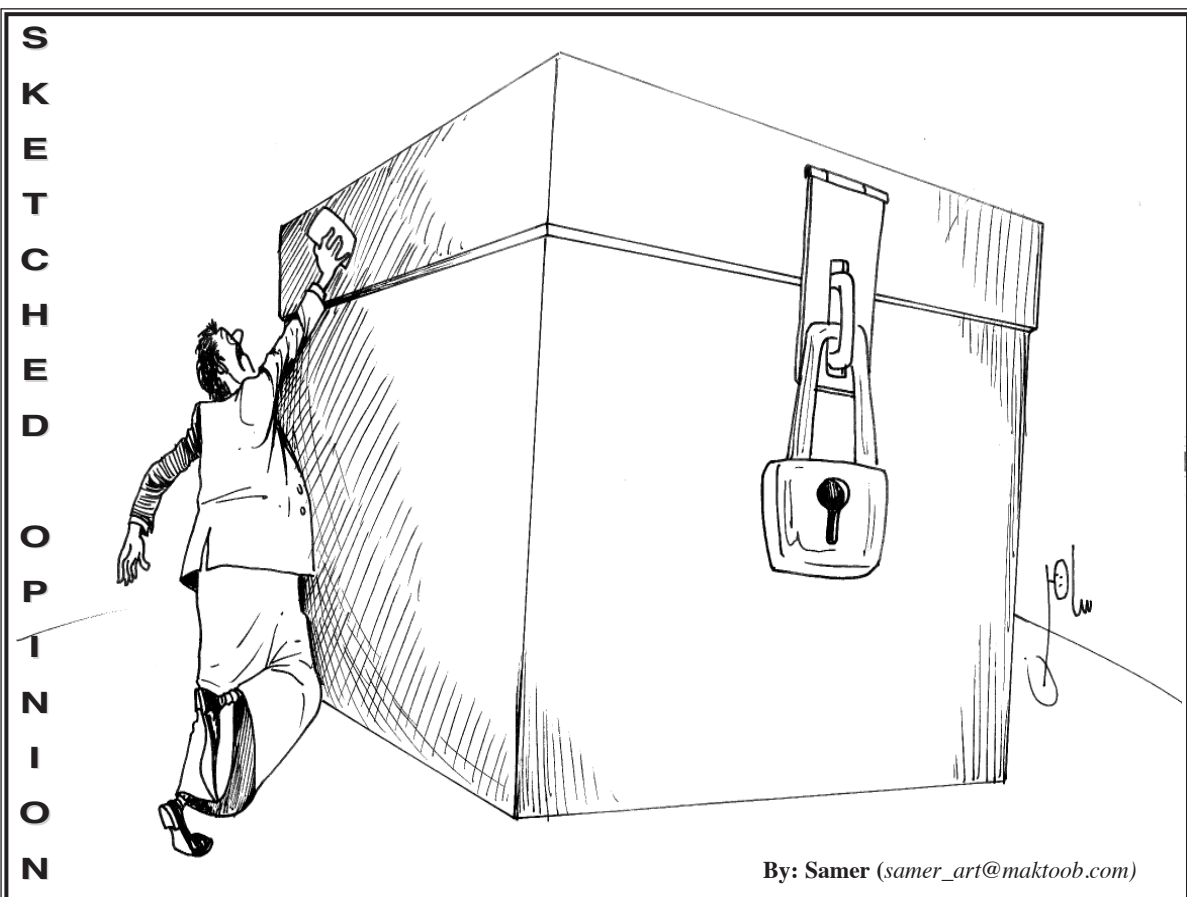
With this in mind the Yemen has exerted all possible diplomatic efforts to bridge any rift between countries in that area. Yemen has contributed in reducing conflicts between both Sudan and Eritrea, and Ethiopia and Eritrea, in addition to its attempts to aid a compro-

mise between rival factions in Somalia. President Saleh has considered this the duty of the Yemeni diplomacy as part of its role in maintaining the stability and security of the region.

With regard to Yemen's relations with the Gulf States, the Yemeni government has adopted all means of speeding up the economic integration with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and not only to search for financial support and aid as many might mistakenly believe. Yemen's relations with the Gulf have experienced a remarkable advancement and transition to the point of full commercial and economic partnership which serves the mutual interests for all those concerned.

In conclusion, this political vision of President Saleh has been highly admired and acclaimed in the region, in light of the President's continuous efforts to tackle the inter-Arab differences, and his constant calls on the international community to play their impartial role in solving all the tangled issues and conflicts in the region, which would ultimately restore stability, peace, and security in the region.

Ismail Al-Ghabri is a Yemeni journalist, working in Yemen Times for almost 14 years.



By: Samer (samer_art@maktoob.com)

Letters to the Editor

The chimera of democracy

Democracy is a system of government that calls for every citizen in a country to be able to vote so as to elect their government officials. Yet in Yemen we define democracy as a play in which the president acts like he doesn't want the presidency but tells the nation to compel him to stand for elections again, just because he is driven by the desire to get reelected. Over the past 44 years, the country has thought that it has made great advances since the revolution. It seems, however, like nothing has changed.

How can we trust a man that can't make his mind up? Have we forgotten that a nation should totally trust its president? Our leader makes rickety decisions, but he remains stable in his lucrative position. Our government is trying to tell the whole world that a false belief may nevertheless be justified. In other words, the illusion of 'democracy' is under our president, is better than no democracy at all.

I say, let's just call Yemen a kingdom and have a royal life. At least then we wouldn't have to lie to each other about living in a democracy.

Shatha Ja'afar A'abass
pinklady007200@yahoo.com

About Al-Khour in Mukalla

I am interested indeed in visiting Mukalla. Twice I have edited articles of this area and it sounds very progressive in many ways. I disagree with the Lecturer at the end of the article; because Al-Khour has taken out a potential health risk with the sewage dumping ground; it has given incentives for some social changes- families and couples that can have a space to come to - and opening it up for tourism. That means generating money that can be applied to the other projects. There has to be a balance; and many who advocate for projects forget that certain supposedly non-priority projects actually go a long way to alleviate hidden problems that would blossom over time and create serious issues...that sewage would have put Mukalla citizens at risk for Malaria, Dengue and other contagious diseases. New social involvement of families is a social service... in this case it is free.

Entertainment in the Middle East is highly underrated. Everyone pre-suppos-

es that people should not enjoy the life The Creator has given them; which is a shame and waste of valuable human material. A student who meets with a group of fellows to study in the open will probably have a better grade than the one cramped up at home hearing his mother yelling at the rest of the household... Look to the universities in Europe; and America... greenery and parks are an expected part of life on campus. You just have to have those peaceful places to study. And speaking of schools; even here in the US we have second and even third shift schools. No one with the amount of population could actually believe only one shift schools work. In the Universities and high schools across the US people go to school at all hours; from as early as 7:00 am to as late as 10:00 pm and every day of the weekend for those that work full time; or are on Work-Study programs... I believe the lecturer should get out into the world and smell the coffee; the rest of the world is doing the same thing as Mukalla...one step at a time, but definitely in the right direction.

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The World Health Organisation report 2006: Working together for health (3/6)

The World Health Report 2006 - Working together for health contains an expert assessment of the current crisis in the global health workforce and ambitious proposals to tackle it over the next ten years, starting immediately. The report reveals an estimated shortage of almost 4.3 million doctors, midwives, nurses and support workers worldwide. The shortage is most severe in the poorest countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where health workers are most needed. Focusing on all stages of the health workers' career lifespan from entry to health training, to job recruitment through to retirement, the report lays out a ten-year action plan in which countries can build their health workforces, with the support of global partners.

Strategies: working lifespan of entry-workforce-exit
In tackling these world health problems, the workforce goal is simple - to get the right workers with the right skills in the right place doing the right things! - and in so doing, to retain the ability to respond to crises, to meet current gaps, and to anticipate the future.

Getting the mix right: challenges to health workforce production

A blueprint approach will not work, as effective workforce strategies must be matched to a country's unique history and situation. Most workforce problems are deeply embedded in changing contexts, and they cannot be easily resolved. These problems can be emotionally charged because of status issues and politically loaded because of divergent interests. That is why workforce solutions require stakeholders to be engaged in both problem diagnosis and problem solving.

This report lays out a "working lifespan" approach to the dynamics of the workforce. It does so by focusing on strategies related to the stage when people enter the workforce, the period of their lives when they are part of the workforce, and the point at which they make their exit from it. The road map (see Figure 4) of training, sustaining and retaining the workforce offers a worker perspective as well as a systems approach to strategy. Workers are typically concerned about such questions as: How do I get a job? What kind of education do I need? How am I treated and how well am I paid? What are my prospects for

promotion or my options for leaving? From policy and management perspectives, the framework focuses on modulating the roles of both labour markets and state action at key decision-making junctures:

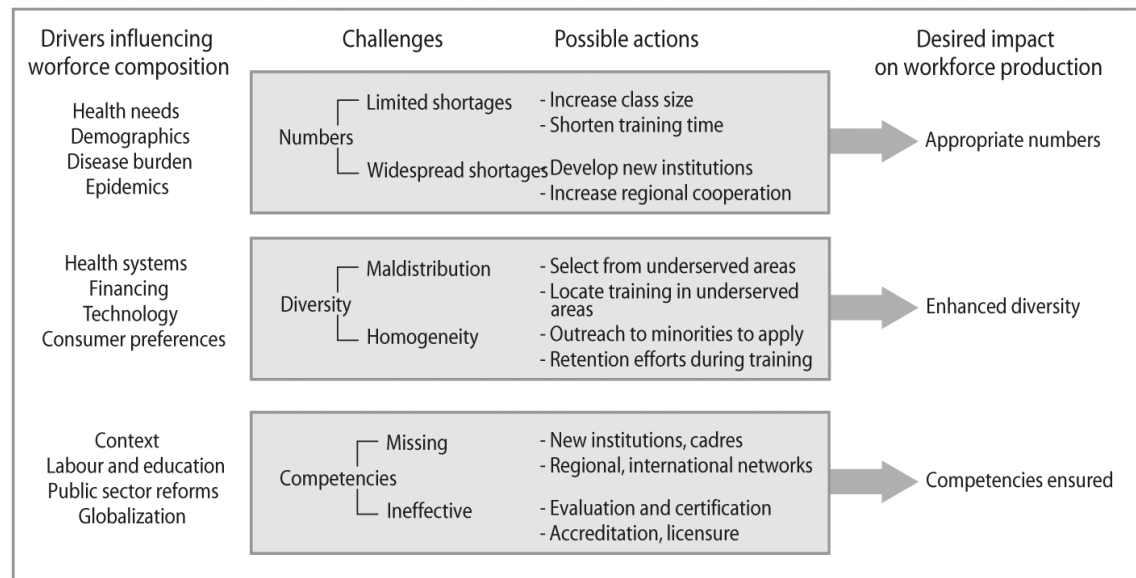
- **Entry:** preparing the workforce through strategic investments in education and effective and ethical recruitment practices.
- **Workforce:** enhancing worker performance through better management of workers in both the public and private sectors.
- **Exit:** managing migration and attrition to reduce wasteful loss of human resources.

Working lifespan strategies

Entry: preparing the workforce

A central objective of workforce development is to produce sufficient numbers of skilled workers with technical competencies whose background, language and social attributes make them accessible and able to reach diverse clients and populations. To do so requires active planning and management of the health workforce production pipeline with a focus on building strong training institutions,

Getting the mix right: challenges to health workforce production



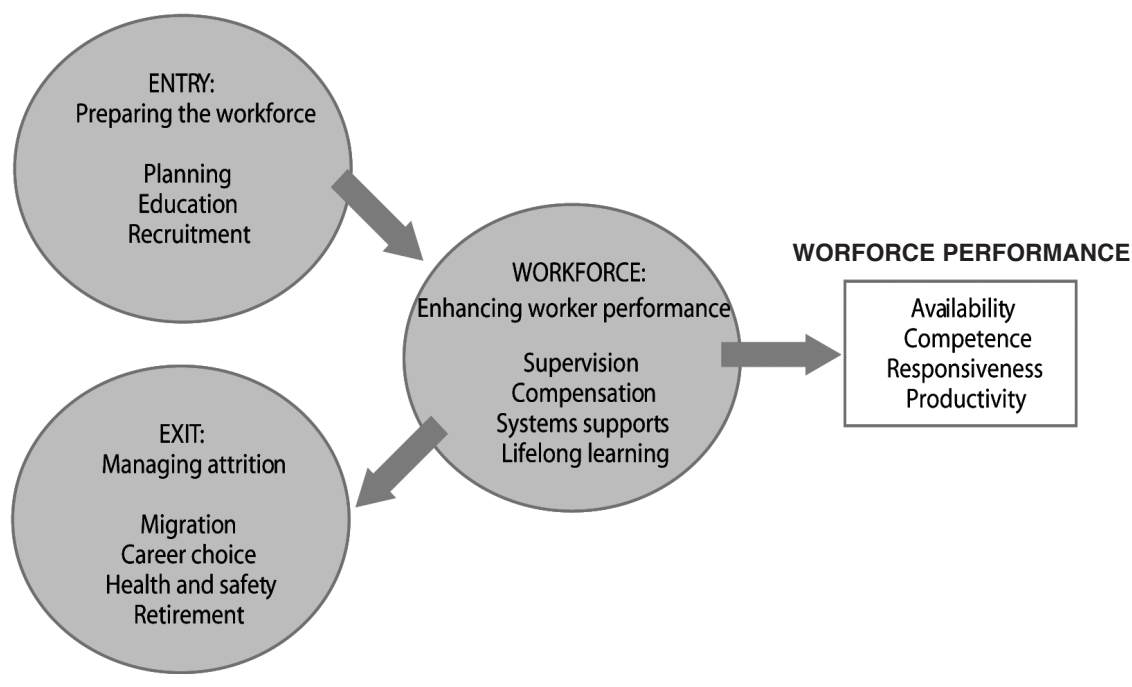
Source: (1).

strengthening professional regulation and revitalizing recruitment capabilities.

- **Building strong institutions** for education is essential to secure the numbers and qualities of health workers required by the health system. Although the variations are enormous among countries, the world's 1600 medical schools, 6000 nursing schools and 375 schools of public health in aggregate are not producing sufficient numbers of graduates. Addressing shortfalls will require building new institutions and ensuring a more appropriate mix of training opportunities - for example, more schools of public health are needed. Commensurate with the shift in expectations of graduates from "know-all" to "know-how", improving education calls for attention to both curricular content and pedagogical learning methods. Teaching staff, too, require training as well as more credible support and career incentives so that a better balance with the competing demands of research and service can be achieved. Greater access to education at lower cost can be achieved by regional pooling of resources and expanding the use of information technologies such as telemedicine and distance education.

- **Assuring educational quality** involves institutional accreditation and professional regulation (licensing, certification or registration). Rapid growth of the private sector in education calls for innovative stewardship to maximize the benefits of private investments while strengthening the state's role in regulating the quality of education. Too often lacking or ineffective in low income countries, structures for regulation are rarely developed sufficiently to ensure quality, responsiveness and ethical practice. State intervention is necessary in order to set standards, protect patient safety, and ensure quality through provision of information, financial incentives
- **Revitalizing recruitment capabilities** is necessary in order to broker more effectively demands from the labour market that often overlook public health needs. Recruitment and placement services should aim not only to get workers with the right skills to the right place at the right time but also to achieve better social compatibility between workers and clients in terms of gender, language, ethnicity and geography. Institutional weaknesses related to recruitment information and effective deployment of health workers merit serious attention, especially where there are expectations in scaling up the health workforce.

Working lifespan strategies



Free speech in Mideast

By: Abdullah Al Rahim

There is a nice story about an Arab and an American talking about free speech. The American tells the Arab, 'In America we have free speech. We can criticize the American government and the American president as much as we want'.

The Arab quickly responds, 'Yes, we too in the Arab world have free speech. We too can criticise the American government and the American president as much as we want!'

Traditionally, we Arabs have this over subservient view of authority. It cannot be wrong, it is infallible. Should it occasionally be proven wrong, the fact must either be discussed quietly or better still, swept under the carpet. The less said the better. In the meantime, business can go on pitifully as usual. Of course, this restraint is applicable only to ourselves. We have no hesitation in being very critical about others.

Lack of free speech, while reflecting the totalitarian mindset of many Arab governments, is not to be blamed entirely on these governments. After all, the mentality of Arab government officials is the product of Arab culture.

Criticism is, more often than not, taken as a personal affront. It is something that should be responded to, not by examining the problem, but by a rebuttal of the criticism itself. This turns the criticism into an issue, of and

in itself. Meanwhile, the criticised problem will be forgotten in the midst of the ensuing war of words.

The Arab Press, brought up as a mouthpiece of the state, has historically reflected the attitude of those in power and had been a major participant in the war of words. The few dissident writers who were an exception to the rule were either quietly absorbed or quietly made to disappear. Fewer still quietly made it to the West where they became vocal critics of the status quo.

Of course, it is tempting to talk about how much real free speech is available in countries that promote themselves as its champions. But we must admit that however little free speech we may think those countries have in reality, certainly it is much more than what we Arabs enjoy.

But there is a flicker of light at the end of the tunnel.

In Qatar, Al Jazeera TV has made a tremendous contribution to encouraging free speech and providing a forum where Arabs everywhere can practise that freedom very openly. Never have contemporary Arabs experienced the debates, the language of self criticism and criticism of Arab governments and leaders that they now hear through the Al Jazeera programmes. Indeed, the fact that Al Jazeera is banned or occasionally shut down in more than one Arab country speaks volumes about both, Al Jazeera's bravado and the tolerance level of Arab governments.

In Yemen, the print media [TV is

still government controlled and restricted to airing government propaganda] is becoming more vocal in its criticism of the government and leaders. The multiparty nascent democracy and elected parliament in Yemen has ushered in an atmosphere in which the government has accepted, albeit reluctantly and with some resistance, the battle of ideas to replace the battle of guns. Despite its occasional success in temporarily shutting down critical newspapers, the Yemeni government is being forced to come to terms with the realities of free speech.

Admittedly, this transformation is the result of great sacrifices and a bloody civil war, but with the current popular determination to uphold free speech, the clock cannot be turned back to the days of absolute dictatorship.

In Kuwait, parliamentary democracy and free speech has forced the powers that be not only to include women in the democratic process, but also, for the first time in contemporary Arab history, forced an unwilling head of state to step down through a constitutional process. This was unimaginable in the Arab world where government leaders have historically been removed only through bloodshed.

In a precedent that can very well be emulated elsewhere in Arabian, Kuwait has shown the role that democracy and free speech can play in peacefully resolving constitutional crises. Indeed, the debate and consequent politically matured way in

which Kuwait resolved its leadership crises set it apart from the rest of the Arab world.

Lebanon is perhaps the most advanced of all Arab countries when it comes to free speech. A quick glance at the Lebanese newspapers and TV stations will show the extent of free speech in that very small but very dynamic Arab country. There too, a government was removed, not by the tradition of bloodshed, but through 'peoples power', expressed in the streets.

Arabia is gradually but definitely changing. To survive, Arab leaders will slowly have to accommodate rather than continue to confront change. The satellite dish will continue to play its role and Arabs, those among them unwilling to accommodate the battle of ideas, will find themselves isolated and ultimately relegated to the periphery. The old hold on Arabia, that which claims that those in authority can do no wrong, the leader is infallible, is slowly being challenged and will soon be discarded. As free speech becomes more widespread, accountability and the rule of individuals will replace the rule of individuals. While that prospect may be daunting for the powers that be, and therefore the wheel of change will be made to face many potholes, Arabs everywhere seem determined that change is inevitable.

Abdullah Al-Rahim is a Yemeni political writer. He can be contacted at rahim321@hotmail.com
Source: Khaleej Times Online

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Food security and Yemen's agro-economy

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf

Agriculture plays a major role in ensuring food security, increasing the gross national product (GNP), and in providing employment for 54 percent of the manpower in the country who either work directly in agricultural production or in the ancillary services to the agricultural sector. Agriculture contributes 20.5 percent to the GNP of the country and constitutes 56.6 percent of Yemen's non-oil exports.

Yemen has an agricultural-based economy and agriculture provides a means of living for up to 73.5 percent of the Yemeni population especially. This is the case especially in rural areas despite the minuscule portion of 2.5 percent of total land in Yemen used for agriculture, which is 1.5 million hectares. The actual utilization of land for agricultural purposes, however, stands at 1.2 million hectares which is disproportionate to population growth and the demand for food security. Yemen imports over 70 percent of its food consumption costing over \$790 million (USD) annually and increasingly suffering from a disorganized agricultural sector where most land is inherited.

The inherited agricultural traditions of Yemeni farmers has become a weak point for Yemen as their efficiency is low because most farmers resort to the traditional means of plantation, irrigation, and storage. More alarmingly, the average annual growth of the agricultural sector reached 2.9 percent during the years 2000-2005 at a time when the population growth rates stood at 3.4 percent, thereby increasing the shortage of food



21.8 percent of Yemeni families suffer from starvation

produced by Yemen.

A survey conducted in 2003 by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the World Food Program indicated that 500,000 Yemeni families—constituting 21.8 percent of the population—suffer from varying degrees of food insecurity, out of which 13.8 percent of

the population suffer from starvation and another 6.9 percent endure extreme levels of starvation. This statistic indicates that over 700,000 Yemeni children are stunted by malnutrition and starvation, and therefore are needlessly and critically ill.

One of the reasons for the poor effi-

ciency of Yemen's agricultural sector is the unavailability of water: 53 percent of all agricultural land rely on rainwater; 34 percent rely on underground water; and, 7.5 percent rely on streams. Another critical factor holding back agricultural production in Yemen is qat production. Qat production has increased 18 fold over the last three decades and 10.6 percent of total agricultural land is used for the production of the mild narcotic.

Agricultural production of Yemen

Yemen's agricultural production can be separated in to planting and farming which constitute approximately 80 percent of the sector and animal husbandry which constitutes the other 20 percent. In farming, 60.5 percent of cultivated lands are used for grain production, followed by fruits and vegetables produc-

tion standing at 12.8 percent. The production of animal feed and the planting of qat stand at 10.3 percent each, with the remaining 6 percent of agricultural yield comprising commercially-viable crops such as cotton.

Yemen's livestock includes a population of 17.2 million animals including sheep, goats, cattle, and camels. Growth in the population of livestock, however, is slow because of lack of investment in developing the means of production. Poultry production, on the other hand, receives considerable investment that has resulted in growth in the industry. There is no official data on the growth in the poultry sector.

Yemen's third five-year plan indicated a serious aim of enhancing Yemen's food security through increased agricultural production. This is to be achieved

by widening the use of modern irrigation techniques and taking advantage of genetically-modified crops in order to increase the quality and quantity of agricultural yield.

Six agricultural schemes are laid out in the plan, including one scheme to increase know-how of modern agricultural techniques among farmers, a scheme to build dams and improve rain-water management for irrigation, a research scheme to provide farmers with genetically modified seeds and provide services and assistance, a scheme to increase livestock production; a scheme to increase the production of commercially-viable products, and a scheme to promote cooperative societies. The schemes will be discussed in greater detail once the strategy for agricultural development is officially approved.

What does the future hold for Arab stock exchanges?

By: Moneer Saif

The golden era of Arab stock markets has come to an end. Shares across the Middle East stock markets continue to fall and, as every attempt to lift them comes to nothing, they continue to lose the trust of their investors. Is this normal correction or are these signs of a collapse?

Some analysts blame the weak markets on investors, who panic and then sell off shares, while some point directly to the management of the Arab stock exchanges. I hold that this pattern is simply normal correction and that markets could well rebound, but that it will take time for the trend to be reversed.

During the last two months many retail investors bailed out of the markets, causing tremors to spread among those who remained. Institutional investors were also left behind. Indexes in most Gulf countries, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Morocco have declined, leaving high-profile investors in a state of disarray, waiting to get out with as much as they can salvage. After four years of rocketing growth, markets everywhere in the Middle East have been severely weakened in just a few months. Also adding to concerns is a continuing lack of emergent

buyers alongside the constant rate of selling.

As the crash began to take shape many Saudi investors escaped local markets to invest in other emerging economies such as India, China and Europe. Others chose to begin investment in real estate, viewing this as a safer strategy. These investors often find it difficult to return to their home markets, causing stocks to remain low and thus creating a vicious circle of decreasing wealth and stability. Such a situation will take months to improve, if not longer.

Why are Gulf markets continuing to slide?

If one takes a look at the economies of the Gulf States, there is evidence of huge corporate profits, trade surpluses and generous government budgets. As reported by some investment banks, profits in the six monarchies of the Gulf Co-operation Council rose by 31% in the year to the first quarter of 2006. Despite being somewhat slower than the previous year's growth of 63%, this figure is still impressive.

With such positive indicators in mind, the following list of problems faced by the Middle Eastern markets seems hard to justify:

(1) The inexperience of management

bodies in such areas.

(2) Mismanagement resulting in the weak regulation of markets.

(3) The absence of powerful market traders in comparison to smaller investors.

(4) The trading on Gulf markets being limited largely to residents and governments, restricting investment by foreign traders. This in particular prevents cash flow to the Gulf and other Arab markets which could help strengthen their respective economies.

Despite current difficulties, such as the lack of confidence from investors, there is still hope that Middle Eastern stock markets will soon begin recoup their losses. Such a recovery needs to be steadily maintained, with investors and businesses avoiding rapid and unsustainable surges that threaten to destabilize the situation even further. A predicted rise in oil prices will give many observers reason to hope for improvements to the Gulf economies. Such a boost would enable them to withstand this financial impasse and plan for stronger markets in the future. Most crucial for securing a lucrative stock exchange however, is the increase of foreign investors to the Middle East. If this could be achieved there is every reason to foresee a positive time ahead for Arab markets.

وظائف شاغرة

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- | | |
|---|------------------------|
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| ٣- مهندس QA/QC | ٤- ميكانيكي |
| ٥- منسق المادي | ٦- مدير/موظف HSE |
| ٧- دكتور | ٨- HVAC فورمان |
| ٩- منسق أجهزة بناء | ١٠- مهندس تبريد وتكييف |
| ١١- مهندس صيانة | ١٢- رسام |
| ١٣- مهندس ميكانيكي-في صناعة نفطية- ذات مؤهلات عالية | ١٤- الورشة فورمان |
| ١٥- طباط ماهر | ١٦- صراف |

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- ٣- أن يكون ذو دراية في استخدام الحاسوب الشخصي
- ٤- الرغبة في العمل في الموقع
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Business In Brief

Net-income tax to be reduced to 15 percent

The Customs Authority announced a plan to adjust the current taxation regulations in order to reduce the net income tax on corporations to 15 percent from the current 35 percent. This adjustment is remains subject to the review of the ministerial cabinet and must be approved by parliament. Such a measure will free up more cash for corporations to reinvest in their growth, as well as promote transparency in auditing and dealings with the customs authority.

\$1.8 billion oil sales in first five months of 2006

The monthly report of the Central Bank of Yemen indicated that total oil sales during the first five months of 2006 exceeded \$1.8 billion (USD) due to the global increase in the price of oil this year which raised the average price of oil to \$63 per barrel. Yemen produces around 400,000 barrels of oil per day. The government of Yemen has a share of 63 percent in that production.

Al-Asali welcomes Chinese delegation

Finance Minister Dr. Safe Al-Asali has met with a Chinese bankers' delegation headed by Giang Gow Houa, vice-chairman of the Chinese Exports and Imports Bank that will discuss the current areas of

trade and investment cooperation between the two countries through the bank in order to enhance trade ties. China is Yemen's largest trading partner importing chiefly petroleum from Yemen. Trade between Yemen and China reached \$3.5 billion (USD) in 2005.

IFAD supports marine development

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will allocate between \$10-15 million (USD) to promote and finance marine developmental projects within its developing countries assistance program. The focus will be on aiding fishermen operating out of small fishing boats and micro fishing enterprises and will create networks for marketing and storing their catch in cooperation with the Ministry of Marine Wealth in Yemen.

Investment in Yemen to be simplified

The International Development Agency donated \$700,000 (USD) for a program coordinated by the General Authority for Investment and the Ministry of Trade and Industry to simplify the registration process for investors and new companies. The program aims to improve the business climate and Yemen's ranking in the World Bank's "Doing Business" report.

JITCOM exhibition starts

Fifty telecommunications and technology companies will take part in the Al-Jazeera Information Technology and Communication exhibition (JITCOM) held at the Apollo exhibition hall from July 5-10. Companies will showcase their latest offerings in computers and computer accessories, portable communications, software and other gadgets along with discounts and sale offers.

Saba Islamic Bank Inaugurates Branch in Djibouti

Saba Islamic Bank has successfully inaugurated the first overseas branch of a Yemeni Islamic bank in Djibouti with the presence of Ismail Jelah the Djiboutian Presidents and other government officials. Sheikh Al-Ahmar, chairman of the bank invited Djiboutian businessmen to take advantage of the bank's top-notch services and facilities.

Yemenia's board approves turnaround strategy

Yemenia's board of directors held its annual meeting to discuss its financial performance during 2005 and approve last year's budget. The meeting discussed plans to establish a domestic airline subsidiary in Yemen and approved a corporate turnaround strategy that Yemenia plans to embark on in the near future.

AlBaraka Banking Group coming to Yemen

AlBaraka Banking Group has indicated that it has plans to establish a subsidiary in Yemen following the recommendation of an extensive study on the banking climate in Yemen. The AlBaraka group is the largest Islamic Bank in the Arab region and has established subsidiaries in 10 Arab nations since its founding in 2002.

IFC loans Yemen \$3 million for cement industry

The International Finance Corporation signed a \$3 million (USD) loan agreement with Yemen's National Cement Company to support the construction of a cement plant at Al-Anad, 70km north of Aden. The project will be one of the largest private sector investments in the country outside the oil sector and is estimated to have an annual cement production capacity of 1.6 million tons and will include a 37.5 megawatt diesel-fired power plant.



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نطمح دائما أن نمد زيارتنا بالمنتجات المتميزة التي ترضي أذواقهم، وامتدادا لهذا السعي الدائم نقدم لزيارتنا الكرام الآن عرضنا الترويجي 'النجم السعيد' الذي يضم العديد من الهدايا المجانية الرائعة كجهاز التلفزيون، غسالات الملابس، مشغلات الأقراص المرئية DVD، الأجهزة السمعية المحمولة، خلطات العصائر، المكواة، كرات القدم، قمصان T-shirts و أقلام. إلخ. ستحصل على كل هذا عند شرائك من منتجات باناسونيك بما قيمته ٥٠ دولار، لذا تفضل بزيارة أحد معارض باناسونيك اليوم لتصبح من الفائزين بعرض النجم السعيد.. أسرع ولا تفوت الفرصة.

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Weighted toys may help kids get fit during playtime

Adding weights to children's toys may help them improve their fitness during playtime, the results of a small study suggest.

"This study provides one intervention to the current trend of declining fitness in America's youth," Dr. John C. Ozmun, of Indiana State University and his co-authors write.

This will not be "the answer to childhood obesity, but it could be a small part of the puzzle, making a positive contribution," Ozmun told Reuters Health.

Various reports have pointed to the benefits of physical activity in helping children maintain healthy body composition and improve cardiovascular and skeletal systems, heart rate, blood pressure and levels of the "good" HDL cholesterol. Studies have also shown that physical activity declines as children grow older.

Ozmun and his colleagues investigated whether children's physical activity can be increased by subtly changing the task requirements of certain activities already common to them - i.e. by adding weights to toys used either during play or while learning.



A woman at a Toys 'R' Us store in New York, November 25, 2005. Adding weights to children's toys may help them improve their fitness during playtime, the results of a small study suggest. REUTERS/Keith Bedford

Their study included five boys and five girls, who were an average of 7.5 years old, who were randomly assigned to carry either large, cardboard toy blocks that weighed less than a quarter of a pound (0.10 kilograms) or blocks

that weighed about 3.4 pounds (1.55 kilograms).

The weighted toys had small steel blocks glued inside the larger blocks. The children picked up the blocks, one at a time, and carried them with two

hands over approximately 26 feet. Days later, the children were assigned to the opposite type of toy block and repeated the activity.

Overall, after an average of 10 minutes of carrying weighted blocks,

the children experienced significantly greater increases in heart rate, oxygen uptake and energy expenditure than they did after carrying the lighter blocks, study findings indicate.

"Handling heavier objects, either through play or instruction, may provide opportunities to increase workload intensity in a benign manner allowing for subsequent improvements in children's physical fitness," Ozmun's group concludes.

The toys may also be useful in a therapeutic setting, particularly among children with cerebral palsy or Down's syndrome who show deficits in strength, according to Ozmun.

Two issues that need to be explored are the design and safety of weighted

toys and whether children would be interested in playing with them, the researcher noted.

At this point, Ozmun does not recommend that parents add weights to their children's toys, expressing his safety concerns. What they can do, he said, is think about their child's play environment and create a "mindset of play that's more physically active."

The findings were presented, in part, during the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's International Congress on Physical Activity and Public Health in April. Additional results were later presented at the Annual Meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine.

Reuters

Man prefers jail to being at home with grandpa

An Italian man escaped from house arrest and begged police to put him in jail because he could not bear living with his grandfather, his lawyer said Monday.

The 30-year old, who could only be identified by his initials A.M., had been placed under house arrest for six

months in the Sardinian town of Sassari after a scuffle with a policeman.

But he escaped, and Sunday showed up at a police station in the northern city of Genoa, asking them to arrest him and put him in a cell.

"He said he could not face staying with his grandpa anymore," defense lawyer Pietro Bogliolo told Reuters by

phone.

The lawyer said he did not know what the problem between the two was. "It's probably irreconcilable differences," he said.

A Genoa court however ruled Monday that A.M. should return to his grandfather's house and spend an additional two months and 20 days there

because of his escape.

Saturday, a Sicilian man also asked police to put him in prison rather than have him confined to his house, saying he did not have enough money to buy himself food. He later returned to house arrest after police gave him food supplies for a few days.

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