

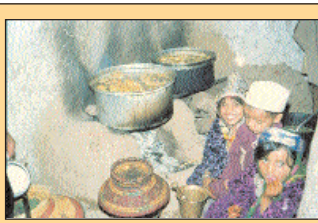
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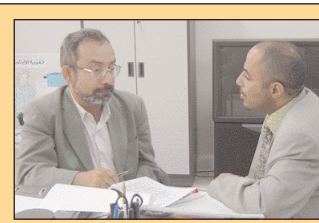
Inside:



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Consequences of child marriage in Yemen



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Higher Institute for Health Science: Training and services

Readers' Voice
Last edition's question:
As usual, the government has demanded additional allocations in the annual budget by the end of the year, supposedly to compensate for a deficit. Do you think such extra allocations really are meant to compensate for budget deficits?

Yes (10%) I don't know (6%)
No (84%)

This edition's question:
Do you think Yemen will obtain support for its future projects from this week's Donors Conference in London?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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

Yemen pins hopes on donor conference's success

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Nov. 12 — It is expected that Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh flies to Saudi Arabia today to discuss Gulf nations' support for Yemen during Wednesday's Donors Conference in London.

According to an official Yemeni source, Saleh confirmed that he'll discuss ongoing preparations for the conference with Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz.

Yemen expects Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to play an important role in making the conference succeed in supporting Yemen's ailing economy, as well as help Yemen obtain donor support to implement development programs and plans in coming years.

Saleh chairs Yemen's delegation at the conference, which will include numerous Gulf finance and foreign ministers as well as a GCC General Secretary delegation chaired by GCC Secretary-General Abdurrahman Al-Attaya.

Saleh is expected to address the conference to review Yemen's financial and economic reforms, its plans and

progress in fighting corruption, poverty and unemployment and steps to implement its national reform agenda.

He also plans to show his government's intention to enhance women's participation in political and social life and develop partnership with donor nations.

Six regional and Gulf financial institutions, including the Islamic Development Bank, the OPEC Fund and the Arab, Kuwait, Saudi and Abu Dhabi development funds, also will participate in the conference.

Additionally, several donor organizations and nations will attend, mainly from the United States, Asia, the European Union, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Conference participants will discuss documents presented by the Yemeni government, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Bank and the IMF. The documents focus on Yemen's third Economic and Social Development Plan to Alleviate Poverty, its national reform agenda and fighting corruption.

Yemen's government works hard to attract funding to rehabilitate its economy in order to cope with Gulf

economies. Yemen prepared for this step by implementing its third five-year plan for 2006-2010, which Parliament and the Shoura Council approved this past September at an extraordinary meeting held in President Saleh's presence.

The third five-year plan aims to achieve 70 percent growth in all sectors. Despite the fact that several international conferences of this type have been held in various countries, the London conference is important because it's organized solely for Yemen's sake and supported by the U.S. and the EU.

Yemen changed the conference venue from Sana'a to London for fear that some Gulf nations may not attend the event. Additionally, it expected that holding the conference in Sana'a may deter it from reaching serious decisions; thus, Yemen won UK acceptance to host the conference. The U.S. and the UK both directly and indirectly pressured Gulf nations to participate in the conference.

Several meetings in recent days concurred that Yemen needs technical support, as it experiences problems regarding government management of projects, as well as the fact that funds extended to Yemen aren't spent in com-



Saleh is expected to address the donors' conference to review Yemen's financial and economic reforms.

pliance with their intended plans.

Some donor countries criticize Yemen due to corrupt officials exploiting development funds for personal gain, which has stained the nation's image before donors. Spreading corruption in government offices also has led donors to cut their support for Yemen. Donor countries demand that Yemen successfully manage the projects they

fund.

Conference participants are expected to hear documents by the World Bank, IMF and UNDP, which are aimed at correcting Yemen's development policies and strategies, as well as improving its investment climate. The Yemeni government is expected to present \$16.8 billion worth of investment projects and programs during the conference.

Saudi Arabia arrests Yemenis for travel to Libya

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 11 — Locals from Al-Beidha governorate's Qaifa district have urged concerned parties in Sana'a to intercede in releasing their relatives, whom Saudi authorities detained Oct. 26 for traveling to Libya.

Qaifa district tribesmen met with

Yemen's foreign minister Wednesday morning, who said he'll pursue efforts to determine why their relatives were arrested.

The son of Sheikh Saif Al-Qabali confirmed to Al-Ishtiraki Net by phone that his father and three other sheikhs from Qaifa tribe have been detained in a Saudi jail for more than two weeks due to traveling to Libya. Concluding his statement, Al-Qabali's son urged the Yemeni government to intervene in releasing the four.

Al-Shoura Net reported Oct. 26 that

Saudi authorities arrested Al-Qabali, Qaifa's Sheikh of Sheikhs, and two others, Fadhil Al-Surmi and Saleh Amer Abu Seraima.

The same source said Saudi authorities arrested Al-Qabali and Al-Surmi while Seraima, who also was caught, was hosting them at his home. According to the source, the three were arrested after Seraima returned from Libya, which doesn't have good ties with Saudi Arabia.

Al-Qabali is a well-known national personality who founded Al-Haq Party

in 1991, but resigned from it following the 1994 Civil War. He holds a diplomatic passport.

According to Al-Shoura Net, press reports revealed that Yemen's Foreign Ministry questioned its Saudi counterpart as to why the three sheikhs were detained after Qaifa tribesmen assembled at the ministry.

The same source said Sheikh Zaid Bin Seraima another Qaifa sheikh sent a letter to the Yemeni authorities via his family in Yemen saying that no one is allowed to visit the three detainees.

Numerous Arab and Yemeni media outlets reported last week that Saudi authorities circulated a general notice to their security apparatuses, including the names of Yemenis accused of terrorist operations and acts of vandalism.

Media sources mentioned that such action was based on information these individuals had, who appear on a list of those who've traveled to Libya more than once, met with Libyan intelligence apparatuses and machinated terrorist plots targeting Saudi interests.

Saudi authorities gave Yemen and neighboring countries the list of names, but didn't demand such countries extradite them, sources noted. "The Saudi general notice to security apparatuses contained orders to police to capture those listed. The notice's final statement instructs Saudi security apparatuses to contact and coordinate with their counterparts in neighboring countries to arrest the listed terrorists. The notice included Yemeni arms traffickers and sons of well-known sheikhs."

Sa'ada police arrest numerous Al-Houthi supporters

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 11 — Various media sources reported Friday that security forces waged a wave of arrests against Al-Houthi followers in Maran district, Sa'ada governorate, the site of alternating clashes involving the Yemeni Army and Al-Houthi supporters since 2004.

Sources further noted that, under direct order by district security chief Mansour Al-Farasi, security forces in Maran arrested eight Al-Houthi followers there.

Local sources also mentioned that security forces arrested local resident Dhaif Allah Hassan early last week and

that a security soldier fired at a citizen for refusing to hand over a bundle of qat.

For his part, Sa'ada Governor Yahya Al-Shami denied press allegations claiming that security forces were responsible for breaching a truce agreed upon by both sides. In a statement to Akhbar Al-Youm newspaper, Al-Shami denied that Al-Houthi followers adhere to Zaidi doctrine.

In related news, Al-Ishtiraki Net reported that army forces located in Maran since 2004 arrested 20 people in Al-Khamis Market in central Haydan district.

The same source added that 15-year-

old Jarallah Zaid Ali Sanad, whose father and four other family members were killed in Sa'ada's first war, was among those arrested.

Sources affiliated with local authorities declared that the 20 were arrested as they chanted, "Death to America!" a slogan Al-Houthi followers frequently chanted during the first Sa'ada war.

However, sources close to Al-Houthi denied the allegation, saying, "Their primary task is visiting several families whose relatives were killed during the first battle in Maran."

Over the past 15 days, Sa'ada has witnessed tension between Al-Houthi followers and security and army forces fol-

lowing the failure of a mediation committee. Several parties affiliated with the authority are attempting to hinder the committee's involvement and prevent implementing President Ali Abdullah Saleh's directives related to treating Sa'ada's troubles on every level.

In the past three weeks, pro-government newspapers have resumed their usual tactics to rouse provocation against what they term the 12th Al-Houthi faction. Additionally, they're calling for a security coalition between Yemen and Saudi Arabia to attack what they view as an Iranian-Houthi threat, a hint that observers consider a potential spark for renewing strife in Sa'ada.

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In brief

Aden

Project to grow trees at Aden's schools

Nov. 11 — The office of the environmental protection started a campaign on Saturday which aims to teach students the importance of growing trees in the schoolyards. The office of the environment is cooperating with the Ministry of Industry and other offices to change from plastic bags to paper bags to decrease the amount of garbage in schoolyards and around the country. The campaign is targeting youth who will play role in bringing awareness to their community.

Amran

Heritage mosque destroyed in Thala
Nov. 12 — The heritage attorney received a case file after a group of Thala residents destroyed a local heritage mosque. The official manager of the public committee for heritage in Amran, Ahmad Al-Saini, stated that a benefactor gave support to the residents and aimed to expand the mosque without noticed the local authority. Al-Saini blamed the benefactor and said it was better to restore the mosque rather than destroy it. Al-Saini is investigating the real motives for destroying the heritage mosque which was built more than 250 years ago.

Dhamar

International delegation for Agriculture fund

Nov. 12 — The local council's secretary general met a delegation of the International Fund for Agriculture Developing and UN's Project Services Bureau to discuss cooperation between Yemen and the fund as well as the project of improving irrigation and social development and means of improving agriculture, livelihood and environment in the governorate by offering institutional support, technical training, building social capacities and carrying out relevant programs to improve infrastructure such as building dams and reclaiming agricultural mountainous lands.

Hodeidah

Finalizing infrastructure projects Hodeidah

Nov. 12 — Hassan Al-Hij, secretary general of Hodeidah Local Council, discussed on Saturday with Keya Mailer, an expert at the World Bank, means of developing and expanding Hodeidah as a seaport city. In the meeting, Al-Hij reviewed arrangements for finalizing infrastructure projects in the city as it is considered a key industrial area in the country. Mailer presented a paper for the upcoming Consultative Group Meeting for Yemen's development partners, which will be held in London this week, about opportunities of investment in Yemen particularly in Hodeidah, Aden, Mukalla, Taiz and Sana'a. A symposium will be organized this month to discuss development plans and governorate participation of government and representatives of private sector, civil society organizations and development partners.

Sana'a

Arab regional meeting for illiteracy
Nov. 11 — Yemen is to host regional meeting on illiteracy in Arab countries this month. Ten Arab delegations from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, UAE, Bahrain, Syria, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Oman and Kuwait will take part in the meeting. The meeting is being organized in cooperation with the Islamic Organization for Education, Science and Culture. The meeting will discuss issues associated with modern means for training teachers for illiteracy eradication and involvement of private sector and the civil society organizations to carry programs of illiteracy eradication.

Women's technology program

Nov. 11 — SOUL for development, a non government organization, held a meeting on Women Information Technology program in Sana'a, where 75 female students participated. The meeting aimed to help the student understand the programs activities. The meeting, which was held at the higher institute for telecommunication, falls within the information technology program implemented by SOUL and Sysco Academic, aims to give women information technology skills.

First Muslim Women Conference

Nov. 11 — Yemen is to take part in the first Conference for Muslim Women that will be held in Turkey during the period from Nov. 20 to 23. The Minister of Social Affairs and Labor will head the Yemeni delegation at the conference sponsored by the Organization of Islamic Conference. The conference will discuss issues of Muslim and Arab women within the current changes, especially after 9/11 and role of media in supporting Muslim women's issues.

Al-Qamish is expected to attend the Parliament with Al-Alimi

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 12 — In protest against the absence of Ghaleb Al-Qamish, chairman of the Political Security Apparatus, parliament announced it's suspending its sessions until Al-Qamish attends.

Saturday's session was meant for Al-Qamish to present the circumstances for the detention of Ahmed Saif Hashed, an MP, during a demonstration in front of the Political Security Apparatus during Ramadan.

Al-Qamish sent a letter to the parliament excusing his inability to attend the session because he's busy with his own business and further suggested calling Rashad Al-Alimi, minister of interior, to stand in his place because he's the head of the supreme security committee. However, the letter was strongly rejected by MPs, considering it law-violating. However, according to media sources, Al-Alimi sent on Sunday a letter to the Parliament confirming that he, as well as Al-Qamish, will attend today's session.

Hunger strike

Hashed announced he will start his demonstration in the parliament's hall from Saturday and further to embark on a hunger strike until death waiting for Al-Qamish response to the parliament's demands.

Sources at the General People Congress said its bloc presidency decided not to attend sessions until Al-Qamish attends.

"Calling the chairman of PSA to attend parliament's sessions is constitutional and Al-Qamish should stand before Parliament to listen to MPs' notices about the PSA



The Yemeni Parliament.

ARCHIVE PHOTO

performance," the same source added.

Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmer, speaker of the parliament, failed to make MPs return to continue the session. Sakhr Al-Wajih, demanding the suspension of sessions until Al-Qamish stand before Parliament, in respect for its resolution and in defense of law and constitution and the proposal was supported by Sultan Al-Barakani, head of the GPC bloc.

Now parliament is at a standstill awaiting Al-Qamish's return. "All state institutions are under the parliament, under its law, have the right to call upon any government body to attend for information or know the details entailing any issue," said Mohammed Nagi Alaw, a former MP and human rights activist.

In related news, Abdulwali Al-Aji, constitutional and legal committee reporter at Parliament, said the parliament's presidency board has

received applications from the minister of justice asking to lift impunity from seven Members of Parliament.

Earlier they received similar applications to withdraw impunity from four other MPs.

He also said the justice minister is considering lifting the impunity from Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmer for threatening Ali Al-Shatter, Chief Editor of 26 September Newspaper.

Al-Aji also noted the parliament's constitutional committee will objectively look into the Ministry of Justice's applications before passing any judgments.

In this frame, the constitutional committee will conduct a detailed study for the applications and present the legal position of parliament. In the past the parliament's presidency board has referred applications to its constitutional committee asking to lift the impunity of other MPs.

Plans for geothermal and atomic energy

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Nov. 11 — Yemen's electricity will be generated in future from the atomic or geothermal energy, said Yemeni experts.

Mustafa Bahran, Advisor of President for Scientific Affairs and Chairman of the National Committee of Atomic Energy announced on Saturday that Yemen has plans to use atomic energy in generating electricity in coming years. He stated to Saba News that international investment companies from the U.S. and Canada will take part in this plan. But he gave no more information about this plan.

Yemeni often suffers from electricity blackout, Bahran said and the electricity current produced is not enough to meet needs of the citizens and development projects.

Meanwhile, experts in Ministry of Water and Environment referred to the ability to use geothermal energy for the same purpose, in a three-day workshop which was attended by senior government officials, geologists, geochemists from various stakeholder authorities including the Minister of Water and Environment, the Minister of Oil and Minerals and the University

of Sana'a.

"The country is located in one of the most active plate boundaries of the world, the triple junction made up by the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Eastern African Rift System," explained Khaled M. Bahhah, the minister of oil and minerals.

"According to first analyses, the Dhamar-Rada'a geothermal field offers the best evidence of promising resources for near-term exploitation of geothermal energy. However, in order to lay a fundamental basis detailed high-quality assessments will be carried out."

The move towards geothermal energy takes cooperation from many organizations

"In order to face this challenge the Ministry of Water and Environment in cooperation with the Geological Survey Authority, respectively the Ministry of Oil and Minerals has joined forces with the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources. I am happy to say that Yemen has been selected as the sixth country within the Geothermal Program. The objective can be summarized as follows: To promote the use of geothermal energy in partner

countries by kicking of development at promising sites," explain Minister of Water and Environment Abdul-Rahman F. Al-Eryani.

"These upcoming three days now will help to outline and define the concrete steps for the upcoming 18 months of project implementation," explained Al-Eryani, who says Yemen first signed onto the project in April.

Lia Sieghart, CIM-Expert within the Ministry of Water and Environment said geothermal energy is a proven resource for direct heat and power generation. It meets a significant portion of the electrical power demand in numerous countries all over the world. Geothermal energy offers affordable sustainable access to energy, generate employment and facilitate energy security as well as technological development.

"The issue of energy is fundamental to the great challenge facing the world at the beginning of the 21st century and how to eliminate the levels of poverty without further polluting the planet. There does not have to be a trade-off between human development and the environment, thereby assisting energy security," explained Sieghart.

Gender equity, women's rights discussed

Taiz Bureau

TAIZ, Nov. 12 — The social situation is impossible to stabilize and the equity principle cannot be established unless there are extensive efforts and serious work on the topic, said Suad Al-Absi, chairwoman of the Yemeni Women Union.

Al-Absi called on the civil community and local authorities, as well as the international community, to look at the woman as being the 'solution' and not the 'problem.'

She urged organizations to expand their activities in all governorates, particularly the densely-populated governorate of Taiz and not to concentrate only on the capital.

The National Human Rights Capacity Project along with the women's union organized a meeting on gender equity and enhancing women rights.

"The project contributes to building the capacities of workers in national

foundations and improve their administrative skills and experiences, as well as to train them on English and computer," said Abdulkarim Al-Awj, Director of National Human Rights Capacity Project.

He said the project aims to spread awareness among workers in national foundations about human rights and establish an electronic library equipped with technical devices, documents and reports on human rights.

"The project aims to integrate human rights concepts into school syllabuses," continued Al-Awj.

On his part, Ahmad Abdurrahman Al-Alimi, General Manager of Taiz Social Affairs and Labour Office, clarified, "We have to pay closer attention to human rights and work hard to overcome any difficulties posed to women and their awareness. The Yemeni woman has to be aware of her legal rights to be an effective partner in the social development."

Hawrya Mashhour, Deputy

Chairwoman of National Woman Rights Committee and Manager of the Project To Enhance Women Rights, discussed the situation of human rights organizations working in Yemen. She reviewed the most important goals of the project, in addition to the means and factors necessary to enable women to strengthen their rights.

Mashhour urged media to play an integral role in increasing women's awareness about their own rights, saying the media's role is the most important component for the project's success.

By the end of the meeting, Abdulqader Hatem, Deputy Governor of Taiz, praised the Yemeni woman's historical role.

"The problems, which the Yemeni society experience, is the result of denying women their rights. We have to defend women's rights in order to achieve the principle of gender equity," concluded Hatem.

Yemenis protest Israeli aggression

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 12 — Thousands of Yemenis took to streets of the capital protesting the massacres Israel is committing against Palestinians. They demanded Israel lifts the siege on the Palestine.

The demonstrators chanted slogans strongly denouncing the Arab silence toward Israeli aggression and condemning the Bait Hanon massacre. The march worked its way toward the UN Office, west of Sana'a, and submitted a letter of protest to the UN Resident Coordinator.

Through their letter, the angry protestors wanted the UN to exert pressure on Israeli officials to abide by international resolutions. They urged the UN to provide adequate international protection to the Palestinian people.

Chairman of Kana'an Society, Yahya Mohamed Abdullah Saleh, who is the son of President Saleh's brother, called on rights groups, peace organizations and Arab countries to bring Israel before the International Criminal Court.

He announced that a plane filled with medicine and medical equipment

is due to fly to Gaza, in addition to a caravan of food to the West Bank. He wants the UN and the Red Cross to put pressure on Israel so aids can reach the Palestinians.

"The brutal massacre, which Israel commits in Gaza and the West Bank is part of a series of vandalism acts, the most prominent of which is the siege on the Palestinians," said the Kana'an Society Chairman. "What Israel commits against the Palestinian people in Bait Hanon is a stigma on the forehead of humanity that seemed unable to stop such aggression."

The Yemeni government urged the UN Security Council and European Union to intervene and stop the Israeli atrocities against the innocent Palestinians.

Yemen's representative at the UN, Abdullah Al-Saydi, described the Zionist massacres as "not only a war crime against the Palestinians, but also against the rights of all Muslims."

He questioned whether the international community will react to the massacres against the innocent Palestinians.

"Israel exercises barbaric acts that are not justified by any logic," added Al-Saydi.

Revote in 160 polling centers

SANA'A, Nov. 12 — Many voters will recast their ballots on Dec. 19, according to the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum. These elections involve 160 polling centers where vote counting was called into question or initial nominations were prevented during the Sept. 20 elections.

Further, there will be parliamentary elections to fill vacant positions in two constituencies in Taiz and Hodeidah.

In a press conference, Mohammed Al-Sayani, head of the planning sector at the Supreme Commission for

Elections and Referendum, said there will be a 10-day nomination period starting Nov. 15, followed by a five-day withdrawal period and then a campaigning period until Dec. 18.

Election administrators will receive centralized training in the commission's headquarters in accordance to mechanisms and measures used in the last presidential and local elections, according to Al-Sayani.

Finally, Al-Sayani assured that supreme commission will be careful to follow the same mechanisms that were used to form electoral committees during the September elections.

Explosives entering Yemen

SANA'A, Nov. 12 — A source at the Foreign Ministry said a shipment of explosives seized by the Indonesian authorities last week was an authorized shipment and it was legally imported by a Chinese company that exploring for oil in Yemen.

The same source said the shipment consists of detonators and tons of explosive powder used for drilling purposes by the China's Z.B.I.B. Company in its bloc in Hadramout.

Last week, Saudi Arabia's Al-

Watan Newspaper reported that Indonesian forces seized a Chinese ship carrying 63 tons of explosive together with detonators and the ship was heading to Yemen.

Reacting to such news, the Foreign Ministry source went on to say all explosives imported for this purpose are supervised and controlled by the security apparatuses, right from the time of arrival until they are used for the specific purposes.

Court sentences kidnappers

SANA'A, Nov. 12 — The Specialized Appeal Court upheld a preliminary court's verdict to imprison six men who kidnapped Italian tourists last March.

Naji Mohamed Saleh Al-Zaidi, his father Mohamed Saleh Al-Zaidi and his uncles Ali Saleh Al-Zaidi and Abed Saleh Al-Zaidi were sentenced to 20

years in prison, while Mere'y Al-Ameri and Hadi Al-Ameri will serve 10 and 5 years respectively.

The verdict was initially issued by a preliminary court in March. The appeal court shortened the sentence for one suspect and lengthened one other sentence.

Open borders in October

SANA'A, Nov. 4 — The highest number of Africans entered Yemen during October.

Security sources said coast guard forces were able to track over more than 3,600 immigrants and most of them were arrested on Shabawa coasts.

The same source revealed that there are 848 women and children among those who came to Yemen in October. The number includes 2,748 Somalis, 848 Ethiopians and five from other nationalities.

By comparison there were 1,072 people on Yemen's shores in September, including 223 women and children. The number of Somalis reached 942 and 128 Ethiopians and

two with Arab nationality.

The number of entrants recorded so far since the start of this year reached more than 16,800.

At the outset of this week Yemeni authorities deported more than 380 African emigrants, mostly Ethiopians. Most of them were arrested over the last month in Al-Makha, Taiz governorate.

"The security apparatuses, in collaboration with Passports and Emigration Authority and Ethiopian Embassy, deported more than 300 Ethiopians entered the country illegally," said the Chief of Taiz Security Department.

Yemen and Ethiopia have a new deal in place this year to deport those who enter Yemeni lands illegally.

Bombers kill Iraq police recruits

Two suicide bombers have killed 35 people and wounded 60 at a police commando recruiting centre in western Baghdad, police say.

Crowds of young male volunteers were gathered at the base when the bombers detonated explosive belts.

Sunni Arab insurgents frequently attack recruiting centres for the US-backed Iraqi government's security forces.

Meanwhile, Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki has called for a comprehensive cabinet reshuffle.

His call, made to a closed session of parliament, was "in the light of the current situation in the country", a statement from his office said.

Reuters news agency reports that mortar rounds were fired at the police

recruiting centre, in the Qadissiya neighbourhood, shortly after the bombers struck.

A series of other bomb attacks in and around the Iraqi capital on Sunday left at least 10 people dead:

- At least four civilians were killed and 10 others wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near a police patrol in the east of the city; a further blast nearby caused no injuries

- A car bomb outside a market in central Karrada district killed at least one person and wounded five others

- A roadside bomb killed at least two people and wounded 13 others in Radwaniya, south-west of the city



Insurgents regard the Iraqi police as collaborators with the Americans.

- A car bomb near a primary school killed three people and wounded 15, including students, in the town of Yusufiya, 15km (nine miles) south of Baghdad

Baghdad

The attacks took place as the Iraqi authorities searched for gunmen who ambushed several minibuses on Saturday in the town of Yusufiya, south of Baghdad.

At least 12 passengers were said to have been killed and about 50 others abducted.

Yusufiya is a Sunni Muslim stronghold which has become notorious for attacks on Shia Muslims and American troops.

The latest bloodshed comes a day before US President George W Bush is due to meet the Iraq Study Group - a committee chaired by former Secretary of State James Baker - to talk about US strategy in Iraq.

Source: BBS News

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Schering AG celebrates the graduates of the Arab Board

SANAA, Nov. 6 — The German drug company Schering AG celebrated a total of 39 physicians on the occasion of their graduation from the Arab Board for Medical Specializations (In the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology.)

On top of the attendants were:

- Dr. Khaled Al-Agbari, the secretary general of the Yemeni council for medical specialties
- Dr. Jamila Al-Moa'ed, General coordinator of the Arab Board, Obs-Gyn. in Yemen.
- Mr. Mohammed Abdelkawi Hayel, Deputy manager of Natco (Local agent of Schering AG in Yemen).
- Dr. Hisham Al-Kirshi, Manger of Schering AG in Yemen, inaugurated the party by welcoming the attendants and conveying the warm compliments of Schering AG to the graduates.

Then he reviewed in brief the history of Schering AG as a leading company in hormonal preparations

being the first drug company to introduce the first Oral Contraceptive (OC) to Europe in 1961, followed by a series of OCs that were ended by its innovative OC "Yasmin" which is now the leading pills world wide as it offers a package of benefits for the well-being of the lady.

Then Mr. Mohammed Abdelkawi said that this activity comes in conformity with the policies of Natco and Schering, that is to support the medical sector in Yemen.

Dr. Khaled Al-Agbari conveyed the congratulations of the minister of health Dr. Abdelkareem Rasie to the graduates and gave some valuable advices as regards the final exams to the doctors who finished the first part of The Arab Board he also praised the initiative of Schering AG and its local agent Natco in adopting the celebration.

At the end of the party, certificates were distributed to the graduate students.



Somali Islamists, govt-allied troops clash

By: Sahal Abdulle

MOGADISHU (Reuters) — Troops from a powerful Somali Islamist movement clashed with fighters allied to the interim government for the second time since Monday near the semi-autonomous Puntland region, both sides said on Sunday.

"The government troops ambushed us last night, forcing our troops to push them," Islamist spokesman Abdurahman Ali Mudey said. "They forced us to take their biggest base in Bandiradley, near Galkaayo."

The government said the fighting was still going on and denied its base had been seized.

"It is true there are clashes. The Islamists attacked us but they were successfully repelled," Information Minister Ali Ahmed Jama "Jangali" told Reuters. "The fighting is still going on."

There was no independent confirmation of the clash. Bandiradley is 690 km (429 miles) north of Mogadishu.

If confirmed, the clash could signal the growth of a second frontline in what many fear will become an all-out war that will suck in Horn of Africa rivals Ethiopia and Eritrea, who are backing the government and Islamists respectively.

Mudey said the government forces were led by warlord Abdi Awale Qaybdiid, whom the Islamists ejected from Mogadishu in July after defeating him and his U.S.-backed allies who had controlled the capital for years.

Speaking on a satellite phone from a location he would not disclose, Qaybdiid told Reuters: "I cannot talk now. I am very busy working."

Neither side gave information on casualties, but an Islamist source told Reuters they had lost two fighters.

The government on Saturday rejected

a deal to restart collapsed talks to avert war with the Islamists, brokered by parliament Speaker Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan.

Arab League-led negotiations failed two weeks ago, and diplomats had said they believed the initiative led by Adan, who has good relations with the Islamists and their businessmen backers, were the last best hope at avoiding a war.

Islamist troops and fighters in the government alliance are just kilometres (miles) apart in a frontline near the government base in Baidoa, and also near the Puntland border.

Security experts told Reuters on Friday that 11 nations have been sending arms and military equipment to both sides at a dizzying rate since June, even by the standards of a country awash with weapons.

In yet another sign of the spillover effect many fear the war will have in the Horn and east Africa, Kenya on Saturday banned all scheduled flights in and out of Somalia and said charters must apply for permission a week in advance.

Security experts have told Reuters that Ethiopia will defend any incursion into Puntland, which is a self-governed region that was once led by interim President Abdullahi Yusuf and has provided troops to protect his administration.

The Western-backed and internationally recognised government is holed up in the south-central trading town of Baidoa, its only sphere of influence in the nation of 10 million.

The Islamists, who have imposed sharia law across most of southern Somalia with their superior military, have all but dashed the government's plans to impose central authority on a nation mired in anarchy since a dictator was deposed in 1991.

Hezbollah to stage protests after unity talks fail

By: Nadim Ladki

BEIRUT (Reuters) — Hezbollah and its allies will stage peaceful street protests to press their demands after the collapse of Lebanon's all-party talks on giving them more say in government, Hezbollah's deputy chief said on Sunday.

Five Shi'ite Muslim ministers from Hezbollah and its ally, the Amal movement, resigned from the cabinet on Saturday, hours after the talks on the pro-Syrian camp's demand for effective veto power in government were deadlocked.

"This was a first step. There will be other steps that we will discuss in detail with our allies and which we will announce gradually," Hezbollah deputy chief Sheikh Naim Kassem told Reuters by telephone.

He said the talks had failed because anti-Syrian majority leaders had refused to allow others effective participation in running the country.

"The parliamentary majority camp foiled the dialogue because they don't want widescale Lebanese participation in government and they want to monopolise decisions in this country. This is something that we... can't be witnesses to," Kassem said.

Asked whether the government would face street protests, Kassem said: "I can say that this campaign will be varied and effective. Going down to the streets is one of the important steps that Hezbollah and its allies will take."

Anti-Syrian leaders have pledged counter-demonstrations should Hezbollah take the political crisis to the streets, raising fears of confrontations and violence at a time of rising tension between Sunnis and Shi'ites.

The United States is not keen to see Hezbollah, which it regards as a terrorist organization, exert more influence over the government.

Iran says to reply swiftly to any Israeli attack

By: Parisa Hafezi

TEHRAN (Reuters) — Iran and its Revolutionary Guards would respond swiftly if Israel attacked the Islamic state over its disputed nuclear program, an official said on Sunday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini also said Iran was pressing ahead with an expansion of its uranium enrichment work with plans to install 3,000 centrifuges by March 2007, despite U.N. demands to halt the endeavor.

The West fears Iran is trying to develop atomic weapons. Iran, the world's fourth largest oil exporter, says its program is designed to meet energy needs.

Iran has two chains of 164 centrifuges, which can make fuel for power plants or material for warheads. That number would take years to produce enough material for a single warhead but Iran has says plans to install thousands for its

peaceful aims.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert started a visit to Washington on Sunday with Tehran's nuclear program one of the main issues on the agenda.

Israeli officials have said they want the international community, which has been pushing Iran to halt its atomic work, to resolve the dispute through diplomatic means.

But Israel bombed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981 to prevent former President Saddam Hussein from making atomic weapons, and some analysts have speculated that Israel could consider similar action against Iran if it felt threatened.

Experts say knocking out Iran's nuclear facilities would be a far tougher prospect than it was in Iraq partly because Iranian sites are spread out and heavily protected.

"If Israel takes such a stupid step and attacks, the answer of Iran and its Revolutionary Guard will be rapid, firm and destructive and it

will be given in a few seconds," Hosseini told a news conference.

The Guards are an ideologically driven wing of Iran's military with a separate command structure to regular units.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said Israel should be "wiped off the map" but has also said Iran is not a threat. Iran refuses to recognize Israel.

Rejecting demands

Israel is widely believed to have the Middle East's only nuclear arsenal, although it has never said it possesses such weapons. Iran often complains about Western double standards in failing to confront Israel about its atomic capabilities.

"As long as some members of the U.N. Security Council support this (Israeli) regime with their veto right, there is no guarantee of establishing peace and justice in this region," Ahmadinejad told a conference of Asian MPs in Tehran on Sunday.

Iran has rejected U.N. demands to halt enrichment and the U.N. Security Council is now considering imposing sanctions.

Iran's chief atomic negotiator, Ali Larijani, said passing a U.N. sanctions resolution "means that they (the West) don't want to resolve this issue through talks", Iran's IRNA news agency reported.

Asked if Iran still aimed to install 3,000 centrifuges by the end of the Iranian year in March 2007, Hosseini said: "Iran is trying to do so under the supervision of the IAEA."

The U.N. watchdog, the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, makes routine checks of Iran's nuclear sites.

In Vienna, diplomats said the IAEA was unlikely to approve Iran's request for technical help with a heavy water plant because of fears it could yield atom bombs. The IAEA board has repeatedly asked Iran to "reconsider" the project at Arak.

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Consequences of child marriage in Yemen

By: Fatima Al-Ajel and Hanan Al-Hamzi

According to recent research by Oxfam-supported partners, more than 50 percent of Yemeni girls marry before age 18, with many forced to give their 'consent' to marrying older men. However, what's more tragic is child marriage, where neither the young boy or girl have any idea about marriage and its responsibilities.

An ancient phenomenon, early marriage is increasing in the 21st century, but its consequences are enormous, as boys and their young brides are forced to drop out of school, take on responsibilities for which they have no capacity and ultimately, become victims of spontaneous divorces that break up families.

Ali Abdullah, 25, of Dhamar govern-

norate married when he was 14, his bride being three years his junior. Both have suffered in the marriage. Abdullah neither has completed his studies nor found a job to increase his family income, especially since they have a seven-year-old child. He needs to go to school, but his father is unable to provide even the barest necessities - let alone Abdullah's school needs.

"I look around me. I've been under a lot of psychological stress since my first year of marriage when I became a father and my wife's still young. After seven years of marriage, there's still no harmony between us. I've thought a lot about divorce because I can't take the stress anymore."

Then there's the stress of large families living together. Faisal Mohamed, 26, is married and living in his father's house with his wife and four children. He completed secondary school and now works

in his uncle's shop. Yet after 10 years of marriage, Mohamed hasn't improved his position and the weight of his responsibilities is drowning him.

As the problems have mounted, his father finally has driven him from the house. "My living conditions are bad. We live in poverty and my wife doesn't know how to care for the children or me because she's still a child herself. We stay together because of the kids; otherwise, we would've divorced. We don't want our kids living far from us."

In most cases, divorce still is considered the worst solution, even in a bad marriage. Those who honestly do their best to live in harmony yet realize that it's useless will divorce as a last recourse, but only after careful thought and profound soul-searching, with spouses usually discussing the decision beforehand.

But some instances reveal that for many Yemenis, such consideration, thought and soul-searching aren't even prerequisites envisioned when going ahead with a marriage - much less a divorce.

At 35, Abdullatif Hamoud is one of these cases. He'd always been interested in traveling and in trade, so he gave little thought to marriage. But at 19, his father forced the issue, so Hamoud married a 15-year-old. After eight years and several children, he asked his wife to return to her father's house with their children, divorcing her without reason. He hadn't wanted a wife from the beginning, but only married to satisfy his father.

Hamoud's wife and children are now victims of this unwanted marriage. "I'm

now free like a bird and I can travel wherever I want. No responsibilities, no problems," Hamoud says. His wife now lives without any type of care or financial support for her or their children. She's divorced and carrying the responsibilities of both parents, while her ex-husband is free as a bird and neglectful in every way.

Nowadays, there's an increase in marriages ending within the first few months. The reasons vary, but the results are the same: divorced women and their children living without any care or financial support. Some young husbands divorce or leave without ever mentioning the reason for their decision.

Hassan Motaher is one such husband, having married at 18. Two months later, he traveled to Saudi Arabia with his friends to work without notifying anyone, not even his wife. After a year, he sent a message to his father saying that he wasn't returning to Yemen and to tell his wife to return to her father's house because she's now divorced.

These young men don't understand what marriage entails, nor do they realize the chaos they create for their wives, children and these women's families. They behave carelessly, never realizing the needless suffering that ensues because their wives now lack any care or financial support. Deprived of a solid home, their children become the ultimate victims.

But the child brides and girls are victimized more so because it's not their decision to marry in the first place. The onus is on their parents, who insist on their early marriage. Again, the reasons are mind-blowing.



Yemeni children in rural areas are more likely to marry at early ages.

hood. Is this really a marriage or something else entirely?

UNICEF lists Yemen as the world's fourth fastest growing population. Every day, one sees children selling their wares on the streets. The number of divorces increases daily in Yemen.

Where are the government's plans to raise awareness against child marriage? When will we see strict laws against "instant divorces" that drop women and their children back into their father's homes without any type of financial support or care for their welfare? These destitute women are now their parents' burden with an added package - children who, on their own, will become victims of a vicious cycle.

Most importantly, when will Yemenis become responsible and sensible in the decisions they make regarding their children's futures?

Mohamed attends 6th grade at Al-Motasim School in a small neighborhood, where he lives with his large and destitute family. His sick mother of nine children 'advised' the 12-year-old to marry in order to help her with the house responsibilities, so a month later, Mohamed married his uncle's 10-year-old daughter. He continues going to school and playing with his friends in the zone because he knows nothing about marriage. No one in his zone believes he's even married.

Yet why did his mother ask him to marry, bringing in one more mouth to feed while he's unable to carry out the duties of an adult man? His condition of being a child hasn't changed, yet the world has changed dramatically for his 10-year-old bride because she now must grow up instantly and help with the other children, putting aside her own child-

hood. Is this really a marriage or something else entirely?

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The Eagle that learned to fly

By: Afsana Hye

"Keep the Faith" by Adam Taha is dedicated to the Yemeni people and Yemen itself, but also to England, which has provided him vast opportunities to learn and grow. It's dedicated to everyone who has a dream and is willing to fight for it. It's an amazing book and belongs to part of Yemeni history.

One of Yemen's sons, Taha hasn't forgotten his roots. At the forefront of the entrepreneurial world, he's a man making a difference, not just making money. He's developing programs for students to become exposed to the world and the diverse career choices they have, with the understanding that they can be an employer as well as an employee.

Taha exposes them to diverse fields so they can envision being a producer, a doctor, a teacher, a youth worker, an entrepreneur or whatever dreams to which they aspire, but they won't know until they're exposed to the right associations and environment to think, speak and act like leaders. By doing so, this dynamic Yemeni sows the seeds to raise their self-image and their confidence and tap into their own qualities so they can change from within.

Also known by his pseudonym - One Dark Angel - Taha is an entrepreneur in Sheffield, England, who devotes his time to developing leaders from within his own global business and mentoring entrepreneurs to students around the world via conferencing, emails and one-on-one meetings.

This son of a steel worker was born in Yemen in the 1970s when Yemenis were making history by leaving their country for all parts of the world to build a brighter future for their families.

Taha arrived in England years later to meet his parents only to face racism, isolation and an education system that was unprepared at that time. Not knowing how the education system worked, he failed all of his school exams.

Instead of following in his siblings' footsteps of obtaining a degree and working a 9-to-5 job, Taha asked questions because he wanted to do more with his life and he couldn't see the education system giving him the skills he needed.

He had a dream, but no teacher or career could advise him which steps to take. In fact, they advised him to forget his dream, which was one of the primary reasons he left the education system.

Knowing it would entail a lot of change, investment and overcoming many challenges - mostly the perceptions of his relatives, community and society regarding what success really is - he also needed to learn from those who dared to dream and succeed against all odds.

After failing his studies, Taha swapped his government social security

checks for books, living on pizza, toast and beans so he had enough money to travel to business conferences and learn from those who already were successful in their own businesses. He even slept outside on park benches because he didn't have enough money for a hotel room.

One of the qualities that helped him was that he was willing to pay the price without complaint. Without any qualifications, future employers still took him on because of his ability to inspire his interviewers with ideas and solutions because his CV was packed with real experiences.

Taha worked hard to produce and co-founded the first Sheffield Black newspaper, called Wha'agwan, and fought for students to have their first newspaper at Sheffield College, thus developing student journalists, which sparked the college to create its own local newspaper.

He developed the business action plan for the first Black Business Forum, which to date, still is running and growing in his city. As if that wasn't enough on his plate, he took on the job of development worker to develop programs for Yemeni students. While other students took a holiday for eid, Taha stayed behind to make sure Muslim students were welcomed back with, "Eid mubarak!" and a hall full of activities to bring all of the communities together because a great leader is a great servant.

In a Sheffield College report regarding a project called Stateside Rappers Speak Out, Taha developed a program and worked with Sheffield coordinators, inviting rappers and Professor Meacham from the United States. By the time it was over, all of the schools, colleges, parents, teachers, directors and companies had gotten involved in raising student achievements by using creative content. An additional theme was added to the curriculum to help students learn faster and enjoy the education journey. He also worked with all of the communities to establish a Parents Awareness Day, which continues running until this day and is packed every four months.

If a school and college drop-out like Taha can find his way to growing and mentoring so many businesses, nurturing 18-year-olds, married couples and singles from diverse communities, religions and cultures around the globe and seeing them become business leaders, then what's stopping anyone else? That's the message in his books, entitled, "Keep the Faith Trilogy" - dream big and let nothing stop you. Think of "why," not "how," as the key to success in everything people do in life.

"Keep the Faith" is a touching journey about a young Yemeni boy named Sid and his remarkable childhood years in Yemen. Sid's journey begins when his parents leave him in Yemen to fly to England in the 1970s. Sid encounters many fascinating events in his early life, some of which are very fairy tale-like,

except that they're true.

For some, they are fairy tale-like because we can get water easily by turning on a tap, whereas Sid must walk for miles, sometimes for a full day. While food is easy for us to attain, Sid must fight and search for it.

The comforts of a carpeted home and the luxuries of television, wallpaper and central heating already are built into many homes. Jobs aren't scarce and there's no turmoil due to citizens not having rights or being unable to have numerous choices. Sid lives most of his years in Yemen in a house made of earth and at times, in a cave carved within the Yemeni mountains. Whereas we have free or easy access to education, Sid can only dream of having such an opportunity.

The relationship between Sid and his best friend Khalid highlights the value of friendship, brotherhood and all the fun one can have together. It also opens our eyes to the reality of losing friendship and the wisdom of letting go. Yet it never stops Sid from taking that extra step toward his dream or understanding that to succeed in life, one must change from within and craft habits - replacing bad habits with good ones. He's adven-

turous and never stops dreaming, hoping and keeping the faith until the day when he'll see the world so many speak about and return home to Yemen to help his people.

A moving book that made me appreciate all that I have, it also taught me, "If it doesn't kill you, it'll make you stronger." The book plays with one's emotions and grabs attention right away. An excellent read, it's most certainly an addicting book one can't put down because it's written from the heart. From the first to the last page, I felt like I was walking with Sid, seeing all he saw from beginning to end. It's sincere and works toward the readers' understanding that they can make a difference in the world, but they first must change themselves.

"Keep the Faith" even got me to appreciate the various cultures in schools, colleges and universities, as well as the opportunities. Sid opens the reader's eyes to the Yemeni people's traditions and challenges, but most of all, he depicts the hope and courage they have and how people all over the world left their homeland to build their dreams in England and the U.S., not asking, "How?" but rather, "Why?"

Maybe that's where most of us go wrong because if our reasons are big and/or strong enough, then nothing can stop us from realizing our dreams and we won't question the price of success. We'll stop using lack of money, friends, tools, education, time, government help or corrupt leaders as excuses and make them a reason to make our dreams happen.

Taha provides insight into how children enter school with issues and diverse challenges that must be tackled and about which teachers must be aware. By understanding that student success depends on tackling what's inside, studying becomes an adventure for students to fall in love with.

If parents and the education system could stop seeing children as numbers, outputs, files or grades, but rather as human beings from diverse communities with issues from home and emotions that play a part in their lives and recognize that mentorship is a key to tap into children's hearts, then success is just a decision away.

One issue I'm glad Taha covered is bullying and how we shouldn't ignore it because it does great damage - it can be life and death for any child.

As a student myself, I feel I've become more aware about life itself and more aware of the world around me. I now question the world around me because of this book and how I can make a positive impact.

I've become aware of the richness of Yemeni culture, as well as Islam and how Islam and the West can live together in peace because there's no East or West in "Keep the Faith." There's humanity, future and actions we all must take for the future generation. I saw the value of knowledge and how we shouldn't let the days just go by due to procrastination, which feeds on our fears. Instead, we should grab opportunities from every second of our life in order to succeed.

Taha has done justice to his people in Yemen. He has tapped into every opportunity, learning to write songs, sing, produce, write books, design magazines and newspapers, create ideas and develop them into huge successes, becoming an entrepreneur and using all of these skills to empower people from all races, religions and cultures. His growing business organization is a reflection of this, as well as a reflection of who he is as an individual.

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Yemen - Sana'a - Hadda St. In Front of Alamm Almarkazy Gate
Tel: 2408335/10813 Fax: 265537 Mobile:77764634 - P.O.Box: 472
Web Site: www.itech-edu.com - Email: info@itech-edu.com



Sana'a British School

Sana'a British School is recruiting an enthusiastic, experienced and qualified

Pre-School Teacher

Candidates should speak fluent English, have up to date experience of teaching 2-4 year olds, a teaching qualification and excellent references.

At this exciting time in the school's development, we need someone who is full of good ideas, who can use our very spacious early years premises to its full potential and who can work alongside support staff to plan and deliver an engaging curriculum.

Applications including full CV should be addressed to Miss Nerys Loveridge, Head teacher, at the school, to arrive no later than 3pm on the 22 November 2006. Visits are welcome by appointment.

Sana'a British School
18, st 21, off Nauakchott St.
PO box 15546
Sana'a
Tel: 203950
Email: sbsyemen@sbsyemen.com

The Capital Secretariat and IPEC / International Labour Organization

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Working Child Rehabilitation Center in Sana'a announces a vacancy post as a Project Coordinator for annual period of one year. The incumbent will report to IPEC/ILO office in Sana'a.

Requirements

Education: Advanced university degree in relevant field.

Experience: At least five years of professional experience at the national level in the occupational area.

Languages: Excellent command of English and Arabic.

Competencies: Knowledge of programming and budgeting, project management administration. Good communication skills. Good computer application skills.

CVs will be received from 9am to 1pm from Saturday to Wednesday.

Please address your CVs to:

International Programme on the Elimination of the Child
Labour, Yemen Office
Apartment # 23-4th floor Al-Nuzaily Building, Hadda St.
P.O.Box: 551
Sana'a-Yemen



The Embassy of the United States of America

ANNOUNCES

The Middle East Partnership Initiative U.S. LEGAL AND BUSINESS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR YOUNG MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN (MEPI LBFP)

A program of the U.S. Department of State, MEPI LBFP is designed to provide talented young women, ages 22-32, with unique opportunities to learn management and legal skills while working in the dynamic and productive U.S. business and legal environment.

Competition for the program is merit-based, and selection will be made on the basis of the applicant's leadership potential, commitment to professional growth in the business sector of their local economies, and knowledge of English.

The six-month program will be conducted in the United States from mid-March 2007 to early September 2007.

The application is available online at www.amideast.org/LBFP, at www.mepi.state.gov, or through local AMIDEAST offices.

The deadline for the application is **December 27, 2006**. For more information, please contact:

AMIDEAST Sana'a
Algiers Street #66
P.O. Box 15508
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel: (01) 400-279, 280, 281
Fax: (01) 206-943
E-mail: jandrade@amideast.org
Attn: Ms. Jessica Andrade

AMIDEAST Aden
162 Miswal Street
P.O. Box 6009
Khormaksar
Aden, Republic of Yemen
Telefax: (02) 235-069, 070, 071
E-mail: thesari@amideast.org
Attn: Ms. Faridah Hesari

AMIDEAST
الميد إيست

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is administered by AMIDEAST



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Tel: +967 1 201359 /19
Showroom +967 1 404340
E-mail: suzuki@yemen.net.ye

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

An established International Oil Company operating several exploration areas invites Yemeni National geologists or geophysicists to apply for the position of Senior Explorationist to assist their Sana'a – based Exploration Team with the delivery of an in country exploration programme and the development of Yemeni technical staff.

Candidates should have:

- Masters of Science or higher tertiary degree in Earth Science
- 10 + year experience in Oil and Gas Industry in a technical role
- Familiarity with technical software packages
- International experience will be an advantage

Candidates need to have the following skills:

- Be fluent in written and spoken English
- Be computer literate (Microsoft applications)
- Communicate clearly
- Present material confidently
- Have a willingness and ability to train an exploration team and mentor individuals
- Be honest, open and reliable

Remuneration:

- An attractive remuneration package will be offered

Application:

Interested candidates with the necessary qualifications and experience are requested to submit complete application (including a covering letter, CV and copies of your degree/certificates) by facsimile to 410 314.

Deadline to receive applications is 21st November 2006.

Position Vacancy #1515

AMIDEAST announces recruitment of two professionals to fill the newly established positions of MEPI Alumni Coordinators.

The US Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) provides funding to support programs in four areas: political governance and participation; economic liberalization and opportunity; educational quality and access; and the empowerment of women.

MEPI has selected AMIDEAST as its partner to create an Alumni Network for the many professionals who have already participated in MEPI-funded programs. AMIDEAST is accepting applications to hire two experienced professionals, one in Sana'a and one in Aden, to serve as MEPI Alumni Coordinators to manage this program.

The Alumni Coordinators will create active alumni chapters with clear organizational direction and structure, and that work to support the professional development of its members. The Alumni Coordinator will serve as: (1) the local AMIDEAST delegate to each alumni chapter (Sana'a and Aden); (2) the principal liaison between the alumni chapter, AMIDEAST, and MEPI; and (3) an objective consultant to the chapter for issues concerning organizational goals, structure, growth, and the design of activities.

Salary and benefits will be competitive and commensurate with the experience of the incumbent.

Specific Responsibilities

- Establish communication networks with Yemeni alumni, and promote/maintain regular contact;
- Oversee the structuring and development of active alumni chapters for Yemen;
- Recruit members for the steering committee and attend steering committee meetings;
- Lead the chapter in organizing national and international conferences and meetings in Yemen and the region;
- Work closely with chapter members in forging the identity of the group;
- Remain in frequent contact with MEPI alumni and solicit/share news of alumni accomplishments.

Qualifications

- Minimum 8 – 10 years professional work experience, including supervisory experience;
- Outstanding skills in organizing, motivating, and energizing individuals and groups;
- Demonstrated ability to network and interact with young professionals as well as those with more seniority, in both the public and private sectors;
- Strong verbal and written communication skills in English and Arabic;
- Creative thinker and self-starter, who can work well on a team or independently with limited supervision; and
- Bachelor's degree in a relevant field, and citizen/legal resident of Yemen.

To apply:

Please send by e-mail your curriculum vitae, contact information for three professional references, and a cover letter explaining your interest in applying for the position cmahowe@amideast.org, referencing #1515 in the subject header. The closing date for applications is **November 20, 2006**. Late applications will not be considered. Only those applicants selected for further consideration will be contacted for interviews. No phone calls, please.

JOBS ANNOUNCEMENT

Basic Health Services Project-BHS, Funded by USAID, announces the following vacant positions

Position: Communication Advisor/ Consultant

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Arranging for activities with the local press
- Writing information materials
- Scrutinizing project information for suitable "communication materials"
- Be able to speak publicly about the project as needed
- Assist with publications and written products of the BHS project.
- Report on progress/ successes to project headquarters and to USAID, produce success stories, provide regular reports/news.
- Develop information for Yemeni audiences, including government, Ministry of Health, other NGOs, and the press;
- Take photos or hire a photographer when needed to document the work of the project. Archive and catalog the photos.
- Work with project field officers and partners to teach them about communications and help them learn what kind of information is needed by project leaders

Job Requirements:

- Have a university degree in a relevant discipline
- Be a good writer, editor, and communicator.
- Fluent speaker in both Arabic and English languages
- Excellent writing / journalistic skills in both languages
- Have experience working with humanitarian and non-profit organizations.
- Good public relation skills and experience
- Good experience in working with computer and relevant software.

Position: Monitoring & Evaluation & HIS Specialist/ Full time Employee

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Develop plan and tools to organize collect, and obtain as needed up-to-date and reliable information on all indicators included in the BHS work plan.
- Collect information needed on BHS field activities (training, outreach, refurbishments etc...) and on outputs of; a) BHS assisted health facilities and their utilization, b) community based and outreach activities and c) local participation.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation tools and plans and apply them to meet the BHS M&E needs .
- Develop and implement plans for training local health teams to apply any relevant M&E tools to their own work particularly to improve supervision and monitoring efforts at governorate and district levels.
- Review nationally obtained data and correlate as needed to the BHS data and information.
- Provide feedback to governorates, districts and facilities countermining data and information collected and discuss findings with them.
- Prepare reports and recommendation in concern of findings from collected data and information.

Job Requirements:

- At least university degree in Social, public health or relevant disciplines.
- Training and experience in one or more of the following fields: Research, epidemiology, statistics, demography and public health.
- Experiences in data collection and research in Yemen.
- Experience working with international programs.
- Ability to organize and manage field work for data collection.
- Fluency in Arabic and English languages.
- Able to work with computer and appropriate software.
- Ability to undertake independent travel to any place.

Position: Medical Equipment Specialist

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Receive all Medical Equipment, make, and compare the description based on the purchased order.
- Register on the Inventory.
- Follow up the Equipment receiving by Governorates and facilities.
- Conduct field visit as a member of Mobile Maintenance team.
- Implement training and provide guidelines on using provided Medical Equipment..
- Assist in preparing required Medical Equipments specifications.
- Prepare Tenders Information and Announcement.
- Assist in preparing Tenders General and Technical Terms & Conditions.
- Assist in analyzing Medical Equipment tenders.
- Assist on recommended types and including alternative options.
- Assist in improving safety and working conditions

Job Requirements:

- Appropriate degree in medical equipment engineering (at least two years training after secondary school).
- At least three years experience in various medical equipment maintenance and follow up.
- Fluent speaker in both Arabic and English languages
- Good communication skills with others
- Able to travel within the country as needed.
- Skills in train others on proper usage of medical equipment

Please submit your CV during 10 days from today to the address below. Please mention the position you are applying for.

Tourist city, building 49

Tel: 01 309919-8-7-6, Fax: 01 302775, P.O.Box 22344

Words of Wisdom



Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen needs accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
(1951-1999)
Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

From Brussels with love

I was selected as the Yemen's participant in the European Union's visitors program 2007. This program invites people from all around the world to visit the heart of Europe where all the political fun takes place. Not only is Brussels a beautiful and historic city, it is also an important European capital where the European parliament, commission and council of ministers, among many other European institutions exist. The visitors program includes various meetings to give participants a general overview of the EU workings and some in depth information regarding specific interests of the participant.

This one-week visit introduced me to this exciting powerful and intricate institution, and I can now say that I am beginning to understand how the European Commission and Parliament and other institutions operate in Europe and in other parts of the world. I paid close interest to the EU's relations with Yemen and I will be following coming events very closely. The EU is one of the most important donors for Yemen, and has held long interest in Yemen's development and progress. A recent example of this interest was the large groups of observers who stayed in Yemen for weeks in order to observe the presidential and local council elections and evaluate the process. The observer's final report should be published soon. Another example is the coming troika meeting this month in Sana'a.

During my visit to Brussels I was also very impressed with the NGO that created the EU. It is called the European Movement and it is a very clear and great example of how civil society and NGOs can play a vital role in the future of nations.

I also visited the Belgium House of Representatives and walked from the blue carpet to the red one admiring the portraits of important people in the history of Belgium. Being media, I was very interested in visiting the Belga News Agency and there will be a lot to say about this at a later stage. During my visit I also met with international organizations such as Amnesty International and Oxfam.

Well, there is so much more to say about the EU and Brussels, but I am yet to digest all the information. There will be more reports to follow.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

Donors conference, inevitability of partnership

Our stand is sometimes not easily understood and our stands are bewildering and this includes both the governing system and opposition. The government behaves as if the matter concerns it alone and as if the task of qualification is entrusted with it and its institutions of authority while civil society organizations outside authority have nothing to do with the entire process.

The opposition on the other side behaves as if the issue concerns only the ruling party and any political, social or economic success by the country to perform its regional and international role is, in the end, the success of the government rather than success for the country for which all have to contribute for national success.

Our political relations and competition must not blind us or impede our role in supporting our country in the process of qualification and obtaining donors and technical support. The experiments we experienced in previous international conferences emphasize the necessity of putting aside political differences. We have always called for joining forces and efforts of

all of us for the support of the country's higher interests.

It is really the problem of mixing between the higher interest of the homeland and the political groups. The ruling political force of today can become the opposition tomorrow. However all of us are proceeding from the wrong square; believing to be the legitimate representative of the higher interest of the country. What one side sees, says and proposes is representing the higher interest of the homeland, but what the other does is quite opposite to national interest. Nonetheless, all claim to be democratic and respectful of both opinions.

The time has come for us to start make our political thinking and visions in accordance with the same rights we see for ourselves.

There must be reconsideration in handling public issues and the governance because then its institutions would realize their interest and the country's interest lies in informing the opposition parties and the civil society on what is going on and engage them in some phases of deal-

ing with public issues must not be confined to government institutions. We find that countries with the most success involved many parties of political, economic, cultural, social and intellectual systems.

As we are preparing for the donor conference this month and another the beginning of next year, President Ali Abdullah Saleh is concerned with accomplishing comprehensive reforms and tackling failures that accompanied the process of building the unity state since its inception up until now. This goal was mentioned in the president's speeches in his election rallies.

We have supported and welcomed the president's assurances after his election victory and his emphasis on electing governors and heads of districts and restricting the period for leading posts to four years. All this means introduction of efficient and capable people to executive establishments, particularly that the country possesses national talents that have not been used since declaration of the Yemeni unity in 1990.

We request the donor states and institutions to offer material, technical and knowledge support to help realize overall reform, to tackle failures and qualify our country to enable it to perform its important role regionally and internationally. Yemen

needs to contribute to the pillars of security and stability in the region and the world and achieve economic, social, political and cultural development to deliver our people from the deteriorate level they have reached. It is also to help the people to keep pace with development renaissance experienced by many countries in the world and our region in particular.

The Gulf Cooperation Council countries shoulders the task and the biggest role in qualification and should double their efforts during and

after the conference of London so Yemen can be capable of integration and partnership with its sisterly states of the GCC. The GCC countries are capable of playing this role and have potential to achieve that partnership so Yemen can be the strategic depth for the region's stability.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor in Political Science. He is the head of the Arab Group for Investment and Development

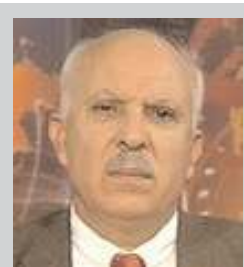
The Suez: The shortest war of the 20th century

The Arabs along with the world remember the events when the Suez War broke out 50 years ago as one of the shortest wars in the 20th century.

Beginning in 1952 late President Gamal Abdul Nasser and his comrades, the Free Officers, were working to change the face of Egypt and the Arab world with a people's revolution that put an end to the Egyptian monarchy inherited from the Ottoman period. By that point the monarchy had fulfilled all its purposes and it was no longer qualified to play a useful role for Egypt in a different era marked by the establishment of the state of Israel and escalating revolutions against colonization. Those revolutions were destined during the 1960s to topple the world order that was built by the British, French and other European empires.

The Egyptian Free Officers were, at that time, working to get the means to achieve their revolutionary pledges. One of those promises was the building of a huge dam on the Nile to protect Egypt against seasonal floods, help it overcome thirst and to reclaim more arable land as well as obtaining necessary hydroelectric power. That achievement would consequently provide job opportunities for thousands of Egyptians.

The Aswan Dam, in the vision of the free officers, was the most important



By: Faisal Jallul

constructional landmark since the building of the pyramids. It was designed to a historical characteristic of the July Revolution and to distinguish it from other movements of change in the third world and subsequently,

make it a historic event in the eyes of the Egyptians.

The beginning was calm as the free officers received promises from the World Bank to finance the project. But those promises soon vanished because of the Egyptian support for liberation movements from colonization, especially the Algerian revolution that began in November 1954. The removal of financing for dam construction was punishment against the revolutionary regime and they understood it as a step forcing them to relinquish their foreign policy and if they insisted on their policies they were sacrificing their developmental project.

A traditional regime could have submitted to pressures and changed its policy, but a revolution does not possess this luxury and maybe it was in need of such challenges to prove its capacity and consolidate its existence and also to prove the seriousness of its slogans. So that's what happened. Gamal Abdul Nasser confronted the challenge with a bigger one, as if he was saying, "If you want to deprive us of funding the dam we are able to finance it our own ways."

Thus Nasser took the initiative and nationalized the Suez Canal in his well-known speech and rendered it under the Egyptian sovereignty. That move produced a shock to the entire world. First of all it was the first initiative of its kind in a third world country following oil nationalization in Iran by the government of Mosadaq. The canal was then a semi-compulsory waterway for world oil supplies. War fleets of the empires were forced to pass through the canal in their movement between the colonies and Europe. The nationalization constituted an unprecedented challenge to the international law coined by those empires. Another reason is that the nationalization of the Suez Canal tightened the grip on Israel. The action would encourage liberationist revolutions against colonization and humiliate masters of the world who achieved triumph in World War II.

On the other hand, the war led to the appearance of the Soviet Union in the Middle East as a supporter of Arab peoples and the United States came to the forefront in leadership of the western system and world order unilaterally after the collapse of the Cold War marking an end to military experiments, projects of domination and foreign ambitions.

In remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the Suez War it is useless to yearn for the past and seek refuge with past eras or cry over ruins. History goes on with defeats and victories despite. We, who are still alive, have to decide whether we want to make history or just be on its trivial margins.

Faisal Jallul is a Lebanese writer and journalist.

France and Britain decided to invade Egypt and occupy the Suez Canal. They were in need of a justification and found it with a secret agreement with Israel. The plan was to have the Hebrew state take the initiative and occupy the Sinai desert and reach the banks of the canal under pretext Egypt was supporting the Palestinian Fedayeen in Gaza and preventing Israeli ships from crossing the canal and Tiran Straits on the Red sea. The plan was codenamed "musketeer" stipulated a French-British warning that the two sides pull 13 km away from the banks of the canal under military occupation in order to protect the international waterway. That was what happened.

The plan could have succeeded had it not been for the USSR and U.S. standing together, the Egyptian popular resistance and the large Arab people's rally behind the Egyptian president. The Soviets threatened to use nuclear missiles against Britain and France if they did not withdraw the occupying armies and America threatened Britain to destroy the Sterling Guinea if it did not withdraw its forces from Egypt. Moscow wanted to enter the Middle East while America wanted to end the French and British empirical system and be in a position to lead the world.

The invaders withdrawal from Egypt led to an Egyptian political victory for Nasser and historical and dangerous humiliation for Paris and London to the extent that it led to the fall of the fourth republic in France, loss of the political future of British Prime Minister Anthony Eden and Nasser became a hero in his country and the Arab world. Now Arab political literature ranks Nasser among the few world leaders marking the 20th century.

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SILVER LINING

U.S. democracy and the power of change

People have been worried the death sentence passed against the former dictator of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, would be very influential in the U.S. midterm elections. I believe the verdict is just – the man devastated his country and brought misery to his people. If one looks back in history and reviews his memory and the catastrophes this arrogant tyrant created through his three decades of rule then people will realize he deserves his sentence. And therefore, this should be the end of such dictators and we pray to see more Arab States heads facing the same judgment.



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

My point here is the U.S. elections. The results have shown that even the death of Saddam would not any more convince the U.S. citizens of the goals of the Bush administration and the Republican party policy both domestically and internationally. The U.S. voters have realized the catastrophic labyrinth the Bush administration is leading them through with its radical and unclear policy; the need to bring the democrats on board. The elections have been, as Bush himself acknowledged, a referendum on his leadership and his war in Iraq.

I remember that I wrote an article here in defense of the U.S. democracy and its ability to put an end to chaotic policies like that of Bush when people started attacking it, calling it fake. It is not a fake democracy but a genuine one as the U.S. people changed the situation by voting for the democrats and bringing Bush and his party down to the ground. With the democrats in control of the Capitol, changes in the U.S. foreign policy, mainly with regards to the situation in Iraq and the war on terrorism, are expected soon. Now the Bush administration will be bound to democrat decision making and for sure, the Democratic Congress will give Bush a headache, setting the stage for a tumultuous two years ahead of the 2008 presidential election, particularly if Democrats make good on their vow to use their newfound power to hold hearings on the conduct of the war in Iraq and the slow response to last year's devastating Hurricane Katrina.

I hope this victory by the democrats will bring the confidence of the world community back to the liveliness of U.S. democracy, originally established by Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, so it can be a lighthouse for people all over the globe. The U.S. has been and, I am optimistic, it will continue to be the paradise lost for oppressed people all over the world.

Bush will go for good from the White House in two years. He cannot ask for longer, as it happens here in Arab states. He can only serve eight years. The Republicans have abused the trust granted to them by the U.S. citizens and therefore, they have been punished democratically.

Unfortunately, democracy in our countries, regardless of the elections we make, does not generate the change seen in the U.S. and Europe. Yemeni people are very much angry with the policy of the ruling GPC, but by the end of the day the ruling party wins parliamentary, local and presidential elections with sweeping majorities. This is the bizarre democracy and the model we have for the Middle East. It is the type of democracy that brought almost all the local councils secretary generals back to office, despite their failure in addressing the problems of the people since 2001.

I really wished to hear at least one of the opposition leaders quitting his position after their failure in the elections, at least to show respect to the people. But, nothing happened. Donald Rumsfeld, the former U.S. Defense Secretary, immediately announced his resignation after the defeat of his party; he knows it's his crazy policy, which embroiled the U.S. in trouble in Iraq and gave the impression of a growing U.S. empire, is the reason behind the loss by the republicans. But has any high ranking official resigned in our region to signal a recognition of failure?

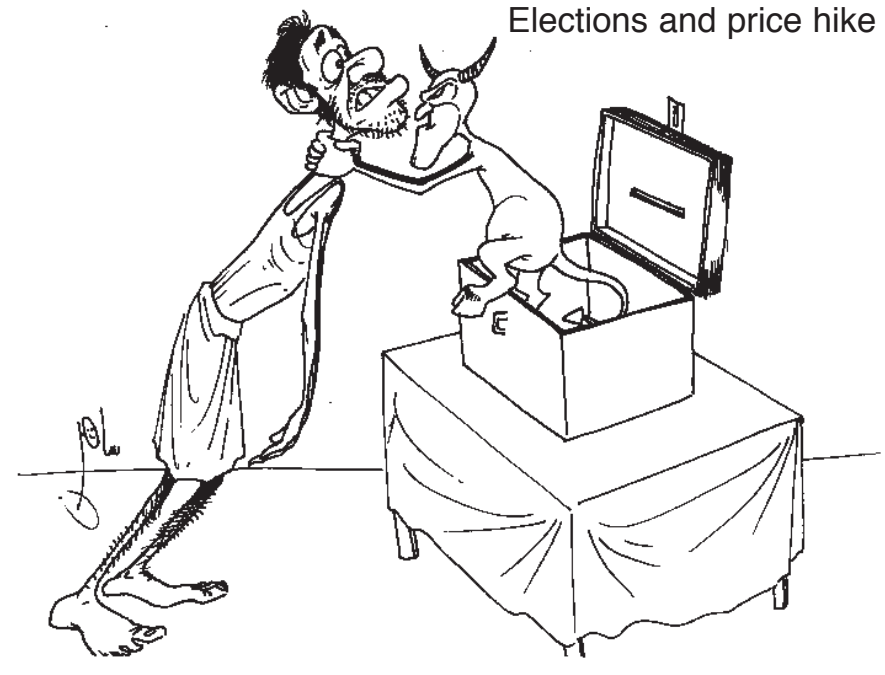
To drive the point home, there is a big difference between a democracy able to change and hold officials accountable and a toothless and fake democracy that is not able to express people's choice who show an aspiration for a better policy and a better life. The Bush administration was severely punished for its poor policies according to the voter's perspective, but our elections were not able to bring down even the corrupt candidates of the ruling party in the local elections. You see the big gap!

Robin Madrid

Robin Madrid, the country representative of the National Democratic Institute office in Yemen, finished her term in office. This strong-minded woman has been one of the few foreigners who served in Yemen and had a great impact. She faced hard times during her service in Yemen, as she told me in one of my interviews with her, but could go overcome them and remain faithful to her mission and decision to help the country democratize. She really deserves our thanks and appreciation for her good job.

Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.

SKETCHES OPINION



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Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 7 Nov.2006.

Main headlines

- Explosion in a park in the capital
- Corruption and monopoly of more than one billion and half at Awqaf
- Navigation disrupted in Aden, one million dollars to rescue a stranded ship
- Al-Atwani: JMP broke fear barrier in presidential contest
- JMP & National Conference condemn the Zionist massacre
- Following the US congress, launching reconciliation initiative with Syria expected
- NUO sends condolences to the Nasserite Party in Egypt

Writer Mohammed Awadh Al-Harby says in his article that the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) participation in the elections of 2006 and its parties unanimity on nomination of a personality of the political weight of Faisal Bin Shamlan was the clearest evidence of their credibility intention of leading the country out of the state of corruption and a courageous step with which they entered the Yemeni arena and participated with uprightness and democratic awareness in word and action. They have done so despite their knowledge of the means of the other party and realization of its incredibility. Nevertheless the JMP parties entered the election battle, not out of their being the weaker or the stronger but for being the more loyal to the people who wanted to be transferred in a

qualitative way to the proper democratic direction.

The JMP participation was sincere and decent in which it carried the message of change in realization of the people's desire for the necessity of change and performed its role truly and was keen on the interest of the people by avoiding sedition which war mongers were trying to ignite its fire under the name of democracy and election propaganda.

Therefore all ways of fraud and different ways of terrorization and intimidation were used let alone the violations practiced by the ruling party during that time. The ruling party also employed all the state property to serve it and also resorted to defamation of opposition reputation and belittling of their patriotism. By all those means it intended to explode the internal situation and drive the country into a dark tunnel. The opposition behaved rationally and preferred the homeland's interest and thus avoided confrontation out because it does not believe that confrontation is a means for change



Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress (GPC), 6 Nov. 2006.

Main headlines

- Active movement for the success of London donors conference, The president: Continuation of reforms, development march and achievement of overall renaissance
- Yemen government share of oil revenues rises to more than \$ 3

billion

- PM Bajammal: Development of investment climate needs positive integration among state institutions, the private sector and arbitration to laws
- Agenda full of draft laws, reports and questions addressed to ministers, The parliament begins discussion draft law on fighting corruption and the government submits draft law of tenders
- Justice Minister asks parliament to lift MP Hamid Al-Ahmar's immunity
- Minister of planning and international cooperation: completion of reforms agenda will help qualification for the millennium fund
- 24 world oil companies contest for 14 open blocks in Yemen

In his front-page article writer Iskandar Al-Asbahi says future does not come from vacuum but rather born from the present it is made of intellect, will and action. A thought comprehends reality, data and challenges and problems, and a political will capable of perseverant in productive action.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has defined the features of the future in Yemen through his election platform via which he won the people's trust and has become a national working program. The president's election program is summed up with the slogan of 'New Yemen, Better future'. The titles of the platform are knowledge environment, modern management an environment attractive to investment, free citizen, democratic homeland, developed political environment and fighting poverty, corruption and unemployment.

By sensing challenges of the future

and preparation for dealing with it with effectiveness and ability, the extent of the future society's preparedness is defined. This preparedness is supposed to be present with the individuals and the society and the state at the same footing. They are the decisive element in going into the future with confidence and competence.

The people of Yemen have expressed their choice of the better future and thus have shown their preparedness for making the Yemeni future, promising to bring good for the society.

A considerable amount of preparedness for the future has been achieved and some of it is in the reform and accomplishment. At all events the wheel of making the future has begun its rotation, as much as the preparedness for the future a condition for its achievement it is also trust in the future important in the direction of making the future

Yemen is moving with all aspects towards making the better future.



Al-Nidaa weekly, 8 Nov.2006.

Main headlines

- Deputy of the American ambassador to Yemen Nabil Khouri says Washington will support Yemen's government at the donors conference
- In London conference, Saleh leads the first presidential attempt to invest the political openness technically
- Wheat and flour, rare in the market and abundance in stores

- On the border line, A painful trip for thousands of Yemenis in quest for wealth in the oil land
- Tragedy of the 20 prisoners continuous, nothing new from the Ramadan committee

Al-Nidaa newspaper discusses the donors conference saying except for the only pledge made by the government of Qatar of bearing 10% of the total amount of money that Yemen has said it is needed for financing the project of qualifying its economy for its incorporation and integration with economies of the Gulf Cooperation states, there is no other international party that has specified the size of its commitment to this program.

The package of promises is filled in the local media and repeated by the government media considering them as success and confirmation of the success of Sana'a endeavors for restoring the international community trust in its performance after the presidential elections.

However, what is going on does not prove that. On the 15th of this month president Ali Abdullah Saleh will lead the Yemeni delegation to Britain's capital and he realizes that the United States and the European Union would offer any new obligation other than what they have allotted in their budgets of assistance. The betting in the conference remains attached to what the other GCC states, particularly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, Japan and south Korea to offer.

The promise made by the Saudi Arabian foreign minister and the Kuwaiti minister of finance during the meeting of the GCC foreign and finance ministers, along with Yemen's have not been translated into figures. In addition, the Saudi

Qatari difference on managing the funds to be collected for the implementation of qualifying the Yemeni economy put the government of Bajammal before the challenge of overcoming the stage of polarization in the Arab peninsula area, between Doha and Riyadh and the silence of Muscat.

On the other hand the ignoring of the donor countries for supporting this project reflects a state of distrust existing now between those countries and Yemen especially that the latter has not met its obligations regarding reforms, fighting corruption, expansion of participation, stopping the violations of freedom of opinion and expression and trial of those involved in crimes of attacks on journalists in the past year.

As the government has realized the difficulty of then success of its request of returning to the last of the states nominated for benefiting from the US Department of State's the Millennium Challenge Fund, it avoided renewal of its request until finishing what it has pledged to do. Thus the government's adventure in going to the donors conference to obtain the \$ 48 billion to cover requirements of development for the next ten years has put it against a new test. This is because these countries associate their assistance with a group of requirements.

At the forefront are the presence of democracy and freedom of expression, absence of corruption from the state institutions. These are also Gulf demands. The agreement of the GCC states on finding non-local mechanism for managing the funds collected for implementing projects of qualifying Yemen's economy is a confirmation of the absence of confidence in apparatuses of the Yemeni state.

Changing the present and dreaming the future

By: Tariq Ramadan

It is my perception that we have continued the process of interfaith dialogue among ourselves without taking into account the reality of our present world. Our world has changed tremendously, especially during the last 10 years. We are going from one crisis to another: social, civilizational and cultural.

As we represent the faiths of the people, we have to deal with this reality and we have to face up to our responsibilities in dealing with these crises. If we are speaking about hopes, we have to start by being realistic and face up to the responsibility. If we want something to happen, we should try and change not only the way we are dealing with each other but also the way we are dealing with the world we are living in.

When we speak about hopes and dreams, there is the Prophet's peace upon all who are dreaming the future and transforming the present. It should not be the other way around. By dreaming the present you are not helping me to deal with my problems. Therefore, dream the future, change the present and this is the way we have to deal with our values, with our teachings.

If I, as a Muslim man, try to share my views with fellow citizens of Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu or indigenous spiritual traditions, I, and others like me, are very often perceived as naive people, dreamers, far from reality. Is this true? If many perceive us like that, elementary psychology is telling us that we have to ask ourselves if there is any truth in this perception. I think there is. Our discourse is sometimes far

removed from the reality of people's lives.

We speak about love but as soon as we seek to promote love in this world, it becomes difficult. To love is difficult. We speak about peace, but to get peace, inner peace and collective peace, that is difficult. We speak about the importance of family. But people want concrete answers on how to build a family in this world, today, within this reality of social and psychological crises. We are living in a world where we need to give answers.

We are not secure and we do not feel secure. In the United States, there is a great deal of fear after 9/11. In Israel, Palestine, India and other parts of the world, fear is everywhere. It is not only a state of mind which we are witnessing.

Fear is also used by politicians and by religious people, people of faith. If we are true and understand the meaning of faith, we will have to deal with fear. Then we can begin to understand that we live in a world where emotions are promoted, and emotions have nothing to do with spirituality. In fact they are its opposite.

Emotions are superficial reactions. Not superficial in a bad way, but the first reaction surfacing when something happens. Spirituality is something different. It is about effort, about something that you experience deep in your heart. Spirituality is the way to master your emotions, not to be, or to submit yourself to, your own emotions. It is of vital importance to talk about our spiritual teachings. What do they tell us of mastering emotions?

Why is it so important to go beyond our emotions? Because they put us in a position where we

perceive *iusi* versus *ithemi* and where we have to defend our identity. That mindset is perverse, it is vicious in the world that we are living in to see each other as separate, always protecting myself from you and you protecting yourself from me. It makes dialogue quite impossible.

Spirituality has nothing to do with naivety. Spirituality has nothing to do with dreaming. It has to do with a critical mind enabling us to make an effort, a spiritual effort to maintain a distance from our emotions and to try to understand the world. It means to learn to listen, and it is not easy to listen when we are emotional.

I was in Sarajevo a few weeks ago and there, ten years after the war, an Eastern European was asking a Western European: "Let me ask you one thing: after what happened and us being Muslims, how can I trust you?" This question of trust is essential. How are we committed to promote this mutual trust? We must network at the local level to understand this global strategy and ideology of fear, and we must create spaces for mutual trust.

When we do that, we are changing the present and dreaming the future.

Tariq Ramadan is a professor of Islamic Studies and senior research fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford University and at Lokahi Foundation, London. He is also President of the European think-tank, European Muslim Network (EMN), in Brussels. This abridged article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at

www.commongroundnews.org. The full text can be found at www.tariqramadan.com.

Balancing realism and reform on the Arab periphery

By: Jeremy M. Sharp

In an ironic turn of events, Yemen's September 20 presidential and local elections garnered extensive favourable coverage by the normally critical Al-Jazeera, while they received only scant attention from the U.S. government, heretofore eager to highlight any sign of reform in Arab states. Why did U.S. officials refrain from highlighting what many foreign observers have praised as successful elections? Possible explanations include a return to traditional priorities in which security interests supersede democracy promotion, a calculated U.S. effort to promote Arab reform more quietly, or simply an oversight due to other distractions.

Yemen, a resource-poor Arab country situated at a healthy distance from the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, is a crucible of sorts for U.S. attempts to strike a balance between reform and other goals. US-Yemeni bilateral security and intelligence cooperation has been, and remains, the top U.S. priority. Since the 2000 Al-Qaeda attack on the USS Cole, the United States has helped Yemen build its coast guard to patrol the Bab al-Mandab and to meet an Al-Qaeda-inspired terrorist threat that recent events demonstrate to be very real. On September 19, the day before the elections, Yemeni security forces thwarted two terrorist attacks against oil installations in the north-eastern region of Maarib and on the Gulf of Aden coast at Dhabba.

In Yemen, the United States also faces the challenges of mixing encouragement and criticism of Arab regimes' liberalisation efforts and of deciding how to deal with Islamists. This is also true in Morocco and parts of the Gulf, where U.S. officials are quietly urging liberalisation. U.S. policy toward engaging certain Islamist movements is left somewhat

vague - perhaps deliberately so - but there are efforts being made to maintain contacts with moderate, non-violent Islamist factions. In Yemen members of the Islam party (a coalition of old guard Muslim Brotherhood members, Salafists, and tribes) appear to welcome dialogue on reform and have participated, along with other Yemeni political parties, in programmes sponsored by the US-based National Democratic Institute. Still, U.S. officials exercise caution, as the leader of the Salafist strain of Islam, Sheikh Abd al-Majid al-Zindani, is a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist" for the U.S. Treasury Department because of his alleged role in providing financial support to Al-Qaeda operations and recruitment.

The Yemeni presidential election was about more than just esoteric notions of political reform; it was about the real issue of presidential succession. As in Egypt, where speculation abounds over the grooming of Gamal Mubarak for succession, there is widespread concern among Yemen's opposition parties over the prospect of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's son Ahmed, 37, inheriting the reins of power. This fear was among the main motivations that brought Yemen's diverse opposition parties - socialists, Islamists, and Baathists - together in this year's elections. In a recent Washington Post interview, opposition presidential candidate Faisal bin Shamlan (who received 21 percent of the vote) remarked that "we subordinated our ideological agendas to the one thing we all had in common, which was a realisation that political reform was a necessity if we were to save democracy in Yemen and stop the country's descent into endemic corruption."

President Saleh's victory surprised no one; he is a populist leader who appeals to the everyman, and the ruling party's overwhelming resource advantage helped him considerably. Despite opposi-

tion allegations of fraud, foreign observers released preliminary conclusions that the election was relatively free and fair with the typical shortcomings seen in developing nations: there were breaches in voting secrecy, under-age voters, and a number of inaccuracies in the voting registry. U.S. government officials were clearly encouraged by the relatively smooth election, believing that process is important despite imperfections.

The key policy question now is whether the Yemeni government will derive any tangible benefits from holding the election. In November 2005, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) suspended Yemen's eligibility for assistance under its Threshold Program, concluding that after Yemen was named as a potential aid candidate in fiscal year 2004, corruption in the country had increased. Yemen can reapply in November of this year.

Despite the upcoming MCC decision, Yemen remains largely absent in public U.S. policy discussions regarding democratisation. Regime-manipulated political reform is but one malady in a long list of Yemen's socio-economic problems. The country is still recovering from civil war and reunification, and it has enormous social challenges including endemic poverty, high rates of illiteracy and water depletion. Yet, in a sense, the general lack of U.S. attention to Yemen in itself creates opportunities. Unlike U.S. relations with more strategically important countries such as Egypt, US-Yemeni relations are not under a microscope, giving policymakers on the ground flexibility and freedom to experiment.

Jeremy M. Sharp is a Middle East policy analyst at the Congressional Research Service. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.

الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال YEMEN LNG COMPANY



YEMEN LNG TECHNICAL TRAINEE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN – A YEMENI SUCCESS STORY

Completion of 2005 Technician Trainee Campaign

A major milestone was reached on 4th September 2006, when the last of the current intakes of trainees joined Yemen LNG's technical training scheme at the company's training centre in Sana'a. The young men who are now studying at the centre began their journey towards acceptance into the training programme, when they responded to a nationwide advertising campaign in November 2005. Since then, every one of the 16,000 applications received has been reviewed, and the candidates with the best technical qualifications and experience have been tested, interviewed and awarded training contracts. The successful candidates come from every governorate of Yemen and are being trained to become the technicians, process operators and panel operators who will staff the Yemen LNG gas terminal at Balhaf when production begins in late 2008.

"We decided at a very early stage that we could reduce the number of expatriates required for the project, if we could find and train enough talented young Yemenis to fill the Technician and Operator posts" says Joel Fort, General Manager of Yemen LNG Company. "LNG is a very complex technology, and we knew that we would still need many expatriate engineers and supervisors during the early years of production. However, I have every confidence that these young men will take over these positions steadily as their experience grows, and our aspiration is to have 90% Yemenisation by the end of 2015."

The current technical trainee campaign, launched in late 2005, is now over. However, this is not the end of recruitment by Yemen LNG Company. "We will build a new Training Centre on site" says Abdulla Alwadac, Head of HR Development. "It is expected to be operational by the end of 2008, and we will have regular intakes of technical trainees, to replace the ones hired during 2006. We expect to promote many of these to more senior posts very quickly. I envisage an annual programme of graduate and technical trainee recruitment, and the Training Centre will be fully occupied for many years to come. All young Yemenis who are interested in posts like these should concentrate on improving their knowledge of English, mathematics, chemistry, physics and technical subjects – these are the basic skills we need."

OTHER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Hundreds of other employment opportunities already exist on the Yemen LNG project, with the contractor companies who are building the Balhaf plant and the 320 kilometre pipeline which links it to the source of its gas supplies in Mareb. "Yemen LNG Company is not directly involved in the construction phase," says Phil Campbell, HR Manager for Yemen LNG Company. "The main contractor companies which are building the plant and pipeline are Yemgas, Hawk, and Amec Spie. These companies are constantly looking for skilled Yemeni nationals who have experience in operating the advanced construction equipment which this project requires, and 90% of all the personnel working on the site are already Yemenis. All Yemeni citizens who are interested in working on this project should read their national newspapers where vacancies are advertised, and those in Mareb and Shabwa should register their personal details and skills with their local Labour offices, as the contractors try very hard to recruit local people wherever possible". He adds "The contractors and Yemen LNG have Site Liaison Officers at all of our construction sites. They will advise job seekers where to register, to give them the best possible chance of finding employment."

FUTURE EMPLOYMENT WITH YEMEN LNG

Construction work will last until the end of 2008, and the contracting companies will need up to 10,000 employees during this period, at Balhaf or along the pipeline route. Although these jobs will end when construction is over, Yemen LNG Company will employ around 600 staff during the 20 years of operations. Recruitment for these posts is already under way, and will continue for many years.

"We have already hired 120 permanent Yemeni staff, mostly for the Sana'a headquarters offices and for some of the senior engineering and supervisory posts at Balhaf" says

Khine Mar Tun, Head of Recruitment. "All these posts are advertised nationally and on our website, so that we can attract candidates from all over Yemen. We already have employees from 17 of Yemen's 20 Governorates. Most recruitment over the next 12 months will be by the construction contractors but during 2007, Yemen LNG will begin to recruit the permanent technical and managerial staff for the Balhaf terminal. These are highly skilled jobs, and many will have to be filled by expatriates initially but we will be looking hard for Yemeni nationals, both inside Yemen and abroad, who are ready to fill these posts or who can be trained to fill them."

"Many of these technical staff will be Yemeni supervisors and engineers who have already worked in the oil and gas industry, and they will be given training in LNG technology in the Sana'a Training Centre" says Christian Augé, Training Manager. "The Centre is not just for young

technical trainees – it will also be used for more senior staff and for specialist training for Fire Fighting teams and Safety personnel for example. We are constantly looking for experienced Yemeni instructors with these skills".

Charles Mendiharat, Operations Manager explains "It is also very important to realize that not all the jobs at Balhaf are for highly skilled candidates. This is an enormous site – 15 square kilometers – and it will have workshops, security staff, catering and administrative teams and many subcontract maintenance and service personnel. Most of these will not be Yemen LNG staff, but they are vital to the success of this project. We will ensure that we – and our contractors – try very hard to find as many as possible of these staff in the Governorates and Districts closest to the pipeline and the terminal."

YEMENISATION AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Abdulla Alwadac, Head of Human Resources Development adds "Our role in the HR Development team is to identify Yemeni staff who have the potential to be promoted to senior roles, and then to provide them with the training and career development opportunities they require. Our Yemenisation programme requires a steady stream of technicians, engineers, administration and management candidates and we expect to launch a graduate recruitment programme in the near future."

Vacancies in Yemen LNG Company are advertised regularly. Interested applicants should watch the newspapers and the Yemen LNG website for information on vacancies, at www.YEMENLNG.COM and apply via our website.

WWW.YEMENLNG.COM

الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال

YEMEN LNG COMPANY



Job Vacancies

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

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

APPLICATION PROCESS

- ✓ Download Yemen LNG Application Form from Yemen LNG Website WWW.YEMENLNG.COM
- ✓ E-mail the completed form to HR@YEMENLNG.COM only
- ✓ Applications by post, fax, etc., will no longer be accepted
- ✓ The Company will contact potential candidates by end of December 2006. Applicants not contacted by this date will have been unsuccessful on this occasion.

Closing Date: 30th November 2006

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT COORDINATOR - Ref No. 075

Reports to: Sustainable Development Manager (HSSE Dept) , Work Location: Sanaa (with occasional business visits to other company work sites)

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Propose community development projects and ensure effective implementation
- Supervise Community and Site Liaison Officers
- Establish and maintain good relationships with government representatives, local NGOs, regional authorities and communities along the pipeline route and at all company work locations
- Develop and maintain Public Consultation Disclosure (PCD) systems and follow-up the formal records of all consultation meetings, ensuring that agreed actions are implemented
- Collect relevant data with the assistance of the CLOs on sites and help local communities to identify new project activities
- Maintain a Project Evaluation System and monitor progress regularly

Qualifications:

- Minimum 10 years of community development experience, preferably in Yemen, with international organisations
- Excellent knowledge of Yemeni social and cultural background
- Exceptional organizational abilities and capability to work within and motivate multi-disciplined teams
 - Fluent written and spoken English
 - Strong computer literacy

TRAINING OFFICER - Ref No. 058

Re-advertisement: Previous applicants should not re-apply.

Reports to: Head of Training and Development (HR Department), Work Location: Sana'a, - initially in the Yemen LNG Training Centre, with regular business visits to company work sites

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Prepare company annual training plans and training budgets in close relationship with all line managers
- Implement, organize, follow-up and assess the effectiveness of all external and internal training courses to ensure that staff have the required skills and proficiency to carry out their duties efficiently and safely
- Review ad-hoc training requests to ensure their relevance to business needs and compliance with budgets
- Work closely with Training Centre Technical staff to absorb principles of current programmes and with Yemencisation & Manpower Planner on staff Personal Development Plans, avoiding overlaps with normal training activities
- Maintain contacts with similar organizations in and outside Yemen to remain abreast with the developments in the training field, and recommend new approaches

Qualifications:

- a Bachelor Degree in engineering or 5-10 years' technical experience (essential)
- a minimum of 5 years' experience in the training or development profession, ideally within the oil and gas or a heavy industrial industry
- extensive hands-on experience of delivering professional training, within a multi-cultural environment
- Exceptional organization and communication skills, and the ability to enthuse and motivate team members and course attendees

EVENTS COORDINATOR - Ref No. 076

Reports to: Head of Public Relations (Corporate Affairs Dept), Work Location: Sana'a (with occasional business visits to company work sites)

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Implement all company events in liaison with relevant departments
- Develop/update regularly a computerized record of visitors/business visits to company sites and ensure the success of such visits
- Assist with the development and implementation of the company's sponsorship and donations activities and the distribution of PR materials to external stakeholders

Qualifications:

- a university degree preferably in Business Administration, Public Communication or Social Sciences
- a minimum of 5 years' experience with a reputable organization in the administration and execution of high-profile public events
- resourceful, initiative, excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills
- strong written Arabic and English and the ability to quickly report and analyse information and data.

YEMENISATION & MANPOWER PLANNER - Ref No. 047

Re-advertisement: Previous applicants should not re-apply.

Reports to: Head of HR Development (HR Department) , Work Location: Sana'a, with regular business visits to company work sites

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Develop and update company's Manpower, Succession and Yemencisation plans
- Provide management reports, in conjunction with the Recruitment and Training teams
- Provide advice and guidance to senior management on how best to implement and execute Yemencisation programme
- Develop, implement and continuously update Personal Development Plans for high potential staff
- Research, implement and manage targeted Graduate recruitment programmes
- Liaise continuously with Training personnel to ensure the delivery of targeted training

Qualifications:

- a degree in Engineering, Personnel Management, or Business Administration
- strong computing skills, particularly MS Project, Access, Excel and Visio
- previous experience within a similar role within the oil and gas or similar industries: Human Resources and Organizational Design experience would be useful
- Excellent communication and presentation skills in both English and Arabic
- strong negotiation skills, gained in a large organisational environment

SECURITY OFFICER - PIPELINE - Ref No. 077

Reports to: Security Coordinator (Security Department) , Contract Duration: fixed term duration approximately till end June 2008, Work Location: Pipeline Area- between Marib and Shabwa Governorates) Work System: a rotation of 4 weeks on site followed by 4 weeks of rest period home

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Liaise with local authorities and local population to ensure the maintenance of a positive and cordial working relationship
- Aware of and notify management of any security issues through daily coordination with the military personnel responsible for site protection
- Report any developments on site that create security problems.
- Manage site civilian security personnel and carry out random checks to ensure that constant vigilance is maintained
- Activate local radio coverage and maintain a direct link with the radio room in Sana'a.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role, ideally gained within an army, police or security service environment
- good exposure to work in an international environment or in the oil industry, strong leadership, man-management, English language and computer skills

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTORS - Ref No. 038

Reports to: Head of Technical Training (HR Dept), Work Location: Sana'a, Yemen LNG Training Centre (with occasional business visits to all company work sites)

Work System: Yemeni nationals will work a normal office-based week (Thursdays are also worked at present). Expatriates will work a continuous 6 week on / 4 week off rotation.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Prepare and deliver training courses in production, maintenance and / or safety disciplines and monitor progress of trainees using "Job Competency Models".
- Identify specific training needs and prepare and deliver remedial action plans
- Monitor and supervise "On the Job" training activities
- Prepare and administer weekly competence tests and weekly activities reports for supervisory review

Qualifications:

- a Bachelor Degree in engineering with a minimum of 10 years' experience in the Oil and Gas Industry at a supervisory level
- a minimum of 5 years' experience in the training or development profession as a technical instructor
- strong organizational and communication skills with a passion and flair for training The successful candidates may accompany trainees during on-the-job training assignment around the world and may be selected for longer-term assignment to the Balhaf gas terminal in training or plant supervisory roles.

TELECOM ENGINEER - Ref No. 026

Reports to: Information Systems & Telecoms Manager (Finance Dept) Work Location: Sana'a (with occasional business visits to company work sites)

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Day to day support and development of Telecommunications Network (Leased lines, Internet access, VSAT TDMA links, PABX's, PRA Access, PSTN access, ISDN lines, ADSL, VPN links, GSM & CDMA, Multiplexors, LAN, routers and firewalls) and radio systems (HF, VHF & UHF bands)
- Clarify and understand users' problems
- Specify any new requirements and negotiate these needs effectively with suppliers
- Liaise with Government agencies on the provision and maintenance of radio frequency licenses
- Liaise with service providers to ensure that service level agreements are met

Qualifications:

- Bachelor or Master's degree in Telecommunications or Electronic Engineering
- minimum of 5 years' experience in Telecommunication Operations
- fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English
 - ability to communicate easily with a wide variety of users

Nightmares: How Gaza offends us all

An opened jaw with yellowed teeth gaped out of its bloodied shroud. The rest of the head parts were wrapped in a plastic bag placed atop the jaw and nostrils, as if to be close to the place to which it once belonged. The bag was red from the pieces that were stuffed inside it.



By: Jennifer Loewenstein

Below the jaw was a human neck slit open midway down: a fleshy, wet wound smiling pink and oozing out from the browned skin around it, the neck that was still linked to the body below it. Above him, in the upper freezer of the morgue lay a dead woman, her red hennaed hair visible for the first time to strange men around her. More red plastic wrapped around an otherwise absent chin. She was dead for demonstrating outside a mosque in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza where more than 60 men sheltered during the artillery onslaught by Israeli tanks and cannons.

Most of the others still had their faces intact. They lay on their silver morgue trays stiffly as unthawed frozen food. One man had a green Hamas band tied around his head; he looked like a gentle shepherd from some forgotten, pastoral age. Another's white eyes were partially

beds, in the same humid heat, in the same close, crowded, grief-stricken rooms, often on the floors, with the same tired, unpaid attendants doing their rounds without the proper supplies to help them if they were still alive. And some would die on the operating table like the young man gone now to the Kamal Adwan hospital morgue when his wounds became too much for his body to bear. Two young girls preceded him earlier the same day. Blessed are they who leave this human wasteland washed and shrouded for a quiet, earthy grave.

Today the hospitals will be filled beyond capacity again when the 18 civilian dead from a pre-dawn attack on Beit Hanoun — women, men and children blasted out of their sleep into human chunks — roll out of the ambulances and into the freezers of Shifa or Kamal Adwan hospitals in the northern Gaza Strip. How dare they sleep in their houses at night when the tanks are barking out commands.

Do you believe this was an accident? that an international investigation will ever take place? Like after Jenin? Like after Dan Halutz and his 2000 pound bomb which was dropped on an apart-

tions are unavailable to the increasing rate of cancer patients and elective surgeries, such as for hernias or tonsils, are a thing of the past. This is where doctors and nurses witness how the water that Gazans drink causes innumerable ailments, rotting teeth, anemia in children and kidney dysfunction because of its brackish, poisonous quality. This is where children lie half naked in their beds, white tape across their noses holding tubes to their faces so that they may eat or breathe — like Ahmad aged 3, also from Beit Hanoun, who took a bullet in the right side of his belly that exited on the left. His mother stands over him passively, grateful. Ahmad, at least, is going to live. But for what?

Each night in Gaza City that first week in November, explosions sounded in the northeastern corner of Gaza: a succession of bullets, booms, bombs, canon fire. On the first night of the onslaught we could still see lights from Beit Hanoun 10 miles from us blinking and twinkling as if nothing were really happening; it was all a dream fireworks, a distant celebration perhaps. But then, by the second night only a swath of blacked out space lay in the place of Beit Hanoun, electricity-less and water-less as the booms continued unabated for an hour or more and the hum of the pilot-less drones circled round again and again above us, above Beit Hanoun, above Gaza, automated people-monitors taking stock of the activity below. Nobody from Beit Hanoun could leave by day to get to work without announcing to the tanks and the drones that he was prepared to sacrifice his life for a semblance of normalcy. All men between the ages of 16-35 were rounded up onto trucks and hauled away for "questioning". What will happen to them and their families? Will anyone follow up? Will they add to the 10,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons, left to rot while their wives and children, sisters, brothers, parents go on struggling to survive?

There lies Gaza stretched 28 miles long in a tumbledown graying, decaying heap, yawning, tired, wretched, full of garbage. Tape gauze over your nose to avoid the smell of sewage and burning trash. Try not to notice the metal-shuttered shop fronts, the empty stores, the proliferation of horse- and donkey-carts clapping along the streets for lack of fuel, the ribs of the tired beasts jutting out from their bellies as boys whip them along to keep going. The joke is the cerulean blue sky illuminating the rubbish tip, the palm trees and purple flowers beaming in the November sun — natural non-sequiturs, like the box of fresh chocolates offered to the journalists filming the woman's wounded son as she yells out her frustrations and horror at the Americans and the Israelis who are killing her family. Why? She asks. Why, why, why?

Ask Mark Regev, Israel's eager, hideously sincere government spokesperson. On CNN's international news he tells us in earnest that this is Israeli self-defense. The Qassam fire into Sderot and



Ashkelon must stop. Israelis have the right to defend themselves. The "operation" in Beit Hanoun will not stop until the Qassams stop. Each word drives out of his mouth into a bubble of obscenity for everyone watching from the vantage point of Gaza. Verbal pornography, sadomasochistic jargon from the prince of Hasbara leaks onto the dust like poisonous bile bought, paid for and sought after by the lords of power and their occupying machinery.

The shoddy, home-made Qassams hiss like cornered alley cats when they are fired into the skies. Stupid and bestial, they zing across the border like crazed beasts not knowing where they are going. They'll dash forever like this until the occupation of Palestine ends. The Gazans know this, Hamas knows it, Fatah knows it, the PFLP knows it; In Israel, Labor and Likud know it, Meretz knows it, Yisrael Beiteinu knows it, Shas knows it; Peretz, Olmert and Lieberman know it, Sharon knew it, the Israeli people know it, official America know this, so 40 years after 1967 and 58 years after 1948, why is the occupation not yet over?

Because Israel does not want it to end. Because Israel wants the land and the resources without the people. Because you have to eviscerate a culture in order to maintain total control over it. Because the United States says that's just fine with us, you serve our purpose well. You help make the war on terror convenient. You help fit Iraq into the scheme. You'll help us with Iran as well. Who the hell cares about a million and a half poverty-stricken Gazans and their dust, their sand, their stinking, crumbling heap of a disaster area homeland?

What a terrible shame it is that Gazans have not yet attained the status of Human in the eyes of the Western powers, for the resistance there will continue to be an enigma until this changes. For now, however, the slaughter will continue unabated.

Leaving Gaza 6:30am Saturday morning, November 4th 2006, I hear a loud explosion. My cab driver picks me up and we drive down the main street in Gaza City toward Erez. Suddenly, unexpectedly, there is a smoldering mass of wreckage in front of me, a car surrounded by boys picking at its still-hot exterior. Inside are four blackened, seared human shapes, crispy at the touch, faceless from the burns, charcoal, shreds of steaming cloth, a smell of barbecued human flesh, sirens in the distance. Burnt and vaporized metal looks like what you see in a science fiction movie. Burnt humans look like singed paper mache monsters whose pieces fall off at the hint of a breeze.

Gaza is sorry for these indiscretions, this poor taste, this unseemly topic of

conversation. You are right to express your indignation. How Dare Gaza Speak of These Things!?! But it can no longer contain its secrets even with the blockade of visitors to its vile shores; its voice is shrill even when sublimated through the layers of media deceit. The smoke rises higher in the skies each time. The prison is imploding and the resistance will never end.

Jennifer Loewenstein is a Visiting Research Fellow at Oxford University's Refugee Studies Centre. She has lived and worked in Gaza City, Beirut and Jerusalem and has traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, where she has worked as a free-lance journalist and a human rights activist. She can be reached at: amadea311@earthlink.net



opened, his face looking out in horror as if he'd died seeing it coming. Then a muddy, grizzled blob on the bottom left tray, black curls tangled and damped into its rounded head and blessedly shut eyes. A closer look revealed a child, a boy of 4: Majed, out playing his important childhood games when death came in like thunder and rolled him up in a million speckles of black mud. The other dead had already been taken away.

Muslim burials take place quickly, a god-send to the doctors, nurses and undertakers who, at the hospitals and morgues, desperately need the space for next batch of casualties who would sleep on the same sheets, same steel-framed

ment building in Gaza City killing 15 people, 9 of them women and children? Like after the siege of Jabalya in the fall of 2004? Like after Operation Rainbow in Rafah? Like after Huda Ghalia's family was blasted into nothingness during an outing on a Gaza beach? Will US eyes, glued to their glaucous TV screens to find out which marketed candidate won the corporate-managed midterm elections, ever know that that another massacre of Palestinians took place?

At Shifa hospital, Gaza's central hospital, where Dr. Juma' Saqa and his staff cope with the daily shortages of supplies from kidney dialysis machines to fans and clean linens; where cancer medica-

Position Announcements #1818

AMIDEAST—a non-governmental organization whose mission is to strengthen cooperation and understanding between Americans and the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa—seeks qualified applicants for the following positions in its Sana'a office.

EO - Educational Officer
EA - Educational Assistant
OM - Office Manager
FA - Entry-Level Accountant

Applicants for all positions must have:

- Good English and Arabic skills and should be available for English proficiency testing,
- Computer skills using MS Office,
- Interest in working with an educational NGO on a full-time basis, and
- Strong interpersonal skills.

Files with the above qualifications will be short-listed, and only qualified individuals will be contacted for interviews and examinations. Salary is commensurate with experience.

Please submit cover letter, resume, and AMIDEAST application specifically referring to the one position of interest by **November 20, 2006**, Attn: HR Department, AMIDEAST Sana'a, 66 Algiers Street, Sana'a, Yemen, email: cmahowe@amideast.org. Phone calls will not be accepted.

SIEMENS JOB VACANCY

Siemens AG, Communication-Mobile Networks, Yemen Branch is seeking highly qualified personnel for the following positions:

One Assistant Commercial Manager
Candidates must have the following basic requirements:

- Hardworking dedicated and highly motivated person and willing to learn
- Fluent in English and Arabic Languages.
- Must be computer literate.
- Bachelor of Accountancy graduate with minimum rate very good.
- Experience with logistics, HR business administration is an advantage.
- Minimum five years work experience in accounting auditing with two years in a supervisory level.
- Knowledge of any accounting software is an added advantage

Cashier
 With the following requirements:

- Hardworking, dedicated and highly motivated person and willing to learn.
- Fluent in English and Arabic Languages.
- Must be computer literate.
- Bachelor of accountancy graduate with minimum rate very good.
- Minimum two years experience in bookkeeping or related field.
- Knowledge of Peachtree accounting software is an advantage.

If you fulfill the above requirement, please send your CV and application letter to the following address no later than November 20th 2006.

Fax 412314
P.O.Box:18611, Sana'a

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with "UNDP" office:

Post Title: National programme officer, Economist /ICS-9
Responsibilities

- Contribute to identification of areas for support and interventions within economic development.
- Monitor the attainment of programme/project outputs and objectives and intervene to solve problems and reshape programmes/projects as needed.
- Ensure financial and substantive monitoring and evaluation of the projects, and support audit of national execution (NEX) projects.
- Coordinate project implementation with the executing agencies and introduce performance indicators/ success criteria, targets and milestones.
- Monitor and report on relevant policy developments and priorities of Government of Yemen, UNDP and donors in the areas of economic development, community empowerment and economic governance.
- Thorough analysis and research of the political, social and economic situation in the country and preparation of substantive inputs to United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), Country Programme Document (CPD), Country Programme Document (CPD), Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) and other documents.
- Contribute to the development of partnerships with the UN Agencies, International Financial Institution (IFI's), government institutions, bi-lateral and multi-lateral donors, private sector, civil society based on strategic goals of UNDP, country needs and donors' priorities.
- Analysis and research of information on donors, preparation of substantive briefs on possible areas of cooperation, identification of opportunities for initiation of new projects, active contribution to the overall office effort in resource mobilization.

Qualification

- Master Degree in Economic or relevant discipline on developmental studies.
- At least 3 years of post graduate degree experience in policy advice and project management is required at the national or international level.
- Community based socio economic development is an asset.
- Experience in the usage of computers and office software package (MS Word, Excel, etc)
- Thorough understanding of development issues and political economy consideration will be a major asset.
- Fluency in English and Arabic languages.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.
UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 29th November
UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Higher Institute for Health Science: training and services

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

The Higher Institute for Health Science (HIHS) in Sana'a is considered one of Yemen's outstanding professional health establishments. For 35 years, HIHS and its branches have provided Yemen's health sector with graduates in various health and medical specialties.

Believing in the important role that HIHS is playing in Yemen's development process, the Yemen Times interviewed HIHS dean Abdulwahab Al-Kuhlani and training center director Abdulkarim Al-Sharfi.

Considered one of Yemen's earliest institutes, can you give any background about HIHS's establishment?

Established in 1971 and supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), HIHS began with three departments: nursing, laboratory and public health. It expanded in the late 1970s, adding many departments. A 1975 resolution was issued to change the institute's name from the Human Energy Institute to the Higher Institute for Health Science. At that time, HIHS had only two branches – one in Hodeidah and the other in Taiz.

However, in the 1980s, it expanded further and opened branches and offices in many governorates. We now have 10 branches, three medical schools and more than 10 different specializations



HIHS dean Abdulwahab Al-Kuhlani (left) and training center manager Abdulkarim Al-Sharfi.

and the institute is working to improve its infrastructure and qualify good medical personnel.

What about medical teaching materials used to teach institute trainees?

There are at least 209 different teaching materials. Each of the 10 departments has its specialization and its own syllabus. For example, the pharmacy department is focusing on drugs and pharmacy science, learning how to deal with medication and how to store it,

while students in the lab section learn methods of diagnosis and analysis, whereas in the vast field of public health, students study how to fight and prevent epidemics, nursing, midwifery, medical assistance, anesthetics and surgery, medical equipment maintenance, etc.

How many students now are studying at HIHS?

Approximately 3,000 students are studying at HIHS and its branches, with women comprising 30 percent and 100 percent in some departments, such as midwifery. Approximately 1,200 students annually join HIHS and its branches.

What about female students from outside Sana'a?

Most female HIHS students are from various governorates. Because they want to study, we offer them many facilities and services, such as renting residences for them. The institute houses approximately 60 female students from outside Sana'a. It also provides them food and transportation fees.

What are the admission requirements for HIHS?

Students must have a high school certificate in science with a success rate

no less than 60 percent. It also depends on the department the student wants to join. Priority is given to students from remote regions and governorates that really need such personnel. Additionally, students must pass an entrance exam.

What are the institute's strategies in upcoming years?

Because there's a five-year plan for medical institutes, we're working at HIHS to carry out this plan, which is based on many factors, the most important of which are to improve the institute's infrastructure, provide medical programs for vocational and specialized health personnel, renew and develop curriculums and add an evaluation and search process.

We're working with the Ministry of Health and Population, as well as in association with the Social Fund for Development and other donors, to achieve these goals. For example, this year, HIHS is granting a specialized diploma in the field of X-ray and medical education, hematology, nursing and children's health care.

Numerous medical institutes recently have emerged. Does HIHS have the authority to oversee these schools and their exams?

For four years, the Ministry of Health has cooperated with HIHS to form a private committee that has worked to define certain standards for opening any medical institute. We're now trying to apply these standards by sending monitoring committees to observe registration and acceptance processes, evaluate the teaching process and how these institutes apply curriculums and examinations.

Some institutes do well while others are delinquent, so we – HIHS and the Ministry of Health's planning and development sector – are trying to mend such delinquency and failure by contacting the administrations of such institutes.

What are the biggest obstacles facing HIHS?

The main obstacle HIHS now faces relates to its financial status because its low budget doesn't meet the institute's goals or ambitions. As I said previously,

we have 10 branches but our budget remains the same. There's sometimes an estimated five to 10 percent budget increase, whereas expansion has exceeded 40 to 50 percent.

The second challenge is qualifying personnel because all HIHS trainers have a high school certificate, whereas we need to qualify such personnel to get a bachelor's degree, a master's degree or a doctorate. In fact, we discussed this issue with the minister of health, who cooperated by promising to devote some scholarships for HIHS staff.

HIHS also is suffering a shortage of buildings to contain all of its students. Some branches need expanding and we're looking forward to achieving that in these next years.

Who are HIHS's main supporters and how do you describe this support?

The Yemeni government is HIHS's big financier, followed by the Social Fund, which supports the institute's infrastructure by building labs and organizing training courses for HIHS teachers. WHO also finances the review of some curriculums.

Training for trainers

Considered one of the most important departments at HIHS, the training center was built to train and recertify HIHS teachers by giving them courses in modern medical teaching methods. Speaking about the center's role, the training center director Abdulkarim Al-Sharfi said that until July 2002, there was no specific training for Yemen's health sector teachers. For the first time, HIHS in Sana'a began a one-year in-service training for 16 nursing and midwifery teachers, a project supported by [foreign NGOs] DED (French) and GTZ (German). In-service training involves a week of training each month so participants can get good input, which they can put into practice immediately afterward, a new concept in Yemen that makes a lot of sense.

Such training was followed by numerous other training courses in various governorates. Since the trainings

were all very successful, new accommodation had to be found at HIHS in Sana'a so that the surroundings would meet international standards. We moved into new accommodation in January 2004 and have improved the facilities since then.

He added that the centre will extend our target group, so besides training health sector teachers, we'll offer training for all health sector workers. The next steps are to offer training for the heads of wards and guarantee sustainability training for trainers.



Side of the institute teachers during one of their training courses.



Students in HIHS Labs.

The science of acupuncture

By: Ming Liu

Like many other traditional Chinese medicines, acupuncture has for many centuries been viewed suspiciously in the West. It seems to work, but how? Is a scientific answer possible?

Most Chinese doctors and patients have, for example, long regarded acupuncture as an effective treatment for stroke, using it to improve motor, speech, and other functions that have been destroyed. One survey showed that 66% of Chinese doctors use acupuncture routinely to treat the effects of stroke, with 63% of the doctors surveyed believing it to be effective. Some 36% of Chinese doctors think the effectiveness of acupuncture remains uncertain, perhaps because the scientific basis for it remains so new.

Indeed, when comparing acupuncture with sham acupuncture, the statistical difference concerning death or the need for institutional care was small. Indeed, another analysis, including 14 randomized trials with 1,213 patients six months after a stroke, compared the effects of conventional stroke rehabilitation with and without acupuncture as a supplement. Acupuncture was found to have no additional effect on motor recovery, but a small positive effect on disability, which may be due to a true placebo effect, or to the varied quality of the trials.

Indeed, the efficacy of acupuncture without stroke rehabilitation remains uncertain, mainly because of the poor quality of such studies—a problem that has affected most of trials undertaken so far. For example, many trials did not describe their method of measuring statistical relevance, and only called themselves “randomized controlled trials.” Only four trials, with 373 patients, could provide data on death or dependency (becoming dependent on others for activities of daily living). And only three trials—all conducted in Europe—used sham acupuncture as a control, whereas no acupuncture trials controlled with placebos or sham acupuncture have been reported in China, owing to high cultural barriers.

Part of the problem in China is choosing the patients to be studied. After all, patients come to hospitals that practice traditional Chinese medicine because they already believe in acupuncture and are likely to be using it to treat another illness. Getting such

patients who received sham acupuncture or no treatment, far fewer of those who received acupuncture died or became invalid within three months. After three months or more of treatment, the numbers rose even more significantly in favor of those treated by acupuncture.

Part of the problem in China is choosing the patients to be studied. After all, patients come to hospitals that practice traditional Chinese medicine because they already believe in acupuncture and are likely to be using it to treat another illness. Getting such

patients to accept being put into a control group where no acupuncture is applied is almost impossible. This difficulty makes random studies of the effects of acupuncture treatment on stroke patients particularly difficult in a traditional Chinese medicine hospital.

More fundamentally, however, Chinese doctors who use traditional medicine argue that outcome measures of acupuncture as a treatment for stroke should be different from conventional measures used in Western trials, because the theory of acupuncture is different. But no one has yet specified what the appropriate outcome measures for acupuncture should be.

A recent study conducted in China, including 862 patients who were between the second and tenth day after onset of acute stroke, is the largest truly randomized trial using death or dependency as the primary outcome. The patients were randomly allocated to an acupuncture group receiving acupuncture treatment plus routine treatment or a control group receiving routine treatment alone. The results will be reported after analysis of the trial data and could prove useful for therapy of stroke patients.

At present, however, there is insufficient evidence for routine use of acupuncture in stroke. More high-quality trials are needed. We do know that acupuncture is a safe, inexpensive, widely accepted, and potentially effective therapy. Particularly at a time when standard rehabilitation is not available for most Chinese stroke patients, few will wait to try acupuncture until its role is confirmed or refuted by reliable evidence.

Ming Liu is a Professor of Neurology, West China Hospital of Sichuan University, Chengdu, China. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2006.

New study suggests cause of sudden infant deaths

By: Yemen Times Staff

Preliminary research suggests that brainstem abnormalities involving certain serotonin pathways in the brain may play a more important role in Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) than previously thought.

The new findings, appearing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, provide the strongest evidence yet that a physical abnormality – probably genetic in origin – can help explain what until recently was a matter of speculation for scientists and deep anxiety for new parents: SIDS.

Researchers have found that many of the deaths occurred while the babies, most of them boys, were sleeping on their stomachs, often on soft bedding, or bundled in blankets.

Researchers suspect these abnormalities might affect the ability of babies to wake up when threatened by external problems such as excessive heat or carbon dioxide when they are face down in bed.

Dr Hannah Kinney, the lead author of the study, said: “A normal baby will wake up, turn over and start breathing faster when carbon dioxide levels rise.”

These findings provide evidence that SIDS is not a mystery but a disorder that we can investigate with scientific methods, and some day, may be able to identify and treat.

Suspicious of child abuse also cloud many sudden infant deaths, though recent research suggests that abuse is responsible in less than 5 percent of such deaths.

The new study confirms that a far more important cause is defects in the way neurons process serotonin, a brain chemical associated with mood and arousal. Experts said the findings could help doc-



Researchers have found that many of the deaths occurred while the babies were sleeping on their stomachs.

tors develop a diagnostic test for SIDS risk, and possibly preventive treatments. “This is the most sophisticated, most impressive study so far looking at the serotonin system,” said Dr. Debra E. Weese-Mayer, director of pediatric respiratory medicine at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, “and it's going to drive genetic studies to find out what's behind this.” Dr. Weese-Mayer wrote an editorial accompanying the journal article.

The research team, led by doctors at Children's Hospital Boston, compared brain tissue from 31 infants who died of SIDS from 1997 to 2005 with samples from 10 babies who had died of other causes. They focused on an area of the brain stem called the medulla, which regulates breathing, sleep-and-wake cycles and other vital functions.

They found, among other oddities, that cells in this region of SIDS babies' brains were significantly less sensitive to serotonin than those in the other brains. The

brain stem supports the autonomic nervous system, which helps arouse people if they are breathing in too little oxygen, the authors said; and serotonin keeps the system responsive. The defects were particularly striking in male brains, which could account for boys' higher risk of SIDS, they said.

Previous studies had pointed to similar defects, but the new research pinpointed their location.

“I think this abnormality probably begins during gestation, in the womb, as the brain stem is developing,” said Dr. Hannah Kinney, the senior author of the study, which was financed by the National Institutes of Health and a coalition of SIDS advocacy groups, including the CJ Foundation for SIDS in New Jersey.

The study findings are based on tissue from white and Hispanic infants provided by the medical examiner's office in San Diego. They may not apply to blacks or other ethnic groups, Dr. Kinney said.

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Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen and its Masila Block(14) Partners supports Cancer Program Awareness

It is not the first time that Canadian medical delegation visits Yemen, and it is not the first time this delegation carries out a voluntary mission to help Yemeni patients who suffered cancer. But it is the first time that oil Exploration Company announces its support to the medical delegation. Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen and its Masila Block(14) Partners were and still the pioneer oil explores company that actively behind the scenes committed to aid Yemeni social and health projects.

"Our company's policy of moral and ethical values dictates our contributions to improve the living environment for the people that we do business in their areas. If you live in a community you have a duty to help people around you" said the president of Canadian Nexen GM Canadian Nexen Petroleum in Yemen Mr. Alistair Mooney explaining the reason which made Canadian Nexen and its partners involved in supporting the medical group.

Although Canadian Nexen and its Masila Block(14) Partners has been supporting the delegation team since 1996, by funding their trips and partial stays in Yemen, it did not pronounce this cooperation publicly "we don't want to wave the flag . We do it because we believe it is the right thing to do" said Mooney.

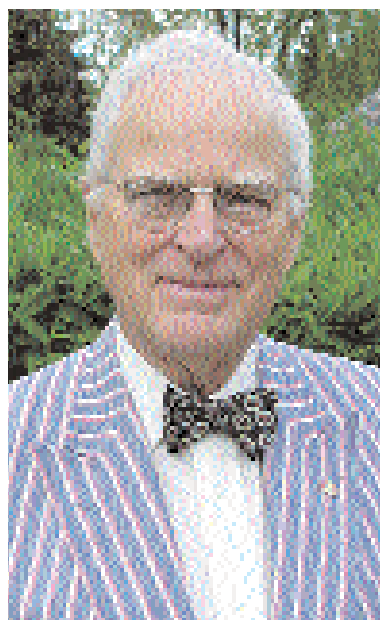
However the executive director Mr. Ali Sohaiki pointed out that some members of the governmental leadership asked Canadian Nexen and its Masila Block(14) Partners to declare its contribution in the community services to be an example

for the other investment companies.

Dr. Mohamed Basahi who is the Yemeni coordinator of the Canadian medical group talked about the role that Yemeni government, together with Canadian Nexen and its Masila Block(14) Partners, have supported the delegation in their constant humanitarian mission to help cancer patients. "Cancer is a real problem in Yemen. It appears to be more than it was expected. The rates are increasing and there are many advanced cancer cases are being discovered" Basahi said adding that HE President Ali Abdullah Saleh and HE Vice President discussed this issue with the delegation in 1999. In response to the request of the country's leadership the CMD submitted a report and recommendations on cancer situation in Yemen. This report contained alarming figures that within the next twenty years cancer cases numbers will increase in a rate higher than figures recognized internationally. President Saleh embraced the program and the Vice President implemented the recommendations.

According to Basahi it took three years to prepare the program which was the main basis for establishing cancer center in Sana'a. "Last year the first oncology center was opened, the first patient was treated on Canadian machine called Cobalt 60 by Prof. Jim Gilchrist, a member of the Canadian medical team. Since that time until today the oncology center treats about 150 patients a day".

Dr. Basahi did not hide his appreciation to the non-profit Canadian medical delegation comprised of a group of specialists



Prof. Martin Robinson
The credit for the success of the National Oncology Program should be directed to the Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice President Abdo Rabo Mansoor Hadi both of whom have been very supportive of the efforts of the members of the delegation



Mr. Alistair Mooney
Our company's policy of moral and ethical values dictates our contributions to improve the living environment for the people that we do business in their areas. If you live in a community you have a duty to help people around you.



Dr. Mohamed Bahasi
Cancer is a real problem in Yemen. It appears to be more than it was expected. The rates are increasing and there are many advanced cancer cases are being discovered.



Mr. Ali Sohaiki
Some members of the governmental leadership asked Canadian Nexen and its Masila Block(14) Partners to declare its contribution in the community services to be an example for the other investment companies.

and nurses mostly based at the University of Western Ontario. He also emphasized on the support of key individuals and offices especially HE Prof. Dr. Abdulkarim Rasae, Minister of Health and Population who in various ways gave support and encouragement to this delegation to keep on in their humanitarian mission. He pointed out that four Yemeni physicians benefited from study leaves that supported by Canadian Nexen, Ministry of Health, and the Canadian medical team. These postgraduate study leaves offered by University of Western Ontario to the Yemeni oncologists who gained comprehensive knowledge regarding cancer patient treatment.

In summary, according to professor Martin Robinson, the credit for the success of the National Oncology Program should be directed to the Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice President Abdo Rabo Mansoor Hadi both of whom have been very supportive of the efforts of the members of the delegation and also the executive of Nexen Inc. Robinson appreciated also the effort and the support of Minister of Health and Population Dr. Abdulkarim Rasae, President of Canadian Nexen GM Mr. Alistair Mooney, executive director Mr. Ali Sohaiki, and also the Members of the Canadian medical

delegation The team, which has worked in other Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Libia and Sudan, has been regular visitors to Yemen since 1988. Since then the delegation has been all over the country, including Aden, Shibam, Hodeida, Taiz, Mukhalla, and Zabid, among other areas

The delegation usually stay for two to three weeks at a time, and dedicate their time not just for examining patients but also for teaching, participating in operations, and consulting medical organizations. So they offer advanced technological experiences and practically train the Yemeni doctors in the operation theaters and, theoretically in the lecture halls. The team provided psychological counseling to patients at both the NOC and the Ibn Sinna Hospital. They also visited the Mental Health Hospital, a modern facility with space for 200 patients. They performed many gynaecological cancer operations at the Kuwait University Hospital in Sana'a and at the Mother and Child Hospital in Mukalla. Also they participated in the clinics at the National Oncology Centre, giving instruction concerning safe methods for the administration of cancer chemotherapy and radiation therapy. Other members spent several



Canadian delegation dedicates their time for examining patients and participating in operations

days at the Kuwait Hospital where they worked with the group who are developing breast ultrasound and mammography. Each member of the Delegation, in turn, conducted daily Rounds.

The team, led by Professor Martin Robinson includes specialists, Prof. Al Driedger, Prof. Hugh Allen, Prof. Ted Vandenberg, Dr. Mohammed Ali Basahi, Dr. Ray Giddings, Prof. John Girvan, Prof. Jim Gilchrist, Prof. Bertha Garcia and Biotechnologist Gayle McBrayne and Nurses , Pat Baruth, Shawna Brown, Judith

Hately, Bonnie Jarvis, Pharmacist Susan Lovell.

The last visit of the medical team, which was number 19, took place in Feb 23 to Mar 12, 2006. The focus for this visit was to develop cancer awareness program. The program included education for health care workers and lay women concerning the importance of early breast cancer diagnosis. At the end of this visit all members were honored to receive Medals from HE President Ali Abdulla Saleh for their humanitarian work.



The Canadian Medical Delegation in supporting health projects, giving lectures, and training the Yemeni medical cadres.



The Canadian team offer advanced technological experiences and practically train the Yemeni doctors in the operation theaters and, theoretically in the lecture halls.



The Canadian Medical Delegation gave numbers of lectures regarding cancer awarness .



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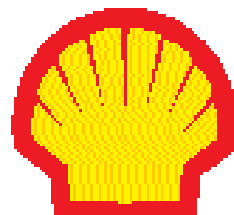
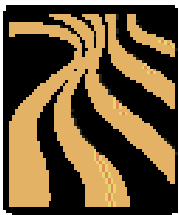


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Marriage agencies

Muslim matchmakers go online

It isn't a new phenomenon, but it is a growing one - Muslims turn to online matchmaking to find the perfect spouse. Tiziana Sforza and Adriano Farano report

Nora86 has published her profile on MuslimMatch.com, hoping that this exclusively Muslim site will help her to find the man of her life.

This Roman twenty-year-old Sunni Muslim looks bright and breezy on her photo. Her smile framed by long brown hair beams down at the lens. Aicha, a thirty-one year old living in Spain, is more traditional. Her face is carefully covered with a black veil.

These are just some of the users of the many online Muslim marriage agencies. It isn't difficult to sign up. Fill in the details of the registration form: age, family, educational level, profession, skin colour, add a nice photo and the profile is on the web. There's often a fee to pay first though.

This can range from \$30 (about 23 euros) for three months membership of muslimwedding.org to £25 (about 37 euros) for muslim-marriages.co.uk. What do these agencies offer? Not only the ability to read others' profiles, but also their contact details.

A twist on traditional arranged marriage

This isn't a new phenomenon but it is a growing one. Take a look at the membership figures for muslimmatch.com: 110,000 members, up from 15,000 in 2002 according to The Guardian. How does Islam, a religion many believe is very conservative, allow its faithful to use marriage agencies, and online ones at that?

"The Islam has always been compatible with technology," replies Mario Nordio, author of Online Muslim marriage agencies and doctor of history and



Online Muslim marriage agencies are becoming more and more popular in Europe.

Asian culture at the University of Venice. "Not only this, but the phenomenon is also related to the ancient tradition of arranged marriages."

However, instead of being arranged by families, meetings between the future bride and groom are organised through thanks to the Internet. However, "for some, it's like admitting a personal failure, that out of all the family friends and friends' friends, there is nobody willing to say yes," adds Ali Hassan, founder of the website www.muslim-marriages.co.uk in an interview with La Stampa.

This is a view which Nordio does not share. "The immigrant population and Islam in general have been very quick to adapt to new technologies. The sites are linked to web-pages managed by religious experts who give real-time and authoritative advice on the interpretation of the Koran, so many Muslims approve of them."

Young, pretty and Muslim

Why does a young European Muslim turn to a religious meeting website. "An awful proverb says: 'Wives and oxen from your own land'. Many people want to marry someone of their own kind," explains Nordio.

"In Europe, Islam is a minority religion, so Muslims tend to meet on these sites. But we mustn't forget, European Islam is a very complicated subject. You need to bear in mind differences of nationality and religious stances."

To help their users, Muslimwedding.org offers additional services. Its search engine allows you to select offers according to the various denominations of Islam (Sunni, Shi'a, Sufi ...) or to countries of origin. When a new matching profile is added to the database, the website sends out an email or text message.

So what kind of person uses Muslim marriage websites? "Everybody from the fifty-year-old London divorcee to the starry-eyed teenager," replies Nordio. Appearances can be deceptive though. "According to my research, men often manage the 'public relations' of the youngest women on these meeting sites, in keeping with their patriarchal tradition."

If marriage agencies aren't enough, there are also other ways of finding your dream Muslim partner online. An anonymous author Muslimquest dedicated his blog entirely to his quest for the perfect wife. "Muslim marriages in the West are an ongoing problem. I'm trying to resolve it."

Tiziana Sforza & Adriano Farano
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Misuse of Great Wall banned

China has banned partying, vandalism and other inappropriate behaviour on the Great Wall to protect one of its top tourist attractions from erosion.

New regulations, posted on the central government's website on Wednesday, ban seven activities along the structure including digging out soil or bricks, planting trees and carving names.

State press reports said that the rules would restrict the growing numbers of parties and "all night musical raves" on parts of the wall not opened to tourists.

The China Daily reported that last year, some revellers were "involved in such indecent and illegal activities as urinating and drug abuse on the wall".

More adventurous visitors also climb wilder, crumblier sections that are not officially open to the public.

Big fines

Fines as high as \$63,000 will be imposed on those who damage the wall under the central government's first set of uniform laws to preserve the ancient structure.

The Great Wall, which is more than



The Great Wall, 6,400km long, gets 10 million visitors a year

6,400km long, receives an estimated 10 million visitors a year, mostly to the 10km opened to tourists at Badaling, the nearest stretch to Beijing.

The new rules, issued by the State Council, China's cabinet, also prohibit

the driving of vehicles on the wall or group activities such as parties.

"Inappropriate tourist exploration has caused damage to the Great Wall and its historical features," the government's website quoted a State Council official as saying.

Graffiti

The regulations, which come into effect from December 1, also urge local governments to limit the numbers of visitors to the Great Wall which the UN listed as a World Heritage Site in 1987.

At the Badaling section of the wall many of the bricks have either been carved with someone's name or covered with graffiti.

In other, less well-known parts of the wall, local farmers have often nailed iron ladders into the ancient structure, permitting tourists to access sections of "wild" wall for a fee.

Less than 2,500km remain of the original structure first built in the Qin Dynasty (221 to 206 BC).

It was rebuilt in the Ming Dynasty (1368 to 1644 AD) to keep out northern tribes threatening the Chinese heartland.

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