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Last edition's question:
Yemeni MPs doubt the capability of the existing Parliament's presidency board to keep pace with other parliaments across the world in controlling relations between executive and legislative authorities. Do you think Yemen's Parliament is like other world parliaments in its legislative and organizational performance?

Yes (8%) I don't know (8%)
No (84%)

This edition's question:
Do you think the funds Yemen will receive from donor countries will actually be spent to improve the country?

Yes
No
I don't know

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

More than 85 percent of Yemen's estimated outside financing is secured Success at Donors Conference

By: Raidan Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

SANA'A, Nov. 18 — The international community has responded favorably to Yemen's plea to assist in financing its development at the Yemen Consultative Group meeting, also known as the London Donors Conference, held Nov. 15 and 16 at Lancaster Castle in the UK.

Nearly 86 percent of Yemen's estimated outside financing needs were secured in order to implement the nation's third strategic five-year development plan, in the hopes of increasing Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 7.1 percent by 2010 from the current 4.1 percent estimate for 2006, thus speeding economic progress, providing employment opportunities and decreasing poverty.

More than 42 countries and international development and financing organizations participated in the conference, contributing more than \$4.73 billion in aid, grants and loans for Yemen.

Saudi Arabia was the largest donor at \$1 billion, followed by the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Development at \$700 million. Other donors were Qatar and the United Arab Emirates at \$500 million each, the United Kingdom at \$222 million (£117 million), the United States at \$220 million, Kuwait at \$200



President Ali Abdullah Saleh during a press event following the conference.

million in loans and the Sultanate of Oman at \$100 million.

Other countries and organizations like the World Bank, the European Union and the Islamic Fund for Development also generously contributed funds, while organizations and countries like Bahrain offered technical cooperation, capacity-building and training in order to build human capital in Yemen.

The conference began with welcoming remarks by Daniela Gressani, World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa Region; Gareth Thomas, British International

Development Minister; Abdul Rahman Al-Atieh, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

During the opening session, Saleh pointed to the failure of the 2002 donors conference in Paris, where only 20 percent of funds pledged actually were given to Yemen to implement needed development projects. He hoped this year's conference participants would have a genuine interest in helping more than eight million Yemenis escape poverty.

Continued on page 2

Yemen Times marks issue No. 1,000

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 20 — The Yemen Times celebrates issue No. 1,000 today, an achievement that affirms Yemeni journalism's success as a whole, as well as the flourishing of free and independent media in pursuit of facts.

This achievement is the fruit of many efforts and much hard work since the newspaper was established in 1991. In that year, the late Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, an economics professor, founded the Yemen Times and introduced it to the local and international readership. The newspaper's success is attributed to his efforts.

Founded by the prominent economist and human rights activist, who also was its editor and publisher until his untimely death at age 46 in a 1999 traffic accident, the Yemen Times began publishing Feb. 28, 1991 with the declared aim: "To make Yemen a good world citizen."

Fifteen years later, staff members confirm that the road to success wasn't easy, being full of thorns and difficulties, particularly as staffers committed themselves to neutrality, independence and transparency. Yemen Times reporters thus far have been committed to seeking facts; however, such facts often are bitter and fatiguing.

Staff members' efforts and dedication have produced positive results in numerous areas, the most important of which is gaining the confidence and a good reputation in the eyes of local and international parties interested in independent and transparent media.

As a result of this reputation, the Yemen Times has received several international awards, the first of which was the International Press Award in 1996 — only five years after the newspaper was established. The most recent award was in May 2006 when the International Press Institute (IPI) honored the Yemen Times with its 2006 Free Media Pioneer Award.

The newspaper's distinctive success is attributed to its self-reliance, as well as exercising a noble humanitarian message professionally. Today, one may say with pride that the Yemen Times established the initial steps toward free and independent journalism, devoting most of its time and efforts to seeking facts.

On this occasion, Yemen Times staff commit themselves to continue striving to reach the noble humanitar-

ian goals for which the newspaper was founded. They vow to continue seeking facts, defending public rights and freedoms, backing civil community organizations and discussing facts objectively, neutrally and transparently.



Late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times' founder.



The first issue of Yemen Times on Feb. 27, 1991.

The newspaper's editorial board states, "We remain committed to supporting citizens and conveying their sufferings, concerns and voices to government officials and decision-makers. We'll continue promoting all of the positives and criticizing all of the negatives in all governmental and non-governmental parties," adding, "We'll always support efforts aimed at implementing economic and political reforms and developing Yemen's press situation."

The Yemen Times attributes its success to its sincere reporters, who continue exercising great efforts, and deeply thanks its readership and those who support it.

Appeals court supports prison for Al-Qaeda terrorist

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 18 — The Terrorism Appeals Court has upheld a three-year imprisonment ruling against Mohammed Hamdi Al-Ahdal, Al-Qaeda's second-in-charge in Yemen,

who was convicted of targeting foreign interests and raising funds for terror acts.

During the court's final session, prosecution accused Al-Ahdal of raising money to carry out terrorist plans, declaring that he collected more than 1 million Saudi riyals to finance terror acts in Yemen.

Such acts included striking the USS Cole in Aden port and French oil tanker Limburg in Mukalla, which, according



Mohammed Hamdi Al-Ahdal

to prosecution, were financed through financial transfers from Saudi Arabia either via phone or e-mail.

Additionally, prosecution pointed out that Al-Ahdal admitted meeting with Abu Ali Al-Harithi, Al-Qaeda's first-in-command in Yemen, whose car was targeted in a November 2002 U.S. missile attack in eastern Yemen's Marib governorate. According to a source, he further admitted working as Al-Harithi's bodyguard.

Prosecution also charged Al-Ahdal with receiving Ahmed Ibrahim, a Palestinian who entered Yemen illegally, and took him to Marib's Al-Houson district, where Al-Ahdal received SR 380,000 to buy weapons. Al-Ahdal also gave Al-Harithi SR 50,000 to carry out criminal and terrorist plans.

For his part, Al-Ahdal stated during

the final court session that not all of the information was correct and that he had no connection with Al-Harithi. He further denied undertaking any military acts, as well as allegations that he was Al-Qaeda in Yemen's financial official, and requested a swift release.

Also known as Abu Asim, Al-Ahdal was arrested September 2003 in Sana'a following a lengthy period of intelligence work.

Born in Medina, Saudi Arabia in 1971, Al-Ahdal worked in the honey trade during the early part of his life. He was arrested in Saudi Arabia in 1999 and jailed for two months, after which Saudi authorities deported him to Yemen, where he lived in Hodeidah on Al-Ummal Street.

While living in Saudi Arabia, Al-Ahdal traveled many times to Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also fought against the Russian army in Chechnya, where he was injured and his leg was amputated. Additionally, he made numerous visits to Afghanistan between 1999 and 2000.

Al-Ahdal traveled to Ethiopia in 2000 to follow the case of his cousin, who was accused of terrorist acts there. According to several sources, he became Al-Qaeda's top man in Yemen after Al-Harithi, key planner of the USS Cole attack, was killed.

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Darfur rebels say army launches major offensive

By: Opheera McDoom

KHARTOUM, Nov 19 (Reuters) - The Sudanese government has launched a major offensive in North Darfur despite an agreement to hold new talks among all parties to the conflict, Darfur rebels said on Sunday.

A rebel commander said clashes continued on Saturday and Sunday, after joint attacks by government forces and militia on rebel bases in the Bir Mazza area on Wednesday and Thursday.

The African Union (AU) monitoring mission, which had condemned last week's attacks, confirmed that fighting was continuing. However, the Sudanese army denied it was conducting an offensive.

"We have split into two or three groups and all have fighting," said Jar el-Neby, a commander from the rebel National Redemption Front (NRF), which rejects a May peace accord signed by only one of many rebel factions.

"The government did not use planes yesterday but today the Antonovs are circling," he told Reuters from Darfur.

Government troops and allied militia known as Janjaweed were still inside the former rebel town of Bir Mazza, Neby said, calling on the international



A Sudanese refugee only known as Kiro, stands in Seneit near the Chad/Sudan border, Nov. 14. Like many hundreds of others, Kiro, 7, fled over the border to Chad since the attack by the Janjaweed militia on her village of Khabesh in the Jebel Moon area of West Darfur where a United Nations report said 22 people were killed in the attack.
REUTERS

community to intervene to protect civilians there.

"We have confirmed at least six people killed and more attacks on civilians and looting of cattle is going on," he said.

The AU confirmed the continued fighting. "It's an open secret," said one AU official.

A Sudanese army spokesman denied the allegations.

"There were clashes between some tribes and the rebels in the area and the armed forces intervened just to protect the civilians there," he said. "But the clashes were very minor, the (rebel) and AU reports are untrue."

Militia and rebels

Experts estimate that about 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million forced from their homes in 3-1/2 years of conflict in Darfur. Mostly non-Arab rebels took up arms in early 2003, accusing the government of marginalising the remote west.

Khartoum mobilised tribal militias to stem the violence. Those militias now stand accused of a campaign of rape, murder and pillage.

The North Darfur clashes follow a refusal by Sudanese authorities to allow U.N. humanitarian chief Jan Egeland to

visit areas near the fighting last week, despite Khartoum's public insistence that security is good in the region.

Foreign journalists have also been denied travel permits.

A meeting in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Thursday agreed that the May peace deal for Darfur was inadequate and a new process should be activated under joint leadership of the U.N. and the AU.

However, the rebels said the government was merely trying to buy time to press on with its military operations. A struggling, ill-equipped AU force has failed to halt the violence.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in Addis Ababa that Sudan had agreed in principle to a joint U.N.-AU force in Darfur, but Sudanese officials later denied any such agreement.

"The United Nations can offer logistical support to help maintain stability in Darfur rather than replacing the African force there," Nafie Ali Nafie, Sudan's most powerful presidential adviser, told the state news agency SUNA.

"Sudan will never consent to the deployment of international forces to replace those of the African Union, who have shown their ability to execute their role in the region."

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West fighting terrorism properly now, Blair says

By: Sophie Walker

LAHORE, Pakistan (Reuters) - Western allies in Iraq and Afghanistan are now giving more weight to reconstruction and wider political issues alongside military force to fight their war on terrorism "properly", British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Sunday.

Blair met Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf in Lahore to discuss how to beat the Afghan Taliban, pool counter-terrorist intelligence and quell militancy in Pakistani religious schools.

He announced a doubling of British aid, some of it to boost Pakistan's moderate Muslim schools to counter Islamic extremism.

"We begin to win when we start fighting properly, and I think we are now fighting properly," Blair told a news conference. "But we've got to do more."

Asked to clarify Blair's remarks, his spokesman added later: "This is all about learning as we go in the war against terrorism. First, the world recognizes the global threat of this extremist ideology, second it takes security measures to address that and thirdly it has to recognize issues like Palestine."

British government officials have been lining up in recent days to warn about the threat of plots by Muslim militants to launch terror attacks in Britain, while British forces in Afghanistan have faced some of the fiercest fighting from a resurgent Taliban since it was overthrown in 2001.

On Friday, Blair briefly appeared on Friday to accept an Al Jazeera interviewer's contention that the Western intervention in Iraq had been disastrous -- although he went on to point the figure at outside forces



Prime Minister Blair is greeted by Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf ahead of their meeting at the Governor's Residence in Lahore Nov. 19.
REUTERS

fomenting sectarian violence, and his office said he had not meant to endorse the questioner's view.

Both Blair and Musharraf were adamant that progress was being made, both in the fight against terrorism and against the Taliban in particular. But both said military might needed to be backed by political solutions and reconstruction work.

Musharraf has faced longstanding criticism over accusations that the

Taliban receive support in his country, as well as shelter on the Pakistani side of the lawless frontier.

"Taliban problem is an Afghan problem. It is in the southeast region of Afghanistan, being supported by elements from this side," Musharraf told the news conference with Blair.

"We need to put our house in order, here on our side, and make sure that this support is cut off, but the main battle is in Afghanistan," he said.

Britain has about 5,000 troops in

Afghanistan, part of a 31,000-strong NATO-led force battling the Taliban.

Musharraf said Afghanistan needed reconstruction help on the scale of Marshall Plan for Europe after World War Two.

"A generation to defeat"

The two leaders also discussed the need for the Middle East peace process to resume.

Blair last week told a group advising U.S. President George W. Bush that progress towards resolving

the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would help reduce the bloodshed in Iraq.

He told journalists in Lahore: "Global extremism is based on an ideology that exploits grievance, so what we've got to do is -- at the same time that we are taking on that ideology -- we've got to take away the opportunity to exploit a grievance."

"This took a generation to grow and it will take a generation to defeat," he said.

British government sources say

they are concerned about the flow of people and ideas between Britain and Pakistan, where some madrasas, or religious schools, double as training camps for Islamic militants. Nearly three-quarters of a million British Muslims have roots in Pakistan.

The two countries' interior ministries are to set up a joint working group to pool intelligence work and for Britain to provide technical help and training in forensics, crisis management and tracking terrorist funds.

Expression of Interest Technical Assistance on the Impact of the Basic Education Expansion Project Credit No. 3422-YEM

This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 553, February 2001.

The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Basic Education Expansion Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contracts for the below-listed consulting service. The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consulting firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.).

The objective of the technical assistance is to help MOE assessing the impact of the Basic Education Expansion Project and verify if the Project development objectives have been achieved through implementing project components. The main objectives of the consultancy are to:

- 1- Study the girls' enrollment indicators in the five project governorates (Sana'a Am ran. Al-mahweet, Aldhale and Ramah), and compare them with the prospective results and the baselines.
- 2- Investigate whether the project has reduced the gap between the enrollment of male and female in the targeted governorates.
- 3- Study the girls enrollment indicators in the five project governorates (Sana'a, Amran, Almahweet, Aldhale and Rymah), and compare them with the baselines and the perspective results.
- 4- Investigate whether the Project has achieved the development objectives and update its indicators and compare them with the Project design.
- 5- Investigate that the Project achieved its goal in all its components (Access, quality and capacity building).
- 7- Study the quality of the programs implemented and or supported by the project such as teacher training, supervision field visits.
- 8- Find out if the interventions supported by the Project are sustainable, and if not suggest the necessary recommendations to make them sustainable.
- 9- Study the Project impact on achieving some of the Basic Education National Strategy objectives.
- 10-Discuss any obstacles that were faced during the program implementation and suggest the recommendations to overcome them.

The selection of the consulting firms will be in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004" Interested consulting firms may obtain further information during working days Sat.-Wed. From 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by December 6, 2006.

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More Buddhists killed in Thailand's Muslim south

BANGKOK (Reuters) - Suspected Muslim militants shot dead a Buddhist man in Thailand's restive south on Sunday in another apparent response by separatists to Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont's peace visit last week.

A policeman said the victim, whose neck had also been partially severed, was the third Buddhist killed in the last three days in the southern province of Yala in what appeared to be a coordinated campaign to force Buddhists to leave.

"I had warned him about the situation. I had asked him and his family to leave this village because it is almost occupied by Thai Muslims," the policeman said.

Last night, suspected Muslim militants shot dead an elderly Buddhist man in Yala, one of the three southernmost Thai provinces in which more than 1,800 people have died in nearly three years of unrest.

The militants have never made their aims public or claimed responsibility for any attacks in the

Muslim-majority, Malay-speaking region, which was an independent sultanate until annexed by Thailand a century ago.

Surayud, who was appointed by the army after a military coup against Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in September, has embarked on a major peace drive in the south, stating a desire for talks for rebels.

His three visits in the last month have been followed almost immediately by coordinated bombings or shootings.

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Reasons for spinsterhood: Education, poverty, expensive dowries

Tribal societies like Yemen consider marriage a basic life value and women who don't marry by a particular age face rumors and questions about why they don't marry.

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
fatimafnr@yahoo.com
& Nawal Zaid

The phenomenon of spinsterhood isn't limited to a particular community; rather, it's widespread across several communities in both educated and illiterate societies. Various factors affect spinsterhood: men who are unable to pay expensive dowries to a girl's family, poverty and educating girls, which takes several years.

Such marriage issues and many others negatively impact women's psychology, particularly in Yemeni society, which blames the woman. In some areas, when a woman reaches age 30 without getting married, people label her a spinster and she then has a slim chance to wed.

Unfortunately, some fathers don't care as much about their daughters' happiness as they do about money. "I'm 30 years old and I haven't married yet because my father refused my coworker, who still must improve his financial position," Salwa Mohasin

explains, "This is why I'm still unmarried." Women in Yemeni society aren't allowed to give their opinion on the dowry or other marriage costs.

Some parents list many requirements for the groom to provide, the most important of which are the expensive dowry, furniture and other items. In this instance, the groom starts believing that marriage is a dream that's impossible to achieve.

Houda Al-Saleh, 35, hasn't married due to such expensive requests. "Many men proposed to marry me. When my father refused them all, rumor spread in the neighborhood that my father doesn't want me to marry, so for two years, no one has come to ask for my hand."

Many daughters become victims of their father's selfishness often because they work and are responsible for the household's income. Thus, fathers create reasons for a man who proposes for his daughter.

"Saba" and her five sisters were forced to remain unmarried and live with their father, who depended upon their salaries. After he died, only two sisters married because they still were young, whereas the other three haven't.

"My two sisters and I are past age 40, so it's impossible to find men who are at the same age to marry," she adds.

Many youths prefer to marry girls from rural areas, thus increasing spinsterhood in the urban areas. Men think uneducated rural girls are more innocent and easy to control, says Jamal Hassan, a 28-year-old educated man. He married an illiterate rural girl after hearing negative comments about educated women who like to control life themselves, adding, "My parents and friends advised me to marry a young rural girl."

Unfortunately, many youths think educated urban women claim equal rights with men, thus making it difficult for the husband to control his wife, 25-year-old university student Najla Al-Qasimi remarks. "University women are engaged in studies and seeking knowledge, which is why men favor marrying those with modest education or those who aren't educated. However, some youths do prefer marrying educated women."

Educated women seek more from marriage, including love, respect and social status. "Frankly speaking, I prefer to marry an educated guy who's sufficiently aware about marriage affairs and establishing harmony between both spouses," Al-Qasimi states.



Women themselves sometimes are the reason for their own spinsterhood, rejecting several suitors while awaiting a better opportunity. "I'm unwilling to suffer anymore in my life. I spent hard years studying, especially given the lack of facilities for study, so I'll never marry a man who isn't ready for marriage," declares 30-year-old Hanan Al-Kawkabani.

Samah Al-Alwi, 32, points out that spinsterhood is better than divorce. "I haven't married because I haven't found a good man to be my husband. I prefer to be spinster rather than a divorced woman carrying the responsibility of children," she notes.

"I never consider myself a spinster because I'm interested in my studies. I ignore society's viewpoint," explains 35-year-old Arabic teacher Nada Ibrahim. "Spinsterhood was a problem in the past, when women were responsible to their fathers, but many women now are educated and have their own businesses, with some helping their families increase their income," she adds.

However, when unmarried women reach age 45, they often become frustrated, perceiving that they lack numerous privileges, the most important of which is a marriage partner who loves and understands them. Asma Abdullah blames herself for being a spinster, having refused many men who proposed because she was waiting for a better one. Now, at age 44, most of her friends are married and have children.

Dr. Nabil Mubarak Bin Fahashen of Al-Horabi Hospital states, "Some women age 30 and above suffer numerous organic diseases, particularly in the nervous system. Symptoms are manifested by lack of appetite, being underweight and losing fat in the chest and abdomen, while others suffer diarrhea. In conducting checkups, spinsters don't seem normal. They suffer frustration and other psychological disorders, as well as diabetes and hypertension."

Decreasing dowries

Some parents who aren't gluttonous for money decrease the dowry when a man applies for any of their daughters,

58-year-old Hadeya Al-Madani notes. "Frankly speaking, if the man applying for any of my daughters is well-bred and responsible, I don't care about money as much as I care about my daughter's happiness."

Um Ali Zaid, 32, agrees, "Because I have five daughters, I prefer a man applying for any of my daughters to be well-bred and abide by religious principles. I don't care about money. I want the applicant to respect my daughter and treat her kindly."

She adds, "We've heard about and seen many daughters who became victims of their parents' greed. It's time to stop this greediness."

According to 30-year-old government employee Hamoud Abdullah Zaid, women's exaggerated requirements are responsible for their spinsterhood. Most condition that the marriage partner must be educated, in addition to other requirements, which are difficult for the man to meet, thus compelling him to seek a rural girl.

"Spinsterhood has climbed to 70 percent during 2006, particularly in cities," 29-year-old Mona Ali, a member of the National Woman Committee, notes.

Housewife Fahmia Mohammed Al-Shehab, 41, illustrates, "Of those who applied for me, I preferred one who was educated as a main condition, in addition to having a good job and abiding by religious principles. I also preferred to live with my husband in a private home."

Al-Shehab adds that due to the increasing numbers of women, men often are found to be married to more than one and they usually prefer marrying girls under age 18.

Tribal traditions also are a reason for spinsterhood, as some parents refuse to marry their daughters to outsiders. Higher-class Yemenis also refuse to marry their daughters to men from lower classes, another factor making marriage impossible.

In rural areas, spinsterhood begins at age 18 and even younger in some villages. In such areas, people consider an 18-year-old girl a woman suitable for marriage, particularly if she isn't

enrolled in school. This notion is backed by 35-year-old Islamic Education teacher Mujahed Al-Badawi. However, in cities, spinsterhood begins at age 25, an idea supported by 29-year-old housewife Intisar Sare'e.

Wrong points of view

Some families request high dowries because they mistakenly think it will preserve their daughter's dignity. They also think more money will ensure that her husband won't ever neglect her. But a man intent on abusing his wife will do so no matter what the cost of her dowry or he won't ask for that girl.

The real assurance of a good marriage is a good choice of partner, rather than money, which won't last. However, many parents say they feel social pressure to demand a high price for their daughters' hands. "If I request just a small dowry, people will think there's something wrong with my daughter," says a father of seven girls.

The elderly consider it best for a girl to marry young "Let the 8-year-old girl get married and I guarantee a successful marriage!" declares 70-year-old Amina Al-Marrani, "When the girl becomes older, she'll be of no help anymore." Such thinking means she must marry at a younger age in order to be obedient to her spouse.

Are Yemeni men bachelors?

For Yemeni men, bachelorhood isn't a phenomenon because they can decide to marry anytime. Men like Amin Al-Hawathi indicate that they simply don't want to wed because marriage is a great responsibility. But in some cases, men over age 30 are unmarried because they can't afford the marriage costs.

"I can get married anytime because dowries are low in our area," notes 30-year-old government employee Nabil Al-Khamis.

Adel Al-Haimi, 29, agrees, "I prefer to remain a bachelor but I could wed even at age 40 because any girl would accept me as long as I can provide her with all she wants."

Al-Marah Club: Treating children through fun

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
fatimafnr@yahoo.com

In an effort to help manage children's medical treatments in conjunction with fun and games, Saba'een Hospital has opened Al-Marah Club.

Observing sick children's inadequate conditions at Saba'een Hospital, a visiting French group arranged with hospital administration to dedicate a room exclusively for a club. Opening under the banner, "Remedies for Enjoyment," the club is geared for pediatric patients to be in an entertaining and relaxing atmosphere.

Nurse Bushra Al-Masari is in charge of the club and the children who attend it, having taken various French-sponsored courses on how to deal with sick children. Nagat Abdo, managing supervisor for the French Link Organization in Yemen, selected her to be responsible for Al-Marah.

Since its opening, the club's method is to supply toys and videos to help patients under age 12 take their medication. No more than 10 children are part of the club at any given time, but this also limits space given to the club for its activities, thus preventing more children from joining.

"My hope is for the club to have larger accommodations so a larger group of children can participate," Al-Masari comments, "It's such a pleasure to see the children out of their hospital beds and not thinking about their illness as they busy themselves with the different toys we have available, especially those who previously were deprived of such entertainments."



Mother and children together at the Al-Marah Club.

She continues, "I especially remember 12-year-old Hanadi, who joined the club during her hospital stay. After spending a month with us, she refused to leave the hospital once she recuperated because she didn't want to leave the club or the favorite toy she had played with. However, I emphasized that she could visit us anytime she wanted."

During a two-hour club visit, children are involved in a variety of activities: painting, playing in groups, watching TV or listening to music and Islamic songs. Three-year-old Abdulmalik Ali Nahi joined the club with his mother's permission, who commented that she liked the idea of the club, "I spent 10 days in the hos-

pital with my son, but it didn't feel like a hospital."

Six-month-old Mohammed Qalain visited Al-Marah with his mother, Um Mohammed, who said, "My son has been ill for four days and every morning, I dedicate an hour at the club for him. I appreciate the organization supporting it."

Every child who joins Al-Marah is given a membership card allowing him or her to visit the club even after their discharge from the hospital. More than 40 children have joined since the club's opening. Its main event is a large monthly party, where-in French members from the Link Organization are invited to spend time with the children.

Link currently faces various organizational issues, one of which is structuring the club's activities. While most activities are for entertainment, the organization also provides many handcraft type of games aimed at teaching children new skills. Unfortunately, Al-Masari states, "I observe that the children are more interested in playing freely, so I sometimes find it difficult getting them to use those particular games."

Generally, every new project has its own aims and future plans for success. Al-Marah plans to open other branches in hospitals throughout Yemen and hold a lecture series for club members' mothers to teach them how to deal with their children's illnesses. The objective is to increase mothers' health care awareness by inviting specialists to talk and explain a variety of subjects, as well as distributing cassettes and DVDs on health care.



Children are not thinking about their illness's as they busy themselves with the different toys in the club.

Job Announcement

Health 20/20 Project, Funded by USAID, announces the following vacant position

The project focuses on health system strengthening worldwide. In Yemen the Project will provide support at the central level to activities such as National Health Accounts and Health Information Systems. The project will also support the five USAID-targeted governorates of Al-Jawf, Amran, Mareb, Sa'adah, and Shabwah. The following position will work as part of the project team in Sana'a.

Position: Project Assistant

1. Assist technical staff & consultants in technical and administrative activities, and help to coordinate the communication and collaboration between staff members.
2. Assist technical staff in data input, data/technical analysis, developing charts, tables, preparing and formatting reports.
3. Assist with planning meetings and coordinating activities with outside clients in ministries and governorates
4. Organize the logistics for project workshops, training sessions, and seminars.
5. Translate documents.
6. Assist with solving office and administration problems related to entire range of project activities.

Qualifications

- BA in finance, administrative, management or health related field.
- Two years professional experience in business, finance, management or health related fields.
- Excellent knowledge and experience with Windows, Word, Excel and other data processing and graphical presentation software.
- Excellent inter-personal communication and organization skills.
- Fluency in English and Arabic.

CV to be sent to P.O. Box 22344, Sawan, Sana'a or Fax: 967 1 302 722
or Email: aalkohlani@phrplusyemen.com

Free Voice: Investing in the future

This is "Investing in the Future" Program's 6th Newsletter from Nov. 13, 2006. The newsletter is published by Free Voice and provides information about Freevoice Arab media program and Arab partners.

Reported by: Nicolien Zuijdgest

Qatar - Aljazeera backs new pan-arab newspaper

The Qatar based satellite TV network Aljazeera is backing the launch of a new pan-Arab newspaper. It seeks to establish Doha as an Arab media hub and wants to end the Saudi hegemony over regional print media.

This was reported by the UK's Financial Times newspaper. Aljazeera has hired Abdelwahab Badrakhan, the former deputy editor of the Saudi backed pan-Arab daily al-Hayat to run the new paper, which is slated to start publication next year from Qatar. It will aim to rival London-based al-Hayat and Asharq al-Awsat, Badrakhan told the FT. It will however have a wider margin of print freedom than these two Saudi-backed publications. Subsidised by the emir of Qatar, critics say Aljazeera treads carefully when covering controversial Qatari stories.

Syria - Private political daily hits newsstands

A privately-owned political daily hit Syrian newsstands, hailing its arrival as a first in this tightly-controlled country for decades.

The editor of Al Watan ("The homeland") said that it was neither an opposition paper nor a state-controlled daily. "We do not belong to any movement, we do not express the points of view of any party," Waddah Abed Rabbo wrote in an editorial, adding that it was the first private political daily to appear in Syria for more than 40 years.

Abed Rabbo also owns the economic daily Al Iqtisadiya ("The economic") launched in 2001, while a privately-owned weekly, Abiad wa Asswad ("White and black"), has been on sale since 2002. The independent satirical paper Addomari which came out in 2001, was closed down by the authorities two years later after publishing articles critical of the domestic situation.

United Arab Emirates - Human rights activist harassed

Since June 2006, security officials and the judiciary have targeted several prominent activists, including Muhammad al-Mansoori, president of the independent Jurists Association (JA), and lawyer Muhammad al-Roken.

In June, the Federal High Court issued an arrest warrant for al-Mansoori, which accused him of allegedly "insulting the public prosecutor". According to Al-Mansoori, these charges stemmed from his public interviews and advocacy promoting human rights.

In July, security agents detained al-Roken for 24 hours. They detained him again in August for three days. According to the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (HRInfo), al-Roken was detained for criticising the country's justice system in an interview with Al-Jazeera. Security officials confiscated his passport and barred him from leaving the country.

For the past five years, authorities have barred twelve prominent UAE commentators and academics from disseminating their views in programmes broadcast by Abu Dhabi Television. The government also actively discourages the formation of non-governmental organisations. Al-Roken and other lawyers and activists are already waiting more than two years for a reply from the Ministry of Social Welfare to form the Emirates Human Rights Society.

Yemen - Legal committee established

Civil society organizations and human rights activists have agreed to form a legal committee in Yemen to offer the necessary legal assistance for journalists detained over opinion expression.

In a special meeting Ezalddin al-Asbahi, head of the Human Rights Information and Training Center, called all to work together to make such a committee succeeds, giving examples for journalists who are under trial and need a legal assistance. The meeting also agreed to form another committee to study a

financial and regulatory bylaw for the legal committee, which they called the Legal Committee for Supporting Press Freedoms.

The meeting comes within the program of reforming the media legal frame in Yemen being implemented by the International Researches and Exchanges Board (IREX) and the Jordan-based Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ) in collaboration with the HRITC.

Lebanon - Conference on Arab media

The World Association of Newspapers (WAN) will be holding a conference in Beirut on Dec. 10-11, 2006 to explore the efforts of Arab media to win their independence and freedom in an environment of continuing repression and harassment.

The conference, entitled 'Press Under Siege,' will focus on the physical threats and dangers to media staff, legislative and economic pressures used to control media, censorship and self-censorship, and programs to support the development of professional and commercially viable news enterprises.

Leading publishers and editors from across the Middle East are being invited to discuss these challenges at the conference, which is being hosted by the Lebanese daily An-Nahar.

The opening session of 'Press Under Siege' will include the presentation of the first Gebran Tuani Award to an Arab newspaper executive, in honour of the former Lebanese newspaper publisher and long-standing WAN Board Member who was killed in a car-bomb attack in Beirut on Dec. 12, 2005.

Algeria - Government obstruction for journalists

Since summer 2006, French-Algerian journalist Lakhdar Khelfawi and Algerian journalist Arezki Ait-Larbi have been banned from leaving the country after charges dating back to 1997 have been resurrected.

The July 5, 2006 decision of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to pardon all journalists sentenced for 'offending constituted institutions and bodies' and 'defamation' turned out to be window dressing.

Arezki Ait-Larbi, correspondent for French newspapers Le Figaro and Ouest France, is a harsh government critic.

After his request for a passport renewal was refused in May, Ait-Larbi found out that he had been sentenced to a six-month prison term dating back to 1997. A defamation suit had apparently been entered by a former head of prison services that turned a blind eye to the mistreatment of Lambèse prisoners as Ait-Larbi had exposed in an April 1994 article in l'Événement. The journalist had never received any notice of the suit or of his court summons. Ait-Larbi looks upon the case a fresh attempt of intimidation by the Algerian authorities.

Khelfawi, who has been settled in France since 1998, returned to Algeria for family reasons in June 2006. When he tried to return to France on July 12, border police banned him from leaving the country. The ban, which dates back to 1997, followed a conviction for "defamation" and a sentence of six months in prison and a small fine. The editor of the weekly El-Kalaâ was named in a lawsuit lodged by the wali of Tébessa, after he published an article remarking on the official's absence from an official ceremony. The Algerian authorities still prevent him from leaving the country even though the July 5 presidential pardon is applicable to his case. In addition, four French cartoonists had visa requests refused, officially because of an "administrative backlog."

Qatar - Aljazeera unveils journalists' memorial

In recognition of the dangerous work that many journalists are required to do, Aljazeera unveiled the "Wall of Freedom" memorial to honour journalists who have been killed while on duty throughout the world.

Aljazeera satellite television network has unveiled the 55-foot memorial, engraved with the names of more than 630 journalists, on Nov. 2 in Doha, Qatar. The date also marks the 10th anniversary of the Aljazeera.

Iraqi-Canadian artist Mahmud Al-Obaidi designed the Wall of Freedom. "Reporting the news has become extremely unsafe in many parts of the world," said Wadah Khanfar, Aljazeera's director general. "We wanted to honour those who have sacrificed their lives for their profession, and we hope that one day we can see an end to the killing."



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لا توجد خبرة كافية في التواصل مع عملائك في الخارج
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رسائل تنعدم لأسس وتنظيم متعارف عليه

الآن في أبيكتك

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سارع بالتسجيل لتتمتع قدراتك في التواصل مع الآخرين وزيادة الثقة والدقة في مراسلاتك التجارية وفق معايير متعارف عليها دولياً والتي ستعقد خلال شهر ديسمبر

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مع مدربين ذو كفاءة عالية وخبرات دولية



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

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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.

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



British Embassy
Sana'a

The British Foreign & Commonwealth Chevening Scholarship Scheme

The British Embassy invites applications for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's **Chevening Scholarship Scheme**. This highly-competitive scheme offers full-time postgraduate scholarships of varying length to Yemeni women and men who will play a key role in promoting Yemen's political, economic & social development.

Applicants, who must be under 40, should have a university degree and very good written and spoken English. Candidates will be selected on the basis of their potential and motivation to rise to positions of authority.

Spouses and children are not funded under the scheme.

The deadline for applications is 30 November 2006.

The application form and full information are available on line from the British Council web site:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/me-learning-funding-your-studies-chevening.htm>

Applications are to be submitted by hand to our office, or by mail to PO Box 2157, Sana'a.

For further information on the scheme please see the web site:
www.britishcouncil.org/me



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VACANT POSITIONS

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified candidates for the following positions:

Title: Assistant Project Officer (05/2006)
Level of Assignment: NO-B
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Section / Division: Programme
Duty Station: Hodeidah

Under the supervision and guidance of the Project Officer Field Operations (NOC), Assistant Project officer shall be mainly responsible for implementation and coordination of UNICEF activities at district level in the Governorate of Hodeidah. The Assistant Project officer responsibilities include:

1. Advocate, develop and enlarge the key elements of the education, water and sanitation and health sector programmes with counterparts at the governorate and district level,
2. Facilitate implementation, periodic reviews and promote innovative activities under girls education women development and child survival,
3. Co-ordinate under the supervision of the Project officer Field Operations, with Sana'a office teams to initiate advocacy and implementation of the country programme,
4. Co-operate with counterparts partners and work closely with colleagues in the implementation of activities to accomplish the agreed mid-decade goals,
5. Initiate and facilitate situation analyses, including baseline surveys needs assessments, project design, monitoring and impact oriented evaluations of UNICEF assisted projects in the area,
6. Manage and supervise the functioning of small area project implementation unit (PIU) and its staff on a day to day basis. Staff Member supervises one staff member and one driver,
7. Carry-out any other tasks agreed with the supervisor or the Project Officer.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- University graduate in social science or related fields.
- Five years working experience in project management and implementation at local level in support of a development programme of an international organization, of which at least one year in support of programme activities of a UN agency.
- Good analytical and data processing skills.
- Proficient computer usages and good knowledge of common computer applications.
- Proven experience of working in a multi-sect oral/multi-cultural environment.
- Fluency in written and oral English and Arabic.

Title: Assistant Project Officer (07/2006)
Level of Assignment: NO-B
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Section / Division: Programme
Duty Station: Taiz

Under the supervision and guidance of the Project Officer Field Operations (NOC), Assistant Project officer shall be mainly responsible for implementation and coordination of UNICEF activities at district level in the Governorate of Hodeidah. The Assistant Project officer responsibilities include:

1. Advocate, develop and enlarge the key elements of the

- education, water and sanitation and health sector programmes with counterparts at the governorate and district level,
2. Facilitate implementation, periodic reviews and promote innovative activities under girls education women development and child survival,
3. Co-ordinate under the supervision of the Project officer Field Operations, with Sana'a office team to initiate advocacy and implementation of the country programme,
4. Co-operate with counterparts partners and work closely with colleagues in the implementation of activities to accomplish the agreed mid-decade goals,
5. Initiate and facilitate situation analyses, including baseline surveys needs assessments, project design, monitoring and impact oriented evaluations of UNICEF assisted projects in the area,
6. Manage and supervise the functioning of small area project implementation unit (PIU) and its staff on a day to day basis. Staff Member supervises one staff member and one driver,
7. Carry-out any other tasks agreed with the supervisor or the Project Officer.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- University graduate in social science or related fields.
- Five years working experience in project management and implementation at local level in support of a development programme of an international organization, of which at least one year in support of programme activities of a UN agency.
- Good analytical and data processing skills.
- Proficient computer usages and good knowledge of common computer applications.
- Proven experience of working in a multi-sect oral/multi-cultural environment.
- Fluency in written and oral English and Arabic.

Title: Project Assistant (08/2006)
Level of Assignment: GS-5
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Section / Division: Programme
Duty Station: Taiz

Under the supervision and guidance of Assistant Project officer (NOB) of UNICEF Taiz Field Office, the Project Assistant shall be mainly responsible for implementation and coordination of UNICEF activities at district level in the Governorate of Taiz. The Assistant Project officer responsibilities include:

1. Mobilize district counterparts and communities for the planning and implementation of project activities in the field of Yong Child Survival, Basic education & Gender and Child Rights etc.
2. Assist in advocating for UNICEF goals and policies at the district level. Assist in ensuring adequate coordination with other NGOs, INGOs and UN Agencies in the districts.
3. Follow-up distribution of supplies provided under UNICEF programme activities,
4. Follow-up training activities delivered under UNICEF programme activities,
5. Assist in processing, monitoring and timely liquidation of cash assistance to government and NGO/INGO.

6. Monitor UNICEF programme implementation through regular field visits, identify difficulties that may hamper activities, and propose remedial action.
7. Report on implementation progress of UNICEF activities in the districts. Assist in collecting information and preparing periodic reports for the zone office.
8. Handle custody of petty cash for the Aden zonal office,

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- University graduate in social science or related fields.
- Five years working experience in project management and implementation at local level in support of a development programme of an international organization, of which at least one year in support of programme activities of a UN agency.
- Good analytical and data processing skills.
- Proficient computer usages and good knowledge of common computer applications.
- Proven experience of working in a multi-sect oral/multi-cultural environment.
- Fluency in written and oral English and Arabic.

Title: Information Assistant (04/2006)
Level: GS 6
Type of contract: FT
Duty Station: Sana'a

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Communication Officer (L-4), the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Prepare designs and camera-ready art works and layouts for UNICEF publication. Supervise publishing operations in-house, and liaise with printers, TV and radio procedures, and private media.
2. Assist in editing, proof reading, printing and distributing of information materials,
3. Assist in drafting and editing articles, press releases, and reports,
4. Responsible for custody of all audio visual equipment ensures their timely repair and maintenance and oversees the proper maintenance of photos, film slides, and the film library in general,
5. Maintain and up to date mailing list for prompt distribution of reports and all other releases from NYHQ and vice versa,
6. Provide administrative support to the section.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- Completion of secondary high school is required,
- Four years of experience in a similar capacity,
- Training in desktop publishing, print preparation, and audio visual work,
- Training in editing and drafting press release..
- Good judgment, initiative, and high sense of responsibility.
- Fluency in English and Arabic (speaking, reading and writing).

Title: Sr. Secretary (06/2006)
Level: GS-5
Type of Contract: Fixed Term
Duty Station: Sana'a

Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Senior Programme Officer (P-5), the incumbent shall perform the following responsibilities:

Duties and Responsibilities

1. Arranges appointments and maintains supervisor's calendar, receives visitors, places and screens telephone calls and answers queries with discretion,
2. Arranges meetings, both internal and external, some involving high ranking officials, and makes minutes and/or notes at meetings,
3. Receives, screens, logs, and routes correspondence, attaches necessary background information and maintains follow-up system,
4. Draft non-substantive correspondence and ensures follow-up,
5. Clears correspondence for conformity with established procedures and accuracy of statements before being signed by the supervisor,
6. Translate letters/documents from Arabic to English and vice-vis and acts as interpreter in meetings when required,
7. Keeps lists of names, addresses and telephone numbers of ministers, government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- Completion of secondary education, and training in secretarial skill requires.
- Four years working experience as secretary or Admin Assistant in large organization
- A good working knowledge of English and Arabic (Oral and Written)
- Good knowledge of computer applications required.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to:
The Operations Officer, UNICEF Yemen, P.O. Box 725, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Please specify the post you are applying for.
Applications received after 28th of November 2006 will not be considered.

UNICEF is non-smoking environment.
Qualified women candidates are encouraged to apply.
ONLY Short-listed candidates shall be contacted.

*General Director of the Sana'a Basin Water Management Project:***“The existing project will extend the life of the aquifers, but it won't solve the problem.”**

Reports continue warning of dryness threatening many Yemeni cities. The capital city of Sana'a and its surroundings top the list of cities facing drought within the next 10 years. In order to face the water crisis in these regions, the World Bank is supporting the Sana'a Basin Water Management Project (SBWMP), which aims to assist Yemen's government in containing groundwater depletion in the Sana'a Basin, considered the main water source for these regions.

The Yemen Times interviewed project general director, Mohammed Harmal, to highlight this project and its affect on the water status in Sana'a.

Interviewed by: Amel Al-Ariqi

How would you describe Sana'a Basin's current state?

Sana'a Basin is a highland area spread over 3,200 square kilometers, with an approximate 2.4 million population that's growing an estimated 7 percent annually. The basin's irrigated agricultural land has swelled from 3,000 hectares in 1985 to 23,400 hectares in 2000, covering approximately 7 percent of land area.

Groundwater extraction began exceeding recharge in the mid-1980s due to rapid population growth and sharp increases in water use for agricultural purposes. Estimated annual recharge is approximately 80-120 million cubic meters, whereas groundwater extraction could be as high as 250 million cubic meters.

As much as 80 percent of such extraction is for irrigating agriculture comprising cash crops and highly-value crops like qat and grapes. Because of being the most profitable product, water is pumped from depths of up to 600 meters for qat, whereas fruits and vegetables, which draw water from only about 300-400 meters, are next.

Because of the situation projected above, depletion of groundwater resources and degrading water quality have started to increase at an alarming rate.

The Sana'a Basin Water Management Project (SBWMP) is supported by the World Bank. Can you describe this project?

The objectives of the overall 15-year program are: to increase both the quantity and useable life of groundwater resources available in Sana'a Basin, thus postponing the date at which extremely expensive new supplies may have to be brought in from outside the basin. The program is also aim to concurrently increase the efficiency of irrigation water use so as to allow time for a gradual shift to a less water-based rural economy in the basin; and to strengthen and build an institutional and legal framework capable of dealing with future basin management issues nationwide.

The program's current first phase consists of the five-year Sana'a Basin Water Management Project (SBWMP), which has the following basic objectives:

- to implement, test and develop "best practice" demand (primarily irrigation) and supply (primarily recharge) management methods in a limited area for later application of lessons learned and large-scale implementation throughout the Sana'a Basin under the program's subsequent two phases;
- to rehabilitate and rebuild damaged dams to improve downstream safe-

ty and enhance recharging of groundwater aquifers;

- to establish a regulatory, legal and institutional framework needed for more sustainable water resource management in the basin; and
- to prepare the program's Phase II project.

A secondary objective is to enhance local rural development through community organizations.

How can you achieve these goals?

The SBWMP comprises seven components, each of which has specific purposes, but all of which contribute to meeting basic project objectives and presenting an integrated water resources management. The first component concerns Manage demand and improve irrigation. This component seeks to achieve agricultural water conservation by increasing water use efficiency for irrigation by introducing modern irrigation systems and equipment.

Second component deals with manage supply and improve recharge. This component's primary purpose is to enhance groundwater recharge via existing and new conventional dams, as well as through subsurface dams, check dams and other structures. It's expected that farmers then would pump water from shallow aquifers rather than from deep aquifers, which are a critical drinking and domestic water source for Sana'a city. A further purpose is to effect safety improvements to existing dams.

Third Component is called develop institutions and build capacities. This component aims to develop overall institutional and managerial frameworks and capacities for basin water resource management. Intended activities include:

- developing the National Water Resources Authority-Sana'a Branch's (NWRA-SB) capacity for water resource management, as well as the water sector and regulatory and monitoring frameworks and processes;
- building the NWRA-SB's capacity for basin water resource planning and management
- investigating and monitoring basin hydro-geological and water resources
- providing capacity building and training the NWRA-SB
- developing institutional basin-level stakeholder water management, relating to sub-catchment federations of Water User Associations (WUAs), i.e., Water User Federations (WUFs), and to the Sana'a Basin Commission, the basin-level stakeholders' water management entity.

The fourth component is information and public awareness

campaign. The campaign's objective is to raise the level of public understanding and awareness about water scarcity issues by transmitting water conservation messages to targeted segments of society.

Planned segments include schools (students and teachers), central government (parliamentarians), the media (journalists), the farming community, health centers and hospitals (to reach women), local councils and associations (to reach men), industries (industrial water users) and both rural and urban special interest groups.

While fifth Component is called Environmental Management Plan and Mitigation Program. The program as a whole serves to improve Sana'a Basin's environmental situation, but this component specifically includes necessary environmental management and mitigation interventions to supplement measures incorporated in the other project components.

Taken together, all of these measures comprise the project's Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Identified additional needs to be met by this component relate to EMP coordination and overview, public consultation, general environmental monitoring, dam safety reviews and monitoring, water quality and pollution monitoring, pesticide management improvements, public health issues (specifically bilharzia control), cultural heritage protection and urgent and short-term environmental improvement measures for the Sana'a city Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The sixth component covers inputs needed for project management, direction, overview, coordination, review, disbursement and procurement, administration and monitoring and evaluation through a Project Coordination Unit. It corresponds directly to the Sana'a Basin Commission's Project Management and Monitoring, as well as dedicated implementation units within appropriate line agencies that eventually could assume higher-level project management responsibilities.

And the seventh Component involves preparing the Phase II project, which is subject to satisfactory interim reviews and assessments of SBWMP performance and achievements.

Supporting organizations often stipulate community participation and involvement in such projects, so what do you do in that regard?

Community participation and involvement in the demand component is implemented via (i) technical and organizational support to well-based local farming groups, i.e., water user groups (WUGs), (ii) legal and functional establishment of community groundwater user organizations, i.e., WUAs, at the well field or village level, and (iii) corresponding technical and managerial training and extension programs involving both farmers and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation staff assigned to its Sana'a office for irrigation development and extension duties in the basin.

Regarding the supply component, the project will create sustainable dam and recharge systems management by strengthening the relevant capacity of the responsible government agency, the agriculture ministry's General Directorate of Irrigation and formalizing or establishing community operation and maintenance organizations (i.e., WUAs/WUFs) at the wadi branch or village level, together with appropriate training and extension programs.

How has the Sana'a Basin Water Management Project achieved its first phase goals and how do you assess your performance during that stage?

The project really began in the second quarter of 2004. As Yemen's pilot project, the SBWMP has concentrated on quality, not quantity, while implementing its components. Implementing



Two farmers working to get groundwater from the Sana'a Basin.

such components varies, especially for those considered slow due to establishing WUAs and training them how to run association business (administration and financial), as well as how to maintain and operate modern irrigation systems installed on their farms.

What about random well drilling?

Random well drilling is a big issue, not only in Sana'a Basin, but nationwide. New water law No. 33 issued in 2004 is a useful support to the water resource strategy. Additionally, the Yemeni Cabinet issued decree No. 343 declaring Sana'a Basin a protected zone wherein drilling deep wells is prohibited. However, the decree gave exceptions for drinking purposes and deepening or drilling alternative wells, which is subject to certain measures and controls.

The NWRA-SB is exerting much effort to enforce the water law and the decree at the basin level; for example, the NWRA must issue a license before drilling or deepening any well. With all of the aforementioned issues, the Sana'a authority is unable to control random and/or unlicensed well drilling due to lack of cooperation by the public and agencies responsible for helping enforce regulations to control drilling activities. The NWRA-SB has installed a free hotline phone number 173 for the public to inform it of any drilling activities.

Will the Sana'a Basin be able to cover the constant water demands, particularly with increasing population growth and expanding construction, or should we begin thinking about other future solutions?

The water situation is quite complicated and requires much effort and work from both the government and the public. Project objectives regarding water conservation are in the process and assessments from implementing these objectives aren't ready yet. It's obvious that Sana'a is suffering water

scarcity and the need to transfer water from other sources is urgent. The existing project will extend the life of the aquifers, but it won't solve the problem. In my opinion, we must work in both directions, which are conserving currently available groundwater and searching for future solutions.

What motivation do you offer farmers to restrict water depletion?

The NWRA-SB is working very hard to implement and enforce water sector regulations that will help reduce random well drilling and control drillers. The Sana'a authority also is launching an awareness program. As mentioned above, the information and public awareness campaign's objective is to raise the level of public understanding and awareness about water scarcity issues. The project is introducing new irrigation systems to farmers, which will help reduce the amount of water used for irrigation.

Some reports point to pollution in the basin. Can you expand on that?

A major well inventory was compiled for Sana'a City in 1995, wherein water samples were analyzed for major cations and anions. Five years later, the opportunity was taken to repeat the same exercise on a sub-set of the original wells. The result showed that urban groundwater was characterized by high concentration of almost all of the cations and anions due to wastewater continuously infiltrating the aquifer via cesspits.

Another source of pollution in the basin is due to reusing untreated wastewater to irrigate some parts of the agricultural area north of Sana'a Wastewater Treatment Plant.

How is construction in the basin affecting its recharge?

Construction in Sana'a basin has a big influence on recharging the shallow aquifer due to constructing new buildings and roads with concrete and

asphalt, which reduce percolation and infiltration during the rainy season. A good example is the shallow wells located near the Old City, which dried up after constructing the Al-Sailah project.

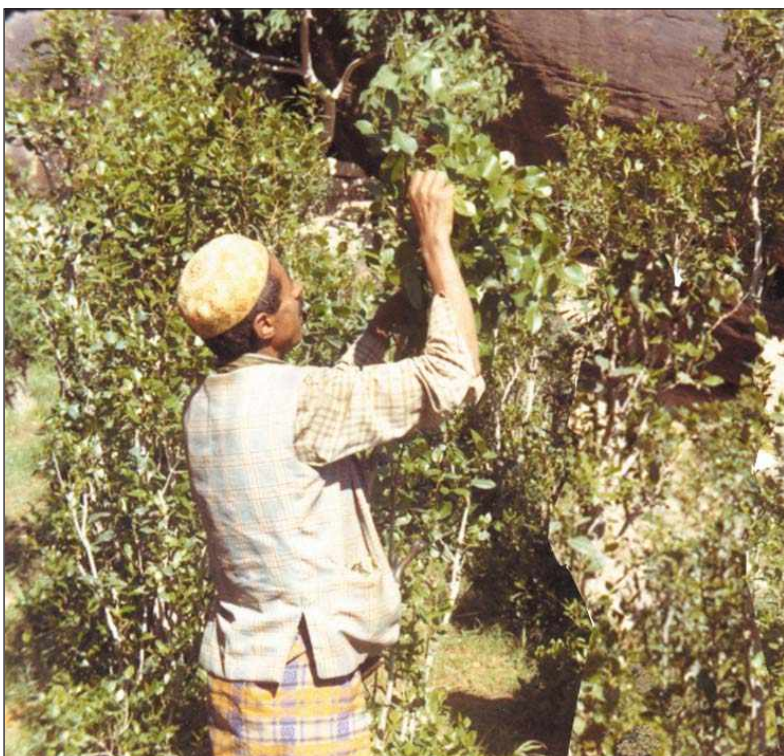
Many farmers complain about fees they must pay in order to get modern irrigation means. What is your comment about this?

The SBWMP is providing farmers subsidized modern irrigation systems at very cheap prices, ranging between 25 and 40 percent of the actual cost. Farmers contribute 20 percent to insulate the system, while the project contributes 80 percent.

What institutions or organizations do you cooperate with and how do you define each organization's role?

Several agencies and ministries are involved with SBWMP activities and they can be summarized as follows:

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's General Directory of Irrigation is involved in implementing the project's supply component.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation's General Department of Plant Protection implements pesticide integration management plans for qat and grapes.
- Ministry of Public Health and Population implements the bilharzia control program.
- Other agencies like the Environmental Protection Authority, the local water and the Sanitation Corporation are involved in implementing Component 5 - Environmental Management Plan and Mitigation Program.
- The NWRA-SB is responsible for implementing Component 3 - Developing institutions and building capacities and Component 4 - Information and public awareness campaign.



Most water extraction is for irrigating cash crops and highly-valuable crops like qat.



The project is holding an awareness campaign targeting farmers.

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Yemen brings on foreign coach



Football federation signed a contract with Egyptian coach Mohsen Saleh.

SANA'A, Nov. 18 — The Yemeni Football Federation signed a contract with Egyptian coach Mohsen Saleh. He will take over the national football team for one year on a renewable contract.

Upon arrival of the Egyptian coach, the football federation organized a news conference in the presence of its head, Ahmad Saleh Al-Eisi, who said the contract came after a long search and contact with several coaches, saying the federation is happy to bring on board an experienced coach. "We hope that hiring Saleh constitutes the real step toward developing the Yemeni football and improving skills and per-

formance of the coaching staff," said Al-Eisi. Saleh said he hoped the contract to help achieve the federation's goal and improve performance of Yemeni footballers in all the local, regional and international participations.

"I will be responsible for supervising Yemen's junior and senior football teams, in addition to coaching the national team under the one-year contract, which is also renewable," said the Egyptian national.

Under the contract, the Egyptian coach will be paid US \$240 thousand (more than YR 45 billion).

Sana'a University sports program begins

SANA'A, Nov. 19 — The Students' Affairs Office in Sana'a University, represented by the General Youth Care Department has made the necessary arrangements for the 2006-2007 sport program.

The youth care department finished the past season's sport program successfully including various games and competitions. Volleyball, table tennis and chess teams for men and women will compete in the university for several prizes.

Additionally, Sana'a University hosted the First Yemeni Universities Volleyball Championship and

placed, but in Aden Sana'a University claimed first position in the table tennis championship.

Sana'a University participated in the Arab Universities Championship in Egypt and stood second in the individual teams and third in the group teams. The university held various sporting activities for the handicapped and blind students and provided them with sport training courses.

The Sana'a University Sport Program paid closer attention to female sporting activities with the aim to encourage female presence in different sports.

Rooney brace saves Red Devils

Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney scored twice to keep his side three points ahead of Chelsea in the English Premiership on Saturday.

The Red Devils to come from a goal behind to overcome Sheffield United 2-1, while Chelsea defeated fellow London club West Ham 1-0.

Regular title challenger Arsenal suffered setback when they were held 1-1 by Newcastle United.

Sheffield United were expected to offer little resistance to the United juggernaut, but the newly promoted side took a shock lead through former United player Keith Gillespie.

However, England striker Rooney made up for his profligacy last week to keep his side's title ambitions on track.

"They were two marvellous finishes," Red Devils boss Alex Ferguson said.

"The first came from a run across the defender. He has caught him on the hop, off-guard, and it was a great strike.

"The second was terrific. Taking that kind of finish, when you are under pressure and you need to win, it makes it more special."

A deft free kick from Geremi was enough for Chelsea to set up the

Premiership blockbuster next Sunday at Old Trafford as the two leading sides meet for the first time this season.

Despite his opponent's toiling, Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho was in an uncharitable mood.

"It would be unfair if they scored in the last period of the game because we were the better team, but it was a good game because both teams played with a good attitude," Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho said.

Struggling Newcastle United stunned hosts Arsenal thanks to Keiron Dyer's 30th-minute goal at Emirates Stadium.

Bore draw
While Liverpool failed to reignite their title campaign with a mind numbingly dire 0-0 draw with Middlesbrough.

There was no fairytale start for rock-bottom Charlton's new boss Les Reed as hosts Reading won 2-0 at the Madejski Stadium.

Everton returned to the winner's circle thanks to a goal from Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta which sealed a 1-0 win over Bolton.

Portsmouth overturned an early deficit to seal three points with a 2-1 win in the final minutes against Watford.

While in the early match, Manchester City beat visitors Fulham 3-1 at Eastlands as Bernardo Corradi finally got on the scoresheet for the home side.

Blackburn host Tottenham and Aston Villa travel to Wigan in Sunday's games.

Source: Aljazeera.net

Yemen defeats India in cup finale

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

SANA'A, Nov. 18 — In the last qualifier for the Asian Cup of Nations Finals, Yemen won 2-1 over visiting India this past Wednesday at Al-Thawrah Stadium in Sana'a.

For both teams, the game was meaningless after Japan and Saudi Arabia booked their places in the finals. The first half of the meeting ended goalless, however the Indian teammates demonstrated more possession of the ball.

In minute 9 of the second half, the visiting team placed home its first goal exploiting defense mistakes in Yemen's defense lines. The goal forced the national team coach to make two substitutions, Wasam Amro came on for Saleh Al-Shehri while Mohamed Al-Tahous was replaced by Waseem Al-Qa'ar.

The substitutions improved the performance of the Yemeni teammates who equalized the result in minute 15 of the second half thanks to a goal by Nashawan Al-Hajjam.

The Indian coach made substitutions to maintain the draw, which he saw as convincing for his side, but Yemen netted its second to end the visitors hopes of returning home with one point.

The match, administered by the Jordanian referee Hassan Marshoud, saw two yellow cards in the first half.

With this deserved victory, Yemen increased its points to 6 in the six-round tourney while the Indian team suffered six defeats in the tourney and returned home pointless. Yemen's two wins and six points came in the first and last matches — both against India.

In the same group, Japan had a strong match against Saudi Arabia earning a compelling 3-1 victory in Sapporo City located on the island of Hokkaido, Japan.

With the win Japan finished atop the



The Yemeni football team prior to their final qualification match against India.

qualifying group on the basis of head-to-head record with Saudi Arabia. Both teams earned 15 points in Group A.

Striker Kazuki Ganaha scored twice as Japan avenged their 1-0 defeat in Saudi Arabia in September. The Saudi Ambassador to Japan Faisal Turad was among the crowd of 43,000 that came for the match. Both sides had already qualified for the 2007 Asian Cup finals but Japan outplayed the visitors with probably their best performance since Ivica Osim took over from Brazilian Zico.

Defender Tulio gave Japan the lead in the 20th minute, bundling the ball home from close range after Seiichiro Maki's header had been blocked on the

line. Ganaha added a second nine minutes later before the Saudi Arabia pulled one back through an Al-Qahtani penalty in the 33rd minute.

Ganaha restored Japan's two-goal advantage from close range five minutes into the second half to secure a deserved win for the Asian Cup holders.

The Asian Cup finals, to be hosted jointly by Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia. Japan have won the last two Asian Cups, in Lebanon in 2000, and two years ago in China with a controversial 3-1 victory over the hosts in Beijing.

The Arab News Daily quoted the Egyptian sport critic Khalid Bayoumi,

who spoke at the ART channel after the match, as saying the Saudis did not have a good performance in both halves. "There was a big gap and lack of skills and professionalism as the players were playing solo and we did not see the Saudis playing as a team," he said. Brazilian Marcos Paqueta, coach of the Saudi team, did not motivate the players enough to give their best, he added.

"The players are the same and the mistakes are still repeated. Not having a basic and strong squad is big problem, the team had been playing many games and many changes are being made. This affects them negatively and on a long term basis," Bayoumi added.

Football Federation decision enrages Yemen

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

SANA'A, Nov. 19 — The Yemeni Football Federation is angered by a decision made by the Arab Football Federation to have Lebanon host the games of the Aden Group in Arab Championship Tourney instead of the Yemeni city of Aden — where they were originally scheduled. The Sana'a Group members will play in Yemen's capital according to the previously set timetable.

A senior Yemeni official released a statement, following the decision, saying the Arab federation doesn't respect its resolutions. The statement said the Arab Football Federation exercises its activities randomly and

that people in charge of the federation pay harm to interests of some Arab countries.

The statement says the Arab Football Federation tries to isolate Yemen from other Arab countries and weaken Yemen's role. The statement provided evidence of Arab Football Federation unfairness because it has never appointed a Yemeni referee to run a match over the past two years.

However, according to the statement, the Arab Football Federation and Federation of International Football Association frequently appoint Yemeni referees for football games.

The statement argued that there are

many well-qualified Yemenis who are not engaged in any of the Arab Football Federation activities despite the fact Yemen is one of the first countries that played football.

The Yemen Football Federation claims its right to participate in forming the Arab Football Federation committees, according to a sport official. He said the Yemen federation sent a letter to the Arab federation claiming involvement of Yemeni people in its committees.

The Yemen federation said Yemeni referees have to participate in administering football meetings, organized by the Arab Football Federation.

The sport official indicated that

Sana'a will start organizing the games of its group, which includes Yemen, Palestine, Comoro Islands and Djibouti as of Dec. 14.

Arab Football Federation had decided earlier that Yemen would host two groups, one in Sana'a including the above-said teams while the other group was scheduled to play in Aden and it is made up of Lebanon, Sudan, Mauritania and Somalia.

The Yemen Football Federation was surprised by the Arab Football Federation decision, issued on Oct. 8, which selected Lebanon as a substitute for Aden to host the encounters between Lebanon, Sudan, Mauritania and Somalia.

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Nov. 20 Universal Children's Day For the love of a child

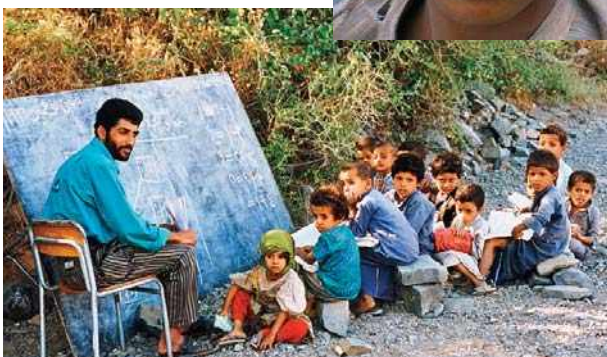
The International Day for Children is celebrated Nov. 20. The United Nations General Assembly recommended in 1954 that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day, to be observed as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children and of actively promoting the welfare of the world's children.

The date of Nov. 20 marks the day on which the Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1989.

Nothing better than celebrating children's day than with beautiful photos. All Photos are Copyright ©2006 TrekEarth.



YEMENI BROTHERS
Two brothers different mood's in the capital city Sana'a.
Photos by Georges Bartocconi



LEARN WITHOUT SCHOOL
The Wadi Sachra (Al Hudaydah hardly carries water in the dry season, and you can drive through it by car. At the Wadi I saw this teacher with his small pupils. All were eagerly engaged in the lesson. Teachers earn very little and usually have additional jobs.
Photo by Wolfgang Schanze



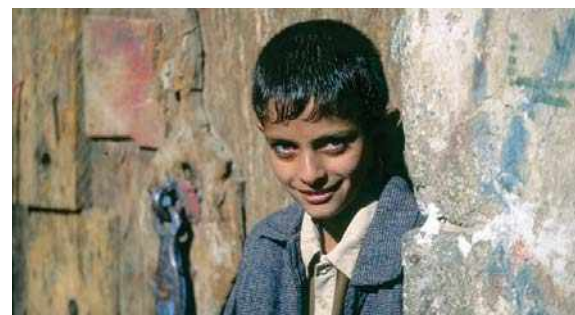
INTERRUPTING DESTINY
Little girl on her way to school in Al-Hajjara, Sana'a governorate. Just hoping that her pink school bag would not turn into a wood bag on her back when she grows up... Just wish that she can manage to continue her education and live a more comfortable life.... Just dream that she can interrupt her unfortunate destiny...
Photo by Cengiz Topbas



CINDERLLA
This little girl looked at us passing while remaining on the step of her door. Astonishment and timidity perhaps also a little fear are quite visible, I think, in her glance.

YEMENI MONA LISA
When we arrived in this village, all the children came while running and while laughing to say hello to us. She arrived all gently, calmly, with a small timid smile.

Photos by Georges Bartocconi



MISCHIEVOUS SMILE
Boy - Sana old city.
Photo by Mariusz Jachimczuk



SIMPLE HAPPINESS
Yemeni children adore being photographed. In this photograph a group of young villagers came to be photographed by a digital camera. The photographer showed them their photo taken and their face lit with astonishment, laughter, and cries of joy.
Photo by Georges Bartocconi

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