

In brief

Al-Mahrah

Housing development for expatriates

17 March — The Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Office in Al-Mahrah is planning to build a housing development in the foreseeable future for expatriates who returned home following the First Gulf War. "Building this city comes as part of implementing President Saleh's platform, which aims to improve the living standards of expatriates and reintegrate them into the society," said Mohamed Al-Shami, Manager of the Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Office in the governorate. He added that his office is in discussions with the Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Ministry to fund the project with the grant given by the International Organization for Migration.

MAREB

5,000-year-old settlements discovered

17 March — Surveys conducted by the Yemeni-German Antiquities Team have discovered human settlements near the city of Mareb confirming that these settlements date back to 5,000 years. In light of their surveys, the team, which belongs to the German Antiquities Institute and the Yemeni Antiquities Authority, came up with important and interesting findings revealing secrets of the Old Kingdom of Sheba. Also, the team charted as many as 300 historic sites in their map.

SOCOTRA

Socotra Airport to be launched

18 March — International flights from Socotra Airport are due to begin at the beginning of April, according to Hamed Faraj, Chairman of the General Aviation Authority. He added that Socotra Airport is to be an international transit point providing refuelling for aircraft which would then depart to different destinations worldwide. Faraj indicated that all the arrangements and facilities necessary for accommodating international flights at the airport have been completed except for refuelling equipment.

TAIZ

UNICEF to discuss friendly school environment

16 March — The UNICEF Office in Taiz governorate is preparing to organise a two-day workshop programme on friendly schools for children next week. Head of the office Fadhil Al-Bashir clarified that the workshop is due to discuss changes of school environments in a way conducive to achieving the programme's goals. Al-Bashir noted that this is the first time such a programme has been conducted in Yemen, adding that a number of Education Ministry officials, local council members and NGOs' representatives are due to participate in the workshop.

HODEIDAH

Chinese company to establish cement factory

17 March — The Chinese company, SMK, is due to start laying the foundations for a new cement factory in Rajaf district, Hodeidah governorate for a total cost of \$113 million, according to Ismail Al-Shaibani, Chairman of the Cement Industry and Marketing Corporation. He added the Chinese company will start constructing the factory this year following the signing of an agreement with the Corporation on the implementation of the project. The Chinese government has pledged to pay 80 percent of the total cost while the remaining funds are due to come from the Yemeni government.

SANA'A

Court adjourns terror suspects' trial

17 March — The State Security Specialized Penal Court adjourned the trial of 16 suspects, out of a total of 23 people, accused of links with Al-Qaeda until 22 April. The 16 suspects are charged with forging ID documents and passports with the aim of travelling to Iraq to fight against occupation forces. At the hearing, chaired by Judge Sa'eed Al-Qatta, the prosecutor asked the court not to accept the appeals filed by 12 of the suspects since their appeal against the verdict was lodged after the expiry of the 15-day deadline. Also, he urged the court to uphold the preliminary verdict, under which all the suspects were sentenced to 3 years and 4 months in jail each.

Women's leadership programme spot-lights media role in supporting women issues

By: Fatima Al-Ajel

Sana'a, 18 March — Women Journalists Without Chains in collaboration with the Canada Fund, a development programme for local and international aid, launched the first annual training programme for female leaders and media skills on Saturday 17th March at Sana'a International Hotel.

The seminar presentations focused on the role of the media in improving women's lives and ensuring that women play an active role in social and political life. The training programme was led by the Deputy of the National Commission for Women, Horia Mashaheer. A seminar session was launched to discuss the focal points of the training programme with participants.

The chief-editor of the newspaper Al-Nade, Sami Qalib presented a seminar on the importance of the media in informing the public and its relationship to women in particular. He explained the mass media and women are both marginalised in Yemen's nascent democratic environment. Qalib explained that women, the political parties and independent mass media are never given the spot-light during official occasions because the officially sanctioned Yemeni media are run by officials opposed to greater pluralism and dialogue.

Qalib believes that the independent mass media is still too weak to provide civil society with a forum for discussion and debate, however, he hopes that the continued development of the media and the expansion of its role as well as the continued improvement and education of women will bode well for the future. This is important because the official mass media often takes a discriminatory line against party newspapers. When they do, on rare occasions, discuss women's issues, they tend to propagate a marginal view about them. If women's accomplishments are mentioned they are often tucked away in a column on an inside page. "Both the independent news media and women have to strengthen ourselves to be able to face



From left to right, Nasr Taha Mustafa, Horia Mashaheer, Fuad Jawhari and Raufa Hassan.

the difficulties that will face us in the future," Qalib concluded.

The role of the media and female activists promoting women's issues was the subject of a seminar paper delivered by Raufa Hassan, the chief of the Cultural Development Programme Foundation (CDPF). She emphasized the importance of training journalists in how to deal with different women's issues and cases. Most official and social organisations do not have special programmes devoted to gathering information or publicising their issues.

Furthermore, the mass media does not have a specific strategy for covering women's issues. Where it is covered it tends to be a purely individual effort which may be affected by a particular party political slant. The mass media should be an integral part of civil society using its resources and influence to publicise import issues, inform citizens of their rights and permitting open consultation through the democratic process. This is the best way to get decision makers to take heed of the findings of the media.

The coordinator of The National Organization for the Defence of Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), Mohammed Naji Allaw presented his paper about the participation of women in society saying that "the role of women in society is still minor and many organisations tend to separate women's issues

from social issues in general which impacts negatively on women, further isolating them". Additionally "women themselves play a role in ignoring their rights in society". There is no support for women to defend their interests or uphold their rights.

"The women's organisations work is mainly educational; launching workshops, meetings but never direct intervention in women's cases which is where more work needs to be done". At the end of his presentation, he called for officials and businessmen to support human rights in general and women's rights in particular and promote greater social awareness about both issues. He further requested that all the women's organisations stand in solidarity behind the case of Anisa whose case epitomises persecuted women in society.

In his presentation, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate and chief of the Yemen News Agency, Nasr Taha Mustafa, talked about women's achievements in Yemen as remarkable given their low status and general ignorance concerning women's issues. He noticed that all official and independent mass media have to formulate a joint strategy to positively reflect and reinforce the role of women in society and provide an active forum for women to present their concerns. He ended by clarifying the official mass media role in raising social awareness.

Ministry of Civil Service determined to end dual employment

SANA'A, 18 March — The Ministry of Civil Service has undertaken certain procedures to end dual employment in government ministries. Minister of Civil Service, Hamoud Khalid Al-Soufi said in an interview carried out by the Yemen Times.

This step is part of administrative reforms aimed to put an end to dual employment, which is rife in Yemen, especially with a number of the state's top officials who hold more than one paid position. The buying and selling of positions as part of the unofficial network of patronage also exacerbates the problem. It has become common place that applicants can buy positions at any government body. The ministry has already discovered several cases of employees holding more than one position. The process began a few years ago as the ministry warned employees holding more than one position to report their case to the ministry.

However, observers say the process will be a long and drawn out one. The Ministry of Civil Service says it faces a lot of difficulties in its attempts to curb this problem many of which are legacies of Yemen's troubled past. "The system of general administration inflated due to practices in the southern and northern parts of Yemen before unification," Al-Soufi said. According to him, the southern regime had to incorporate every educated official into the bureaucracy whereas in the north people thought positions were theirs by right.

"What complicated this matter was the system of coalition governments that came after unification. The parties that formed these governments took the opportunity place their members in government bodies," he added, noting that this resulted in a bloated administrative system with the number of employees increasing from 174,000 in 1990 to 420,000 in 1997. "This increase was not linked to the needs of the public good. We then had to take certain measures to solve the problem through pensioning off some employees, and fighting dual employment", the minister stated.

The measures taken by the ministry to tackle the phenomenon of dual employment includes the establishment of finger print identification and a photo database for every employee as well as more closely monitoring the recruitment process. "We want to enforce the principle of one employee for each position, but this has not happened to date because of deficiencies in monitoring staff," Al-Soufi said. He added that the fingerprint and photo identification system will end the problem dual employment and so aid the reduction of official corruption and inefficiency in government.

The ministry has also built basic systems and established a database on the government's employees in away that enables the state to know about these employees, their qualifications and capabilities.



Civil Service Minister, Hamoud Al-Soufi

The ministry has made progress in decreasing the problem of selling positions by supervising its offices responsible for employment.

But applicants think they are unlikely to win posts according to priority criteria set by the ministry and so they resort to other means, such as misleading authorities responsible for employment, changing their documents or through the good offices, or they resort to brokers who claim they can hire them, according to Al-Soufi.

The Ministry immediately cancels any employment made this way, and rehires those who were deprived, he added.

These measures have been taken in the governorates of Taiz and Saada, and suspects were referred to the prosecution. This step will be applied in the governorates of Al-Baidha, Lahj and Al-Jawf, where committees have been sent to check the applicants' files.

Report detects inhuman conditions in Al-Mahara Central Prison

Al-Ghaida, March 18 — The Democracy School (an NGO promoting democratic reform and human rights) has issued a report highlighting the shocking situation in the Central Prison in Al-Mahrah, describing it as unsuitable reform institution.

The prison, consisting of four conjoined buildings, is deteriorated and the infrastructure lacks a sewage system; so that bathrooms over flow into inmates' wards, causing them to live in unsanitary conditions. The situation has become so bad that algae has started to grow on their blankets

and mattresses.

Further, female inmates are not separated from men, occupying a ward within the same building, a situation that goes against all laws and norms that regulate work in such prisons.

The flooding sewage system and general lack of cleanliness in the prison attracts mosquitoes, and many inmates are afflicted with Malaria and other contagious diseases. Moreover, inmates are not exposed to sun and this is clearly evident in the color of their bodies.

Medical services are absent and

inmates afflicted with health problems are left untreated. Though one of the inmates has serious mental health issues, he is still kept with other inmates.

According to the report, the now redundant governor, Maj. Abdullah Shubail, knew about all these problems in his prison; however, he did not care. He would allow inmates to hospitals in return for money given to him, no matter whether they were actually sick or not. Recently, he was fired after he facilitated the escape of a Pakistani national accused of smuggling drugs.

Prosecution investigates the murderers of Al-Shehari

SANA'A, 17 March — According to a security official, the specialised security apparatuses arrested three people accused of killing Mansour Al-Shehari early this month in response to the demands of local citizens.

Mansour Al-Shehari was killed on Thursday, 1 March after he engaged in a heated argument with two adolescents, sons of a senior military commander at Air Forces, who had parked their car in front of the Al-Sabeen Martyrs School for girls in Haddah Zone and were harassing female students. Following the argument, they went home and returned with escorts belonging to their father. Upon their arrival, they shot Al-Shehari many repeatedly ignoring Al-Sheharis pleas for his life after having been shot in his legs.

An informed source at the capital's South-West Prosecution Service noted that the prosecution has initiated an investigating into those involved in the case and will refer them to judiciary when they have concluded their findings.

In an official statement, the Ministry of Interior assured citizens that "the constitution and the law, whose pillars

were set by President Saleh, puts people on an equal footing before the law in realisation of the revolutionary goals of the state and the effective laws and constitution."

Dozens of Hadda Zone residents demonstrated on Sunday 11 March, demanding that the capital's South West Prosecution Service arrest those responsible for killing Mansour Al-Shehari and injuring two passers by. The injured bystanders were Mohammed Al-Bukhaiti and Former Yemeni President Abdullah Al-Salal's grandson together with one of the murderers. Raising banners that denounced the incident and demanded those responsible for Al-Shehari's murder be punished.

The demonstrators headed to Presidency House where they were met by Abdullah Sharhan, head of the capital's South West Prosecution Service.

Sharhan promised that the prosecution would arrest the murderers and put them on trial before the judiciary, maintaining they will not remain idle in the face of such crimes. Mansour Al-Shehari's corpse is currently being kept in Al-Jumhouriy Hospital morgue as his family has refused to bury him until his killers have been brought to justice.

WFP: Food insecurity has reached alarming levels in Yemen

SANA'A, 15 March — Food insecurity has reached crisis proportions in Yemen and over 50 per cent of children under five are malnourished, World Food Program Representative Mohamed El-Kouhene said on Wednesday at the signing ceremony of the launch of a new Country Programme for the period 2007-2011. One million Yemenis will benefit from the new five-year programme to help reduce poverty, cut malnutrition and narrow the gender gap in education. The WFP has provided \$400 million of food aid to Yemen since 1967, when the country was divided into the Yemen Arab Republic and the South People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

"The WFP, in partnership with the Yemeni government and other UN agencies, will do its utmost effort to reduce these levels," said El-Kouhene. Planning and International Cooperation Minister Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi signed the agreement for the Yemeni government confirming the government's commitment to provide all necessary facilities to enable the programme to achieve its goals and co-operating with the WFP's desire to expand its activities in Yemen. Scarce natural resources, combined with one of the highest population growth rates in the world, have contributed to Yemen's economic difficulties. Over 40 per cent of the population of some 21 million live on less than \$2 per day and over 70 per cent

live in rural areas, where stagnating agricultural production has led to severe poverty and high unemployment.

At a cost of US\$48 million, the programme will focus on expanding girls' access to education and improving the health and nutritional status of malnourished children under five, pregnant and lactating women, and patients suffering from tuberculosis and leprosy. Another of WFP's activities under the project will be the provision of food rations as an incentive to encourage families to enrol their children, especially girls, in primary schools. It will also be expanded to include girls in secondary education. Gender inequality in education is a problem especially evident in primary schools where the enrolment rate for girls is 61 per cent compared to 86 per cent for boys. The illiteracy rate for girls over 15 has peaked at 71.5 per cent. "The education of girls is as essential for Yemen's future as it is for boys. They make up at least half of the active members of society and will ensure that the country can move forward," Mr. El-Kouhene said.

"Donors have been supportive of the WFP's operations in Yemen," Mr. El-Kouhene said. "With a new project focusing exclusively on women and girls, adequate resources would help us work with the government to make a real change in the lives of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis."

Unprofessional media causes diplomatic dismay

Public and official media published news about Allawo Corp for Advocates filing a case against Libyan President regarding 12 million mines planted in Yemen. The case exists, however Allawo Corp has nothing to do with it.

SANA'A, 18 March — Dr. Mustafa Hwaidi charge de affairs of the Libyan embassy in Sana'a expressed his dismay at the "unprofessional media" which carried news of a lawsuit against Muammar Al-Qadhafi, Libyan President. "It is not reasonable at all, the relations between Yemen and Libya are good and the evidence of our support for Yemen's development are visible everywhere in the hospitals, roads, residence compounds...etc", said Hwaidi. Hwaidi was upset at the lack of serious response from Yemeni authorities. According to Hwaidi, "The actions of the media go against the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. How does Yemeni authority allow such mockery especially when it attacks the person of an Arab leader? Our foreign minister has recently visited Yemen and was received warmly by President Saleh, who I think is genuinely interested in promoting relations between the two countries".

The Libyan embassy sent clips of the news to Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Dr. Ali Al-Ghafari, director of the Arab Unity Department at the Ministry, acknowledged the issue and brought it to the Minister of Foreign Affairs' attention. Al-Thawra newspaper and Saba News Agency published Allawo's refutation against what was published in Akhbar Al-Yaum on the 26 September.

The General Attorney led by lawyer and human rights advocate Moahammed Naji Allawo called on Allawo Corp in response to a request for legal proceedings against the Libyan President regarding the plantation of 12 million mines in Yemen. The case was filed by lawyer Mohammed Ali Allawo who is member of the prominent committee of the ruling party, the GPC in Al-Baydha governorate. Because of the similarity in the names, the General Attorney assumed this was a case raised by the Corp. News of this case was published in several media, both official and private.

"These are dirty games cooked in the security kitchen which does not have a clear united national policy," said Khalid Al-Anisi Executive Director of Allawo Corp.

"Not only does such news upset relations with the Libyan Republic, it also defames Allawo Corp and highlights the lack of professionalism in some Yemeni newspapers", he continued.

The mines in question, which actually number less than 7 million, were used as part of the opposition movement by what was then known as the National Front opposition against Saleh's rule in the 1980s in North Central Yemen. Currently there are several local and international organisations working on clearing the mine fields. "This is an old file that has been closed as now all authorities have been merged under the rule of one country, the Republic of Yemen. It is ridiculous to file a case against Libya about something that was done by Yemeni movements in the 80s. It is like filing a case against yourself", added Al-Anisi.

Celebrating Yemeni Poetry, Art and Music

By: Craig Anderson

Sana'a, March 14th — The French Cultural Centre, Sana'a held its second annual event Wednesday in celebration of Yemeni poetry. The event was conceived as part of a wider French cultural initiative called "Spring of Poetry" (Printemps des Poetes), an annual event now in its ninth year in France, aimed at raising the profile of poetry and provid-

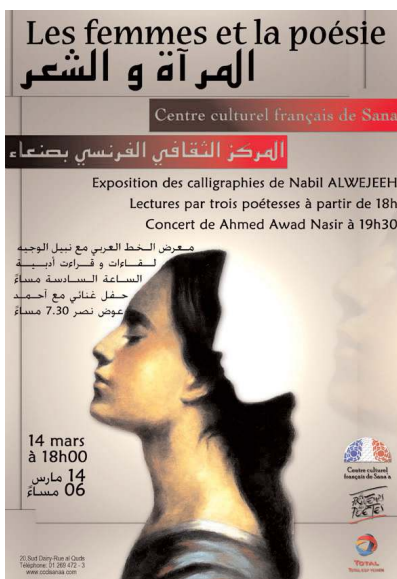
ing a platform for young contemporary poets to present their work to a wider audience.

Co-Ordinator of cultural events at the centre, Anne-Claire Duperrier, spoke of the importance of once again giving poetry the recognition that it deserves in society, having lost its former fame to other forms of artistic expression in recent years. She noted that this was particularly so in a country such as

France, famed as it is for its rich poetic heritage. It was for this reason that the French Ministry of Culture launched the "Printemps des Poetes" event in 1998 to try and recall to the minds of the French people the past greats of French poetry, such as Baudelaire and Rimbaud.

The French Cultural Centre in Sana'a, following the success of their 2006 event with famed Yemeni poet Abdulaziz Al-Makale, decided to focus this year's celebration upon the subject of women's poetry. This decision was taken in light of the recent visit to Yemen of French Minister for Cooperation, Development and Francophony, Brigitte Girardin, and the occurrence of International Women's Day on March 14th. During her visit to Yemen Girardin honored female Yemeni director Khadija Al-Salami in recognition of her cinematic works and contributions to French-Yemeni bilateral relations.

Accordingly, three female Yemeni poets, Nabila Al-Zubair, Nawal Al-Gobari and Sawasan Al-Ariqi, presented their work to an audience of both Yemenis and foreigners. The poets read aloud their poetry on a variety of issues for almost an hour to an appreciative audience who were at times moved to both smile and laugh. Of the poetry, Solveig Malvik, a student studying Arabic in Sana'a, said: "I found it refreshing to listen to Arab poetry not about love or politics. I am, of course, speaking as someone without any special knowledge on the subject, but the poetry felt like an innovative, very



human take on these women's lives in Yemen".

Complementing the poetry readings was an impressive exhibition of the calligraphy of Nabil Al-Wajeeh, in which he said, when speaking to Yemen Times, he sought to combine a traditional Yemeni style with a more modern approach to the art form. Further enhancing this evening of art and literature was a concert of traditional Yemeni music from Lahdj by Ahmed Awad Nasir and his band. The lively music created a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere in which a cluster of audience members were moved to dance, providing a fitting end to the evening's festivities.

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- Applications must be submitted not later than 31 of March 2007. Only short listed applicants will be contacted for interview.

Continued from page 1

Sa'ada confrontations flare

"Further, it has led citizens to chase after sectarianism and religious conflicts, something we thought Yemen was past, following the eruption of the Yemeni Revolution," he noted.

He continued, saying, "Constitutional legitimacy authorities should bear in mind that they work under the umbrella of Yemeni law and the Constitution, which regulate the extent of using power on the part of those in charge of enforcing the law. The security authority should respect the legal and constitutional rights of those arrested and should be referred to judiciary."

Alaw maintains that security authorities shouldn't use kidnapping and secret confinement of detainees, whom he noted should receive a fair trial before a natural judge, not before exceptional courts.

Foreign sympathy for Houthis

Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Abu Baker Al-Qirbi pointed out that his recent visit to Iran had clarified the misunderstanding for Iranians, as he assured them that the current war in Sa'ada is not between Sunnis and Shi'ites.

Al-Qirbi added that Houthis, who are leading the insurrection in Sa'ada, are claiming to be Shi'ite in order to attract Iran's attention and sympathy, further asserting that Houthis are receiving funding from some Arab nations.

The minister told Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper that Houthi loyalists are receiving financial and spiritual support from Arab Shi'ite institutions; however, he denied linking them to Hezbollah.

Al-Qirbi further indicated that Libya sympathizes with Houthis in Sa'ada. "Yahya Al-Houthi's visits to Libya and his meetings with public leaders there indicate that they sympathize with Houthis," he added.

Attempt to dissolve Al-Haq opposition party fails

Zaid also voiced regret over the seizure of some party property by one of Al-Shami's sons.

Al-Haq issued a statement voicing surprise at the suspension of YR 400,000 in government support for the party, considering it a sign of the state's intolerance of it, its newspaper and its enlightened approach to Islam.

Zaid reiterated his assurance that the Parties Affairs Committee has no right to issue a resolution dissolving any party, even if it loses all its members, as the issue may be referred to the judiciary. He also denounced the recent arrests of party leaders and members, viewing such a step as a dubious move

against Al-Haq, as well as multi-party democracy in Yemen.

Al-Haq's Dhamar branch announced its rejection of Al-Shami's order to dissolve the party and requested party leaders investigate the issue according to its internal bylaws agreed upon by party members.

At its extended meeting, party leaders from across Dhamar expressed their regret regarding the former secretary-general's unauthorized behavior, maintaining that he conducted himself as if the party was his own personal property.

They went on to say that the attempt to wipe Al-Haq from Yemen's political

map will only benefit the enemies of pluralism and democracy in Yemen. Their statement called upon political parties and civil society organizations to show solidarity with Al-Haq — in the name of the Joint Meeting Parties — against plans attempting to weaken it.

Al-Shami sent a March 13 letter signed by several other founding party members, including scholars Mohammed Al-Mansour and Hamoud Abbas Al-Moyyad, to the Parties Affairs Committee, informing it of the decision to dissolve Al-Haq after being unable to agree on its general goals. The party hasn't held a general conference since it was established in 1995.

VACANCY Accountant

PHRD Grant for preparation the Girls Secondary Education Project

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has received a PHRD Grant from the Japanese Government through the World Bank towards the cost of the preparation the Girls Secondary Education Project, and it intends to apply part of this grant to facilitate the grant implementation. The Project Administration Unite of the Basic Education Development Project (PAU BEDP) at the MOE now seeks applicants for the position of an Accountant that will work directly under the general directions of the PAU BEDP Executive Director and will interact closely with the PAU team, MOE staff and particularly with the secondary Education Strategy Team as with the World Bank team.

The Accountant would:

- Ensure that there is a functional financial management system; Establish proper accounting procedures and internal controls.
- Manage all daily financial activities of the grant; prepare the withdrawal applications, claims, and related governmental letters; Record transactions in the computerized accounting system of the financial activities; make the necessary vouchers and receipts for all deposits and withdrawal to and from the grant, and record them in the predefined chart of accounts in the system.
- Make a monthly replenishment of the S/A and maintain the necessary control registers for all procured goods and technical assistance; Make a monthly reconciliation of the S/A.
- Make sure that all bank statements, withdrawal applications, claims, correspondence are properly filed and easily accessible once required.
- Ensure that consolidated financial management reports for the grant are produced on a timely basis and sufficient in content to enable the management of MOE and IDA to assess the financial position of the grant.
- Act as a focal point for any dialogue on financial management matters relating to the grant may be required by the financiers.
- Ensure that the grant is audited in accordance with IDA's requirements and cooperate fully with the auditor in that respect.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minimum of 3 years of professional
- Experience in accounting position, preferably in the private sector or in a development project.
- Familiarity with the government's and IDA's financial management requirement.
- Experience in the use of accounting programs and software.
- Proficiency in English.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by **March 28, 2007** at the following address:

Basic Education Development Project
60M Southern Road, Bait Meyad
Tel: 01-619160 / Fax 01-619219

VACANCY Financial Assistant

Basic Education Development Project
(IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Ministry of Education (MOE)-Project Administration Unit (PAU)- seeks applicants for the position of a Financial Officer Assistant who will be responsible for the entire daily routine finance tasks of the Project, and will form with the financial officer the financial department which will work closely with all sectors and departments of MOE, Governorates Offices and Districts Offices of MOE involved in the Project.

The Financial Assistant would:

- Update Fixed Assets Sys. and maintain files of Fixed Assets.
- Enter all the financial transactions on daily basis into the Financial Sys.
- Maintaining proper filing for all accounting documents.
- Prepare bank reconciliation for all bank accounts on monthly basis.
- Prepare the accounting reconciliations on monthly basis for , Contracts, Resources Centers, ...etc and prepare the necessary adjustments.
- Insuring that the Contracting System is updated on the appropriate time and follow up with FO at the governorate level.
- Prepare Initial financial analysis of data & preparation of the project basic data (plans, cost , budget ,actual ... etc).
- Prepare The Financial Monitoring Reports and Cash Disbursements Plans.
- Assist Finance Officer in dealing with the external auditors.
- Assist Finance Officer in the assessment of FMs capacities at the governorates level.
- Assist Finance Officer in maintaining overall integrity of financial statements and accounting records.
- Assist Finance Officer in developing, proposing, implementing & supporting changes or improvements to financial policies & procedures.
- Any other tasks as required by the project Financial Officer and the Project Director.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Business Administration with major in accounting and finance.
- Minimum of 5 years of professional experience in a financial management and accounting position, preferably in the private sector.
- Familiarity with the government's and IDA's financial management requirement is a plus.
- Experience in the use of accounting programs and software.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by **March 28, 2007** at the following address:

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The mercy orphanage, a family system life and social atmosphere

Dar Al-Rahma, translated as Mercy House, Orphanage was established in 2001 for female orphans. It is the first project to gather female orphans under one roof, regardless of the negative comments by social and cultural critics.

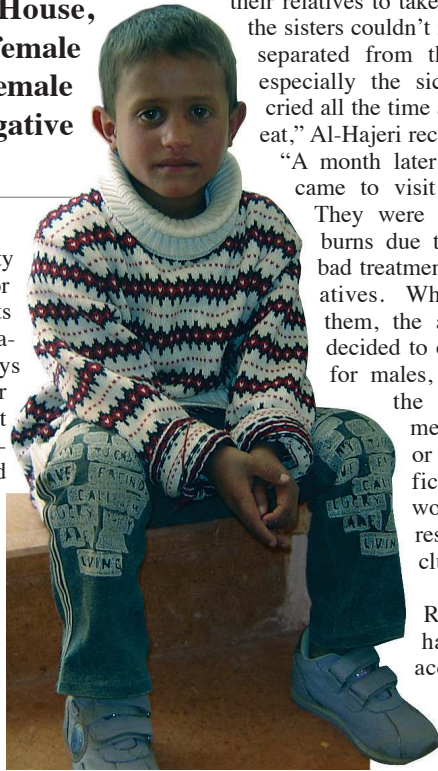
By: Fatima Al-Ajel
fatimafjr@yahoo.com

The orphanage aims to raise girls and prepare them for life within Yemeni society. Initially, the orphanage's manager was criticized for allegedly attempting to break Yemeni culture and solidarity by raising orphaned girls away from the influence of their relatives, as many citizens believe it's shameful and wrong to do so.

Dar Al-Rahma director Rougah Al-Hajeri wonders how such people can bear the sight of girls begging or sleeping on the rough streets or, in some cases, forced into criminal activities, all in the name of protecting Yemeni culture and solidarity. "Yet, when we think to build a house for these homeless girls and protect them from the dangers of living on the streets, people

criticize us."

Although the facility originally was only for female orphans, its administration occasionally took in boys who came with their sisters. However, it had to refuse admitting boys, instead sending them to their relatives because financial constraints forced them to do so. For example, Dar Al-Rahma once received four sisters accompanied by their two brothers, one of whom suffered from epilepsy. "We accepted the sisters and asked



Mohammed is like many male orphans who came with his sister to live at Dar Al-Rahma Orphanage.

their relatives to take the boys, but the sisters couldn't imagine being separated from their brothers, especially the sick one. They cried all the time and refused to eat," Al-Hajeri recounts.

"A month later, the brothers came to visit their sisters. They were thin and had burns due to torture and bad treatment by their relatives. When we saw them, the administration decided to open a branch for males, regardless of the orphanage's meager income or financial difficulties we would face as a result," she concluded.

Dar Al-Rahma since has begun accepting both brothers and sisters.

To date, the facility cares for 242 orphans who live at the orphanage, as well as others who live under its supervision and the support of their relatives in Dar Salem district.

Goals

The main purpose for establishing Dar Al-Rahma was to ensure a peaceful and nurturing environment for female orphans while supporting their efforts to interact positively with Yemeni society. The orphanage has a list of conditions that must be met before an orphan will be accepted. For instance, a child must have a relative or sponsor who will follow up his or her case. "We want to rehabilitate orphans who are willing to do so," Al-Hajeri notes.

Homeless or street children rarely join the orphanage due to their greater need for specialized care, as well as the time and effort involved. "Often, they have acquired bad habits from the streets, so they first must improve their behavior at special centers. Only then will Dar Al-Rahma consider accepting them. The orphanage has a clear mandate and we work hard to achieve it," Al-Hajeri explains.

Education is the best gift for orphans

Orphans at the facility study in private schools. "Education is the best gift we can give the orphans for their future," Al-Hajeri says. Thus, the administration seeks sponsors to assist students in enrolling at private schools.

Dar Al-Rahma is supported financially through both official and private donations. The Ministry of Social Affairs allocates approximately YR 200,000 monthly for the orphanage, while philanthropists cover the remaining expenses. Nevertheless, it still suffers an income shortfall due to lack of

regular and reliable funding.

The facility's needs are as great as those whose plights they oversee. However, it has formulated a strategic action plan covering its needs until 2010, when the administration will be able to develop funding plans and allocate its resources efficiently. "The orphans need help from every member of society to improve their position," Al-Hajeri points out.

Life at the orphanage

Dar Al-Rahma is a substitute home for the orphans. Girls live in a family atmosphere wherein each group of 18 girls lives in a department with a 'mother,' who is responsible for her daughters and their needs.

One such mother, Noura'a Al-Sabeahi, has lived at Dar Al-Rahma for three years following her divorce and she knows everything related to the girls in her department. "I am a substitute mother for the girls. I train them to do their duties at the orphanage diligently. We have a system and all of us follow it. I also adopted 3-year-old Rahma, who is sick," Al-Sabeahi explains.

The ages of the girls allocated to each department differ greatly. The eldest is considered the elder sister for all of the girls and her requests are followed. She must teach her sisters, as well as divide the department's duties among every girl in it. The girls prepare their food themselves and clean their department. They may visit or meet the next department's family at prayer time, when they return from school or sometimes in the rehabilitation center where they work and socialize together.

Orphans may live at Dar Al-Rahma until they reach age 18, when they have the right to decide whether to stay at the orphanage or go to a relative's home, should one exist. Some girls even marry while living at the facility.

In such cases, the fiancé first must ask the administration for the girl's hand in marriage, after which the administration begins inquiring into the background and suitability of the fiancé and his family. The administration then informs the girl's relatives of their findings, with both accepting the marriage proposal only after the girl has accepted his offer.

"Six girls have married and all followed the same system. The main condition we request from the fiancé is to let the girl complete her studies, either in school or university," Al-Sabeahi stresses.

"Other girls over age 18 have finished their studies and now work at the orphanage. We train them in administrative work until they acquire sufficient experience in administrative fields," Al-Hajeri adds.

Orphans with psychological problems

Dar Al-Rahma occasionally receives orphans with social and psychological problems, every one with a tragic story to tell. In the beginning, it's difficult to



Although still children, they learn how to pray together.

talk with them because they are afraid of what will become of them. It's also difficult for them to talk about their past. Many have forgotten their pasts, while some girls refuse to narrate their stories, either because they don't want to remember or they prefer their stories to remain secret.

Social worker Malak Al-Najar recounted many stories of girls who came to the orphanage after suffering greatly in life. Ten-year-old Afrah worked as a servant in the house of the village sheikh after her father's death. She remembers those days in the sheikh's house with dread, especially because she fears that the sheikh may attempt to take her back into his possession.

"Many times, I try to comfort her, telling her it's impossible for her to be taken back there once she has entered the orphanage and that it wouldn't be easy for him to take her," Al-Najar says.

Likewise, Fatima's situation was very bad when she arrived at Dar Al-Rahma with her three brothers. She spent a long time trying to forget what happened to her. "She ran away with her brothers to live in the mountains

after her parents were killed in front of her. She was forced to flee because others burned down her house as a consequence of tribal revenge. She kept her brothers alive on rainwater for three days without eating anything herself," Al-Najar narrated.

Fatima and the many other girls who suffered similarly horrendous experiences are provided special care and attention at the orphanage.

The rehabilitation center and library

The facility's rehabilitation center and library are essential parts of its activities, which include a program prepared for the girls during the holidays. The girls also spend time in computer classes at the computer center.

Khaluad Al-Saldan, who is in charge of the library as well as the facility's Qur'anic studies teacher, says that during the holidays, girls spend most of the day doing many activities and learning new skills according to a specific education and recreation program. "The girls at the orphanage even produce a variety of handicrafts, but unfortunately, they lack a marketing outlet through which to sell their products," Al-Saldan notes.



Most girls at the orphanage have special courses in computers either to practice their schoolwork or enjoy their free time. However, Hanouf wanted to have her photo taken while her computer came on.



The rehabilitation center and library are essential parts of the orphanage's activities. Unfortunately, the facility lacks a marketing outlet through which to sell the orphans' products.

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المنظمة السويدية لرعاية الأطفال

VACANCIES

Save the Children-Sweden (SC-Sweden) is a Swedish non-governmental organization working for the implementation and promotion of children's rights. Save the Children-Sweden is seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

- 1) A program officer for the Inclusive Education Project** based in Sana'a but with frequent travel within Yemen and possibly abroad.

SC-Sweden promotes the right to non-discrimination within education and other sectors. SC-Sweden supports education to children with disability, refugees, and other marginalized groups. SC-Sweden works in partnership with Ministry of Education, UNHCR, and national NGOs within the education sector concerned with education and inclusion of children with disability.

Requirements

- At minimum, a university degree in education, social studies, or other relevant fields.
- At least three years experience with an international NGO, a UN agency or a similar experience.
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.
- Computer skills
- Knowledge about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights global and regional treaties is an advantage.
- Knowledge about disability issues, rights, and conventions is an advantage.
- Ability to work under pressure and the ability to work in team.
- Management and leadership skills.

Responsibilities

- Plans and monitors the implementation of activities with the partner national organizations/institutions working on inclusive education.
- Works with the country and regional teams to develop the program in Yemen and the MENA region.
- Collects, analyzes and documents information pertaining to education and on children's rights in general in Yemen on regular basis.
- Represents SC-Sweden in forums and meetings related to education and as requested by the country manager.
- Submits periodic reports as requested by the country and/or regional office.

- 2) Finance Assistant** based in Sana'a but with Possible travel within Yemen

Requirements

- At minimum, a university degree in accounting and/or business administration
- At least three years experience in accounting.
- Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.
- Excellent Computer skills
- Ability to work under pressure and to work in a team.
- high level of honesty and integrity
- Accurate, thorough, and able to consistently meet deadlines

Responsibilities

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- Maintains proper cash controls, and prepares bank reconciliations
- Ensures records are accurate and up to date
- Maintains the filing system
- Reviews the liquidation documents
- Any other duties assigned by the supervisor/s

Application

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Save the Children-Sweden
Sana'a
P. O. Box 11391
Fax: (01) - 417636
E-mail: halhakimi@scsmena.org.

For more information about Save the Children Sweden visit the website www.scsmena.org or www.rb.se

For further Enquiries Call Hisham Al-Hakimi, the Administrative Officer.
Tel (01) 417899 or 416427

Closing date: 26 March 2007
Only short-listed candidates will be contacted

Words of Wisdom



One of the major changes needed in the reform process is to establish some degree of accountability. To weed out the bad elements is an important step, not only for the system to regain credibility and prestige, but also to help speed up the development process.

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



OUR OPINION

Yemeni Parliament's dilemma

The Yemeni Parliament is the state's legislative power deciding the nation's laws and general policies. Parliament approves the national budget and development plans and is considered a monitoring body upon the state's implementing agencies. Most importantly, Parliament is the official representation of the people, playing an intermediate role between the public and the ruling system.

The Yemeni Parliament consists of 101 members representing 101 centers around the republic, with each center or unit representing an equal number of citizens in the nation's 21 governorates. The most recent elections took place in Yemen in 2003, to be followed six years later by the next round of parliamentary elections in 2009.

Members of Parliament are divided into 19 committees dedicated to issues like planning, human rights, investment, etc. They also represent Yemeni political parties by their division into various blocs representing those political parties that won seats during parliamentary elections.

Considering this, an MP simultaneously represents a geographical location, a political affiliation and a professional discipline. If any two of these three associations contradict each other or a conflict of interest arises, then the MP's integrity and credibility comes into question.

The current situation in Yemen is that two-thirds of Parliament represent the ruling party, the General People's Congress, so technically, this is the largest political bloc and as such, easily able to endorse legislation or overrule others. Many members of the bloc head important committees such as the oil and minerals committee, which oversees issues in the oil sector.

Last year, a remarkable thing happened in Parliament - MPs stopped the passage of legislation to reduce oil subsidies, although the ruling party, Parliament's majority of seat-holders, forwarded it. This meant that MPs stood up against their party's desire and played their other role as the people's representatives.

It was a long-awaited moment and one which democracy and freedom activities in Yemen hope will be further repeated in the future. But just when we get our hopes raised, a report comes from Parliament administration conveying that many MPs attended less than 50 percent of sessions last year. How can we count on such people who don't have the commitment to even be there, let alone fight for our causes? Some MPs made a statement by resigning their posts and announcing that the Yemeni Parliament is only a mockery of the democratic process.

The Yemeni Parliament's future definitely lies in the hands of MPs, who now must begin realizing their role and slowly taking responsibility in deciding our nation's future. In this regard, the parliamentary committee dedicated to fighting government corruption is a good start and we've heard that Parliament will question officials and authoritative personalities. This is one good point the Yemeni Parliament has scored recently and I hope there will be many more to come.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

The return of Cold War

Is it possible for the Cold War to break out once again between the United States and Russia? This is the same war we thought had ended following the former Soviet Union's fragmentation and division into smaller states.

This question is being raised strongly nowadays, particularly after Russian President Vladimir Putin's political address during his visits to many Middle Eastern nations. During such address, for the first time, the Russian leader criticized the U.S., denouncing its attitude and failed wars, which have made the world less secure and safe.

Putin's criticism shocked the U.S. administration, especially because Washington and Moscow enjoy good ties and the two states' relations don't spoil the mutual diplo-

matic intimacy they enjoy.

Some observers believe that with his harsh criticism, Putin wanted to say to the world that his policies support those states being harmed by the U.S. administration's policies, on one hand, and that the former Soviet Union stands by such weak states, as it used to do in the past, on the other.

Despite all of these justifications, Putin's criticism coincides with U.S. plans to deploy systems in Eastern Europe to defend itself against rockets, but Russia considers this a threat to it, which is impossible to forget.

At the end of January, the U.S.



By: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

administration asked Poland and Czech Republic to establish anti-aircraft armors within their territories in order to strengthen its defense system, which begins in Alaska and California. The system defends the superpower from all directions against

any rockets coming toward it from the Far East or the Middle East.

The two former Soviet allies accepted the U.S. offer, ordering their governments to form a joint committee of military and political experts to study the offer and specify its positives and negatives for their countries in particular and Europe in general.

Putin lashed out at the U.S. during an international conference in Moscow while his armed forces commander was visiting Washington. The Russian army commander took the opportunity to withdraw his nation's commitment to a U.S.-Soviet treaty banning production of short- and medium-range nuclear rockets. The two superpowers have been committed to the treaty since its 1987 signing.

Russian Gen. Nikolai Solontshov declared that establishing a U.S. anti-aircraft armor in Europe (in Poland and Czech Republic) will help specify the targets for possible strikes.

I believe such a technique is helping to accelerate the Cold War's return, which is why underdeveloped countries, particularly the Middle East, must convey their

viewpoints to the U.S. administration in order to solve regional conflicts before the former Soviet Union recovers and resumes its dominance.

Israeli arrogance in this region (Lebanon and Palestine) and absence of efforts to end the war in Iraq is accelerating the rearranging of files, particularly as U.S. losses in Iraq and Afghanistan are requiring further consideration and determination in favor of international resolutions, which haven't been passed since they were made. Is it possible to reread these files to come up with a result serving this region?

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

Conditions for investment conference

By: Mohammed Al-Teraiqi

Glancing at the most recent statement released by Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Abdurrahman Al-Atteyah, who has declared that more than a thousand investment, trade and economic firms and VIPs from GCC member states have been invited to the Investment Opportunity Exploration Conference in Yemen, compelled me to recollect my previous article, "Gulf's Yemen Amid Political Hindrance."

In the article, I directly and indirectly affirmed the reality of mutual interest and public advantage, which are greater than partnership, and here I mean unity. Al-Atteyah described the IOEC as an important economic event and a crucial step toward developing and enhancing the Gulf-Yemeni partnership.

What a kind of partnership can we expect from investment and trade companies operating based on the rates of interest and loss, as well as expenses and revenues? What is the reality of such considerations for Yemen? If the oil industry constitutes the highest revenue for Gulf companies, do such companies take into account investment in areas of agriculture and other industries?

Anyone is bound to believe that each company or organization has its own specialization and career. Thus, I say that admitting Yemen into the Gulf bloc requires concerned authorities to bear in mind that concepts of economic jurisprudence necessitate determination in order for such partnership to succeed.

This partnership must be connected with marketing components, in addition to other considerations of the partnership parties, who, in my opinion, should hurry to link human development with the concepts and will of political unity.

The matter causes me to insist on the concept of political hindrance and qualification based on numerous considerations, most of which disappear or melt in the broader concept. This makes me recollect the establishment of a joint center in the Gulf states.

Although a human development project, it has been subjected to internal crises due to strong discussion of viewpoints and absence of a third thought included in the policy of some institutions, wherein personal interests and gains were given precedence over development concepts and human performance, thereby allowing the considerations of narrow income interests to prevail within the environment.

If the investment concepts Yemen needs today don't go beyond this frame, we'll achieve nothing except widening the gap of division. It's unwise to pursue a policy of holding the stick in the middle in order to alleviate the pressures of the people's will, who claim their simplest rights to live under the umbrella of unity and achieve the Arab dream, particularly in the Arabian Peninsula.

I don't bear in mind the idea to thwart; rather, I uphold the concept of qualification, which is based on accurate diagnosis before prescribing medicine, specifically if the matter needing qualification requires previous components, such as a comprehensive economic development vision.

I'm the first to raise my hand in support of the April conference for the sake of this partnership. While I don't hold a different viewpoint than Al-

Atteyah regarding the conference's value, I do back steps of activation and cooperation toward true development, which involves both the criteria of political allegiance and historical loyalty in order for us to talk about the achievement in a real manner.

I don't hesitate to raise this question: If it has been made clear to conference participants that Yemen is a land of real investment, does this mean the next step will be declaring Yemen's entry into the GCC? You all know the answer.

From my experience, political dimensions and the fact that friendly ties are governed by external will govern the concept of development achievement. Thus, understanding the concept of joint Arab interest, represented by Yemen's admission to the Gulf bloc, necessitates a voluntary Gulf will and discussing the issue from a positive viewpoint. This is the first point for Gulf investors, who are controlled by the political will of their states.

Again, we say that Yemen is a real part of our organization (the GCC) and eligible to perform its duties in a better manner. We need to end any Yemen-Gulf relations with globalization and neutralize such procedure from our region's political and economic viewpoints.

Additionally, we must rectify our internal moves before reflecting on the external ones. Such talk is confined by artificial limits, but from an Arab perspective. It is talk about an internal affair, which requires a real vision to be presented to concerned parties in Yemeni-Gulf style.

Mohammed Al-Teraiqi is the main researcher and general supervisor of the Middle East Research Center for Human Development and Rights.
Source: Al-Thawrah daily

Letters to the Editor

The new crusader

The US is moving more aircraft carriers into the Gulf. The threat of these carriers is designed to further Bush's "crusade" against Moslems of all sects.

In the next few months, the war criminal Bush will provide the opportunity for his final humiliation and defeat in Iraq.

Let us make sure this opportunity does not go unanswered. Let us make sure that the murderer Bush, who has slaughtered and mutilated over 1 million Moslems, mostly women and children, is finally recognized by the whole world as an evil man.

Robert Lindh
lindh@starband.net

Yemen Times new mission

Yemen Times can help Yemenis abroad to know about their roots in their beloved country. Many Yemenis living abroad are very much eager to know their families whereabouts in Yemen, particularly in Hadarmaut. A website that links Yemenis abroad can help in establishing long-lost connections.

I strongly hope that Yemen Times would launch such a service to connect all Yemenis abroad.

Sultan Abdullah Saleh Bamahdi
India
bamahdi.sultan@gmail.com



SKETCHED OPINION ZONE

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E-mail: editor@yementimes.com

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Letters: letters@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Assistant for Managing Editor
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Al-Najjar, Jamal
Al-Omari, Moneer

Copy Editor
Dana Patterson

Offices

Aden Bureau:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaz@y.net.ye

Hadramout Correspondent:
Saeed Al-Batati
Mobile (+967) 77383733
Email: albatati88@yahoo.com
Fax: +967 (05) 360303

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SILVER LINING

Civil rights movement at stake

The recent demonstrations and sit-ins taking place here and there show that there is a growing awareness among the people of their rights and the need for those rights to be observed and protected.

The people of al-Ja'ashin in Ibb, with the help of the National Organisation for the Defence of Rights and Freedoms known as HOOD, took the initiative and came to Sana'a to talk to the people in charge with resolving their dispute with the influential Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Mansur. In this case, the man concerned was above the law and even the parliamentary committee established to investigate the problem was unable to accomplish anything. The people, who tented in the capital in the hope of an end to their oppression at the hands of the Sheikh and his cronies, got fed up and went back to their village. However, they continue to complain that the harassment they face is still ongoing.

Last week another protest was organised in front of the presidential palace demanding the arrest of the killers of Mansur al-Shuhari who was murdered by armed thugs when he tried to stop them from teasing female students. It has been reported that the President has ordered the arrest of the murderers while tribal authorities and representatives attempt to resolve the issue according to tribal norms.

I do not really understand the function of the Interior Ministry in such cases. Why must the people have to appeal directly to the Presidential Palace and the President to intervene to have murderers captured and put before a court of law? And why do we need executive orders from the first man in the country to get killers and law breakers arrested? On the other hand, when it concerns hapless journalists, we find the Interior Ministry and other intelligence agents moving very fast to capture "trouble-makers who destabilize the situation and damage the reputation of the country".

I wanted to cite these two examples to underscore a very important conclusion. That is, in terms of the continued strengthening of the norms of Yemen's nascent civil society, it is a good sign that people peacefully take to the streets to get their voice heard by those in authority who are nominally the servants of the people in the first place. But, what is unfortunate and even dangerous is that those in authority do not pay any attention to protesters like the harassed citizens of al-Ja'ashin who returned home empty-handed and disillusioned. The people of their region will now start mocking their initiative and bravery in protesting against tyranny and injustice. Not only this, but the Sheikh has proved to his people that he is above the rule of law and that such protests are useless and will never shake his position.

Through ineffectual and clumsy responses government agencies merely impede the development of the civil rights movement and hinder the development of a civil rights culture, regardless of its small scale, like the right to protest. As a consequence the people will lose confidence in the worth of such values and the procedures associated with them such as consultation, change through electoral means, open debate etc., to voice their concerns and put an end to their plight. They will come to believe again that only force can make their voices heard.

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



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

Yemen Press Review

By: Adel Al-Khawlani



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress
Monday, March 12

Main Headlines

- President Saleh renews Yemen's attitude to support establishing a Palestinian state and Moroccan unity
- US State Department's report: Yemen's elections are unprecedented step in countries of growing democracy
- Government encourages private sector to establish stock companies to invest in fisheries
- Many terrorist elements arrested while more than 40 others surrendered
- Iran confirms its rejection of any intervention in Yemen's internal affairs
- Hamas leader discusses with senior Yemeni government officials developments in the Palestinian land, Yemen's support for establishing Palestinian university in Sana'a
- Gulf Cooperation Council member states declare 100 investment opportunities for Yemen in the coming conference

The newspaper quoted Yemeni Minister of Industry and Trade Khalid Rajeh Sheikh as saying the financial funds offered to Gulf investors at the Investment Opportunity Exploration Conference, due in Yemen, amount up to \$10 billion. During a news conference in the Saudi capital Riyadh, which was held in the presence of Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Abdurrahman Al-Attiyah and other GCC officials, Sheikh ascertained that up to 100 investment opportunities in different economic, industrial, tourism and service sectors will be made available for Gulf investors at the April's conference.

According to the Minister of Industry and Investment, the conference is due to constitute an important station for enhancing Yemen-Gulf partnership. "It is a significant beginning for opening broader horizons for Yemen's entry into the GCC organization," Sheikh added.



Al-Balagh Independent Weekly
Tuesday, March 13

Main Headlines

- Yemeni Socialist Party lashes out at Al-Zindani, accuses him of launching the voice of hostility
- Civil Service Ministry condemns its office in Al-Jawf
- Islah Party members clash with Salafis in Taiz
- Sana'a University teaching staff warns of bad consequences if their demands remain unmet
- Authorities confirm that 160 Al-Houthi followers were killed, Shara'ab buries corpses of 10 soldiers, who were killed in Sa'ada clashes
- Sa'ada threatened of human catastrophe
- Three ladies rob exchange company agent

The weekly reported that three ladies robbed an exchange company agent 6,000 Euro in the capital city. It quoted well-informed sources as saying that two Yemeni ladies with Islamic hijabs asked the exchange worker Abdulkarim, who works for a Western Union Office, to sell them Euros for dollars.

After calculating the sum of Euros needed by the ladies, Abdulkarim put 6,000 Euros (Equivalent to YR 1.5 million) on his desk, and turned on his office to bring the remaining money, but the ladies stole the sum away and get on a car, which was waiting, with a third lady behind the wheel, for them. The car drove away while the victim turned to

the nearby police station to inform it of the incident.



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, March 15

Main Headlines

- Official sources acknowledge the government is indifferent to environmental pollution
- Abyan Locals protest police arbitrary practices
- Children Parliaments demands referring Taha Al-Awadhi's murderers to death
- Hundreds of Hodeida locals march in protest against demolishing their homes
- A tribal leader and two of his bodyguards killed, three others injured in Sa'ada bloody confrontations
- Journalists show solidarity with colleagues suffering violations, urge for punishing perpetrators
- Woman killed in armed confrontations between security forces and Al-Houthi loyalists in Hajja

According to the weekly, security sources confirmed that a woman from Washiha area in Hajja governorate was murdered in a four-day shootout between police and a group of Al-Houthi supporters. Also, the gunfire claimed lives of nine people and injured 6 others last week. Three of Al-Houthi followers were wounded as they were attempting to launch a new front of military confrontations in Hajja, observers said.

Another 8 Al-Houthi aides were reportedly killed earlier last week at the Hajja-Sa'ada border in fierce clashes. Sources indicated that large groups of Al-Houthi followers are currently entrenching in Sha'alal, confirming the state's weak presence in these areas after tribal Sheikhs and tribesmen

opposed any military presence in their areas. They asked the government to supply them with arms in order for them to confront the rebellion without any need for military presence.



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, March 15

Main Headlines

- Extensive arrangements to make the April's Investment Opportunity Exploration Conference a success
- Assistant of UN Higher Commissioner for Refugees arrives in Sana'a
- Germany's new funds to Yemen up to 73 million Euros
- Yemeni businessmen delegation visits Comoro Islands to discuss investment opportunities
- General People Congress forms committee to dialogue with opposition parties
- New strategy for Yemen insurance companies
- Former Faithful Youth Secretary-General discloses disagreements with slain Hussein Al-Houthi

The weekly paper quoted Abdulkarim Yahya Ezzan, the former Secretary-General of the Faithful Organization, which was founded by the slain Hussein Badraddin Al-Houthi, as saying the strayed rebel groups in Sa'ada governorate works on impairing the information sources and regulations of understanding. "For the Shiite rebels, the human mind has no value as they misinterpret the Quranic verses and rules, as well as the hadiths of Prophet Mohamed (Peace Be Upon Him)," Ezzan disclosed.

In an interview with the newspaper, Ezzan confirmed that the Zaidi Shiite thoughts spoil the concept of Jihadism 'militancy', adding that the Shiite

groups transfer the concept of Jihadism into triggering animosity, exercising highway activities, disobedience of parents and looting others' property. He told that the slogan of the Faithful Youth Organization was imported from outside Yemen with the aim of inciting sedition and inflaming popular feelings.



Al-Thawra State-Run Daily
Saturday, March 17

Main Headlines

- Palestinian President tells his Yemeni counterpart about developments in his territory
- A Sa'ada source expresses curiosity about the writings of some newspapers promoting lies of terrorist fugitive Yahya Al-Houthi
- Al-Houthi loyalists leak misleading information
- Yemen to participate in two regional meetings on water resources
- Official source denies Bahraini newspaper's reports saying Germany refused to hand over the terrorist Yahya Al-Houthi to Yemen

The official daily reported that a well-informed source denied reports by the Bahraini Al-Wasat newspaper saying that Germany rejected Yemen's official request to extradite the wanted terrorist Yahya Al-Houthi, who is currently residing in the European country. Also, the source denied the Bahraini paper's writings that Brig. Ali Muhsen Saleh, Commander of the Northwest Military Flank, has recently flown to Germany with an official letter from his government.

According to the source, such allegations are baseless and incorrect, pointing out that the military commander hasn't visited Germany and that he is available in the restive governorate of Sa'ada performing his duty as Commander of the

Northwest Military Flank. The source added that Saleh is supervising the military operations against the rebel groups that fuel sectarian and ethnical seditions.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, An Organ of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)
Tuesday, March 13

Main Headlines

- At a Sana'a meeting, Hamas leader calls for lifting siege on Palestinian people
- Health sector workers go on protest until government meets their demands
- Yemen invites international committee to assess damages of American oil company
- Sons of military leader open fire randomly after being prevented from courting schoolgirls
- Authorities open centers for recruiting tribesmen to fight in Sa'ada

The NUPO-affiliated weekly reported that the Yemeni government opened centers for receiving citizens to recruit them and help them join the army in the Sa'ada fighting. According to the newspaper, local sources mentioned that hundreds of people from Al-Esaimat and Al-Ahnoom tribes in Amran governorate have rushed last week to the four centers in order for the government to recruit them to fight against Al-Houthi-led rebellion in the northern governorate of Sa'ada.

The same sources added that four centers have been opened in the districts of Khamer, Hauth, Kharef and Harf Sefyan, and since then they have been receiving tribesmen having the will and determination to join the army in fighting the Shiite rebellion. The authorities give the new recruits different arm pieces in return for guarantees they provided the recruitment centers with.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANCY

Implementation of AWP and provide educational planning support in Socotra

PURPOSE: TO OPERATIONALIZE FURTHERS AND IMPLEMENT THE ANNUAL WORKPLAN IN SOKOTRA AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT IN EDUCATIONAL PLANNING TO THE DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFECES IN SOKOTRA

DURATION: 28 March until 31 December 2007-03-14

CONTEXT: Sokotra is a tropical island located 510 km away from the main land Yemen. The island is administered by the Governor of Hadramaut (Mukalla), divided into two districts, Hadibo and Galancia, and Hadibo is considered as the capital of the island. The population is estimated around 45,000. The development constraints are common on the mainland but they are exacerbated because of the isolation and the insufficient transport and communications network available on the island.

More than 70% of the island adult population is illiterate. The level of school enrolment is estimated at less than 40% during the 2004-2005 school year, with a sex ratio (girls/boys) decreasing from 44% to 25% from grade 1 to 6.

There are 60 primary schools and one secondary school on the land, administered by two district education offices. These schools are served by 304 teachers and 180 volunteer teachers whose remuneration is just YR 4,000 per month (equivalent to 17.00 EURO). The teachers with secondary school degree are in need for training, exchange of ideas and guiding support.

In Hadibo the district education office has 12 school supervisors but a very inadequate budget for supervision and no transportation facility. In both districts the authorities expressed immediate need for additional classrooms and teachers, as well as additional schools especially for some remote locations.

The DEOs are very isolated and their context is very challenging: on logistical support (technologically infrastructure/computer) and lack of technical capacity, especially planning and problem solving.

The schools on the island are in very basic conditions and need improvement through construction, rehabilitation, materials such as libraries, school aids, furniture etc.

SCOPE OF WORK: Under the supervision of the Education officer the consultant will:

- Operationalize further the adopted Annual work plan with counterparts and partners
- Support the counterparts in implementing the work plan
- Provide technical support in educational planning
- Monitor the implementation of activities
- Support the counterparts on the administrative UNICEF
- Interact and coordinate with the Education section in Sana'a
- Check the efficiency distribution and use of supplies
- Provide information and data for donor reporting

DELIVERABLES:

1. Operationalized Annual work plan: with activities, time-planning, # of participants, costs etc. (mid April)
2. Mapping of schools and other relevant Educational data as preparation for vision workshop (mid May)
3. Needs Assessment on the island conducted as preparation for vision workshop (mid May)
4. Workshop on the educational vision for the island organized end of May and outcomes and strategy formulated in a final document (end of June)
5. Monthly reports with concise information on each conducted activities, distribution of supplies and planning for coming month (every month)
6. Mid-year report analyzing the progress, the hurdles and adjusting the work plan and if need the strategy (15August)
7. Final Report of work accomplished at the end of the assignment (20 December)

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Advanced University degree in Social Sciences, preferably related to education
- Two years professional experience related to social development, preferably development education, community participation
- Professional experience on developmental planning, preferably educational planning
- Excellent command of written Arabic required, English spoken and written desirable
- Capacity to work independently and find solutions to challenges in implementation and planning
- Excellent and effective written and oral skills; diplomacy and tact; ability to persuade people with varying points of view and to convey difficult issues and positions to senior officials

FEES:

NOB Level salary with lump sum covering the DSA of Sokotra. Tickets will be provided based on needs

Applications received after 24th of March 2007 will not be considered

UNICEF YEMEN

P. O. BOX 725
SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
TEL: (967.1) 211 400
FAX: (967.1) 206 092

EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02/07

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified Yemeni nationals for the following position:

Title: Asst. Programme Communication Officer
Level: National Officer Category - B
Type of Contract: Fixed Term (One year)
Duty station: Sana'a

Under the supervision of the Project Officer, Education (L4), the incumbent will perform the following main responsibilities:

- Contributes to the development of a behaviour change and social mobilization strategy, by carrying out/facilitating research and compiling and analyzing data relevant for girls' education and early childhood development.
- Assists in building alliances/partnerships with religious groups, traditional leaders, teachers, artists and other organized groups in the community, as well as civil society organizations, to orient them on the country programme goals and to solicit their involvement in the implementation of the Basic Education and Gender Equality programme.
- Participates in the design, development, pre-testing and evaluation of culturally relevant programme communication materials and integrated community-based communication activities..
- Follows up on the production of materials and oversees the qualitative aspects of production (e.g., quality control, translation, review of layout and graphic design).
- Participates in the coordination of community-based communication activities, especially with ECD related interventions, in geographic areas covered by UNICEF country programme.
- Monitors and evaluates the appropriate and timely dissemination of programme communication materials to target audiences, and participates in the evaluation of their impact..
- Monitors implementation of community-based communication activities by reviewing progress and identifying constraints through field visits, consultation with government counterparts, partners and community and UNICEF programme staff. Prepares analyses and reports.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- University Degree in Social/Behavioural Sciences (Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Health Education).
- Two years professional work experience in social development, preferably in the areas of participatory communication, communication planning, social mobilization, behaviour change and community empowerment, at either the national or international level.
- Fluency in English and another UN language is required
- Knowledge of the local working language of the duty station is an asset.
- Knowledge of current developments in the fields of adult learning theory, community organization and participation.
- Training in community planning, behaviour analysis, formative research, and evaluation of communication interventions
- Ability to research, analyze, evaluate and synthesize information.
- Ability to express clearly and concisely, ideas and concepts in written and oral form.
- Proven skills in communication, networking, advocacy and negotiation, especially at the community level.
- Computer skills, including internet navigation, and various office applications.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae and copies of the performance evaluation report (most recent two reports) to - The Operations Officer, P.O. Box 725, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. Applications received after March 26, 2007 will not be considered.

"UNICEF encourages qualified women candidates to apply. UNICEF is a non-smoking environment."

Yemeni student actors are tops

By: Yemen Times Staff

Yemeni student actors received the three first prizes at the fourth Gulf scholastic drama festival held Feb. 17 in the Omani capital of Muscat under the auspices of that nation's Ministry of Education.

Yemeni actors received the three top prizes for the festival's best actors selected from among a large number of actors participating from six Gulf nations: Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait,



Lu'ay, a child of class six, participated at the fourth Gulf scholastic drama festival and selected to be one of the best actors.

the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain, as well as Yemen.

Each country represented had its own theater troupe, with the Yemeni group consisting of students: Lu'ay Al-Bakri, Jamil Al-Dalali, Safa'a Al-Ansi, Amani Al-Raymi, Saddam Al-Arumi and Ibtisam Mohammed. Yemen's play, "The Secret of Life," was directed by Abdulghani Mutawee', who works in the Ministry of Education's art activities administration.

Judges found 11th-grader Mohammed and elementary students Al-Bakri and Al-Ansi to be the festival's best actors.

Drama is one activity in nearly all schools in Yemen locally, as well as internationally. The weeklong student drama festival began with the play, "Al-Mizan" (The Balance), followed by the Emirati play, "The Kettle Game" and Bahrain's play, "Our Beautiful Land."

The third day witnessed Saudi Arabia's play, "Al-Dana: It's Almost Like a Diamond" and Qatar's play, "Mansour Became Silent," while Kuwait's play, "The Wall" and Yemen's "The Secret of Life" were presented on the final day.

Both the directors as well as all of the workers on these theatrical works were Ministry of Education employees or those related to education.

Judges were selected from among



Ibtisam won the prize of the best actor

the participating delegations. The prizes for which students competed were best drama, best director, best set dressing, best makeup, best lighting, best costumes and best acting.

"Yemen's Ministry of Education has promoted many activities both inside and outside of Yemen. Yemen's first participation in a drama festival (a play competition) was in Saudi Arabia in

2005 wherein Yemenis took prizes for best drama, best set dressing, best narration, best lighting and best directing," noted Mohammed Ali, deputy general director of scholastic activities.

"This is Yemen's second time to participate in a drama festival," he added.

Because Arab lands are some of the world's poorest in terms of groundwater, it's urgent to reflect such people's

reality and sufferings. Yemen's entry mentioned such lands' aridity and wasting water, as lack of water is the main problem forcing Arabs to travel from one country to another. The drama's text is based on a stable view of the Arab family's future and what change this tragedy will bring upon such families.

Mohammed, who won the prize for best actor, says, "My father is the one who has encouraged me the most. The trainers also pushed me to perform the mother's role in the play.

"Scene one portrayed the life of a normal family. The second scene began once the children went to sleep and was about a dream of one of the children played by Al-Bakri. In his dream, several ghosts came and fought to steal the one who was playing the role of the water drop. The third scene was about the difficulty of people's lives when they lack water," she explained.

Librarian and the students' supervisor, Najat Al-Ansi, says, "The Ministry of Education holds annual festivals for Teachers Day, in which Ibtisam always participated in these festivals and received many honored certifications. We chose to participate in the Omani festival because she's one of our



Safa'a also received acting prize.

school's best actors."

Al-Ansi and Al-Bakri also received best acting honors. Having begun acting at age 4, Al-Bakri's first play was about "Teachers Day." He has participated in many plays; however, the Omani festival was his first participation outside of Yemen.

Al-Bakri's mother played a vital role in encouraging her son. "I told my mother I'd like to be an actor and as director of my school, she assisted me a lot to participate and become an actor in our school," he explained.

As he describes, the Yemeni play was about water, which is 'the secret of life.' "We wanted to present the importance of water in our lives. I played the role of the son. Mohammed, who portrayed the mother, and Al-Ansi was the daughter," he added.

The image of women in Yemeni proverbs

There are many Yemeni proverbs about the position of women. Most give women inferior status and very few give them self-esteem. This series aims to discuss Yemeni society's projection about women's status, as well as how cultural and social factors affect mechanisms that perpetuate women's under-representation in managing and controlling power levers.

Since Yemen is an Islamic country and Islam plays a vital role in shaping its people's perspectives, it's essential to gauge to what extent Islam affects their understanding about the status of women. Most important is how Yemenis interpret the religion to justify their individual interests.

This week proverb:

Bint al-usul khair min al-mal wa al-mahsul.

A woman of noble origin is better than money or yield.

By: Nisreen Shadad

The explanation of this proverb depends on the meaning of *usul*, as some define it as righteousness, while others consider it lineage. In "Yemeni Proverbs," author Ismail Al-Akwa'a says *usul* is a woman's noble lineage. Yemenis most often quote this proverb when someone wishes to propose.

Sayeeda Al-Ansi, a housewife, observes, "This proverb somehow is right, particularly if the woman is of noble descent, no matter of she's rich or poor. Everything is based on education. A good family plays a vital role in raising good sons and daughters; therefore, we care a lot about the environment in which a woman lives.

"In Islam, the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) said women become engaged for four reasons: for their money, their beauty, their noble lineage or their righteousness. However, as the prophet recommended, a righteous woman is the best," she explains.

Al-Ansi believes such proverbs can create discrimination between those of noble origins, the *Usul* (who include the Saadah, also called those from the Prophet Mohammed's lineage, and the tribes or qabayel), and the *Muzaayinah* (those whose families, their fathers and grandfathers, are barbers, butchers, radish sellers, etc.). "In Yemen, some jobs are unacceptable in our society, so those who work in these types of jobs, their family and tribe stands against them and belittles them," she explains.

"Several years ago, a woman in my family married. After the marriage, her family discovered that her husband was a *muziyyin*. The whole tribe was against their marriage, threatening both her and her father that if the marriage continued, the whole tribe would disavow them. However, if she divorced, they were ready to pay the expenses he may lose," Al-Ansi recounted.

She continued, "The problem was that the man was good and his wife was fond of him. Her father was con-

fused about whether to stand with his tribe and thereby support such social discrimination or stand with his daughter and her husband, especially because he was a good man."

Tutor Umm Yousef Yahya criticizes the discrimination to which such a proverb may contribute. "As Muslims, how can we accept such discrimination between the *Usul* and the *Muzaayinah*, when one of the prophet's hadiths assures: 'The best among you are those best in character.' This involves not only words, but actions."

She points out, "One of the prophet's companions, Abu Thar Al-Ghifari, once was quarreling with a Negro. In anger, Al-Ghifari said to the man, 'O, you son of a black woman!' When the prophet heard such a word, he was embarrassed and said, 'Do you taunt his mother? You're an ignorant man!'"

She continued, "In another narration, the prophet said, 'You exceed your limitation. The son of a white woman is no better than the son of a black woman, unless he's more righteous.' Al-Ghifari felt the great sin he had committed, so he laid his cheek on the sand and said to the Negro, 'Come and trample on my cheek.'

"Such behavior shows how much we must respect the other, no matter who he is or to which family he belongs. We are equal and the main thing differentiating us before Allah is our morality," she concluded.

Teacher Muluk Al-Bakri says, "Noble lineage affects a woman's education, but a righteous woman is who excels in the end and she's the one the prophet recommended men marry. However, Yemeni men mostly prefer to marry a beautiful woman, even if that's at the expense of her righteousness."

Iman Recording employee Murad Ghassan says, "As I understand it, *usul* means righteousness. A righteous woman is the greatest blessing in this life because she knows very well the meaning of life and the purpose of our creation. She understands that this life is nothing; therefore, she's not seeking materialistic things."

He adds, "Such a woman is much



The image of a Yemeni woman, by Mohammed al-Yamani

better than money or yield because material things are temporary and will wither with time. They can never bring happiness or comfort to a man's heart. However, a righteous woman, whether she's a daughter, a wife or a mother, brings happiness and comfort to the entire home."

Umm Yahya comments that a righteous woman is the pillar, cornerstone and foundation of the Muslim family, as the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) said, "This world is just temporary conveniences, so the best comfort in this world is a righteous woman." (authentic hadith by Sahih Muslim)

"A Muslim man and woman who understand their religion's teachings have wise standards. When choosing their partners, they don't concern themselves just with good looks, high status, a luxurious lifestyle or any of the other things usually attracting men and women. Rather, they both look at the level of their partner's religious commitment, as well as his or her attitude and behavior, because these are the pillars for a successful marriage and the best features in a husband or wife," she points out.

"The Muslim family is the strongest component of an Islamic society wherein its members are productive and constructive, helping and encouraging one another to be good and righteous, and competing with one another in good works," Umm Yahya concludes.

Nawal Al-Thur, a teacher at Al-Nahdha School opines, "This proverb is right because the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) recommended men marry a righteous woman."

Samah Al-Thahbani, a receptionist at Al-Fatah Foundation, observes, "Usul has two meanings: a righteous woman, as Yemenis usually understand it, or one whose family aren't barbers, butchers or radish sellers. Although such people have good characteristics, Yemeni society still belittles them and refuses to be related to them by marriage.

"It's correct that such people

[Muzaayinah] share common bad characteristics, but this isn't because they are originally bad; rather, it's because society looks at them this way that they are bad. I've dealt with many women who are *muziyyin*, and when asked the reason for their unacceptable and immoral characteristics, they respond that 'Society ostracizes us, so that we have become as they said,'" she explained.

"Although we are Muslims and Islam vehemently criticizes such

racism, people still create such societal barriers. Many people ascribe this type of racism to the imamate period," Al-Thahbani added.

Numerous Yemeni women agreed with this proverb if *usul* means righteousness; however, most disagreed when the term is used to create social discrimination. Men like honey store employee Abdulrahman Al-Shamari also agree with the proverb. "I agree with this proverb but only when *usul* means righteousness."


Stationery store employee Abu Mohammed, who refused to give his last name, agreed with proverb, saying, "We shouldn't marry from the *Muzaayinah*. Whoever marries a woman who is *muziyyin*, his family and tribe will stand against him."

Arhab University professor Hala Sharym says this proverb isn't applied a lot, while fellow professor Rukaya Sharaf Al-Deen agrees with her, noting that people aren't looking at a woman's righteousness.

World Water Day

Thursday 22 of March 2007 at 12:00 noon
Sabaeen Gardens - Sana'a

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Water and Environment
and the National Water Resources Authority

With the cooperation of:



USAID renovated and equipped facility Al-Selu Medical Centre awaits Government support

By: Jamal Al-Najjar
Jamalnajjar@hotmail.com

Over \$ 122,000 has been spent on renovating and equipping the Al-Thawra Medical Centre in Al-Selu district, around 40km south of Taiz, at the expense of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Department of State for Civil Affairs. However, the centre is still unable to offer proper medical services due to a huge deficiency in the budget Yemen had promised to commit based on a memorandum of understanding between USAID and the Yemeni Government.

In 2005, the US Department of Defence Civil Affairs Section renovated Al-Selu health facility which had only 8 rooms. Kenneth Vans, civil affairs specialist in the US embassy, Yemen, said, "We expanded the medical centre to provide 10 more rooms: 3 admission rooms, 3 operation rooms, an X-ray room and an antenatal care room. In addition, we provided the centre with a generator."

Mikaela Meredith, the USAID deputy director revealed that the Al-Selu medical centre is part of the Basic Health Services project (BHS) that aims to assist people in the health services. "In October 2006, a memorandum of understanding was signed

between USAID and the Health Office in Taiz. In the memorandum, USAID commitments included training midwives, training a doctor in Ultrasound, providing medical and non-medical equipment, and some furniture," she explained.

In response the Yemeni Government agreed to staff the centre and upgrade its operational budget.

The centre, which was first established in 1998, serves around 60,000 inhabitants. In the past, it offered poor medical services because of lack of equipment and finance. As a result the district's residents would turn to Taiz hospital for treatment and endangering the health of patients, especially women during and after delivery, by stretching the hospital's resources.

"Before USAID provided the centre with equipment, particularly ultrasound and X-ray machines, we would rely on clinical examination to diagnose patients," said Dr. Abdulhakeem Basha, manager of the centre. "As diagnosis was mostly associated with suspicion concerning some problems such as liver, kidney and others, patients were transferred to Taiz hospital. Since most of the transferred cases were pregnant women, many suffered abortions because of bad roads," he added.

During the USAID delegation visit to the centre on Monday, 12 March, 2007, Dr. Basha confirmed that the

centre has not been staffed according to what was agreed in the memorandum of understanding between the Yemeni Government and USAID.

"The Yemeni Government undertook to staff the hospital with midwives, a lab technician, a pharmacist and a guard. So far, nothing has happened in this regard. We have 11 staffers in the centre but 6 of them are volunteers," he stated.

Moreover, Basha affirmed that even though the centre has witnessed a marked improvement in services thanks to USAID, resulting in an increase in the number of patients admitted, it still cannot admit all patients or undertake surgical operations.

"We receive 25 up to 30 patients per day. Two thirds of which are women. But still, we can't care for them properly since the centre's budget is miniscule. We run the hospital according to the available budget which is not more than YR 12,000 per month," he noted. He also affirmed that the recent renovation implemented by USAID and US Defence Civil Affairs Section increased the capacity of the centre so that it can better serve the district's residents. But a shortage in the budget represents the major obstacle faced by centre.

"The centre is now able to conduct several surgical operations such as caesarean sections, appendectomy, hernia, and others. Also, the capacity of the centre to admit patients has increased but unless we acquire an increased operational budget to run the centre, we can't conduct any of these operations nor admit all patients," Basha pointed out.

"Women represent the majority of the beneficiaries of the centre especially in the antenatal care and obstetric units. We receive about 140 women in the antenatal care unit. We make clinical examinations, conduct medical tests and also give advice in order to ensure the safety of both mother and foetus," said Amal Abdulilah Saeed, head of the Reproductive Health Unit in the centre.

She further added that between 4 to 6 deliveries occur at the centre per month and 10 to 15 home deliveries per month

are attended by midwives. "Home deliveries are more than deliveries in the centre because medical services were very weak. But now the centre has improved thanks to the recent renovation. Consequently, deliveries in the centre have started to increase. We also have a women's health education unit which educates women about issues surrounding pregnancy and delivery" she noted.

The centre also vaccinates women of child-bearing age against tetanus as well as providing routine vaccination for the district's babies. "In this centre, around 170 babies are immunized per month in addition to 70-80 women per month who are vaccinated against tetanus," said the manager.

On the other hand, the staff disclosed that they had been working for a long time as volunteers and therefore demanded that the government should review their situation. "We have 11 staff members in the centre. Six of them are volunteers. The government promised to employ them but nothing has happened," said the manager.

According to Amal Abdulilah Saeed "I have been working at this centre for 3 years as a volunteer. I am one of the residents here. So, I want to be employed and get my salary."

Hayat Mahyoob, lab technician, has thus far she received only promises of paid employment from the government "I have been here for one year. So far, I haven't been employed. The government is responsible for our employment as agreed with USAID," she said.

Mekaela Meredith, USAID deputy director, revealed that the memorandum of understanding between USAID and Yemen was signed 5 months ago, which was enough time for the Yemeni Government to implement its commitments concerning the centre's staff and operational budget. "The memorandum holds both sides accountable for their commitments," she commented, adding, "As the Yemeni government expects that we uphold that agreement, we expect that the Yemeni government also upholds that agreement."



A view of Al-Thawra Medical Center in Al-Selu district which has been expanded and equipped by USAID and US Defense Civil Affairs Section.

For his part, Ahmed Mahmoud Abu Khaleel, district local council head maintained that the Health Office in Taiz is coordinating with the incumbent bodies in the governorate to employ trained staff and provide the centre's budget. "We are working hard to make the terms of the memorandum a reality within the confines of the ability of the local council in co-operation with the Government," he said.

Dr. Yahya Al-Babili, deputy director

of BHS project, affirmed that unless the government provides increased finance, the centre will not be able to offer the necessary services or live up to its potential and therefore patients will not fully benefit from the centre's renovation. "We expect that the Health Office will reconsider the issue concerning the provision of adequate finances to the centre, otherwise, the centre will not be able to treat patients or fulfil its potential", he said.



Amal, Head of Reproductive Health Unit, tells USAID Deputy Director during the delegation's visit that the number of women in the Antenatal Care Unit has been increasing after renovation.



USAID provided the center with ultrasound machine and training.

Baby's weight connected with mother's status

A mother's health, social status, child-bearing age, nutrition, education and social habits all determine the weight of newborn babies, according to recent research undertaken by Sana'a University medical students.

By: Yemen Times Staff

The research was conducted on 4,266 babies born between the period 1/1/2006 - 30/6/2006 at Al-Thawra public hospital in Sana'a to ascertain the ratio of underweight babies born during that period. The researchers also studied the babies health and family backgrounds.

The research showed that over 21 percent of newborn Yemeni babies are underweight. Approximately, a third of these are due to the early child-bearing age of the mother (less than 20 years old). Another third of underweight births result from multiple deliveries and the remaining third are due to first delivery. In fact, the youth of many first time mothers accounted for 29.8 percent of the babies under the normal weight.

According to WHO standards, the normal weight of a newborn is between 2500- 3500Gm with newborn babies weighing less than 2500 Gm considered underweight. Those born heavier than 3500Gm are classified overweight. UNICIF reports state that Yemen has one of the highest rates of underweight births worldwide.

The research confirmed that there is a connection between birth weight and mother's age, health and social life. On the other hand, newborn weight is an important indicator of baby's chances to experience a healthy life throughout different growth stages.

The age of the mother during pregnancy was found to influence birth

weight. Mother's less than 20 years old were found to be subject to numerous medical problems due to the immaturity of the uterus which meant that their babies stood a higher chance of being born below the normal weight. Also, the number of deliveries per women was found to directly affect the weight of the newborn. Consequently, the potential of giving birth to underweight babies is mitigated the closer the potential mother approaches normal child-bearing age (20-35 years old). However, the study found that with the second, third and fourth deliveries the weight of the newborn had the potential to increase leading to an overweight birth at around the fifth delivery, even within the bounds of normal child-bearing age.

The research also revealed that an educated mother had a positive influence on the baby's weight since they better realised the importance of general health and good nutrition during pregnancy which is essential for the fetus' safe gestation whereas uneducated mothers were not generally aware of such issues.

Additionally, newborn weight was seen to be negatively affected by the mother's own medical history such as hypertension, heart, kidney, lung problems and malaria which was found to adversely affect the unborn child. An abnormal uterus or cervix can also increase the mother's risk of having premature and underweight baby. Furthermore, diseases that infect the fetus during pregnancy such as syphilis and rubella also affect the



Over 21 percent of newborn Yemeni babies are below the normal weight.

newborn's weight and health. The research further added that some maternal habits including smoking, chewing Qat, and drug addiction lead to underweight babies, abnormal child development and childhood illness which could impact upon the child in adulthood.

The research recommended that society as a whole should be made aware of the issues, both individual and social, affecting birth weight in order to help decrease the abnormally high rate of underweight newborns. Through health education, society should realise the dangers of women marrying too young and the consequences that such marriages have for both mothers, their children and the future of Yemen. Expecting mothers should protect themselves from any danger that may lead to a premature delivery as well as practice family planning, which is of great importance, to ensure a healthy life for all the family but most importantly for mother and newborn child.

Invitation for Prequalification

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Headquarters and Complex Building Design - Sana'a

Brief Description of the project

The scope of work includes Architectural work to design the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Main Building and Complex, in addition to supplemental buildings in one complex.

The Ministry of Higher Education seeks to contract with established professional Architectural and Engineering Offices and Companies to prepare the needed designs to construct the new headquarters for the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

This announcement invites qualified offices to submit their profiles and supporting documents for review and prequalification. Prequalification will be conducted using established prequalification procedures, as defined by the Government to The Republic of Yemen.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Procurement Department during official working hours from 8 AM to 2 PM. A complete set of prequalification documents in Arabic or English are to be submitted to the above office no later than 10 am, 30 days of this announcement. The documents should be clearly marked "Application to prequalify for Architectural Design of Ministry of Higher Education Headquarters, Sana'a."

To: Director of Procurement
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
info@hepyemen.org
Tel: 01/535031 - 35

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Steamer point: A memo from days gone by

By: Abdulwahid Abdullah
For Yemen Times

It used to be the focal point for both tourists and English speaking bookworms. Not only was Aziz Bookshop a place to find books to both entertain and inform but it also provided stamps from all over the world and rare photographs of old Aden, photos which the founder of the bookshop took himself as early as



The bookshop goes unnoticed by tourists because it is not located at the port or near popular tourist attractions.

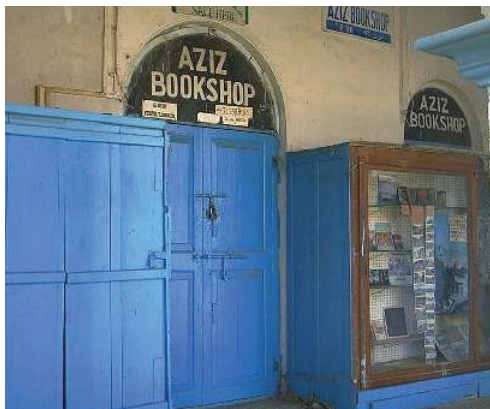
1946.

"It was established in a time when Aden was the most important sea port in the world after New York in America and Rotterdam in Holland. We still have many valuable books today that date back to 1937, although some are in a bad condition. Some of the books are sold very cheap, just over a dollar each and some postcards have photos of Aden in the 1940s," said Midhat Aziz son of the late Aziz Hakim, founder of the bookshop.

Aziz Hakim came to Yemen in the early 40s from India and quickly spotted a market for a bookshop to provide for the many British, Africans, Indians and other nationals who wanted to read in English. It was the first bookshop selling English language books and to this day it is the only one. In recent years, however, the number of visitors to the port of Aden, whether for tourism or commercial business, has reduced significantly. Located in the Al-Tawahi district of Aden the bookshop was nicknamed by regulars as "Steamer

Point".

Aziz's family used to update the shops stock by trading second hand new books for older ones. Sixty one years since its establishment, its owners are seriously considering closing this special shop and much beloved tourist attraction. Aziz passed away two years ago, and his sons are unable to pay the electricity bill. "Nobody reads these days", complained Midhat, "the oldest book is "Port of Aden 1961-62" by a British writer and barely sells for one US dollar". The most expensive book on offer is a glossy tourism publication priced at \$100 but has been on offer for over 3 years and as yet has failed to attract a buyer. Today, the bookshop goes unnoticed by tourists because it is not located at the port or near popular tourist attractions. The family tried to open a branch near the port entry where many sailors and people from all around the world stop at Aden Free



Aziz bookshop was the first bookshop selling English language books in Aden. Today the bookshop is mostly closed.

Zone but their request was denied. Aziz used to hang photos of Queen Elizabeth on the walls side by side with historic portraits of Aden, the city and the port. Today all the photos of days gone by are hidden behind dusty shelves stacked with equally dusty books.

Letters from Aden

There are only two shops that would be of interest to the casual tourist, one sells Arab curios, Berber jewelry, Indian shawls, that sort of thing, but the other is a priceless gem. This is the Aziz Bookshop. It is located about two hundred yards from the Customs House, set back under a deep verandah, it has no windows. The stock consists of an eclectic collection of second-hand books and old stamps. Most of the books are paperbacks, once acquired they are lovingly restored and kept until sold. I picked up a copy of "Six Men" by Alistair Cooke, the covers had been reinforced by glueing to thin cardboard and all the pages stitched together with catgut. A yellow penguin book caught my eye, A While Rome Burns@ by Alexander Woolcott, published in 1937. I flipped through it, the pages were brown and brittle. On the fly leaf was written, "P. C. Smyth Aden 10.7.38". I read it out loud to the proprietor, an elderly Indian. "Oh

yes", he said, "Mr. Smyth, he worked for Cable and Wireless". It seems at this shop every book has a story besides the one between the covers. He went on to tell me he had worked at the shop since 1946. His great grandfather had come to the Aden Protectorate from India in its British heyday, he was very nostalgic about the old days. He had a nice display of Aden colonial stamps on the counter. They all had the likeness of Edward, George or Elizabeth in one corner. I mentioned I was a student when Elizabeth was crowned, I was taking final examinations around about Coronation Day. He immediately fished out a sheet of 15 cent Aden Coronation stamps, dated 2nd June, 1953. I dropped into his shop on several evenings and bought a few more books. Since we sailed from Aden I've begun to get the feeling that the Aziz Bookshop exists in another time and if I could go back and step through that dimly lit door

I could buy a stamp, stick it on an envelope and when the letter was delivered it would be franked at a time when the British ran the world and the sun could safely trace its daily path through the sky.

Eric B. Forsyth

The next headland is known as Steamer Point, topped with a mini Big Ben clock and a few colonial mansions. Below this hill lies the Prince of Wales Pier, the former duty-free port relieving more than 200,000 tourists a year during the 1960's. Nowadays, you are likely to be the only visitors, but there are still a couple of souvenir shops inside waiting for better days. Outside is another one, the famous Aziz Bookshop. Here you can buy old postcards showing Aden under British rule, old magazines, and Aden Protectorate postage stamps. The owners of these shops are always willing to chat about old times too, often

in amazing English, and I ended up spending nearly an hour in one even though I only bought a couple of postcards. One proudly boasted that he fought the British in the 1960's, but in the next breath he informed me that he always admired the British as fighters, in particular "the ones with the skirts"...I guess he meant the Scots in their kilts!

Peter Pickering - 2000

At the shop under the arches where the steamers used to arrive, the Indian shopkeeper sells mementoes of the Cold War: souvenirs of British colonialism and Socialist realism. He has run the shop since 1948, his father before him opened it in 1927. Then it stood at the entrance to the world's biggest duty-free store, visited by every passing ship. Now, though, his only customers are passing yachts, one a day in a good week.

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