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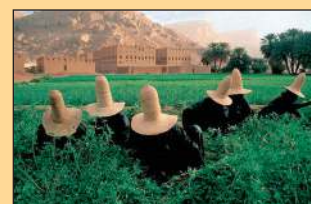
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Smugglers force African migrants into sea



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Justice in Yemen: Lack of citizen awareness or shortage of judges?



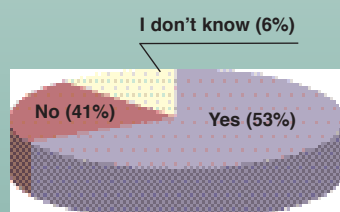
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Emphasizing positive discrimination for women in the workforce

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Do you think that the appeal of the Yemeni Water Minister was meant to motivate donors to provide more funds for Yemen's water crisis?



This edition's question:

Do you think that the Parliament would succeed in dismissing Ibb governor?
Yes
No
I don't know

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

Army fails to beat Houthis, Libyan president hints at mediation

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, March 28 — Tribal sources said Wednesday that bloody clashes between the Yemeni army and Houthi loyalists are continuing on various fronts in Sa'ada. Army forces retreated from Dhahian city, a Houthi stronghold, after facing severe resistance there. Meanwhile, material and human losses are increasing.

Aleshteraki.net reported informed sources in Sa'ada as saying, "Army forces and hundreds of tribal volunteers managed to penetrate many streets of Dhahian after deadly confrontations with Houthi loyalists waged since last Tuesday afternoon."

Eyewitnesses declared, "The Yemeni army is employing a new method in its war on Dhahian, as many units are allowed to enter the city for some time and then withdraw and resume other attacks. Dozens of tanks and armored vehicles are positioned on all streets and outlets leading to Dhahian in order to prevent any infiltration to and from the city."

Sa'ada Governor Yahya Al-Shami assured that government forces are laying siege around Dhahian city to prevent losses among women and children. "Governorate, security and military



Ruins of an old castle stand in the line of fire in Saada.

leaders decided to lay siege around the city in order to save citizens' lives, especially women and children. Many citizens fled the city to nearby areas, while others moved to their relatives' homes in safer locations," Al-Shami explained.

The governor further noted that 12 Houthis surrendered to army forces this week, adding that, "Authorities have provided food and shelter and equipped temporary camps to receive those displaced residents with no relatives outside Dhahian city."

Confrontations in Dhahian, which accommodates 25,000 inhabitants in 5,000 homes, have destroyed more than 60 homes and civil facilities. Further, a historic mosque also was destroyed, while water, electricity and other basic services have been cut for two weeks.

Army personnel and volunteers had vacated some Dhahian streets by the middle of this week after four days of fierce fighting, leaving dozens killed or injured on both sides.

Additionally, some areas of Bani Salem in Kittaf district witnessed con-

frontations on Monday evening and Tuesday, but the results are unclear to date.

Al-Madani killing unclear

Meanwhile, news about killing senior Houthi leader Al-Madani was contradicted. Some sources reported that Yemeni soldiers captured him, while others said the army killed him Tuesday while attacking a Houthi position in Bani Salem's Braash; however, official sources neither confirmed nor denied such reports.

Al-Najjar killing sparks anger

In related news, more than 3,000 citizens of Kharf, a sub-group of Hashed tribe, last Saturday expressed their anger at the way their relative, Muqbil Al-Najjar, was killed at the hands of some army personnel last Thursday. During his funeral in his home area of Kharf, more than 3,000 citizens expressed their resentment and anger over his death, noting that he was killed via deception and betrayal.

Continued on page 3

Anti-corruption committee members elected

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, March 28 — In its session on Sunday, the Consultative Council approved 30 candidates for membership on the Supreme Committee for Anti-corruption, chosen from among 85 candidates meeting requirements according to Article 9 of Anti-corruption Law No. 39 issued in 2006. The mechanism whereby the council selected the candidates was adopted at a session in January.

Excluding incomplete files according to Article 9 of the law, the council approved 54 candidates for the general list, 14 for civil society organizations, six representing the private sector and 11 representing women.

Following election procedures, the council elected 21 for the general list and three each for civil society organizations, the private sector and the women's sector, thus filling the announced list.

However, the council session witnessed heated arguments and bad-mouthing between members while choosing the 30 for the anti-corruption committee, with one member commenting, "A majority of Consultative Council members don't know the names of the candidates or anything about their CVs or their previous posts."

Reacting to the announced list, three ruling party-affiliated members of Parliament pronounced the council unsuccessful regarding most of those selected, maintaining that Parliament is sufficiently qualified to form a committee to combat corruption.

Numerous politicians and special-

ists voiced their disappointment at the announced list, alleging that it's simply an extension of other executive committees that also suffer corruption. Other MPs likewise seemed dissatisfied with the list, noting that Yemen is in need of real will in order to get rid of corruption.

As a reaction to the newly announced Supreme Committee for Anti-corruption, an Anti-corruption authority was established in the name of civil society organizations, coalitions, politicians, lawyers and judges.

Huriah Mashhour, one of the 30 candidates, explained that Parliament will choose 11 of the 30 members recommended by the Consultative Council and they will be appointed by republican decree to form the Supreme Committee for Anti-corruption. The move aims to upgrade good governance, enhance transparency and accountability and strengthen rule of law.

"I'm not overstating it by saying that corruption in a poor country like Yemen prevents the poor from accessing food, patients from obtaining medicine and children from attending school," she noted.

Mashhour added that the committee will help Yemeni citizens regain their trust in reforms programs, maintaining that it will work in partnership with specialized international organizations, such as Transparency International.

According to her, the committee also will raise societal awareness about corruption and its risks, as well as the spreading culture of bribery, nepotism and betraying confidences.

Parliamentary committee calls for dismissing Ibb governor

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori

SANA'A, March 26 — A parliamentary fact-finding committee on Sunday called for investigating officials in Ibb governorate who connived with Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Mansour, accused of evicting and intimidating more than 400 families in Al-Ja'ashen district.

In its report, the committee recommended firing Ibb Governor Ali Al-Qaisi for not fulfilling his duty to stop Sheikh Al-Mansour's violations against the residents, as well as for hampering the fact-finding committee's activities in the area.

The parliamentary committee was formed Feb. 12 following reports that approximately 70 families from Ra'ash and Al-Soufa villages in Al-Ja'ashen district were displaced by their local Sheikh Mansour, who controls the entire area.

Earlier this month, the villagers returned home with the committee, but the latter was prevented from entering the area. The residents said they were insulted and harassed by Sheikh

Mansour's soldiers upon their return.

Committee members reported that Governor Al-Qaisi advised them not to visit Ra'ash and Al-Soufa lest they be subjected to risks by Sheikh Mansour's escorts.

Thus, the committee prepared its report, including accounts by some villagers, and submitted it March 19 for inclusion on Parliament's discussion agenda. However, several parties and influential individuals attempted to prevent its distribution to members of Parliament. MP Sakhr Al-Wajeeh, the committee's reporter, confirmed that Parliament agreed to include the report on its agenda for later discussion.

In the report, the committee demanded investigating chief of Thi Sufal district and replacing him with someone else not conniving with Sheikh Mansour.

The report pointed out that the Yemeni government should enforce the state's authority in Al-Ja'ashen district, since it is part of Yemeni lands, noting that no individual — no matter who he is — may conduct himself outside of the

Yemeni Constitution and effective laws.

The committee further called for destroying all of Sheikh Mansour's prisons in the area and criminalizing such behavior, along with punishing any individual detaining citizens outside of effective Yemeni laws.

Moreover, the report stressed the importance of quickly investigating the issues of Al-Soufa and Ra'ash villagers and judging them according to law and further requested the Yemeni government provide the area with basic services.

The committee also slammed local authorities for their leniency with Sheikh Mansour and trying to protect his dignity under the pretext of deferring to him in order for the area not to fall out from under his sway.

According to the report, the villagers' demands were just and fair, as they simply had requested their basic rights and demanded correcting the wrongs imposed upon them. The committee reported that various checkpoints affiliated with Sheikh Mansour were established along the main road leading to

Ra'ash and Al-Soufa, further noting that most villagers were abused and checked upon their return to their homes.

It spoke at length about the villagers' suffering and barriers hindering the committee from doing its job, including misbehavior of local and official authorities in the governorate who insisted on backing Sheikh Mansour against the villagers.

In related news, Parliament halted its session Tuesday after a majority of MPs withdrew in protest of hiding the committee's report and preventing its distribution among MPs.

The deputy speaker of Parliament justified the move, saying MPs want to discuss the committee report with the heads of political blocs (a move considered to violate parliamentary bylaws), particularly after it was approved by a majority for discussion.

In its Wednesday's session, Parliament demanded Ministry of Interior to shut up unofficial prisons and punishing all those people responsible for setting up private prisons and criminalizing such acts.

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In brief

SANA'A

YLS trains junior lawyers

March 27 — The Sana'a Branch of Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate (YLS) started on Tuesday its first training course for junior lawyers at the Training Hall of the syndicate's premises. The course focused on three main themes, which are: developing lawyers' skills and arts of defending clients, the role of a lawyer before prosecution, and the general rules of violation crimes. The course is staged as part of a training program sponsored by the YLS while the above said themes are explained by experienced judges and judicial experts.

LAHJ

Lahj governor review UNICEF-sponsored projects

March 27 — Lahj Governor Abdulwahab Yahya Al-Durra and UNICEF Representative in Yemen Abdulkarim Adjibari reviewed on Monday various projects, which UNICEF supports and implements in the areas of girl education, drinking water, reproductive health and other service and social projects. At a meeting involving both officials, Al-Durra praised the international organization for its lavish support to the governorate, emphasizing that the local authorities are ready to help UNICEF in implementing the projects. He urged other organizations to contribute to the social development of his governorate.

ADEN

3 die as fence collapses

March 28 — Three people working for Al-Alam Company have been reported dead and another two injured on Tuesday when the company's fence collapsed over them, said local sources in Aden governorate. The sources added that the victims, who work for a construction contractor, were attempting to dig deep the earth near the inner fence of the company, which is located on the Aden-Lahj Highway, with the aim of destroying the fence and reconstructing it. But, the 5-meter long fence collapsed over them. Two of the workers died immediately at the place of the incident while the third died after being transferred to Al-Buraihi Hospital in Aden.

TAIZ

Taiz University organizes symposium on terrorism

March 26 — Taiz University organized on Monday a symposium entitled "Extremism and Terrorism and Their Negative impacts in the Political, Economic and Social Areas", in the presence of many academics, researchers and people interested in these issues. The symposium participants discussed five work papers on the state's legal right to eradicate rebellion, Al-Houthis' sectarian terrorism, importance of the national unity and its role in confronting threats posed to Yemen and the opposition's media address, which seems loyal with rebels. These papers were presented by academics, researchers and journalists.

IBB

NCCY discusses education problems

March 28 — The National Cultural Center for Youth established a program titled 'Youth Court' to discuss education problems and the habit of qat chewing. The program received support from the National Fund for Democracy. The NCCY made up a committee to discuss recommendations and suggestions the program come up with after training many members who nominated themselves for chairing the center's sessions. Abdullah Salam, General Manager of NCCY, said in a statement that selecting Ibb governorate for the program is based on numerous tourist factors and attractions the green governorate enjoys.

HADRAMOUT

JMP denounces arrest campaigns against fishermen

March 28 — The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) in Hadramout governorate held the security authorities accountable for the repeated arrest campaigns of fishermen. The opposition parties, backed by the local council members, insisted on tackling the fishermen's problems and stopping the arrest campaigns, which made the fishermen's career full of risks. A JMP official source said that the Mukalla security authorities arrested on Monday two fishermen at the Central Market after the former asked the latter to leave the market following disputes and quarrels between fishermen and other people.

Smugglers force African migrants into sea

By: Amel Al-Areqi

SANA'A, March, 27 — At least 29 illegal African migrants have died, and 100 still missing after smugglers forced them at knife-point to jump into the sea off the coast of Yemen, the UN refugee agency said Monday.

The incident, which took place last Thursday, was the latest case of smuggler violence involving boats carrying people across the Gulf of Aden from Somalia and the Horn of Africa. It brings the total number of dead and missing among people trying to reach Yemen so far this year to 264.

"We are horrified by this latest tragedy," said Erika Feller, the UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, adding "The victims are people who are desperate to escape persecution, violence and poverty in the Horn of Africa."

Saeed Abdulkader Othman, field worker in UNHCR Reception Center in Shabwa said that that four smugglers' boats carrying about 450 passengers approached coastline at 3 a.m. Yemen local time on Thursday, in rough seas and strong currents. The smugglers forced passengers onboard to disembark far from shore and those who resisted were stabbed and beaten with wooden and steel clubs, then thrown overboard.

"The local residents of the area, where the bodies were found, buried the victims. Most of them were women," confirmed Othman, adding that most of the missing people are Ethiopians.

UNHCR press release quoted survivors that several Ethiopian women and at least one Somali were raped and abused by the smugglers during the voyage from Bosaso in Somalia to Yemen. Survivors also alleged that



A group of people on a beach in Yemen after making the perilous sea crossing from Somalia. © SHS

some Yemeni security forces confiscated their money once they crossed the Gulf of Aden and reached shore.

The press release said authorities estimated that 74 Ethiopians and 26 Somalis were either dead or missing. Another 57 Ethiopians reportedly reached shore and quickly dispersed, fearing detention by security forces. The remaining survivors went to Reception Centre, where they received medical assistance and other aid. "Group of the survivors could reach the center to inform us about this tragedy. We directly moved to the area and brought the rest to the center where we registered them and drove them to Khraz camp" Othman added.

Sadat Mohammed, consoler in Refugee Affairs in the Somali Community exposed his fear to IRIN, saying that this year will witness horrible tragedies of people crossing the Gulf of Aden to seek refuge in Yemen, especially in the absence of political reconciliation in Somalia. He expected many more deaths with the advent of bad sailing weather in April.

Last week, UNHCR said in a state-

ment that 1,100 Somalis and Ethiopians had arrived in Yemen since 17 March, and that at least 28 of them had died from asphyxiation, beatings or drowning — and many were badly injured by the smugglers.

The latest tragedy occurred just after Assistant High Commissioner Feller's mission to Yemen with the Director of UNHCR's Middle East and North Africa Bureau, Radhouane Nouicer. During her visit, Feller confirmed that UNHCR will ask donor countries to raise funds for the country as resources for refugees there were not sufficient. UNHCR's annual budget for Yemen is US \$4.7 million, which is considered the second largest annual budget for UNHCR in the Middle East, after its budget for Iraq.

According to UNHCR records 26,000 people made the perilous voyage across the Gulf of Aden last year, and that at least 330 died. Other 300 were reported missing and believed dead. Since the beginning of this year, at least 4,400 people have landed on the Yemeni coast and at least 166 people have died. Many remain missing.

Meeting discusses empowering working women

ADEN, March 28 — Organized by the Women's Development Administration at Aden's Social Affairs and Labor Office, a national meeting launched the second phase of a capacity-building project for working women seeking to provide them decent work and social justice. Several women affiliated with the Aden labor office attended the meeting.

Aden Governor Ahmed Al-Kuhlani assured that the state, in collaboration with civil society organizations, is exerting efforts to grant Yemeni women their full rights, especially the right to work. He pointed out that more than 25 women engineers are involved in development projects in the governorate and that they are doing their jobs in a good manner.

Deputy Minister of Civil Service and Insurance Yassin Abdu Sa'eed Noman emphasized that the meeting aimed to enhance Yemeni women's role in all social and economic aspects of life via the ministry's national strategy. He added that his ministry is giving more attention to women in fields like health and education with support from the International Labor Organization and the Dutch Embassy in Sana'a.

Ayoub Abu Bakr, general manager of Aden's Social Affairs and Labor Office, stated that the meeting was an extension of the capacity-building project's first phase previously held and targeting more than 3,000 working women from various sectors.

He added that the second phase will

last for a year and a half and target women working in agriculture, education and the health sectors with the aim of identifying them with their rights and duties.

Najwa Al-Qusaifi, a technical advisor affiliated with the International Labor Organization, indicated that the meeting aimed to enhance social dialogue between the Chamber of Commerce, the Laborers Syndicates' Workers Union and the Ministry of Social Affairs.

It further sought to translate the project to workers' reality by raising their awareness of their rights. Al-Qusaifi added that her organization supports many programs in Yemen, including those regarding women's rights and children's employment.

Call for rescuing Palestinians refugees in Iraq

By: Jamal Al-Najjar

SANA'A, March, 27 — Several activists and politicians called the Arab leaders and International Community to save around 15,000 Palestinian refugees living in Iraq from torture and murder by militias since the American occupation of Iraq in 2003. This came during a symposium organized by Kana'an Association for Palestine last Tuesday to discuss the situation of Palestinian refugees in Iraq.

Yahya Mohammed Abdullah, director of the Kana'an Association, confirmed that Palestinian refugees live in a miserable condition because they are killed and tortured by militias. Palestinian refugees have been killed, tortured, kidnapped and turned homeless for four years. We call the Arab Summit, United Nations and Security Council to intervene and find a solution to the refugees' sufferings", he said.

During the symposium, the Association presented a video-show explaining the terrible life of the refugees in the camps wherein they live in fear of militias, and are subject to poverty and deprived of education.

Khalid Mohammed Khalid, a Palestinian refugee who was able to come to Yemen, showed photos of the refugees' body remains after they were killed and maimed by the militias. The photos illustrate the harshness and malignity that murderers bear against Palestinians. Some bodies were drilled in different parts including head, legs and chest and some parts of the refugees' bodies were cut in a barbarian way.

"What was seen in these photos is



Kana'an Association is an active NGO in upholding the Human Rights of the Palestinian people

only part of what happens to the Palestinian refugees' in Iraq", he affirmed, adding, "Some bodies dissolve in the hospital morgues because they stay for a long time. Their relatives can't even go and take the bodies to bury them for fear the militias will kill them".

Abdullah Al-Hourani, member of Central Council of Palestine Liberation Organization, confirmed that during Saddam's regime Palestinian refugees lived safely but now the situation has changed since Iraq is under American, Zionist and Persian occupation.

"Palestinian refugees are killed without any justification. They are killed and tortured only because they are Arabs and Palestinians. In addition, they are accused of supporting Saddam's regime", he said.

Al-Hourani maintained that efforts of the Palestinian government can't come out with a solution unless the Arab countries allow them in their countries. "Arab leaders are able to solve those refugees' problems", he suggested, adding "A lot of refugees are camping

near the borders of Syria and Jordan; "I don't believe that the Jordanian government is unable to help around seven hundred refugees living in a camp near Jordan and allow them enter the country", he noted.

Barilla Eyssa, a human rights activist, revealed that Palestinian refugees in Iraq are subjected to massacres by militias and the only solution to them is to leave Iraq and seek refuge in other Arab countries. "Those refugees should leave Iraq because they are not protected. The Iraqi government considers them illegal residents and also it refuses to give them any documents that help them stay legally", she pointed out.

Mohammed Baraka, Chief of Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, confirmed that the Iraqi government should be held accountable for the lives of the refugees. "In addition to the Iraqi government, America and Iran are responsible for the Palestinian refugees in Iraq because America is the occupation force and Iran approves what happens to the refugees".

Director Fareed Al-Dhahiri died

IBB, March 28 — Yemeni director and artist Fareed Al-Dhahiri died Tuesday morning while preparing for an artistic operetta to be staged in Ibb on May 22 in celebration of the 17th anniversary of Yemen's Reunification.

Al-Dhahiri's death, caused by a heart attack, coincided with World Theatre Day. The Ministry of Culture announced the director's death, noting that it is a great loss for the Yemeni artistic movement. A ministry statement considered his death as a heavenly drama wherein Allah selected the artist to leave this world.

Al-Dhahiri contributed many immortal works, including the wonderful operetta, "Khailt Baraqan Lam'a" ("I envisioned a shining thunder"), along with many other national operettas and Safr Safr Play. He was exemplary in his sacrifice for the sake of art and country.

Born in 1957 in Al-Dhale' governorate and holding a master's degree from Ukraine, Al-Dhahiri managed to



The late Fareed Al-Dhahiri

develop drama in Yemen, including verse drama. He founded the Taiz Youth Band for Drama and Music and was manager of Hodeidah Theatre.

Al-Dhahiri participated in numerous Yemeni and international symposiums and festivals, receiving many prizes for such participation, in addition to producing many distinct works.

Oil minister: Personal disputes caused LNG rioting

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

SANA'A, March 27 — Minister of Oil and Minerals Khalid Mahfoudh Bahah condemned the rioting that sparked Sunday at Yemen's Liquefied Natural Gas site in Balhaf, Shabwa governorate, located in southeast Yemen, after a French engineer allegedly defiled the Qur'an, describing it as a personal dispute.

Bahah said the rioting was done intentionally due to personal disputes, regretting the behavior of workers who were enraged into rioting without realizing the personal motives and unseemly goals behind the incident.

The Joint Meeting Parties in Shabwa governorate condemned the Qur'an's desecration by the company's French engineer. In a statement, the JMP demanded the company apologize, terminate the engineer's contract and deport him, holding the company responsible for what happened.

Approximately 400 LNG workers rioted Sunday over a French engineer's alleged defilement of the Qur'an, damaging several vehicles as well as superficially damaging some on-site service facilities. The company's chartered helicopter also was set ablaze. A peaceful demonstration after a "dispute with one of the engineers" turned violent when protestors attacked some of the project's assets.

"The incident initially was triggered by a personal dispute between a French engineer and a Yemeni employee both

working for one of the company's subcontractors. Due to a misunderstanding of the incident among a few workers, the occurrence unfortunately escalated into violent rioting," LNG stated Tuesday.

No casualties were reported during the unrest, as the project's security force quelled the rioting.

A committee immediately was formed to probe the incident, including representatives from security authorities and the Social Affairs and Labor Office, as well as the governorate's local authorities.

Shabwa Governor Ali Al-Maqdashi said investigations are ongoing, with the investigation committee having questioned both the French engineer and the Yemeni employee about the incident and the two are being withheld, according to the ruling party web site Al-Motamar.net.

LNG currently is constructing a natural gas liquefaction plant on the coast of Balhaf in Shabwa, as well as a 320-km. pipeline that will connect gas processing facilities in Marib's Block 18 to the liquefaction facilities located approximately 400 km. east of Aden.

The construction currently involves approximately 4,000 people in Balhaf and nearly 1,000 more along the pipeline. Yemen LNG has appointed two major contractors to complete the construction. In turn, these contractors have appointed various subcontractors to assist them in implementing portions of the project.

Symposium discusses financial leasing

SANA'A, March 28 — Yemen's Central Bank and International Finance Corporation held a symposium on financial leasing on Thursday, March 22 at the bank's headquarters in Sana'a. The symposium was attended by Minister of Justice Jazi Al-Aghbari and chairmen of commercial and appeal courts in Sana'a, Taiz and Al-Hodeidah together with the Chairman of Judicial Inspection Board Dr. Abdullah Farwan.

The governor of the Central Bank Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Samawi delivered speech in which he reviewed the mutual cooperation between the monetary and judicial authorities with aim of achieving stability and creating a fitting environment for investments, especially after London donor conference held last November and Investment Opportunities Conference due to be held on April in collaboration with Gulf Cooperation Council.

Al-Samawi pointed out some the package of legislations prepared by the bank under the reforms program including financial leasing law which will open wide horizons before small and middle-sized enterprises in particular and lessees in general as it will enable them to get equipments and machines without investing handsome investments in the capital.

For his part, Al-Aghbari thanked the Central Bank and the International Finance Corporation for holding this symposium to make clear the legal aspects relating to financial leasing together with duties and rights of all parties involved, pointing out that Yemen is witnessing an economic

boom.

He further assured the next battle is that of economic development which should be accompanied by a modernization of judiciary to fit with flow of the capitals and open door policy.

Parliament's Financial Affairs Committee noted the financial leasing does exist in Yemen market; however, without any law that codifies it.

"The aim behind the financial leasing law is to create a sophisticated legal framework for developing financial leasing services in Yemen," declared the committee.

The committee added that financial leasing is a financial service which aims to develop production and upgrade small and middle-sized enterprises owned by private sector as they actively contributes to efforts relating to poverty combating, decreasing unemployment rates and increase growth rates of the national economy.

Further, the new law would help the existence of financial leasing companies and also encourage banks to direct their accumulated deposits towards productive sectors as this activity is primarily meant for financing the purchasing of equipments and machines required by small and middle investment projects.

The symposium was held over two sessions. Sultan Nawaf, a legal expert at the International Finance Corporation delivered a lecture themed "Financial Leasing: a New Means". The second session, chaired by the corporation representative Sa'ad Sabra, dealt with the technical and legal aspects relating to the financial leasing.

Specialized college targeting regional human resource demands opens in Dubai

DUBAI, March 27 — H.E. Mohammed Bin Bduoa Al Darmaki, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American College of the Emirates (ACE), announced the Accreditation and the opening of the ACE campus at the Dubai Academic City. In his statement, he emphasized that the College offers internationally recognized academic programs for both UAE nationals and expatriate students. H.E. Al Darmaki stated that ACE will realize its vision by adopting the concept of quality education that is designed to educate the whole person,

through a mixture of classroom and internship training modules. All ACE departments are intended to work closely with its community and business leaders to understand and meet their workforce demands through the various specializations it offers. He emphasized that the College follows the American Model of Education, with a continuous evaluation of its outputs to ensure the accomplishment of the founders' key objectives are always the focus of the college's operations.

Dr Muthanna G. Abdul Razzaq, the

ACE President and CEO, affirmed that ACE will start its first academic year on February 25th in Dubai Academic City. Registrations are currently open and will continue until the end of the month. He added that the College academic program is instituted into four departments: Business Management, Computer Information Technology, Media Arts and Design, and Media and Mass Communication. ACE's dedicated effort to recruit the best experts to develop the quality programs has ensured the highest academic caliber in the content and

presentation of its programs to meet the challenges of the local and regional communities' expertise needs.

ACE offers Associate Degrees in Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Real Estate Management, Banking and Financial Markets, Human Resource Management, General Business Administration, Database and Management Information System, Network Administration and Security, Software and Web Development, and Digital Forensics.

A wide range of additional academic

programs, such as Associate Degrees in Hotel Management, Travel and Tourism, Digital Animation, Digital Imaging, Graphic Design, International Relations, Public Relations, Journalism, Radio and TV, are currently being planned and will be added to the offered programs shortly.

Mr. Ekram Khan, the Registrar of the College, added that the College has a designated English Language Institute (ELI) that offers various levels of quality instruction, starting from beginner (for those that have

studied English for at least one to two years in a high school) to advanced. All students are given a comprehensive placement test so that they learn the most in a class that's right for them.

ELI instructors are experienced professionals in teaching English as a second language and have extensive teaching credentials with a wide variety of interests that they bring to the classroom. The classes are limited in size and the delivery is designed to make learning fun through the use of language, learning and local culture.

Continued from page 1

Army fails to beat Houthis, Libyan president hints at mediation

Al-Najjar was killed last Thursday when his house was destroyed by army forces using tank shells while attempting to infiltrate Dhahian on the pretext of searching for Houthi loyalists. Al-Najjar and several others from his area were living in Dhahian because they operate fruit farms and businesses in Sa'ada.

Press reports mentioned that hundreds of Hashed tribesmen are volunteering with army and Sulfi groups to fight against Houthis. Such volunteers mainly are from Uther, Al-Osimat and Habour Dhulimah.

However, Kharr tribal leaders have refused to fight, alleging that the authority didn't do justice to those who participated in the first and second Sa'ada wars. The tribe's sons complain about the authority's negligence, particularly toward those who were killed or injured and in need of medical attention.

One observer commented on Al-Najjar's death, saying, "The way Al-Najjar was killed in Dhahian proves the futility of war and how it affects the national peace, whereby the killer and the killed are from one tribe and the same family. This is the case with civil war."

Students killed in Dammaj

The identity of one victim in a Houthi attack targeting a checkpoint near the Dammaj Center for Hadith and Jurisprudence located in Al-Safara district's Dammaj area south of Sa'ada remains unknown.

Local sources mentioned the killing of two students, one a French student of Algerian origin, and injuring another French student, while the identity of the second victim hasn't been determined. The same sources added that the French student was buried by his friends in Dammaj Cemetery, while the injured party still is being treated at Al-Salam Hospital in Sa'ada.

Supported by Saudi Arabia, the Dammaj Center was established in the 1980s to teach Sulfi doctrine. The center accommodated students from more than 30 countries before the Sept. 11, 2001 events; however, that number has diminished over the past few years.

Al-Qaddafi hints at mediation

In other Houthi news, Libyan President Moammar Al-Qaddafi pointed out that President Ali Abdullah Saleh requested he invite Member of Parliament Yahya Al-Houthi, who currently is living in

Germany, to Libya and mediate between him and President Saleh to stop the war in Sa'ada.

In a live interview with Al-Jazeera satellite channel, Al-Qaddafi recounted, "President Saleh telephoned me and said, 'Yahya Al-Houthi is abroad. I beg you to call him and invite him to Libya to end this war.' Before this call, we didn't know anything about Al-Houthi."

He added that he summoned the Yemeni MP to Libya, telling him Yemen wanted to end the war in Sa'ada, and Al-Houthi indicated his readiness to do so, but with certain conditions. He maintained that Saleh accepted some conditions, such as releasing detainees, but didn't accept others. Thus, the war ended and Houthis were happy, Al-Qaddafi noted, referring to the second Sa'ada war.

The Libyan president noted that he was surprised at the war's resumption due to the intervention of foreign parties. He denied any tension in Yemeni-Libyan relations as evidenced by the recent visit of Libya's foreign minister to Yemen, as well as a telephone call he had with President Saleh.

He went on to allege that it is the hired newspapers that are claiming his nation's involvement in the Sa'ada events, not the Yemeni government or President Saleh, further asserting that Libya has no interest in a remote Yemeni area.

"It's unreasonable. We don't have any relation with Zaidi doctrine and we have no interest in Yemen's war," Al-Qaddafi assured.

He further revealed that Yahya Al-Houthi sent him a new letter requesting he mediate to end the war, adding that he sent the letter to President Saleh and hinted that he would intervene again if Saleh accepts.

In an interview three weeks ago with Al-Hiwar satellite channel, Yahya Al-Houthi referenced Al-Qaddafi's remarks; however, official media denied such information, harshly attacking him and accusing Al-Hiwar of being a hired channel.

From the very beginning of the war, official media have persisted in alleging Libyan involvement in what's happening in Sa'ada, accusing Al-Qaddafi of providing military, financial and political support to Houthis. At its first meeting, the Yemeni National Security Council pointed out that it will reconsider relations with any nation supporting Houthis, hinting at Libya and Iran.

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If you fulfill the above requirement, please send your CV and application Letter to the following address not later than April 7, 2007.

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PO Box: 18611

Tender No (7) 2007 Announcement for the second times on the base of one envelope (technical+ financial)

The Ministry of Education (MOE) announces the tender number (7)/2007 for the supply, installation, operating, configure, check, test and handover TV equipments for the educational channel, as follow:

The first group:

- Supply, installation and operating the TV equipment for the broadcasting unit.
- Supply, installation and operating the TV equipment (non-linear editing stations, VVTRS, portable camcorders with accessories and others)

The second group:

- Supply, installation, operating, check, test, and guarantee broadcast KU Band earth station equipment.
- Supply two transportation facilities (4WD & bus 16 passengers).

This tender will be financed by international grant by the ministry of planning and international cooperation.

Interested bidders who want to bid for this tender can obtain (purchase) a copy of the tender's documents priced at a fee of (20,000)YR twenty thousands Yemeni Rials (on non-refundable basis) during the normal work hours from the following address;

(Ministry of education building , financial affairs, procurement and stores management (Jamal street) near to the military museum)

- **Deadline of selling the tender's documents is 18th of April 2007.**
- Offers must be placed inside envelopes or boxes sealed by red wax. Offers details such as bidder's name, number of tender and all its details must be written on every offer.
- Offers must be technically financially and commercially complete and to be submitted in one original and two copies in the blank places specified by the MOE in the same specification's pages of the tender's documents. **We are going to ignore any offer will not be adhered by this condition.**

* All the offers must be accompanied with copies of the following:

- 1) A Bid Bond or check payable for 2.5% of the bid's offer valid for (90 days) from the opening of envelopes of this tender, issued from a local bank in Yemen.
 - 2) A copy of tax card valid for 2007
 - 3) A copy of insurance card valid for 2007.
 - 4) A copy of recording and classification certificate valid for 2007.
 - 5) Recording certificate for the use of public tax affairs.
 - 6) Catalogues of the all the items must be attached to the offers.
- (Foreign companies must handover the similar documents mentioned above in numbers (2,3, and 4) from their homeland.)
- Deadline of receiving the offers (11:00 am Saturday 21st of April 2007). any offers after this date will be rejected.
 - Offers will be opened in public at (11:00 am Saturday 21st of April 2007). In the ministry building (meeting hall) in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who may wish to attend.
 - All bidders can have a look of this tender's documents during ten days from the publishing date of this announcement during normal working hours



Medecins du Monde - Yemen VACANCY: office assistant

Responsibilities:

1. Translation/ interpretation: oral and written translation from Arabic to English and from English to Arabic
2. Legal formalities facilitation: to facilitate legal registration and approval of legal documents with the relevant ministries and administration offices
3. Networking facilitation: to liaise with National & Local authorities, local NGO's, community representative, population in targeted areas, to identify and to map potential suppliers.
4. Context understanding facilitation: to prepare weekly press reviews from Arabic & Yemenite newspapers, thematic reports and directories.

Qualifications:

1. Arabic, fluent in English, French is an asset
2. Ability to write reports in English and in Arabic
3. Excellent command in computers
4. Good knowledge of the INGO legal environment in Yemen is essential
5. Previous working experience in an NGO is compulsory
6. Diplomatic, able to communicate with a variety of people
7. Flexible attitude, to adjust to a different culture, medical context, political context
8. Good sense of organization is essential

Applications (CV & letter of interest) should be sent by e-mail at: recruitment_mdm_yemen@yahoo.fr

No applications received after April 2nd will be considered.

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5 April: 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
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6 April: 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Venue: Taj Sheba Hotel - Sana'a

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with its project "Implementation of Public Financial Management Reform Action Plan".

Post Title: Public Financial Management (Technical Officer)

Duration: 12 months

Location: Ministry of Finance

Responsibilities:

- Report to the Public Finance Management (PFM) Expert.
- Assist in providing support and guide to Implementing Units/Deputy Ministers in the preparation of detailed proposals in accordance with the Action Plan.
- Assist in reviewing proposals for procurement of goods and services inline with available resources.
- In consultation with PFM Expert provide technical advice to the Government of Yemen (GoY) on issues related to the implementation of PFM reforms, including issues related to the implementation of the new classification in the 2007 budget.
- Assist in providing training where appropriate to larger numbers of GoY staff, for example on use of the new Chart of Accounts for the preparation of the 2007 Budgets and for the posting of all the GoY's accounting transactions in 2007.
- Assist in preparation of reports as requested by PFM Expert.

Qualification:

- Holder of Master Degree in accounting, finance, business administration or economics.
- Have at least two to three years experience in public financial management, covering budget preparation, execution, controls and financial accountability, procurement and capacity building.
- Experience in implementing complex PFM reform agendas, including effective engagement with government officials at all levels.
- Ability to communicate in English and experience of working on PFM issues in the region are desirable though not essential.
- Ability to use word processing and excel.


Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448892/E-mail: (hr.ye@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Thursday, 6 April 2007


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



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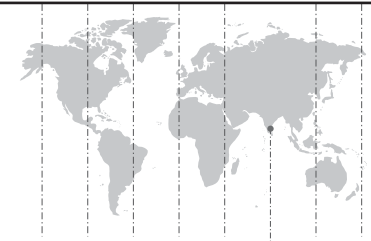
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Justice in Yemen: Lack of citizen awareness or shortage of judges?

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
saddam-alashmori@yahoo.com

Justice is the basis of judgment and judiciary is the basis for justice; however, the Yemeni judiciary is witnessing deterioration and further suffers lack of control over its work. Such factors defame Yemen's judiciary; thus, many citizens no longer trust it and resort to other means to resolve their problems in order to avoid prolonged court cases. For example, a case requiring just a month will be resolved after a year or more.

"The judiciary is corrupt and not even a judge's directives can arrest an influential enemy," says Haj Ali Ghalib, "Notary publics steal even your shoes. I gave the directive and YR 2,000 to judicial police to arrest my enemy. They went to him and he gave them YR 5,000, so they returned without arresting him."

Ghalib adds that he returned to the judge who ordered his enemy's imprisonment; however, he hasn't been brought to court for two years because he's a military official with a lot of money.

He concluded, "Via your newspaper, I ask judges and rulers to make good those who are below them and they must check on poor citizens' cases."

Ameera Mohammed has a marriage invalidation case and declares that after issuing its ruling, the court told her to initiate her case right from the beginning because such cases are judged only after one year from the husband's absence. "If I had money, I would've finished my case earlier, but I've been chasing after the ruling for two years."

Attorney Barraq Mohammed Hadi contradicts the above opinions,

believing that Yemen's judiciary is improving, especially after recent government measures to make the courts better. However, many challenges are ahead, including appointing judges.

He adds, "The problem is with court procedures. An individual files a case against someone and then must come every day awaiting his case's session. If he asks those responsible about his case's timing, they tell him his session time; thus, he thinks they're delaying his case and then they complain about the judiciary."

According to Hadi, the problem exists because very few executive courts exist in Yemen, together with the involvement of influential individuals and dignitaries who prevent the execution of rulings issued.

He also maintains that some people accept help from those claiming to be lawyers but aren't. Citizens sometimes file cases in non-specialized courts and when appeals courts discover this, they cancel all previous measures.

Abdullah Al-Hamdhi criticizes judges and court officials for not mentioning a case's defects from the very beginning.

"For a whole year, I've been following up the case of my sister, whose husband left her a year ago, so I filed a case to invalidate her marriage contract. I lost a lot of money and further, left my own business. After a year, they recently told me that I can't request invalidation except after one year. Why didn't they tell me that in the beginning before I lost both my time and money?" Al-Hamdhi questioned.

He's now filing another case because "I have no money to give to notary publics.

"Whoever has money will have his case resolved very soon. Further, I have no background in judiciary," Al-Hamdhi added.

Ali Al-Taweel abandoned his case after 15 years of trial proceedings due to the lack of execution.

"My father died leaving behind a car and other belongings which my uncles took. When I became an adult, I asked them for my inheritance, but they told me I have nothing. So I headed to court, which ruled in my favor three times. However, these rulings haven't been executed even until now," Al-Taweel noted.

He maintains that he abandoned his case because he found himself better off than others, who spent a long time following their cases until they sold everything they own. "If your right isn't retrieved here, it won't be lost in the hereafter."

The head of the Judicial Inspection Authority, Abdullah Farwan, points out that his authority's task is to follow up the courts' work, observe judges' behavior and further evaluate their work. The authority also investigates judges if citizens complain about them.

Farwan notes that the authority comprises four administrations, the first of which is the Complaints Department, which receives citizens' complaints. It received more than 6,000 complaints during 2006, most of which were handled directly, either by contacting the judges by phone or letter. "We tell people what to do because their legal awareness is low," he added.

Inspection is the authority's second administration, whose main task is to draw up and establish plans and strategies. It further makes field visits and surprise periodic inspections,



Citizens discussing their lawsuits in front of the court building.

together with preparing statistics.

The third administration is Judges Affairs, whose main task is to investigate citizen complaints against judges, as well as examine judges' financial and administrative affairs.

The fourth and final administration involves investigations and discipline. This administration is concerned with citizens' complaints and if the matter merits investigation, an accountability council will summon the judge for investigation.

According to Farwan, more than 42 Yemeni judges were investigated last year, some of whom were given oral notice while others were dismissed.

"When the accountability council

finds that a judge has committed a clear violation with clear-cut evidence, the council will take legal action against him," Farwan explained.

The Judicial Inspection Authority believes the problem lies in the shortage of judges. For example, whenever a judge is fired or retires, the authority faces difficulty finding a replacement. Further, the Higher Judiciary Institute closed for eight years following Yemeni reunification in 1990.

Additionally, Sharia graduates require three years' further training at the institute before assuming the post of a penal judge. Farwan admits that the Yemeni judiciary is lacking in

assistant judicial staff, notably notary publics and clerks. According to him, the problem is qualitative rather than quantitative.

Regarding those employees who take bribes from citizens, Farwan assures that such practices are done by clerks and administrative assistants who lack conscience, while judges don't know anything about them.

He concludes, "If support continues together with punishment and reward principles, I'm sure we'll create a Yemeni judicial and legal environment providing its citizens their rights via easy and facilitated methods because justice too long delayed is justice denied."

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What is required from the Riyadh Summit?

Taking a glance at developments in the Arab world and challenges to Arab progress and advancement, one feels that Arab leaders must take care to make the Riyadh Summit, to be held by the end of this month, successful and effective. If they are serious to do so, this is the only thing that can return confidence and hope to Arab citizens, who have become frustrated after being convinced that regional situations are going from bad to worse, as such situations become more and more complicated over time.

We needn't say that Arabs are invited to acknowledge reality without obstinacy, as this constitutes a radical



By: Prof.
Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

point for any move aimed at reforming the situation, overcoming all weaknesses and re-evaluating joint performance according to new regulations due to enhance the spirituality of contact, solidarity, cooperation and interaction between all Arab world components. Such interaction should allow these components to perform their tasks and duties in the face of analogical challenges.

We think it's objective for Arab leaders to understand the matter well while preparing for the summit in the Saudi capital of Riyadh. They must bear in mind the series of crises in Iraq,

Palestine, Lebanon, Somalia and other countries, and that such crises are merely part of the heavy price Arab nations are paying due to their divisions and internal conflicts. These conflicts make it impossible for the Arab world to reach any achievements.

What is required from the Riyadh Summit isn't an enthusiastic statement or recommendations to be added to the files that are forgotten in the Arab League's drawers. Rather, holding the summit is a chance for Arab leaders to contemplate themselves and benefit from past lessons in order to restore a smile to the Arab nations and enliven hope and confidence in the souls of their people.

As President Ali Abdullah Saleh indicated in one of his statements, a nation that has submitted to despair is due to be completely submissive to a culture of subservience and slavery. This is what we don't hope for this nation (the Arab nation), which has a large credit of superiority and creativity throughout the centuries.

Frankly speaking, Arabs have failed to assert themselves and show solidarity and cooperation with each other over the past five decades. They have failed to unify all of their energies, capacities and facilities in the face of their enemies.

There's more than one possibility to bring Arabs together if all of them will agree that they have a joint history, even if that history has experienced several differences, disputes and political conflicts. We needn't make from these differences and conflicts throughout history a justification for the division of the Arabs.

Additionally, any irregular circumstances shouldn't be considered as barriers to progress of joint Arab work, particularly as the Arab nation still has more means to facilitate its exit from being trapped in a bottle and prove its effective presence in today's world. The Arab nation is required to occupy a prestigious status in line with its great history and civilization.

If there's a strong will for agreement and harmony, nothing will be impossible or difficult for the Arab nation to achieve. Do we expect to activate the Arab initiative for a Lebanon Summit via a delegation from U.N. Security Council member states due to visit the region and specify a time frame for setting an international mechanism to come up with a U.N. Security Council Resolution? The Arab nation is required to review its international relations, particularly in economic areas.

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

How to reform education?

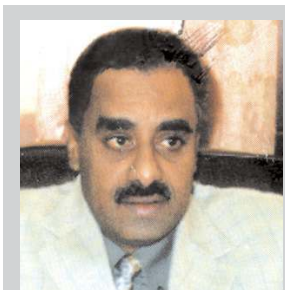
Higher education in Yemen has remarkably developed today since the first universities, Sana'a and Aden, were established in 1970. At that time, the number of university students didn't exceed 300 in the two universities combined. There were only 7 – 10 Yemeni teachers and the rest of the academic staff was non-Yemeni.

But now, the country has 7 government universities and more than 10 private universities and colleges, with more than 240 thousand students in government universities and around 25 thousand in the private higher education institutions. In Sana'a University alone there are 1,400 academic staff, and there are around 600 additional members being prepared to join the university once they complete their higher education studies abroad. The Yemeni government universities have up to 5 thousand workers and the number is expected to increase after establishing Amran University, the project of which is underway.

In the past, there was no Minister of Higher Education in Sana'a or Aden. This ministry was established after the national unity in 1990, but was abolished and re-established in 2001. The ministry sent more than 7 thousand B.A., M.A. or Ph.D. scholars to 46 countries.

Now that the numbers have been established, let us talk about quality of education. Because today, Yemeni universities can only accommodate between 60 to 70 thousand students each year while high school graduates exceed 180 thousand each year. This means around 60% of school graduates are not enrolled in universities.

Therefore, the ministry of higher education must realign its educational strategies in many aspects. For one, we must study the market needs and not repeat themselves in specializations. For example, if Aden University is to focus on marine and biology disciplines, Dhamar can excel in agriculture, dam construction and veterinarian studies while Hudaidah University can identify physics and arts as their specialization...etc.



By: Saleh Basurrah

The idea is that 87 percent of students are enrolled in social sciences and humanities, compared to only 23 percent of the students are majoring in applied sciences.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is not the only party concerned with tackling any

issues associating with the quality of the educational outputs, rather the three ministries responsible for education should cooperate in this regard. These are the ministries of education, higher education and scientific research, and vocational education and technical training.

There is also a problem in the educational structure and its phases starting from primary education until higher studies. There is a problem in quality that gets carried over from one level to another and the weakness increases over time.

The concerned authorities have to examine whether education and its components cope with the scientific and cognitive development in the world. For now, people without an access to computer are called illiterate but not those who don't read and write. We are in the age of scientific and cognitive revolution. If one doesn't renew his/her information within 24 hours, he/she will become illiterate. To teach students via the CDs or Data Show, teachers themselves have to be trained on computer while authorities should reconsider the school buildings as 70 – 80 students in a single class minimizes the learning chance. We should reconsider the morning and afternoon shifts in primary and secondary schools as students move into and out of classes at noon like sardine cans.

Students' talents should be developed since a student is not an object that memorizes things to give them out. The authorities need to modify the secondary school system after examining whether this system copes with demands of the time. Secondary school leavers have to be prepared for the university, not through the literary and scientific sections in the secondary education systems, but additional two years have to be added to the system to

investigate the students' aptitudes.

The education hierarchy is not correct

Those who completed primary school join secondary schools and secondary school graduates move into universities. Such a fact requires reviewing the education hierarchy. Around 240 thousand students are enrolled in higher education compared to less than 15 thousand students, who joined technical training institutes, and such a fact is a negative aspect of the hierarchy. Most of high school leavers should join technical training institutes and community colleges instead of universities. The problem, which is persisting in the underdeveloped countries, confused the university facilities and plans at all levels.

The large number of secondary school graduates find themselves unqualified for the labor market. They leave schools to join universities. They have no skills but theoretical classes preparing them for the university but not for the labour market. Such a large number of high school leavers help increase unemployment rates, thereby leading to severe poverty and numerous social and economic issues.

The same problem persists in the university. So, the teaching process needs be reviewed and investigate whether the Yemen universities teach only theoretical classes or theoretical classes and skills.

Poor skills

The judge graduates from the Faculty of Law but is unable to issue a legal verdict nor can he perform any advocacy duties. Another example is that of an engineer, who graduated from the Department of Mechanical Engineering but is unable to maintain his car. The fact is traceable back to the lack of skills and practical classes. Education is a complete system necessitating coordination between the three ministries concerned with education during the implementation of secondary education, higher education and vocational education and technical training strategies. We have three ministries that serve a unified purpose under any circumstances.

Professor Saleh Ali Basurrah is the Minister of Higher Education and

Toward a better Press Law

Last week, numerous journalists participated in a workshop aimed at establishing a work team to advocate amending Yemen's Press Law. This group is due to seek a better press law to protect freedoms and abolish barriers posed to the Yemeni press.

The workshop was more serious and interactive, as it was held in the presence of legal officer Daniel Simons and Toby Mendel, a law program director for Article 19, a British organization interested in press affairs.

Participants were enthusiastic to suggest numerous remarks to amend the current Press Law in effect, as well as advocate abolishing obstacles restricting press freedom. Their remarks proved to be positive and creative, but the important question was: Will the decision makers welcome their remarks?

As far as I'm concerned, the decision makers may not welcome these remarks. If we look to the past, we'll find that governments welcomed none of the world's voices advocating improving the press situation and governments worldwide don't draft laws leaving enough scope for press freedom. In numerous countries, press laws began restricting press freedom; however, journalists' awareness and their struggle to obtain their rights helped them to work in a free atmosphere.

An unprecedented number of attacks on independent journalists made 2005 one of the worst years in recent history for the Yemeni press. The media atmosphere has been shrouded in a climate of fear as violent attacks on journalists have become routine, opposition newspapers frequently are closed and editors regularly are prosecuted for critical coverage of state affairs. The resilient independent press has continued to push the well-defined boundaries set by Yemeni authorities, but has met with increased aggression and hostility along the way.

While broadcast media remain under strict state control, Yemen's independent press has flourished in recent years, with a wider number of journalists daring to report on sensitive issues.

As Yemeni journalists, we must advocate good press laws, particularly as we live in a democratic country adhering to press freedom and freedom of expression. Thus, journalists must continue claiming their rights without fear or frustration, since fear and frustration don't breed freedom.

Yasser Al-Mayasi is a Yemeni journalist specialized in children and business. ymayasi@yahoo.com



By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SKETCHED OPINION



By: Samer A.

Letters to the Editor

Eritrean refugees want fair and equal treatment

We, the Eritrean refugees living in the Republic of Yemen, increasingly are obliged to introduce ourselves and our problems to the public, human rights activists and UNHCR itself (as it's clear that it isn't sufficiently aware of us).

We sought asylum in Yemen because we suffered absence of religious freedom, freedom of expression, media freedom, freedom of union, speech, etc. Thus, we would like to introduce you to our overlooked plights.

We've noticed that the UNHCR in Yemen announces its concern for Somali and Ethiopian refugees, but not Eritreans. Indeed, we're indebted for the (relatively) better care that our Somali and Ethiopian brothers and sisters are receiving. However, we kindly request UNHCR representatives in Yemen to consider that there are also other refugees called Eritreans, who face problems and plights more or less like refugees of other nationalities.

We're taking the opportunity of the visit to Yemen of Erika Feller, UNHCR assistant high commissioner for protection, to bring to her kind attention and the attention of the UNHCR in general to our plight.

In the Tuesday, March 22, issue no.

1035 of the Yemen Times, Feller mentioned that, "More than 2,500 people landed on the Yemeni coast" last year, noting that they were "Somalis and Ethiopians." Indeed, this is true, but it's incomplete, as there were and are many Eritreans among them.

Not mentioning us definitely is a first step in overlooking us and making it nearly impossible to reach the appropriate UNHCR officials to apply for asylum, especially if an Eritrean entering Yemeni coasts happens to be caught and put in jail. Many of us spend long months and even years behind bars simply because UNHCR didn't react immediately or positively.

Furthermore, after a full year of useless and fruitless attempts to get our committee recognized by UNHCR and directly access the UNHCR office in Sana'a in order to speak on behalf of the Eritrean refugee community, we would like our voice heard. However, we haven't received any cooperative and/or positive response – not even a notice that they've received our letters and are working on it.

From time to time, we send letters via the so-called "Suggestion box," but we've received no reply. We'll keep 'suggesting' the UNHCR office in Yemen hear us and we hope it will be kind enough and cooperative enough to respond to us very soon.

We are refugees for reasons we

believe are obvious and we're terribly sorry to say that the UNHCR office in Yemen was/is not attempting to practically share our burden. To prove this, please note the following:

As far as we're concerned, no Eritrean refugee has benefited from UNHCR advantages/privileges provided to refugees of other nationalities (although undeniably, it's on a very limited scale), such as health care, financial assistance, education and even resettlement.

We're sorry to say that we've been ignored and neglected – whether intentionally or accidentally – and that we aren't being paid the necessary attention we deserve as human beings.

Finally, we believe in what the UNHCR was created for. We believe in the very noble goals that laid the foundation for its creation and we hope these noble goals also include us Eritrean refugees.

We humbly request our committee be recognized by the UNHCR office in Sana'a and to have a regular, organized and open channel with concerned UNHCR officials.

We thank the Yemen Times for giving us the opportunity to have our long-silenced voice finally heard. May our cry reach UNHCR ears and touch your kind hearts.

Thank you again,

*The Eritrean Refugees Yemen
ert_refugees_yemen@yahoo.com*

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Rice visits the region, more of the same?

By: Dr. Mohamed Nabhan Swelam

At a time when lack of leadership bounds, the Jordanian monarch delivered what could be easily described as the speech of his lifetime. Speaking to a joint meeting of the US Congress and to the American people, he laid down so eloquently, forcefully and above all convincingly the moral case for a much stronger American role in the Middle East peace process.

The warm reception and the standing ovations aside, King Abdullah's speech will unfortunately change very little, if anything, on the ground, both in Washington and in the region. In fact, when Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice sets foot in the region some two weeks from now, the odds against any effort on her part to achieve a Palestinian/Israeli breakthrough will be as tremendous as ever.

The failure of the latest meeting between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to produce any tangible results is a case in point.

Assuming that Rice is serious, and those close to her insist that she is, the Secretary will need to find a way not only to overcome the lack of confidence that precipitated between the two sides over the last six years — thanks in great part to Mr. Bush's ill-advised hands-off approach to Palestinian/Israeli politics — but also to the lack of effective, let alone charismatic, leadership on both sides.

On the Palestinian side, there isn't probably a time in recent memory when the domestic political scene was more volatile, if not explosive. Fatah under the helm of Abou Mazen is as weak as ever.

After flirting with the idea of calling for general elections, one that he was destined to lose, Abou Mazen and Hamas accepted a Saudi-brokered deal to form a national unity government, averting in the process what could have easily turned into a bloody civil war.

On his side, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert couldn't be weaker. He is not only waiting for the results of a government probe into Israel's military embarrassment in Lebanon last summer, as well as a criminal investigation into his role in a banking deal, but is also politically challenged by rivals and foes, old and new, ready to jump to the Israeli top post.

Washington also lacks leadership. Its reaction to the Mecca Agreement was nothing short of disappointing, yet very indicative of the lack of seriousness on the part of

this administration and the limited extent to which it is willing to go in pushing for a final settlement of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

Rather than jumping at the opening provided by the agreement, American reaction ranged between unconstructive ambiguity and outright rejection. According to the US, the Fatah / Hamas agreement fell short of meeting the conditions of the Quartet and the international community; an argument that is not necessarily shared by other members of the Quartet.

Daunting as it is, Rice's job is all the more complicated by challenges back home. While her upcoming visit to the region this month is her second this year, with a third scheduled for some time in April, the Secretary of State seems to terribly lack the rather indispensable support, let alone active engagement, of the White House and Congress.

President Bush, it seems, isn't at all willing to spend any of his already diminishing political capital on a problem that he has so long neglected, actually dismissed, and hence one that he had no chance of solving in his waning days in office, assuming that he wants to.

For all the talk about American efforts, the White House is actually where it has been for the last six years: managing the conflict, rather than trying to solve it, thanks in great part to men like Dick Cheney and White House chief advisor on Middle East issues, Eliot Abrams.

President Bush is also, and for the first time in his tenure, facing a Democratic majority in both houses of Congress, one that is not only capable but also intent on challenging his ever weakened administration and on playing a proactive role on issues, both domestic and foreign. As the campaign season for the 2008 Presidential elections gets underway, the situation will only get worse. And the Palestinian/Israeli issue is just one example of that.

Middle East peace is an issue in which Congress has over the years been an active player, regardless of the occupants of the White House. And while Democratic members of both the House and senate, as well as a growing chorus of Republican members, have not in the last few months been shy to defy Bush and to publicly voice their support for the recommendations of the Baker/Hamilton report, they only paid a lip service to one central recommendation of the report; that suggesting a stronger American role in solving the Arab/Israeli conflict.

In fact, Congress itself has done nothing

so far but to move in the opposite direction.

Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee Congresswoman Nita Lowey, hardly a hardliner, has already placed a hold on American assistance to the Palestinian Authority, citing the shortcomings of the Mecca accords.

Gary Ackerman, the powerful chairman of the Middle East Subcommittee of the House International relations Committee, has called for a hearing a few days ago that turned into an orchestrated bashing of the Fatah / Hamas agreement. Such moves are indicative of the prevailing logic in Washington, with little attention or none paid to how disastrous similar moves in the past had proven to be for the livelihood of the ordinary Palestinian and hence to the prospects of peace.

Much of the talk these days in Washington is about altering the Saudi/Arab initiative of 2002 which calls for peace and normal relations between all Arab states and Israel in return for an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders and the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem.

Arab Ministers convening in Cairo a few days ago, however, rejected the notion and dismissed any speculations about amending the initiative to accommodate Israeli reservations on two central components: Palestinian refugees' right of return and the final borders.

For a change, Arab Ministers decision this time around was the right one. The Saudi/Arab initiative is a solid proposition for a fair and just peace in the Middle East, the only form that can last. It has been approved and adopted by all Arab countries, including Syria, in a dramatic reversal of more than fifty years of Arab rejectionist policy. As it stands right now, the initiative provides Olmert with the cover he needs to seriously engage in the peace talks.

As a result, Olmert should accept the terms of the initiative for what it is. On their side, Arabs should continue to flatly refuse any pressure to accommodate the Israeli reservations, for accepting it would simply mean compromising on final status issues in return for nothing.

Dr. Mohamed Nabhan Swelam is the director of the Middle East Development Research Center and formally the Director of the National Center for Middle Eastern Studies
Source: www.dailystaregypt.com.

By: Noam Chomsky.

Washington's escalation of threats against Iran is driven by a determination to secure control of the region's energy resources.

In the energy-rich Middle East, only two countries have failed to subordinate themselves to Washington's basic demands: Iran and Syria. Accordingly both are enemies, Iran by far the more important. As was the norm during the cold war, resort to violence is regularly justified as a reaction to the malign influence of the main enemy, often on the flimsiest of pretexts. Unsurprisingly, as Bush sends more troops to Iraq, tales surface of Iranian interference in the internal affairs of Iraq — a country otherwise free from any foreign interference — on the tacit assumption that Washington rules the world.

In the cold war-like mentality in Washington, Tehran is portrayed as the pinnacle in the so-called Shia crescent that stretches from Iran to Hezbollah in Lebanon, through Shia southern Iraq and Syria. And again unsurprisingly, the "surge" in Iraq and escalation of threats and accusations against Iran is accompanied by grudging willingness to attend a conference of regional powers, with the agenda limited to Iraq.

Presumably this minimal gesture toward diplomacy is intended to allay the growing fears and anger elicited by Washington's heightened aggressiveness. These concerns are given new substance in a detailed study of "the Iraq effect" by terrorism experts Peter Bergen and Paul Cruickshank, revealing that the Iraq war "has increased terrorism sevenfold worldwide". An "Iran effect" could be even more severe.

For the US, the primary issue in the Middle East has been, and remains, effective control of its unparalleled energy resources. Access is a secondary matter. Once the oil is on the seas it goes anywhere. Control is understood to be an instrument of global dominance. Iranian influence in the "crescent" challenges US control. By an accident of geography, the world's major oil resources are in largely Shia areas of the Middle East: southern Iraq, adjacent regions of Saudi Arabia and Iran, with some of the major reserves of natural gas as well. Washington's worst nightmare would be a loose Shia alliance

Tasting blood

controlling most of the world's oil and independent of the US.

Such a bloc, if it emerges, might even join the Asian Energy Security Grid based in China. Iran could be a lynchpin. If the Bush planners bring that about, they will have seriously undermined the US position of power in the world.

To Washington, Tehran's principal offence has been its defiance, going back to the overthrow of the Shah in 1979 and the hostage crisis at the US embassy. In retribution, Washington turned to support Saddam Hussein's aggression against Iran, which left hundreds of thousands dead. Then came murderous sanctions and, under Bush, rejection of Iranian diplomatic efforts.

Last July, Israel invaded Lebanon, the fifth invasion since 1978. As before, US support was a critical factor, the pretexts quickly collapse on inspection, and the consequences for the people of Lebanon are severe. Among the reasons for the US-Israel invasion is that Hezbollah's rockets could be a deterrent to a US-Israeli attack on Iran. Despite the sabre-rattling it is, I suspect, unlikely that the Bush administration will attack Iran. Public opinion in the US and around the world is overwhelmingly opposed. It appears that the US military and intelligence community is also opposed. Iran cannot defend itself against US attack, but it can respond in other ways, among them by inciting even more havoc in Iraq. Some issue warnings that are far more grave, among them the British military historian Corelli Barnett, who writes that "an attack on Iran would effectively launch world war three".

Then again, a predator becomes even more dangerous, and less predictable, when wounded. In desperation to salvage something, the administration might risk even greater disasters. The Bush administration has created an unimaginable catastrophe in Iraq. It has been unable to establish a reliable client state within, and cannot withdraw without facing the possible loss of control of the Middle East's energy resources.

Meanwhile Washington may be seeking to destabilise Iran from within. The ethnic mix in Iran is complex; much of the population isn't Persian. There are secessionist tendencies and it is likely that Washington is trying to stir them up — in Khuzestan on the Gulf, for example, where Iran's oil is concentrated, a region that is largely Arab, not Persian.

Threat escalation also serves to pres-

sure others to join US efforts to strangle Iran economically, with predictable success in Europe. Another predictable consequence, presumably intended, is to induce the Iranian leadership to be as repressive as possible, fomenting disorder while undermining reformers.

It is also necessary to demonise the leadership. In the west, any wild statement by President Ahmadinejad is circulated in headlines, dubiously translated. But Ahmadinejad has no control over foreign policy, which is in the hands of his superior, the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The US media tend to ignore Khamenei's statements, especially if they are conciliatory. It's widely reported when Ahmadinejad says Israel shouldn't exist — but there is silence when Khamenei says that Iran supports the Arab League position on Israel-Palestine, calling for normalisation of relations with Israel if it accepts the international consensus of a two-state settlement.

The US invasion of Iraq virtually instructed Iran to develop a nuclear deterrent. The message was that the US attacks at will, as long as the target is defenceless. Now Iran is ringed by US forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey and the Arabia Gulf, and close by are nuclear-armed Pakistan and Israel, the regional superpower, thanks to US support.

In 2003, Iran offered negotiations on all outstanding issues, including nuclear policies and Israel-Palestine relations. Washington's response was to censure the Swiss diplomat who brought the offer. The following year, the EU and Iran reached an agreement that Iran would suspend enriching uranium; in return the EU would provide "firm guarantees on security issues" — code for US-Israeli threats to bomb Iran.

Apparently under US pressure, Europe did not live up to the bargain. Iran then resumed uranium enrichment. A genuine interest in preventing the development of nuclear weapons in Iran would lead Washington to implement the EU bargain, agree to meaningful negotiations and join with others to move toward integrating Iran into the international economic system.

Noam Chomsky is a professor of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the author, most recently, of Hegemony or Survival Americas Quest for Global Dominance.
Source: www.khaleejtimes.com

VACANCY

Procurement Officer for the Basic Education Development Project (IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants for the position of Procurement Officer. The Procurement Officer will report directly to the Project Director and will work closely with all sectors and departments of MOE, Governorates Offices and Districts Offices of MOE involved in the Project.

The Procurement Officer would:

i. Planning functions

- Preparing and updating the Project procurement plan for each year of the Project and ensure its distribution to all sectors/units involved in the Project implementation.
- Itemizing and listing all goods required for the Project; grouping goods in packages and determining the procurement method: ICB, NCB, IS, NS.
- Preparing and/or organizing and supervising the preparation of bidding documents and requests for proposals; and
- Working with relevant sectors in developing TORs for the selection of consulting firms.

ii. Procurement Process

- Preparing and ensuring the publication of Specific and General Procurement Notices for goods, and requests for expressions of interest for consulting services.
- Ensuring that documents have received appropriate approvals in accordance with the Development Credit Agreement (DCA).
- Systematically attending on behalf of the BEDP all bids opening, evaluation, and contracts award sessions and preparing minutes of bid opening and evaluation reports, in accordance with IDA guidelines.
- Preparing contracts and ensuring they are timely approved, signed and notified, in accordance with the procedures described in the Procurement Manual.

iii. Contract Management

- Inspecting and receiving goods, to ensure compliance with specifications and quantities with the purchase orders/contracts.
- Arranging for safe custody and the proper delivery of goods to the Project institutions, if necessary, and installation in accordance with the contract and the target dates in the implementation schedule.

iv. Relevant Tasks

- Acting as a focal point for any dialogue on procurement management matters relating to the Project as may be required by the Project's financiers.
- Systematically reporting and updating the Project's Management on the status of procurement activities and issues, and follow-up with MOE and other related Ministries and Institutions on procurement and other Project's issues as may be required by the Project's Management.
- Contributing to quarterly Financial Monitoring Reports.
- Ensuring that procurement procedures provided in the DCA are respected at all stages.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in commerce, business administration, engineering, or equivalent qualification.
- At least 3 years experience in a procurement management position.
- Familiarity with the government and IDA's procurement guidelines and procedures.
- Computer literacy and proficiency in both Arabic and English.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by **Monday April 9, 2007** at the following address:

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

VACANCY

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer 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 Monitoring and Evaluation Officer who will be responsible for the entire Monitoring and Evaluation aspects of the Project and will also assist and cooperate with MOE in overall Monitoring and Evaluation activities. The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer will report directly to the Project Director and will work closely with all sectors and departments of MOE, Governorates Offices and Districts Offices of MOE involved in the Project.

The Monitoring & Evaluation Officer main tasks would be:

- Assisting MOE in preparing semi-annual reports on the implementation of annual education plans. The officer will:
 - Work with the Department of Planning and Statistics to ensure adequate coverage of the follow-up reports in light of the BEDP log-frame and the associated list of performance monitoring indicators;
 - Cooperate with MOE Central and Governorate staff responsible for follow-up of each BEDP components, in coordination with the Department of Planning and Statistics, to obtain adequate data for the follow-up reports; and
 - Visit project sites to assess the quality of follow-up reports and propose actions for the improvement.
- Updating data for the project performance indicators (indicators for the development objective and outputs of the project) as input to quarterly project progress reports. The officer will:
 - Establish and update a monitoring mechanism for the project performance indicators which will also feed into a monitoring mechanism for the MOE annual education plans in the project governorates; and
 - Implement the monitoring mechanism, in coordination with MOE Department of Planning and Statistics and other departments concerned, and provide input to quarterly project progress reports.
- Contributing to the mid-term review report and the implementation completion reports. The officer will:
 - Assist MOE in arranging two impact studies of the BEDP: one will be undertaken before the mid-term review (in the third year of project implementation) and the other will be done before project completion (fifth year of the project).
- Acting as a focal point for any dialogue on Monitoring & Evaluation matters relating to the Project as may be required by the Project's financiers.
- Systematically reporting and updating the Project's Management on the status of Monitoring & Evaluation activities and issues, and follow-up with MOE and other related Ministries and Institutions on the same and other Project's issues as may be required by the Project's Management.
- Contributing to quarterly Project Management Reports.

Qualifications

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Education Planning, Statistics, Economics, or other related fields.
- Minimum of 5 years of professional experience in educational monitoring and statistics.
- Experience in the use of statistics programs.
- Professional language proficiency in both Arabic and English.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by **April 9, 2007** at the following address:

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

Emphasizing positive discrimination for women in the workforce

The role women play in the economy continues to be a concern for development work, especially when female participation in the workforce is as low as 21.8 percent, compared to men's participation, which stands at 69.9 percent (1999 figures).

However, the International Labor Organization's 2002-2003 Labor Demand survey estimates that the supply of women for the labor market is increasing by 5.3 percent, compared

to 3.3 percent for men.

This isn't all good news, as women's participation in the workforce remains significantly smaller than that of men, which may be attributed to existing assumptions of the role women should play in society and in the economy, with special reference to the restraints upon women to do mainly domestic work, which is mostly unpaid.

However, most women with paid employment work in the private sector, accounting for 29.3 percent of

Economic Activity	Total	Male	Female
Agriculture	1,959,100	60.1%	39.9%
Industry	164,900	85%	15%
Constructions	238,200	99.5%	0.5%
Trade	437,000	97%	3%
Transport	122,000	99.2%	0.8%
Finance & Business	30,000	91%	9%
Public Administration and Defense compulsory Social Security	357,900	97%	3%
Education	209,200	81.8%	19.2%
Health & Social work	95,400	84.7%	15.3%
Total Employment	3,621,700	75.4%	24.6%

SOURCE: CSO AND LMIS, LABOUR FORCE SURVEY 1999

the workforce, distributed mainly in agriculture, education, health services and social work.

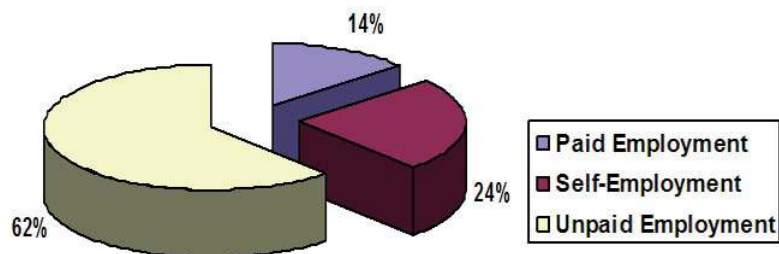
It can be concluded that women are concentrated in sectors traditionally associated with their gender roles, especially community, social and personal services, whereas men dominate better-paying job sectors in financial and business services and real estate.

Gender segregation regarding occupations remains high in Yemen, with women mainly occupying jobs as clerics, secretaries, customer service representatives, tellers, teachers, nurses and domestic workers, aside from working on their family's agricultural land.

Even for those women qualified enough to compete for better-paying jobs, it was found that the average female wage is still only 88 percent, compared to the average male wage.

Such discrimination against women emphasizes the importance of reforming existing policies and programs to enhance women's employment and labor force participation, as well as promote gender equality in order to ensure equal outcomes and equal shares between men and women. In this way, all individuals are treated with dignity and allowed to develop their full potential, thus leading to a higher quality of life for all.

Data Source: ILO



EXCEL inaugurates second exhibition

EXCEL Company for Trade and Agencies opened their second exhibition on Monday, March 26, at Sana'a Center for International Exhibitions. The exhibition is due to last for March 30 and presents a computer-based embroidery machines with multi-heads.

It also included various types of textiles and tricot machines to produce top quality t-shirts, together with a variety of machines with different sizes, specifications and purposes. Further, there are industrial machines for home and charitable society projects.

There are also other types of small-sized machines to be used at homes and machines that require just one worker and house electricity to operate them.

Deputy Mayer of the capital Abdulmalik Al-Radi cut the ribbon in the presence of Excel's general manger Abdu Ahmed Al-Iraqi together with many businessmen. **Advertisement**

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Business in Brief

Batelco buys 20 percent of Sabafon

Batelco of Bahrain has purchased 20 percent of Yemen's leading GSM mobile telecommunications provider Sabafon for \$144 million. Batelco Chairman Sheikh Hamad bin Abdullah Al-Khalifa stated that a 20 percent share was bought from Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar, chairman and single largest shareholder in Sabafon.

Cabinet approves forming anti-monopoly agency

The Yemeni Cabinet recently approved a draft law to promote competition and stop monopoly by issuing 2007 decree No. 19 authorizing forming an anti-monopoly government agency affiliated with the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The agency will detect potential instances of monopoly for the ministry to take corrective action.

Yemen to allow gas exploration

The Ministry of Oil has modified draft agreements with the five multinational corporations that won the third bidding round to undertake exploration in eight Yemeni sectors. The modifications will allow the firms to perform gas exploration, in addition to oil exploration in allocated sectors.

Arab Fund to finance agricultural project

The Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development has approved \$41 million to finance an agricultural and fisheries development project on the Hadramout coast.

U.S. firm interested in nuclear power generation in Yemen

A delegation from the American Power Corporation has begun negotiating with the National Committee for Nuclear Energy to discuss Yemen's aspirations in using nuclear power for peaceful purposes, including potential electricity generation

by means of nuclear technology, which the U.S. firm can provide.

Bureaucracy deprives Yemen of Japanese assistance

The Hodeidah customs authority refused entry of 20 Japanese vehicles brought to Yemen as a gift from the Japanese government on the grounds that the Japanese government should pay customs on them.

The customs authority also rejected official documents stating that the vehicles are considered foreign aid and therefore, should be exempt from taxation. The Japanese government therefore decided to forward the vehicles to a neighboring African country.

DNO expects increased oil production

DNO of Norway has announced that it expects its production to increase to 26,000 barrels per day by the end of 2007. The company also announced that it will expand its operations and drill more oil wells to reach 22 wells by the end of this year.

Yemenia signs code-sharing agreements with regional airlines

Yemenia Airways has concluded code-sharing agreements with Gulf Air, Middle East Airlines, Royal Jordanian Airlines and Syrian Arab Airlines. The agreements will open routes of these airlines to each other in respective networks, effective March 25.

CAC Bank to install 50 ATMs in Sana'a

The Commercial and Agricultural Credit Bank has announced plans to install up to 50 automated teller machines in various parts of Sana'a in an effort to increase the convenience for its customers. The bank also announced plans to further expand into other governorates and introduce a wide range of services for its customers.

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Y'ello

أكبر
أخضر
أصفر

Space**tel**
YEMEN

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Once upon a time there was a family contains mother, father and the only child Ahmad, the mother was pregnant. At that time people were accustom to bury their daughters after their ablactating due to those people had believed girls are shame, so to get rid of this shame they had to bury them. However, father wanted to leave the mother land in trading, before his leaving he bequeathed Ahmad (the only ten years old son of the family) to bury the coming born if it will be female.

"I will, father", he promised, after hugging and crying among the family. "Fare well!!!" The father shouted, waving hands. "Return nearly!!!" said the mother with tearful eyes. "Take care!!!" added the father signing his hands toward them. Days came days went....!! Mother became about to give birth.

"I hope it will be a boy. Oh God make it!!" With a broken heart said Ahmed.

By passing of the time Ahmad became a wise boy. When he was seeing the wars that were occurring among the tribes, he realized what a cruel killing is!

"How I can bear to kill my sister by my hand", he said rising his hands to the sky. "My God make it male", he added. The day of birth came and Ahmad's mother had been pained a lot. More than two hours have the poor mother spend with pains of procreation. Last but not least mother gave birth.

"Thanks for Allah". Is she ok? Ahmad asked the midwife.

"Do not worry, she is alright; bring some food", the midwife replayed.

"Congratulations!! Very nice, oh my God what a beautiful born you have got!!!" The talkative midwife added gladly.

"What is it?" The outspent mother with an intermittent voice asked.

"It is a beautiful girl". The mid wife answered.

"Mom, are you ok, I have brought some food to you to eat". Mercifully, said Ahmed.

"Thanks Ahmad". His Mum said.

After a moment of silence, "Do you remember you father's behest?!!" The mother asked Ahmad. "Yes mom but do you mean the newborn is?" "Yes it's. "And I will name her "Halima" what do you think?" "Yes mom, as you like!!!" "However, no benefit behind naming her, by the way we did not receive any letter from my father or news about him", Ahmad inquired. "Perhaps he is busy or he couldn't send". The mother replayed.

Five years passed. The time of executing the behest had come, Ahmad thought. Ahmad went to the desert, carrying his sister in a purpose of burning her. Where are we going? The little girl with a broken utterance asked her brother. Oh; mine we are going to play as usual. Ahmad with painful mimes said. Where is mom? The girl with profound crying asked? She will come honey, calm down, he replayed. When they had arrived to the place of Halima's fate, Ahmad started digging small grave while girl playing by sand scattering it over Ahmad's head and back, after finishing digging the grave.

"Now we can play, come and lie at the bottom of the hole". Ahmad ordered the innocent child. She lied and waited till Ahmad brought the rectangular rocks so as to cover the grave, while he was putting the rocks the victim roared saying "there are still punches". Ahmad's heart broke to the girl saying with sympathetic voice "what did she do in order to be killed, God forgive me, removing the rocks, hugging his sister and coming back home.

In his way Ahmad planed to substitute his sister instead of the horrible doing before his father come back, so he went to look about some one has a boy to substitute him with his sister, but people disagreed because they all do not like females in their traditions to the exclusion of one who requested a plenty of money. Ahmad has no other option. At least he was supposed to agree. Halima enforced to leave her family and the new strange boy had been sold. Both victims had cried for few days due of separating their families then they had to accept the new position. Time of father's returning had been close. Father arrived after long absence. It was Great greeting among the family father hugged the mother yearningly and Ahmad had done too, but the majority of kisses 'fortunately' was of stake of the boy. Days went days came, father knew the hidden puzzle according to the Spy (the midwife) who was in a good relationship with the father therefore she got some hush money for that in addition father was in doubt when he

noticed that the boy's features were different to the family's. Ahmad's father expostulated him for what he did, he requested his father to alibi him who agreed in condition of returning his sister. Ahmad returned his sister who had been completely changed due of harmful and cruel dealing which the counterfeit family lectured her. Because of the gain which the father had got as a result of his long commercial traveling the family became somehow rich, they had bought new home with a farm surrounding by a fence full of horses. Ahmad and Halima were training riding horses so they became as well and skilful riders as knights. At morning they were going to woods in a purpose of touring and hunting. One day as usual Halima wanted to wash her hair in the pond, one of her long fair hair felled in water. After her leaving some shepherd came with his horses in order to drink them but they backed off due of the long dark hair. Shepherd took the unique hair and showed it his lady who was looking about the most beautiful girl in the area as a wife for her son.

"I got her"!! The ugly old woman said. "Observe the owner of the hair". With a cold command added the proudfull woman.

"I will Madam", the servant said bowing his body.

The second day shepherd found Halima easily and brought her to his lady. Welcome.....!! "The old woman said gazing to the sweetly girl".

"Here you are", do not feel shy, the place will be yours if you believe me. After long dialogue between them the old ugly fraudulent, she went well of convincing the deceivable girl to marry her son. By this doing the girl seemed had been deceived. But as a kind of respect she went to her brother to tell him about the chance which she got as she thought. Normally Ahmad strongly refused because of thing which Halima did not know until now this thing is that the old woman had been killed Ahmad's grandfather who was the area's sheik.

"No... no... You have to be away of the killer woman, impossible, we are the only members whom will avenge of my grandfather and underdogs' dead while you want to be a wife of our foe! Forget that sister please..... Please". Ahmad shouted.

"Do not tell my father he will behave wrongly of you". Ahmad added.

Silently the girl left the place and started to talk to herself. "It is my chance which I was waiting for, now my dreams will be real, being a wife of princekin is something great, living in a palace with good fame servants and Abigail, becoming a queen, all these hopes and ambitions have no chance better than this. But Ahmad is an obstacle on my way, what I will do?" "No way except mutiny, I will show him my other face....!" Despite Ahmad refused but I am free, Halima talked to her new lady.

"Well doing...! Now would you mind let us give him lesson?!!!" The old woman replayed angrily.

"Do what ever you want I will never come back to them", the victim girl said. "Bring the leader of the guards". The old woman commanded the servant. "Yes lady I am ready, order me?" The leader said.

"Destroy the guy". She ordered in attendance of the traitorous sister.

Soldiers did big battle against one hero "Ahmad" ended with two killed soldiers and a lot of injuries. Ahmad had received more than fifty stabs in his body, after burring him with small stones. The rest of soldiers had reassured their lady that they finished their combat mission. But fortunately there was a woman had seen battle events from the beginning she approached from the buried man. Suddenly when she was closing to him, she was hearing a voice rising ah...ah...ah. In a hurry way woman removed the stones and pulled the wounded man, taking him to her hut where he had good treating, at the woman who has an experience in treating injuries during wars. Period passed, Ahmad became well but he couldn't raise the trying rocking which the woman always trying wounded power by it and to make sure of their ability of fighting. After long training Ahmad could raise the rock and he became well.

"Now you can depend on yourself". The woman congratulated Ahmad.

Ahmad returned to his family and told them the story.

"That was a result of your disobedience for me and the coming will be worse". Father said.

"I told you that old-woman is as treacherous as wolf; you can call her "A Humane Wolf". The father with sorrow talked to Ahmad.

"What are you going to do?" He added.

"You will see father". Leaving the home Ahmed replayed.

Accidentally, Ahmad arrived at the palace of the old woman when they she was arranging a celebrating on occasion

of Halima and hamza's wedding. The drums are rapping. People are dancing; even pigeons and crows are flying above attendees. Suddenly couple appeared surrounded with servants. The groom was wearing black clothes while the bride was wearing a white dress, catching a fagot of flowers and both were smiling and greeting attendees. Ahmad did not bear that scene, so he closed from the celebrating place, wearing his sword bow and arrows, and riding his horse.

"Do you challenge me to shot a crow beside pigeon?" Ahmad challenged the head of the guards.

"Ah...ah...ah oh man it is not a time of joking, go away!!!" sneeringly the head of the guards replayed.

"If I did", Ahmad asked.

"You will be in my position"

"Just look at me!!" Ahmad took the bow and putting in it two darts.

"You are putting two! Are you crazy?!!!" The head of the guards laughed.

"If the first missed its aim the other will infect". Ahmad explained.

"Ah... so show me", Replied the head of guards.

Ahmad pointed toward the crow but as quick as lightning he converted the bow direction toward the husband and shot him.

Then "who wants to meet his fate follow me", Ahmed shouted.

The entire of the old woman's army followed him into a level land while Ahmad was waiting with his best knights in the area. A big battle happened between the old enemies continued for few hours and finished with a gigantic massacre, but although this cruel massacre the right will triumph. Whatever the unmerciful tyrannical and humane wolves had lived it is inevitably they will meet a bad fate by underdogs' hands. Ahmad retrieved his sister and revengeed for his family and for all downtrodden people. Ahmad "symbol of well-being" prevailed.

Stars in the world of creativity and excellence

By: Tammam Al-Saqqaf
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As long as you are determined to achieve your goals, no one can block your way to succeed in life. Any mistake just leads closer to success.

Although Thomas Edison failed in 10,000 experiments, he finally succeeded in producing electricity. In the world of automobiles, Henry Ford went bankrupt five times before he eventually produced a viable Model T.

In 1985, Malaysia made a long-term plan to become an industrial country by 1995, which it

successfully accomplished. Its government now has set a "2020 plan," whereby Malaysia will become the Southeast Asian Data Center.

Do those mentioned above have something exceptional or are they just like you and me?

Your decision is your way to success.

How to be successful:

- 1- Set an aim in your mind.
- 2- Focus on the aim seriously.
- 3- Be patient and determined.

Bottoml ine: Setting aims + focusing + being patient and determined = definite success.

Finally, one either should find a way or make one.

THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE

By: Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy
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Today's children are tomorrow's youth

According to the latest statistics, approximately 35,000 Yemeni children ages 12-14 seek refuge on the streets for work and, sometimes, residence. There, they not only feed themselves their daily bread, but also their morals, customs and habits. If this is the case for today's children, what will their tomorrow be in coming years in the youth age?

A proverb may best answer this question. It says: "Tell about any nation's children in order to narrate its past, describe its present and foresee its future." The past is gone, so let's be concerned with the present and its future. Actually, if we find practical solutions in the present, there will be no need to redeem the future.

There might be circumstances that force Yemeni children to leave home and school without knowing the consequences. All they know is that the streets, working or wasting time there is an escape from their family problems or obligations.

Actually, they aren't to be blamed; rather, their parents are to blame. Yemeni society also plays a role and must be blamed too. Moreover, it looms in my mind that the authorities also share in this human catastrophe, as absence of government efforts increases the number of such children living outside the home. If no sincere efforts are made to discover the reason for this phenomenon, who will look after them and their only heard about rights?

Life is full of difficulties leading Yemeni children to the streets. Some are responsible for their families, while others are asked by their parents to search for work and make money with no regard for the way it's collected. Family problems also play a role in causing children to leave home, live far away or enjoy their time outside. Others have their own dreams and ambitions, which think they'll achieve through that way.

In an interview published in Al-Jumhuriya, issue no. 13596, a 14-year-old boy said he came from his village with friends to search for work to earn money for his mother and four sisters after their father's death. Two 12-year-old brothers said they clean cars for money to give their father for qat and cigarettes every day. A little girl the same age said she leaves home every day to stay on the streets as an escape from the daily problems and shouting between her parents. Another 10-year-old child works and sometimes begs on the street as the only way to fulfill his ambition of buying a new suit.

However, there are worse cases than these. Working and making money by working in such circumstances may be accepted, but I think the situation is more dangerous. What happened in Egypt clearly exemplifies the dangers that may result. Egyptian police caught three gang members suspected of killing 183 street children after forcing them into homosexuality. Such children are easy targets for crimes of any kind.

The other side of the danger is what children learn on the streets and the experiences they have from contacting younger or older individuals there. It's rare to find street children who aren't the victims of others or being criminals themselves. We can say: "Today's victims are tomorrow's criminals." However, it's actually silly to accuse them of being criminals because they grew up as victims. A serious attempt to solve this problem must look into the reasons for it so it can be redeemed radically.

The above-mentioned children's circumstances and the dire consequences in which they find themselves in the end actually acquit them of responsibility. However, it doesn't forgive the responsible parties, beginning with the family, society and relevant authorities for their "honest silence" as they fail to respond to such a critical problem.

However, the real danger occurs when such children reach the age of youth. Thus, it's better to solve it earlier, bearing in mind that "today's children are tomorrow's youth," and then accordingly, it will be easier to find its radical redemption through the mind's eye.

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Women's festive head coverings A folklore fashion show (Part 1)

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
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On various women's occasions, Yemeni women in their traditional dresses make a daily show. Despite the new fashionable dresses displayed in most markets, Yemeni women still prefer to wear traditional dress and their head coverings on most occasions. Some women wear traditional dress as a standard on formal occasions. In this article, we'll examine some Yemeni head coverings and when they are worn.

Certain traditional Yemeni dresses are only for married women and it's forbidden and shameful for a single woman to wear them socially. Thus, most traditional dress is especially for married women. Additionally, some married women's dresses are worn



Doa'a acts like a new mother as she wears Al-Ospah, which makes her pretty face shine.



Most Yemeni women prefer to wear Al-Masar, Al-Tali'a and Al-Nazili because it's attractive and easy to wear.

only on specific occasions and it's socially unacceptable for a woman to wear it outside of these occasions.

Al-Ospah is a special headdress for a new mother or bride. New mothers wear Al-Ospah during the final days of the 40-day birth celebration, while newlywed brides wear it on their honeymoon. The headdress consists of three parts: one part covering the head while the other two are used as a necklace and bracelet.

It's unacceptable for women who aren't new mothers or brides to wear Al-Ospah, as it's a traditional belief

that only a bride or a new mother have the right to be distinguished on their occasions.

Al-Asjah mostly is a bridal headdress worn during the honeymoon period made of special Sana'ani cloth and with a special design. Every bride must have such a headdress among her new marriage clothes.

Wearing Al-Asjah requires the assistance of a professional woman because it's difficult for a bride to put on herself. Some women who can do Al-Asjah make a career of it and earn good money.

Al-Masar, Al-Tali'a and Al-Nazili are considered the uniform headdress of every married woman, especially in Sana'a, and are meant to distinguish the married from the single women at women's gatherings or parties. Married women may wear it on any occasion.

It's easier to wear than Al-Asjah and Al-Ospah because it doesn't require

the assistance of another woman to put it on. It has two main parts: a scarf covering the hair and a piece of plastic covered with a decorative scarf worn around the upper part of the woman's head.

On some occasions, Yemeni women prefer to wear Al-Masar, Al-Tali'a and Al-Nazili as a display of formal respect for the occasion, such as religious parties called Nasheed or Mawlid.

Yemeni women have always used flowers and jewelry in their dress – especially for head coverings – as decoration to make them more attractive and beautiful.

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Ala'a happily wears Al-Asjah as she imagines herself as a bride dressed for the honeymoon period.

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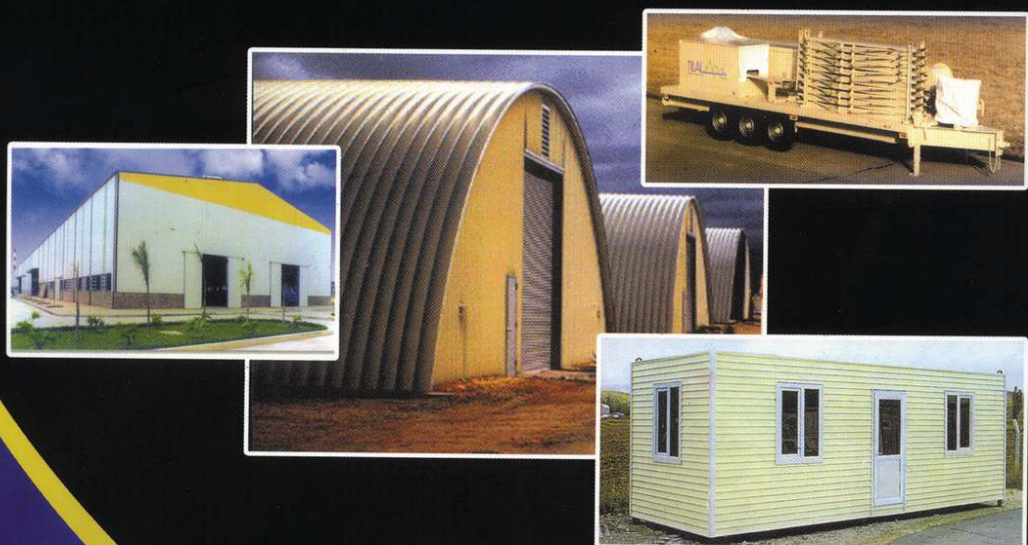
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