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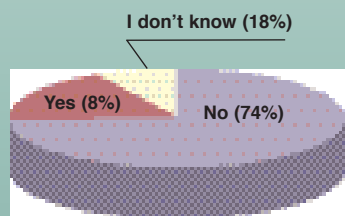


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Last edition's question:

Officials denied the existence of the Black Rust wheat epidemic in Yemen. Do you think that government sources are more accurate and reliable?



This edition's question:

Do you think that the opposition's remarks on the government's agenda are constructive or helpful in any way?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know

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Opposition harshly criticizes new Cabinet Agenda

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, April 18 - The new Yemeni Cabinet presented its plan to Parliament for discussion and endorsement on Monday, but the plan was met with harsh criticism from opposition members of the Parliament, together with some MPs affiliated with the General People's Congress (the ruling party).

Opposition blocs criticized the plan, describing it as part of previous governments' plans and noting that it lacks both a measuring mechanism and a timetable for implementation.

They stressed the importance of prioritizing matters related to economic and social development, alleviating poverty and eradicating unemployment and corruption.

At Monday's session, Abdulrahman Bafadhli, head of Islah's parliamentary bloc, voiced his pessimism about the new Cabinet's plan, pointing out that most ministers were part of the previous government, especially those assuming key ministries such as Interior, Foreign Affairs and Planning and International Cooperation.

Bafadhli further alleged that the new

plan is no more than rhetoric, especially regarding the general budget, trade and banking reform, as well as limiting unemployment and price hikes, because reality will belie the plan within the coming months.

He also challenged the new government to fix prices, let alone lowering them, and criticized the absence of mechanisms that can help prevent the coming price hikes.

Likewise, Aidrous Al-Naqib, head of the Yemeni Socialist Party bloc, asserted that there's nothing new in the plan, as it's the same thing heard from former Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal's government.

Al-Naqib emphasized the importance of adopting comprehensive political, economic, administrative, financial and legal reforms, maintaining that amending the electoral system will ensure peaceful transfer of power, which will avert a monopoly by any authority.

He added that consecutive governments did nothing except patch reforms, which aim to prolong the current regime's life, although it contributes to increasing poverty and

unemployment, as well as cause investment and capital to leave Yemen.

For his part, head of the Nasserite Unionist Party bloc, Sultan Al-Atwani, noticed the absence of the effect of previously conducted reforms in the new Cabinet plan. He declared that the existing plan is modeled after earlier ones, maintaining that it's vague, particularly regarding matters related to alleviating citizens' sufferings and eradicating poverty and unemployment.

Amin Ali Amin, head of Islah's syndicates and public organizations department, told Al-Sahwa.net that the plan of Mujawar's government violates the Yemeni Constitution and effective laws concerning ensuring citizens' rights and freedoms. He added that the new Cabinet intends to amend private societies and institutions law in such a way that restricts their activities and freedoms.

In its plan submitted to Parliament, the new Cabinet assured that it reflects President Ali Abdullah Saleh's electoral platform, as well as the three five-year plan and the poverty alleviation strategy. *Continued on page 3*

Five Ethiopians die in Yemeni detention



A skeleton of an African emigrant was found on Yemeni beaches. No one knows its identity. UNHCR records for 2006 show some 26,000 emigrants making the voyage from Somalia, with at least 330 dying while another 300 were reported missing and are believed dead.

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, April 18 - Five Ethiopian emigrants have been found dead in a Yemeni jail, according to an Ethiopian Embassy official.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the press, said the bodies belonged to two young Ethiopian women and three young Ethiopian men. "They were among 100 Ethiopian infiltrators who entered Yemen illegally last week via smuggling boats. Yemeni authorities seized them in Shabwa governorate and sent them to Sana'a to be held in custody."

"According to the medical examiner

in Sana'a, the five were suffering malnourishment, which led to their deaths," he added, noting that emigrants always face risks and inhumane treatment by smugglers, who savagely beat them and steal their food and clothing during their journey to Yemen.

However, the Ethiopian official didn't want to comment on whether African prisoners receive any type of medical care while in detention. "They'll be buried in Sana'a," he said, pointing out that such an incident isn't the first among Ethiopian detainees. Four months ago, the Ethiopian Embassy in Sana'a received the body of another national who also died in a Yemeni jail. *Continued on page 3*

New governor, soldiers reassemble for decisive Houthi battle

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SA'ADA, April 18 - According to tribal sources, clashes between the Yemeni army and Houthi loyalists have expanded to include every district in Sa'ada governorate, including Razih district, which is very near the Saudi border.

The confrontations also have extended to include Al-Adhel and Bra'ash mountain areas, together with Al-Ghail Valley east of Sa'ada. Fighting is ongoing in Qahlah Mountain, very near Sahar district, and Badr city, the capital of Ghamer district; however, the sources didn't mention losses on either side.

They further revealed that the crisis reached Razih two weeks ago, although the area hadn't been involved since the beginning of the 2004 Sa'ada war, when hundreds of Houthis were in the district. In return, the Yemeni army, supported by fighters, began attacking

villages and positions where Houthis exist, especially Al-Shwarek area and the mountains facing Burkan area.

"The recent tensions have paralyzed movement in the markets and residents, who are filled with fear, have begun digging trenches and caches to avoid air raids as well as mortars and Katyusha missiles fired randomly at the area," the sources explained.

With Houthi presence in the new districts, most Sa'ada areas have become battlefields, with the exception of only Al-Hashawah and Qataber districts; however, some sources mentioned seeing Houthis in Qataber last Tuesday.

The sources added that Houthi loyalists continue seizing positions in Sahar district south and north of Sa'ada, especially in the northern part of Al-Barakat in Bani Mu'ath and those areas beyond, including Harf Sudan. They further occupy some mountains in Al-Talh, as well as Ghrabah Mountain west of Al-

Abqur and the facing Azan Mountain east of Al-Abqur. They also occupy mountains located in the north, such as Al-Farhah, Qahrat Al-Anz and Al-Anbar, which are plateaus with large areas.

Houthis further exist in Birkat Ni'mah, Jabali, Al-Harsha and Dal'an areas, along with the Matarah Mountains, which are the most important areas for Houthi leaders and the final areas of Sahar district.

Beyond this are areas and mountains seized by Houthis in Al-Safra and Baqem districts, together with Al-Gher, Al-Qrush, Al-Hudhn, Awyrh, Al-Mifrah, Al-Saifi, Zour, Hiran, Al-Masna'ah, Rahwan, Akhilah and Al-Lajabah mountains and Al-Naqah areas and mountains located on international borders. They also have seized part of Magz district northwest of Sa'ada city, beginning with splitting Dhahian city in half, with Yemeni army forces control-

ling the other half.

Moreover, Houthis control other areas and mountains north of Magz, including Al-Ja'malah, Jarah and Rujuafah areas, together with other plateaus in the district. They also hold important locations in Baqem district, including Um Lila and Shihat Mountains, as well as other mountains to the north and east.

They further control mountains in Al-Safra district's Wadi Nashour, together with L'an and Al-Naq'ah Mountains and areas, as well as other plateaus east of Sa'ada city, such as Hajar Al-Adhl and Al-Salim.

Ongoing clashes in Dhahian

Confrontations are continuing between both sides in Dhahian, located some eight kilometers north of Sa'ada, but thus far, the Yemeni army hasn't managed to seize the city. *Continued on page 3*

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In brief

SANA'A

UAE company examines investment in Yemen

April 18 — Khalid Kalban, Chairman of Dubai Investment Company, arrived in Sana'a last Wednesday in an official visit to examine the possibilities of establishing investment projects in Yemen, as well as to meet Yemen's senior government officials and businessmen. Abdurrahman Al-Farhan, the company representative in Yemen, said that a number of executive officials in the company will accompany Kalban during his visit to Yemen. He also indicated that the discussions are due to include all the investment possibilities.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia to sign an environment treaty

April 17 — The Minister of Water and Environment Abdurrahman Al-Eryani met on Tuesday with the Deputy Chairman of the Meteorology and Environment Protection Agency of Saudi Arabia Ahmad Ashour, Yemen News Agency reported. At the meeting, both officials talked about the signing of the environment treaty approved by the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council. In addition, they discussed different areas of cooperation between both bordering countries.

AL-BEIDHA

Shooting banned on all occasions

April 18 — The local council of Dhi Na'em area in Al-Beidha governorate reached an agreement with the tribal sheikhs, the prominent social personalities, and the educated people in the district to ban shooting of fire on different occasions, including wedding parties and Eids. They listed penalties against those who don't abide by the agreement. In the meantime, the Secretary-General of the local council in the district Ali Ahmad Al-Amri told Yemen News Agency that the residents of the district signed a document banning fire shooting on occasions.

SOCOTRA

Evening party in Socotri Language

April 18 — The Heritage and Poetry Society in Socotra Island organized last Tuesday an evening party for chanting poems in the Socotri Language in the presence of a large group of poets from the island, who recited beautiful poems in the unique language of their island. Fahd Salim Kefayen, who administered the party, clarified to the Al-Thawra state-run daily newspaper that the literary function aims to activate and enliven poetry in the Socotri Language, which is a point of interest for the society.

IBB

Arab artists participate in evening parties

April 17 — The Head of Youth Popular and Carnival Festival Committee in Ibb Governorate Hezam Al-Ashwal declared that a group of Yemeni great artists along with some famous singers from other Arab countries are due to participate in the Ibb evening parties. Also, he indicated that his committee in coordination with the Saudi Bros Company are preparing to host several Arab artists and singers to take part in the evening parties coinciding with the 17th anniversary of the National Unity.

HADRAMOUT

Yemen and Singapore discuss cooperation

April 17 — Deputy Governor of Hadramout Ahmad Al-Junaid and Deputy Director General of Middle East Affairs in Singapore's Foreign Ministry Anty Morthy discussed last Tuesday the historic and fruitful cooperation between Yemen and Singapore. Al-Junaid pointed out that the official visit due to be paid by the Singaporean Foreign Minister to Yemen on the coming Monday will contribute to developing the cooperation between both Asian states.

AMRAN

SWF approves 2007 beneficiaries

April 17 — The Social Welfare Fund approved as many as 3,325 people to be eligible to receive benefits from the SWF funds this year, Yemen News Agency reported last Tuesday. Amran Governor Nu'man Dowaid and General Manger of Amran's SWF Branch Mohammed Al-Dalwani discussed a report on SWF activities in the governorate including a sum of nearly YR 200 million to be distributed to some 39,105 beneficiaries.

Al-Arhabi: Researchers and Information-seekers should be encouraged

SANA'A, April 18 — The ministry of Planning and International held in Sana'a from April 17 to 19 the 3rd Forum of Arab Statistics Capacities and the Regional Meeting for Communities Progress Measurement.

The forum aims to assist each country to develop an action plan to improve decision-making based on the information, through the provision of high-quality statistics. The forum also aims to review the progress in designing and implementing national statistical strategies in the Arab countries.

Deputy Prime Karim al-Arhabi focused on his speech that information should be available for the public and private sector and the importance of publish all the statistical information and databases to the researchers, interests, to contribute effectively in development.

The conference is in collaboration with the Statistics Department, Arab Databases Leagues and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Secretariat of Paris 21 Association. During the forums' sessions, the conference addressed several working papers submitted by the Yemeni Central Agency for Statistics. The forum included local, Arab and international participants. The coordinator to the project (Metajora) - Paris 21 Raowl Swaris said that the forum encourages the dialogue between the



Accuracy and Availability of Information for research was the prime debate at the conference.

statistics producers to have a national strategy for sound decision making.

Furthermore, the chief of the forum preparation committee, Loai Shabanah explained the goal of the forum saying that the forum promotes Arab statistical capacity through the collection of all parties concerned in the statistical system at the local and regional levels and creates a dialogue and cooperation among themselves on various statistical issues." The forum held to increase awareness of the role of statistics in policy-making, through the expected dialogue between policy makers and producers of statistics." Shabanah

added.

The Central System for Statistics chairman Ameen Moheye al-Din declared that the Yemeni strategy for statistics was revised by the Malaysian Central Statistics System chairman. And the International Meeting on Measurement of Societies Progress, which would hold its preliminary session after the forum aims to revise the indicators by which progress in societies is measured.

The forum is a continuation for the efforts of the First Forum, held in Amman, Jordan 2003, and the second meeting, held in Muscat, Oman 2005.

AMIDEAST remains in charge of YALI

By: Fatima Al-Ajel

SANA'A, April 17 — The students of the Yemen American Language Institute stopped their strike, which continued for seven days, and resumed study last Monday. In its meeting which held last Sunday, AMIDEAST management agreed with the current YALI administration to remain the YALI system for its students as it was before.

According to a request sent by the US embassy to AMIDEAST asking it to hold the administrative responsibilities of YALI institution. However, the name of the institute will remain as it was "YALI". Furthermore, the academic policy changes will not be implemented without discussions among YALI staff management and teachers.

The Vice President of the AMIDEAST Head Quarters in Washington, D.C., Greg Touma, along with Stephen Hanchey, the Director of English Language

Programs of AMIDEAST, arrived in Sana'a and talked to YALI students. Both have signed an agreement with YALI management last Saturday agreeing with most of the students' and teachers' requests. Additionally, they clarified the misunderstanding that might have happened.

It is worth mentioning that the employment of teachers and their salaries, which will not be decreased, will follow the Yemeni labor law. In addition, the staff and teacher payment scales will be developed in cooperation with YALI management which might lead to a possibility of annual increases, bonuses, and merit increases.

The new AMIDEAST administration promised teachers and students to pay the missed teaching hours in accordance with their regular contracted rates. Also, they will be given the opportunity to make up for the hours, wasted by students' strike, when courses are resumed and the term schedule is adjusted.

The former chief of YALI labor union, Abdu-Rabu Nasser, indicated that the secretary general of the labor union, Ameen Al-Nami, has formed a new YALI labor union via election on Thursday, Oct 12. The results of this election led to forming of a new union, nominating Dr. Mohamed Naief as the chief of YALI labor union, and nominating five teachers from YALI as members of the union.

YALI is considered as the only institute in Sana'a which presents new communicative system in teaching, thereby, it attracts a large number of students, about 3,000 students register in the YALI per month.

AMIDEAST Yemen offers English language training in the capital, Sana'a, and the major port city of Aden which was established in May 1998. AMIDEAST Sana'a makes use of its growing network of AMIDEAST field offices for a variety of resources on English language and professional short-term training.

Civil Society: Rural Yemen Deserves Attention

aBy: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, April 17 — Timed with the Global Call for Action against Poverty (sub-themed Together for Equality), Civil Society Organizations Coalition (CSOC) held a discussion meeting on April 16 at the Armed Forces Officers' Club to review and set the priorities of 2007.

The meeting, chaired over by Yemeni Women's Union and Coalition chairman Ramzia Al-Eryani, was attended by deputy minister of Social Affairs and Labor Ali Saleh Abdullah and civil society representatives from across Yemen. It comes within the activities of the Global Call that aims at adopting wise governance and wise management of loans as well as strengthening the partnership with local authorities and decentralization.

It aims at reinforcing the efforts meant for alleviating poverty, enhancing partnership with the authorities and helping the development of rural areas together with urging the government to proceed in combating corruption and poverty.

Launching the meeting, Al-Eryani spoke bitterly about the distress of poor people especially in Lahj's 22 villages, which she visited one day before the meeting. Also, she recounted many stories in evidence of their sufferings." I passed by 22 villages in Lahj and each village has more sufferings than the one before." She said.

Additionally, she called on civil society organizations to join hands and efforts for the sake of minimizing the

sufferings of poor and distressed people in Yemen and to tend to rural areas instead of focusing on urban areas. she also urged charity-loving businessmen to direct their attention to poor and destitute people particularly in desert areas in Ibb, Al-Hodeidah and Lahj.

For his part, Ali Saleh Abdullah stressed the importance of reinforcing the partnership between the civil society organization and official efforts as they proved salutary in achieving development and resulted in tangible results. He also indicated that the new government has the economic aspects as a priority in order to fight poverty and shrink the rate of unemployment in application of President Saleh electoral platform. However, he admitted the shortcoming of earlier programs and strategies adopted for fighting poverty, partly due to the absence of a central body that directs the official and public efforts and prevent the waste of resources by duplicating projects in some areas while others have no projects at all. Further, he pointed out that there is a total absence of the annual evaluation.

Moreover, the meeting discussed three different papers submitted by Omar Mohammed Saleh, Dr. Ali Al-Yadomi, and activists from the Civil Society Organizations Coalition. The three papers asserted the importance of achieving equality in allocating central resources in all governorates and districts, dealing transparently with foreign aids and loans, together with enhancing the partnership between civil society organizations and official authorities.

Saleh's paper addressed the issue of

loans and demanded setting the measures and controls over the foreign loans. He also emphasized the importance of making just allocations of loans and adopting a clear policy about the projects in need for foreign finance after setting feasibility studies.

He also pointed stressed the importance of committing to pre-qualification of contractors and consultants and applying the required measures for implementing projects in the due time and according to specifications set before, together with setting clear pointer and standards for following-up such projects.

In the name of civil society organization, Mohammed Al-Hamadi presented the paper addressing the partnership between civil society organizations and official parties. The paper demanded setting a clear policy towards civil society organizations and the roles to be played by them at the level of districts and governorates.

It also stressed the importance of reinforcing women's roles and extending their reputation in all official parties as well as strengthening decentralization and local governance.

The last paper by Dr. Ali Al-Yadomi recommended setting a clear strategy for local authority by regularly improving databases and increasing the central support provided to local authorities as the current support is not sufficient. It also demanded a fair distribution of allocations and projects at both centralized and decentralized levels, together with expanding the web of infrastructure in rural and poor areas.

Inter-Party dialogue halted

SANA'A, April 17 — Joint Meeting Parties assured that their dialogue with the General People Congress (the ruling party) has been halted, declaring that their counterparts in the ruling party are responsible for the dialogue standstill.

In a meeting with Joint Meeting Parties' pressmen, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), Yassin Sa'ed Noman, asserted that the dialogue stopped; however, he stressed the importance of continuing the dialogue, being a national necessity aiming to reform the political system.

In the meantime, General People Congress secretary general Abdullqader Bajjamal declared that the dialogue was halted in order to have some rest, promising its resumption after some days. He further pointed out that having dialogue with JMP is important.

Noman added that the ruling party closed the door before dialogue in an attempt to keep the post-election existing situation; however, they were convinced by donor countries to maintain their dialogue with opposition parties, especially those represented in the Parliament.

According to him, the dialogue was discussing three key issues related to electoral system regulations, parties, and local authority laws. Also, he added that the ruling party was trying to impose a control authority over parties' work.

He further emphasized the importance of reflecting the developments of dialogue in newspapers and setting a media plan to cover the coming period, indicating that Press and Publication law is among the priorities of the dialogue.

DLCC combats new swarms of locusts

SANA'A, April 17 — New swarms of locusts have invaded the governorate of Hadramout, in the south of Yemen, over the past few days, the ministry of agriculture said. The locusts descended upon 30 kilometers in Thamoud desert, with an intensity of 30 locusts in each square meter, the state-run Saba News Agency said Tuesday.

Abdu Farei Al-Rumaih, Head of Desert Locusts Control Centre (DLCC) at the ministry of agriculture, said that the locusts were found laying eggs, adding that the field teams couldn't identify the area which the locusts come from.

In fact, there are two types of locusts in Yemen: desert locusts and local breeding locusts, however, the latter is not considered any real danger because they exist in small numbers.

Al-Rumaih confirmed that the new swarms don't pose threat to plants and trees as they are in state of laying eggs. Furthermore, he called on citizens to report about any locust swarms and to collaborate with the DLCC. "The new locusts are expected to stay in the desert, where they would lay their eggs, and then they will die," Al-Rumaih said. He also noted that the eggs will hatch in three weeks and the new gen-

eration might pose a threat to agriculture crops as they lay on surrounding plants.

The DLCC is ready to fight the new generation through an extensive campaign, Al-Rumaih said, pointing out that other swarms might hover over the area. Additionally, he pointed out that the field teams are fumigating swarms of locusts in different areas, starting from Marib governorate, passing by the northern governorate of Hajjah, and ending with the southern province of Shabwa.

The Ministry of Agriculture has already put an emergency plan to face any locust invasion after FAO warned that there could be a locust invasion in Yemen in March after a spate in nearby Eritrea in December. The emergency plan includes forty two teams.

Last month, migratory locusts descended upon 2,700 hectares of farmland over three weeks in the governorate of Al-Hodeidah, located in the west of Yemen, but the DLCC had the situation under control.

Yemen experienced locust infestations in 1986, 1987 and 1993, which was a particularly serious outbreak. However, the outbreaks in 2002 and 2004 were successfully controlled.

Al-Zalab calls for modernization

SANA'A, April 18 — General Director of Yemeni Public Corporation for Radio and Television Dr. Abdullah Al-Zalab noted that Yemeni media is before hard and gross tasks which require the collaboration of efforts from all.



Al-Zalab added it is time to

Dr. Al-Zalab

Yemeni visual media distinguishing it from other foreign media.

Moreover, Al-Zalab revealed a plan for having more local radio stations, together with extending qualification and training of the corporation affiliates, noting 2007 will be the year of training and qual-

develop media outlets and the contents of media message to come to the level of the existing challenges, maintaining media should play an important role in development and political process and reflect society problems and issues.

He further indicated his corporation made a survey of the situation of audio media over the last period and it is conducting another study of spectator's opinion about its programs in order to prepare a vision for upgrading

ification. Concluding his statement, he declared programs map is not just titles but a vision that reflects the media policy and serves certain goals.

Al-Zalab was recently appointed as director for Yemeni Radio and Television Corporation. Early, he assumed different posts including dean of Media Training and Qualification Institute in Sana'a and lecturer in Sana'a University.

land dispute kills soldiers and civilians in Sana'a

SANA'A, April 18 — An armed gang attacked last Sunday a group of military police who were guarding a plot of land in Asr to the west of Sana'a, killing three of them and injuring another. Media source mentioned that 40 armed men wearing civilian clothes and affiliated with an officer in the Republican Guard in Taiz Branch named Abdullatif Al-Dhanin, a son of Brig. Saleh Al-Dhanin, the Commander of South Military Area, are responsible for the incident.

The source added that Al-Dhanin was accompanied by some armed men when they attacked the soldiers guarding the land, which belongs to an UAE investor of Yemeni origin. They clashed with soldiers causing three to die and another one critically injured. It also mentioned that the land belongs to a Yemeni, who was working as a secretary for late UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan, and not to the

state as claimed by some media sources. Further, it added that the President Saleh pledged to guard the land and that is the reason for which dozens of military vehicles existed in the land site

Unconfirmed information revealed that the armed men got out some of their injured comrades by force from the hospital to avoid the accountability especially when security apparatuses caught about 20 armed men.

Similar bloody clashes over a plot of land took place last February in the south of the Capital when a group of armed men from the same tribe, Sanhan, tried to take a land belonging to a citizen from Al-Baidha by force. Many citizens were killed and injured in that incident. In fact, such disputes are attributed to the lack of fair judiciary whose main task is to resolve the pending problems soon especially in Sana'a and Aden.

Continued from page 1

Opposition harshly criticizes new Cabinet plan

The plan's main points include the government's determination to encourage investment in order to ease poverty and minimize unemployment, as well as expand Yemen's web of infrastructure to all areas nationwide. It also displayed an interest in enhancing electrical power with 600 megawatts by 2009, together with adopting alternative power sources.

Regarding water, the plan promises increasing clean water service coverage to 65 percent in urban areas and 45 percent in rural ones, as well as extending the web of sanitation services.

Similarly, the new government promises to improve Yemenia airline's operating capacity, restructure the firm and establish a new company for domestic flights in collaboration with the private sector.

Parliament will vote on the new government plan on Thursday. Regardless of the opposition's stance, it is expected to pass, especially given that the General People's Congress holds the majority of seats in Parliament

Five Ethiopians die in Yemeni detention

According to a November 2006 U.N. report, most Ethiopian emigrants travel to the Somali port of Bossaso to take boats across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen, which is one of the few Middle Eastern nations to have signed the 1951 Refugee Convention.

However, the report said, not all Ethiopians emigrants are seeking asylum, as most infiltrate the Yemeni-Saudi borders searching for better employment in the Gulf states. There are no available statistics reflecting the actual number of Ethiopians coming into or out of Yemen.

Many Ethiopians don't want to be registered at the center because they fear immediate deportation, said UNHCR official Erika Feller during her three-day visit to Yemen last month. UNHCR has offered to help screen new arrivals in order to ensure that any actual refugees among them will be detected and not deported. So far, Yemen hasn't accepted this offer, as most Ethiopian emigrants are deported back to their country.

"Emigrants remain in detention at the Passport and Immigration Authority until they receive a passport and tickets, which are at the Yemeni government's expense, and then they are deported to Ethiopia," Ethiopian Embassy official said.

However, such measures don't stop Ethiopian emigration to Yemen, the official noted, adding, "They return every year. Many times, we find the same emigrants that we deported previously once again entering Yemen illegally."

In related news, various press reported on Tuesday that scores of Ethiopian army troops arrived at the Yemeni coast aboard two smuggling vessels after fleeing fighting with Islamic insurgents in Somalia.

Some 89 Ethiopian soldiers arrived at Arqa area in southern Yemen after crossing the Gulf of Aden from Bossaso, Al-Ayyam daily newspaper reported. According to the paper, 49 Somali refugees were aboard the same boats carrying the soldiers, who were wearing civilian clothing.

An Ethiopian army officer was quoted as saying that he and his comrades had fled the ranks of Ethiopian troops in Somalia after a dramatic escalation in fierce fighting with Somali Islamic insurgents.

Ethiopia sent army forces into Somalia last December to back the country's interim government to drive out forces from the Islamic Courts Union, which controlled most of central and southern Somalia for nearly six months last year.

One officer mentioned that many other Ethiopian troops had decided to flee Somalia after they found themselves stuck in a "flaming hell." Wanting to remain anonymous, the official told Deutsche Press-Agentur that the Ethiopian soldiers were transferred by military truck to Aden on Monday. It wasn't clear whether they'll seek asylum in Yemen or not.

UNHCR's 2006 records show some 26,000 emigrants making the voyage from Somalia, with at least 330 dying while another 300 were reported missing and are believed dead.

UNHCR has registered only 1,990 Ethiopian refugees, all residing in Sana'a and urban areas, with the exception of 663

Ethiopian Oromo refugees accommodated at Kharaz Camp in Laheg governorate.

The Ethiopian refugee community in Yemen also includes some 720 former officers and cadets of the Ethiopian Navy and their dependents, who received prima facie refugee status from Yemeni authorities in 1991.

New governor, soldiers reassemble for decisive Houthi battle

Media sources indicate that fierce clashes are occurring in Dhahian, Al-Saifi and Al-Safra districts, coinciding with other battles in Al-Qal'ah city, the capital of Razih district.

Most of Sa'ada's 15 districts witnessed intermittent battles between the Yemeni army and Houthi loyalists, leaving large numbers killed and injured on both sides.

Sources went on to say that the fiercest clashes took place in Magz and Sahar districts bordering Sa'ada city, noting that Al-Jumhuri Hospital and Sa'ada Al-Salam Hospital no longer are capable of receiving more bodies or injured soldiers, especially as numbers increased markedly during Monday and Tuesday clashes occurring in nearly every Sa'ada district.

In related developments, Sa'ada city continues receiving thousands of soldiers mobilized by the Yemeni government in preparation for a decisive battle on all fronts due to be launched by the end of this week. Forces have been gathered from Al-'Amaleqah Brigade and eight other brigades affiliated with Brig. Ali Muhsen Al-Ahmar's First Armored Division.

New Sa'ada governor

Moreover, President Ali Abdullah Saleh issued a republican decree Wednesday appointing Brig. Mutahar Rashad Al-Misri as Sa'ada governor to replace former Governor Yahya Al-Shami due to his objection to continuing the war against Houthis, as some observers believe.

Al-Shami previously reached an agreement with Houthis to halt the war; however, several influential individuals didn't like such an agreement, so they breached the truce and resumed fighting.



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Tender documents may be purchased against non-refundable YR 15,000. An additional US \$100 is charged for those wishing to receive a copy by post.

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- 2- Attaching a copy of valid tax card and insurance card.
- 3- Submitted bids are to be sealed in red wax.
- 4- Bidders should commit themselves to the special conditions stated in the tender's documents.
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- Selection will be **based on the most qualified applicants.**
- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed personal, **contact and qualification** information.
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On the occasion of his appointment as Prime Minister and **Mr. Khalid Ibrahim Al-Wazir**

On the occasion of his appointment as Minister of Transportation

Wishing them the best of success and prosperity in their responsibilities in contributing to the development of the nation

M. M. J. Subramaniam, Chief Executive Officer and the OPM Aden Staff

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Protect the earth, a lesson learned in Japan

By: Nadia Al-Harithi
For Yemen Times

The annual Global Youth Exchange Program for 2006 organized by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs through their embassy in Sana'a presented an opportunity to visit Japan via a competition. The program was themed, "Environment and Economic Development - Searching key ideas to create harmony in the 21st century."

Because of my relevant background as a postgraduate student in Sana'a University's Integrated Water Resources Management, I thought it an excellent opportunity, so I entered the competition and was thrilled to win! Thus, I was on my way to Japan in 2006 with participants from 31 countries, as well as an international organization that joined the program.

We all participated in the event in order to exchange general ideas and experience, but specifically, to exchange thoughts on how to achieve harmony between environmental preservation and economic growth.

As an international participant with a local and regional perspective, I effectively participated in order to learn from others coming from Asia, Europe, Africa, Latin America and the United States. At the end of this practical experience, group discussions and their global ideas yielded a proposal submitted to Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Midori Matsushima.



The Temple of the Golden Pavilion.

shogun as a hunting ground.

Our stay in Kyoto was like a beautiful dream. We visited tourist attractions such as Nijo Castle, representing the power of the Tokugawa shogunate, and many temples begun by Saifukuji, where we practiced calligraphy at Nishi-Hongwanji and Zazen meditation by sitting peacefully and detaching from daily tension. I learned how to write my name in Japanese and felt deep respect for the art.

We also visited Kinkakuji Temple, the "Temple of the Golden Pavilion,"

monitoring systems and was linked with my group's sub-theme of economic growth and environmental preservation.

The third city, Aichi, is an industrial prefecture where we spent seven days. Our first visit was to the Toyota Motor Corporation, where the process was explained to us, as well as the automaker's environmental efforts, principles and guidelines to provide the global market with hybrid technology.

We next visited Nagoya Public Aquarium to view marine species and hear about the coastal and marine problems affecting their habitats. However, it was in our visits to the New Energy Research Plant and the Central Japan International Airport (Centrair) that we realized the extent of Japanese efforts to conserve the environment.

The airport authority conducted various environmental impact assessments during the airport's planning, implementation and operation in order to mitigate negative environmental impacts, which provided a practical example of such assessments' processes and measures.

Additionally, we attended various lectures and sessions on environmental awareness and preservation at EXPO 2006, in which 121 countries participated. The expo's aim was how to promote economic development without harming the environment.

The Nagoya University exchange program gave presentations on bullfighting in Japan, immigration and citizenship in Japan, the transformation of forest vegetation in Fujioka and establishing an environmentally sound material cycle society based on citizen participation. Through these presentations, we learned a lot about various cultural, environmental, economic and political aspects.

To gain an inside feel of the Japanese family, the program included a daylong home-stay. I stayed with a nice, typical Japanese woman named Kiyoko Ohta, who treated me like her daughter. She was eager to learn about my country and culture and shared much about her experiences in hosting 300 people from different countries and cultures, linking between those cultures in an amazing analytical approach.

With my host family, I visited Nagoya Castle and the Expo 2006 site and exhibition. A small party featuring traditional Japanese drumming also gathered the participants and their host families.

Our contribution to the program

Returning to Tokyo, we participated in a public symposium where we were to submit a proposal on the program's theme, searching for key ideas to create harmony in the 21st century.

We integrated different opinions and ideas into our proposal, which addressed global environmental issues, including the fact that a new holistic learning paradigm must be adopted in order to ensure diversity, flexibility and creativity in the dynamic changes of the world's cultures toward nature.



At the farewell ceremony, a final photo to remember.

PHOTO BY PABLO OLEAS

Additionally, harmony between economic growth and environmental conservation leads to promoting green purchasing, information sharing about good practices, creation of real participatory processes and better education.

I was delighted and honored to be selected to represent the participants at the farewell ceremony, where I submitted our proposal to Vice Minister Matsushima. I'll never forget that moment, how we all contributed to this valuable program and how it gave us more insights about Japan's environmental issues.

Because of this experience, I've become more committed to playing a strong role in creating harmony between economic development and the environment, which can be achieved if the key players in both the public and private sectors, individuals, NGOs and the global community work collectively at local, regional and international levels to establish a



The program invited participants and their host families to a delightful traditional Japanese drumming ceremony.

PHOTO BY PABLO OLEAS

sound material cycle society.

I'm grateful to the Japanese government and its embassy in Sana'a for giving me this opportunity

("Arigato gozaimashita") and I'm happy to have met all the nice people I know I'll never forget.



Learning about the art of shodou, Japanese calligraphy.

Welcome to Japan: Konnichiwa

Before traveling to Japan, I read a little about its people and nature, but it was only when I set foot on Japanese soil that I realized that "seeing is believing." Our program lasted 15 days, during which we visited three cities: Tokyo, Kyoto and Aichi.

In Tokyo, we visited Asakusa, the old part of the city, where we ate our first Japanese meal in a traditional restaurant. The second day, we visited Tokyo's largest gardens built by a

which was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. I made a wish to revisit Japan at Kiyomizudera, the "Pure Water Temple," where you can drink from fountains, and your wish will come true. We also visited another marvellous temple called Sanjusangendo.

I still remember the Shimadzu Corporation logo, "For the well being of mankind and the earth." The company aims to develop and supply products related to environmental

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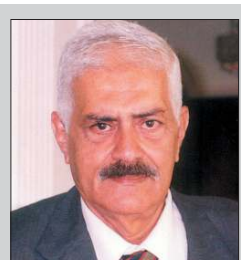
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Investment partnership and cooperation

Yemen is making the necessary arrangements for holding the Investment Opportunity Exploration Conference in coordination with General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Both Yemen and GCC are working hard in order for the conference to succeed and come up with good results to enhance the progress of growing partnership between Yemen and GCC member states. Meantime, both sides bear in mind that ties between peoples and states of the Arabian Peninsula grow stronger, and that such joint factors have to be invested in order to boost solidarity and integration of the bloc member states.

If the contemporary circumstances insist on these countries, that lie in a single geographic location, to continue



By: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

cooperation and interaction with one another in the economic, political, and security areas, those states will manage to overcome the difficult obstacles and globalization-related barriers in the future. Also, they will get rid of the fevers of

competition between superpowers. Since Yemen and GCC states complement each other in the economic, political, and security contexts, the interest of Yemen and other brotherly GCC states necessitates hard work to accelerate the process of economic integration via providing more investment opportunities. In addition, the interest can only be confirmed by benefiting from the experience of Singapore, one of the Asian tigers, which appeared in the early 80s of the last century as a

pioneering experience in Asia. It is worth mentioning that Singapore, over the past few years, has become totally convinced of the necessity of involving the neighboring countries in its development and economic programs. Furthermore, it has transformed all of its industries to the neighboring countries due to the low wages of workforce in these countries while it remained responsible for running the business and has become able to compete with other commodities and products in terms of quality after it benefited from the bordering states.

If such an Asian experience is applied in the region, the GCC states will achieve solidarity and cooperation. This will be useful for all GCC members in order to prosper, advance, and create a better future for their generations.

Now, we are before a call to inaugurate an important national project to build and develop the country through the investment

opportunities. The positive interaction with the call will be through the suggestion of projects, ideas, and thoughts in order for the conference participants to study the proposals and begin forming work teams for Yemen-Gulf partnership. Additionally, states of the region need to establish individual projects and then inaugurate the giant projects in different areas, governorates, and industrial zones.

Let's stop talking and interpret words into actions. The concerned parties for transferring words into actions are the trade chambers and their general unions. I believe that we can receive foreign investments worth \$ 10 billion to be implemented between 2008 and 2010 if these chambers are serious enough to do their duties well.

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

COMMON SENSE

Do we really need the Sa'ada war?

For four months now the War in Sa'ada has developed into a nightmare for the Government and the people of Yemen. No one really can come out with a deadline for a definitive end to this unusual state of war that has no real reason to start with and has absolutely no more reason to continue! It is an ugly war with Yemenis killing Yemenis and leaving long trails of blood feuds amongst tribesmen and different factions of religious persuasions. This would mean a lingering social problem to be added to the already unbearable state of social decay we are now in resulting from other versions of mismanagement by a Government that seems to have forgotten that it really needs to produce something positive for once, if it can ever hope to gain public support for the causes it wants to promote. This is the more so, especially when considering that the Government's cause, as far as Sa'ada is concerned, is a very weak one, not the least enhanced by its behavior in other governorates (arrest of hundreds of people on the pretext of being Houthi supporters, but without due process of law), supposedly in connection with the Sa'ada mess.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Yes, the war in Sa'ada is really turning out to be a mess, where apparently there is no sign of any winner and surely the Yemeni people stand to be the biggest loser of all, even if the Government does succeed in its still distant objective of overcoming the Houthis in Sa'ada. One might surmise also that the latter seem to be putting up a determined fight to make sure that they do not become the vanquished. This would be expected from people who have become convinced that their dogma gives them a solid foundation to outdo those who seek to eliminate them, when the latter themselves lack any creditable dogmatic appeal to counter the zeal of the Houthis. Moreover, one is also inclined to believe that the Government has forgotten the history of Yemen, especially that of the far northern part of the country. That part of the country has never been successfully subdued by military force, local or foreign. Even with the Egyptians troops, who were backing the Republic in the post September 1962 Revolution "Civil War", holding the City of Sa'ada, the rest of the province was left with the tribes fighting with the Royalists, until the tribesmen themselves voluntarily decided to affirm their loyalty to the Republic, after the Saudis have closed the faucet of aid to the Royalists (and the Egyptians have withdrawn from Yemen altogether following the fiasco of June 1967, when Israel defeated the Arab armies of Egypt, Syria and Jordan). So, why is the Government insisting that it can do what stronger and better armies (Egyptian, Ottoman, Roman, Persian, etc.) could not do? And more important, why does not the Government accept the fact that the people of Sa'ada really deserve better respect, if not better treatment, from their government? What makes this war the more obnoxious is that the Government insists on keeping a tight press lid on the tragedy unfolding in Sa'ada, and this makes it very difficult to get an idea of the details on what is really going on there. Thus, only reports made by movement of words from mouth to mouth end up coming to the ears of the rest of the people of Yemen and to the world at large, and it is not clear, which is more closer to the truth, the Government versions or those coming from the "tribal sources". The former is not expected to provide a clear picture of what is going on, as the Government has not been able to achieve any decisive advance against the Houthis, let alone a decisive victory, and thus its reports on the events would tend to be distortions of the truth and fabrications of the facts, to cover up its poor handling of the war, to say the least. For sure, all the ultimatums given by the Government have neither brought fear amongst the Houthis, nor brought the Government any closer to a conclusive win. On the other side of the grapevine (which now make rumors really the only source of news on the War in Sa'ada), there are obvious indications that the Government has been reckless on more than one occasion (the downed Mig 29s, hitting of civilian facilities like hospitals and even hitting its own allies). There are also indications that the Houthis are putting up a stubborn fight, even though they are outnumbered and outgunned by the Government forces and the latter's newly recruited "volunteers", or mercenary "Jihadists".

The Government should really consider a fast (and peaceful) way out of this tragic war, which the Government is fighting without realizing that its first mission is to protect the lives and property of all Yemeni citizens from all harm whether from within or from outside of Yemen. When considering all its failures in other spheres of government, the Government's senseless war against the brave and proud people of Sa'ada becomes even more asinine.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

Corruption and the late zero hour

By: Amer Ali Sallam

Yemen is facing numerous challenges locally, regionally, and internationally. I don't assume that Yemen is rich with its natural and human resources neither it is qualified for economic development more than anytime in the past. Also, I don't assume that it is qualified to achieve tangible development in several areas for it lacks the preliminary theoretical grounds for rebuilding the nation on the basis of democracy and political, intellectual, economic, and commercial pluralism, as well as the press freedom. Well, I believe that these grounds are very necessary for shaping the future of Yemen, which requires good institutional performance and tough procedures against corrupt individuals.

Locally, corrupt individuals are on the top of those challenges. I think tough procedures appear as if they are a nightmare making them in a state of trouble and frustration. They fear such suggested procedures if applied but alas not. Even if these procedures are implemented in real life, I think the

situation will not be different from that associating with applying the Financial Liability Law, establishing an independent authority for tenders, activating the reports of the Central Organization for Control and Audit and activating the roles of commercial judiciary and the anti-corruption authority.

The anti-corruption authority has set its bylaws and regulations for uncovering corruption, its forms and colors, and punishing corrupt individuals regardless their posts and responsibilities. The authority realized that the future of Yemen relies on the tough measures against corruption and corrupt individuals. Do we have the right to declare the war against corruption? Such a question cannot be postponed or referred to the donor community, it only needs national clear conscience, as well as an official will on the part of the government and the regime.

Corruption has become a persistent problem facing Yemen and threatening its development and prosperity. It is a great challenge posed to the financial and administrative reforms. Corruption wastes natural and human resources

and minimizes the ideal exploitation of these sources in a way serving the country and its development. The ideal exploitation of resources is impossible to achieve amid the policy of postponement or via the ineffective laws and regulations. Rather, it can be achieved through the real application of tough procedures in real life situations. The current remarkable procedures, taken by the government, seem unable to eliminate corruption but they may encourage the spread of corruption in different government institutions.

Today, we need to benefit from the others' experiences such as the Asian Model, which is close to us and deserves to be imitated. The Malaysian experience, which is a live example for the will and power, shows us how Mahatir Mohammed selected economy for developing his country. He approved firm procedures against corruption and made out of his country a developed and free of corruption. Can our country benefit from the Malaysian experience?

It is time for those who exploit their government jobs and influential military positions for embezzling

public money, plundering lands, monopolizing trade, and intervening in investment to face tough measures. As a matter of fact, Yemen is in dire need for various reforms.

Observers say that our media insult themselves because they depend on partisan, sectarian, ethnical, or material grounds when they publish stories. However, journalism remains a noble profession and it can perform its duty with a strong sense of accountability. For, it applies the presidential decision saying that "Stories and reports published by the media shall be in conformity with the publication laws, media legislations, and ethics of the profession."

It will be of a great benefit to hear that this presidential decision is being applied even in a single case in any newspaper regardless of its policy so as to be the first seed for the fourth authority (journalism) to develop the sense of constructive media. So, we can criticize those who hinder investment and development and who exploit their posts for serving their own personal interests. Is it time to say not to corruption and that the zero hour has started, even too late?

Letters to the Editor

PALISRA is the adequate solution
It is a sad situation that both Israelis and Palestinians have been fighting and killing each other for more than 60 years now and unfortunately, no light could be seen at the end of this dark tunnel.

The geography and demography of the area that extends between River Jordan and the Mediterranean indicate the complexity of the current situation. Every party is trying hard to grab by mere force what is in the hand of the other. Many wars have been staged and thousands of innocent lives have been shed for this purpose.

Nowadays, almost everybody is talking about setting up two countries for both Israelis and Palestinians. This simply means that the land of historical Palestine will be divided between the two parties, Israelis and Palestinians.

I doubt very much that either party will be satisfied with his share of the cake. There are chronic problems like Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, borders, water resources that nobody on

earth can sort out to the satisfaction of both parties.

The short vision of setting up two separate states could sow the seeds for more bloody conflicts in the future. Nobody can guarantee or secure permanent and lasting peace under this proposition.

A far better viable solution that should satisfy both parties and put an end to all complicated issues is available. It is the establishment of one country for all on the whole territory of historical Palestine that includes the West Bank and Gaza besides Israel. Jerusalem will remain united for both parties, settlements could remain where they are now provided an appropriate compensation is made to the original land owners, natural geographical borders are already in place for the whole country and the issue of refugees could be settled by allowing refugees who were born in Historical Palestine to return home. All citizens of the new state, PALISRA (Palestine +Israel), would enjoy equal rights and bear the

same responsibilities.

The newly established state, PALISRA will emerge as a prosperous and safe country within a very short period of time, and citizens of this state will learn how to respect and even cherish each other. PALISRA will become a key player and an integral part of the Middle East as yesterday's enemies will become today's friends and allies for ever.

Saeed Hamdan
Amman-Jordan
mass@go.com.jo

A Promise for a scholarship

I hope this works. I am a student who goes to a university in the United States. I was promised of a scholarship from the Yemeni government at the beginning of this year, until this date I have not heard anything from the ministry of finance. Don't they realize that the semester is almost over!!! What are we supposed to do, find a job and neglect our studies, waiting for nothing?

Thanks
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Ayaan Hirsi Ali's infidel: Wrong concepts about Islam

By: M. Imran Khan

Accusations against Islam are not something new but since 9/11 have found new heights. The latest attack has come in the shape of a newly published book named "Infidel" written by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, which is her autobiography.

She was born in Somalia in 1969, the daughter of a warlord. Because of her father's opposition to the government, the family went into exile, first to Saudi Arabia and then to Kenya. She and her family faced harsh conditions both in the form of forced religion and racial discriminations there. In 1992, she was forced to marry with a Somali from Canada and on her way to join him, she stopped off in Germany and arrived in the Netherlands. To get asylum she lied about her full name, age and country and she was granted Dutch citizenship. In 2003 she became the Member of Parliament of Netherlands. In 2004, she wrote "Submission" a short and highly

controversial film about female oppression under Islam that led to the murder of Theo van Gogh, its director. In 2006, Dutch media reported about her false claims about asylum and citizenship. The Dutch government cost doubts about her status as a Dutch national and after facing various allegations on this matter she moved to USA where she is working as a fellow at the conservative think tank American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC.

She lost her faith in Islam and changed her religion in 2002. She believes that Islam is a "backward religion", cruel and a form of "the new fascism". According to her "Violence is inherent in Islam — it's a destructive, nihilistic cult of death. It legitimates murder." Muslims believe that Quran is a literal word of God but she has said "Quran is not a holy document. It is a historical record, written by humans. . . . It spreads a culture that is brutal, bigoted, fixated on controlling women, and harsh in war."

Quran is a big book which provides details about the things in life. Under the Islamic teachings the simple meanings of

the verses used in Quran are not enough, for better understanding Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) has explained particulars of Quran with details and most of the Muslims follow two things as principles of Islam, Quran and Sunnah (Sayings and actions of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH)). Every verse in the Quran has been explained with full details in many Tafsirs (explanations) written by many Muslim scholars under the guidelines provided by the Prophet.

Islam gives Muslims the right to protect themselves against any kind of aggressions but it strongly prohibits the killing of someone because of their religion. There are absolutely no orders to kill innocents in Quran and Sunnah. But still people find verses in Quran about War and killings, than few persons will take those verses - completely out of the contexts- and use them for their own purposes. Someone will use the same to kill others in the name of Islam because they feel Quran orders them to do it, and people like Ayaan Hirsi Ali, the so called intellectual, would use it to fright non-Muslims that beware Muslims are com-

ing to behead you. One can understand that both are on the wrong side and using Quran for their own intentions. But who is responsible for these and many other ill-concepts about Islam? Only West! No, Muslims are more responsible than anyone else for these misconceptions about Islam and Quran. The main reason behind all this is the ignorance in many parts of the Muslim world.

Learning is the basic part of Islam and it is not associated with religious education only. So from early days of Islam (from 6th century) Muslims started taking a keen interest in education. That continued for centuries and Muslims produced some great scholars, researchers. Muslim part of the world was a hub of knowledge and the work of Muslim scholars, scientists laid down the foundation of many new areas of learning.

But gradually Muslims relinquished the good work done by their forefathers. In the mean time, West started to wake up and by the 18th century, Muslims were defeated in many parts of the world and their countries were also occupied by Europeans. Most of the Muslim countries

regained independence around the middle of 20th century but education system is still far behind - if compared to the rest of the world - in terms of standards and literacy rates. In fact, Muslim world finds itself languishing at the bottom of world literacy rates and there is no university in the entire Muslim world which could be ranked amongst the top global universities.

The point is clear that from hundreds of years Muslims are away from a proper education system which resulted in addition of many bad customs and traditions in their societies. Though those things had no relation with Islamic teachings still prevails and Ayaan Hirsi Ali and many others were born in the same era under the same worst conditions. But does that mean situation was bad there due to Islam only? Many African countries are non-Islamic but still face the same kind of corruption, tyranny, women rights and customs as in Muslim African countries. But why, if bad things are only linked with Islam why they are having the same conditions?

I fully agree that there are many things

wrong in Muslim world but with that I fully believe that it is not due to Islam. Islam does not teach anyone to force someone to do things or to be corrupt. If Islam is a brutal religion than why many notable and highly educated persons in West have embraced it? Did someone forced them to do it or they started killing people after changing their old religion? The answer is no. Ms. Ali has also admitted that most of the Muslims don't want to kill others and want to live peacefully. But if few people are doing bad things in the name of Islam, how can she and other critics of Islam have determined that the fault is in the religion?

Indeed, the fault is not in the religion but it's in the thinking of those people who wrongly associating bad things with Islam.

Muhammad Imran Khan is assistant director of Pakistan's National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). He is an economic and commerce specialist and a freelance writer for several international newspapers. mimraan.khaan@gmail.com

Bulgaria: The new member of the European Union

By: Valery Christov

Bulgaria is situated in the south - east part of Europe, and in the eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula. For centuries, the roads passing through the territory of the country have been connecting Europe with Asia and Africa. Four common European transport corridors, connecting West and North Europe with the eastern and southern part of the continent cross their roads here. Apart from its being situated on crossroads, Bulgaria is also known for its picturesque nature. In spite of its relatively small territory (110 912 km²), the country has various landscape. The scenery changes subsequently from vast plains, to hilly areas and high mountains. Large beaches and beautiful rocky shores stretch out along the Black sea coast. Territory - 110 993,6 km²; Population 973 671; Capital - Sofia

Bulgaria and European Union

While the accession of Bulgaria and Romania concludes the historic fifth enlargement of the EU, which marks the reunification of Europe, for Bulgaria the accession means the realization of a grand national goal. EU membership has been an ambitious national project, which unified the efforts of many Bulgarian governments and the nation at large.

The accession to EU is the result of more than a decade of hard work. We submitted our application for membership in 1995, we opened accession negotiations in 2000 and concluded them in 2004. We

signed the Accession Treaty in April 2005. Along the way, we had hard choices to make and painful reforms to implement.

The main challenge in joining the EU has been the necessity to fulfill the accession criteria. They were well defined back in 1993 in Copenhagen and were rigorously monitored by the European Commission. Compliance with these criteria demanded fundamental reforms across all sectors of the social, political and economic life. The reforms affected all citizens, who all carried the burden of the transition.

Bulgaria was recognized as a functioning market economy several years ago. The economic growth in the last couple of years exceeds 5%. For 2006 the GDP growth is expected to reach 6%. We have recorded EUR 9.4bn FDI inflow in 2000-2005.

As regards the political criteria for membership since the first Commission Monitoring Report on Bulgaria in 1998, the country was found to meet the requirements defined as stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities. In this field, the Commission has for many years followed closely the reform of the Bulgarian public administration, the functioning of the judicial system, and respect for political, civil, cultural, social and economic rights. In this area the major challenge proved to be the reform of the justice system, which was delayed for many years. In order to achieve a strong, accountable and efficient justice system and live up to the

demands of membership, we had to overhaul the procedural legislation and in particular reform the pre-trial stage, make Constitutional amendments, restructure the police, introduce a system for evaluation of the work of the magistrates.

The membership is not an end in itself and domestic reforms will continue beyond the date of the accession. On 28 December 2006 the Council of Ministers adopted an up-dated Action plan with the legislative and administrative measures, which have to be undertaken following the accession to the EU. The reforms in Bulgaria will also continue to be the subject of a comprehensive monitoring and assistance by the European Commission.

In the area of justice and home affairs in December last year the Commission introduced the so called cooperation and verification mechanism which is to ensure that Bulgaria meets specific criteria in the fields of judicial reform and the fight against corruption and organized crime. We regard the mechanism in a constructive way and welcome the fact that it will be carried out in respect of the fulfilment of specific benchmarks. This is a way to demonstrate clearly our will for reforms and an additional stimulus in our work.

We take seriously the restrictions imposed in the areas of veterinary control, aviation safety and free movement of workers. It is our priority to take the necessary actions, working in close cooperation with the European Commission and the member states, so that the restrictions are removed as soon as possible.

The benefits of the membership

We expect that the accession of Bulgaria to the EU will strengthen the country's and European economy. In the pursuit of the policy of integration in the European structures, the Bulgarian industry has been restructured, the trade flows - liberalized, and the national economy is already to a great extent a part of the European economy. This is confirmed by the high percentage of EU entrepreneurs, who have invested significant amounts of capital for the acquisition of assets in Bulgarian companies and continue to develop the sectors of manufacture and services in the country.

Over the last few years the Bulgarian economy registered robust economic growth. In the period July- September 2006 the GDP growth is 6.7%. Bulgaria's unemployment rate is constantly declining. In November this year we registered 8.7% unemployment, rate, which is close to the average unemployment rate in the EU. In January - October 2006 foreign investments doubled compared to the same period of last year and in the first ten months of 2006 they are BGN 3.2 billion. The implementation of prudent fiscal policy continues and the fiscal surplus is expected to reach 3.2% of the projected GDP for 2006. The inflation rate as of November 2006 is 6.2%.

Bulgaria takes more and more advantage of the closer political and economic cooperation with the EU member countries. The turnover with the EU in 2005 amounted to EUR 12.6 bln., which accounts to 52.4% of the total turnover of the country. During the first semester of

2006, total exports increased by 11.4% and imports by 15.3%. Our trade deficit is predominantly due to the import of raw materials and investment goods.

In its capacity as a member state, Bulgaria will receive financial assistance under the EU Structural and Cohesion funds which will be an important tool for upgrading the national infrastructure, ensuring higher level of environmental protection, as well as development of the rural regions. The total budgetary amount for Bulgaria stands at 11,057 billion EUR, including 2,315 billion EUR for rural development and 2,488 billion EUR for direct payments and market support. The total assistance for Bulgaria under the Cohesion policy amounts to 6,044 billion EUR.

The European Union is not only an economic, but also a political project and we attach particular importance to this. From a political point of view, the accession of Bulgaria strengthens stability throughout the EU. Enlargement enhances Europe's security, increases its influence in the world, helps the Union to better tackle the new threats and better manage globalization. With the accession of Bulgaria the EU reaches eastward to the Western Balkans, the Black sea region, and Turkey. This will definitely enhance security in the region as new member states will put in place the European standards on border controls. At the same time the accession of Bulgaria will open new opportunities for the EU. It will help consolidate the achievements of the fifth enlargement and will stimulate the discussion on the institutional reform and the future of the European Union.

After entering into the European family, Bulgaria enjoyed the support of the European Union not only in the field of building the sound economy, infrastructure and administration but received the political support on various issues includ-

ing our immediate demand for help from the EU in securing the freedom of five Bulgarian nurses who, along with a Palestinian doctor, were sentenced to death by a Libyan court for allegedly infecting more than 400 children with HIV.

The protraction of this judicial case for eight years now is a strong argument for all the international community to urge the Libyan authorities, including the judicial system not to delay any further the final conclusion of the trial and to allow for the return of the Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor to their home countries. After eight years of detention in the Libyan prisons they deserve justice and a fair and speedy trial.

Bulgaria is in favour of a strong and effective Union, based on shared values and solidarity, a Union that combines effectiveness of its action with democracy and transparency in the working of its institutions. Such a Union is in the shared interest of us all.

Bulgaria ratified the Constitution and supports it. In our view, the Constitution provides a good response to the challenges of EU enlargement and globalisation. We support the intention of the German Presidency of the EU to put as its main priority to retain the political substance of the Constitution and to propose a way to go ahead, so as to successfully conclude the constitutional process and prepare Europe for the future.

The European Union is the most successful organization, which contributes to the stability, progress and the world peace. Bulgaria as a member of European Union will work for its further strengthening on the basis of the awareness that we will be stronger, when we work together.

Valery Christov is the Charge D'Affaires of the Bulgarian Embassy in Sana'a.

BRITISH COUNCIL Yemen

The British Council Yemen wishes to recruit a

Projects Assistant

The Project Assistant is responsible for:

- Assisting with the implementation of local and regional projects.
- Administering project activities.
- Identifying, informing, and following up with local partners.
- Keeping project files up to date and accessible.
- Translating project materials and press releases.

Essential competencies and skills

- Previous experience in a similar post.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Arabic
- Experience of projects administration
- Excellent Team working Skills
- University degree or equivalent

How to apply?

Applicants should email recruitment@ye.britishcouncil.org for a detailed job description and an application form. CVs are NOT accepted.

Closing date for applications will be **02 May 07**

The British Council is an equal opportunities employer.

Creating opportunities.. building partnerships.

BRITISH COUNCIL Yemen

The British Council Yemen wishes to recruit a

Receptionist

The Receptionist is responsible for:

- answering telephone calls, in Arabic and English
- dealing with visitors to the office
- managing the reception area
- sorting and dispatching post
- routine office administration tasks: filing, making travel bookings, some translation work

Essential competencies and skills:

- Minimum of 2 years experience in a similar post
- Excellent communication skills
- Good team-working skills
- Fluent written and oral Arabic and excellent written and oral English
- Computer literacy

How to apply?

Applicants should email recruitment@ye.britishcouncil.org for a detailed job description and an application form. CVs are NOT accepted.

Closing date for applications will be **27 April 07**

The British Council is an equal opportunities employer.

Creating opportunities.. building partnerships.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Sana'a, has the pleasure to announce the sale of its Office vehicle.

The detail is as follows:

Type:	Land Cruiser
Model:	2002 (5 Doors)
Colour:	white
km used: approx:	65000km
Diplomatic Plate:	without custom

The vehicle will be sold in it's current condition.

If interested, please submit your bid in a sealed envelope to:

The FAO Representative
7 Mogadishu Street
Hadda

You can inspect the car at FAO Office: Saturday to Wednesday from 0800-1300hrs

Deadline for submission of bid is 30 April 2007 at 1200hrs.

Investment Opportunities in Yemen

By: Yemen Times Staff

The upcoming conference for investment opportunities to be held next Sunday might be the start of a new era for the Yemeni economy. With investment opportunities worth over US\$ 8 billion available for grabs, and around 150 regional and international corporations will take part in the conference, the Yemeni government is very optimistic about the outcome of the conference, indicating that the prime investment opportunities are in the fields of Energy, Oil & Gas, and Tourism.

This Conference aims to explore the various investment opportunities in Yemen to attract foreign investments, mainly from the GCC. The Republic of Yemen enjoys many assets such as its unique location, long strategic coastal strip, and the availability of cheap yet competitively skilled work force. These factors qualify the Republic of Yemen for attracting investment in various fields such Tourism, Mining, Energy (electricity and water), Real Estate, and several other sectors.

The conference will provide a unique opportunity for attendees and participants to develop relationships with key decision makers, policy makers, and economic and financial investment experts as well as local and regional businessmen and entrepreneurs. The conference has the potential to create a brilliant platform for the exchange of experiences, views, and ideas with senior officials and experts in the Gulf and Yemen.

Below is the list of investment opportunities which will be presented by the Yemeni authorities during the conference:

Health Sector

- A hospital for Cancer treatments – estimated cost: US\$ 16 million
- A hospital for orthopedics, brain surgery and neurosurgery – estimated cost: US\$ 30 million
- A hospital for kidney diseases and surgery – estimated cost US\$ 10 million
- A hospital for heart diseases and surgery – estimated cost US\$ 16 million
- Investing in drugs and medical supplies

Electricity and Water Sector

- A gas power plant in Ma'reb – estimated cost: US\$ 200 million
- A gas power plant in Ma'abar – estimated cost: US\$ 200 million

- A gas power plant in Belhaf, Shabwa – estimated cost: US\$ 200 million
- Establishing desalination plants (in the framework of a comprehensive study for water in Greater Aden)

Agricultural and fisheries

- Classification and packaging of agricultural products – estimated cost: 5 million US\$
- A factory for producing vegetable Oil in Hodiedah
- A salt production & refining plant in Aden – estimated cost: US\$ 10 million
- A regional Cattle trade center in Al-Makha – estimated cost: US\$ 20 million
- Poultry farms in Taiz and Dhammar
- Fishing for shrimps, shellfish and other crustaceans
- Artificial fish farms
- A plant for packaging and export of fisheries

Residential & housing projects

- 22nd May housing project in Aden – estimated infrastructure cost: 26 billion Riyals + US\$ 15 million excluding construction costs.
- Unity residential project in Capital Secretariat – estimated infrastructure cost: 26 billion Riyals + US\$ 15 million excluding construction costs.
- Hope residential project in Hodeidah – estimated infrastructure cost: 18 billion Riyals + US\$ 12 million excluding construction costs.
- Future residential project in Hadramut – estimated infrastructure cost: 18 billion Riyals + US\$ 12 million excluding construction costs.
- President's city residential project in Lahj – estimated infrastructure cost: 18 billion Riyals + US\$ 12 million excluding construction costs.

Transportation

- Dabbam port in Hadramut – estimated cost: US\$ 641 million
- Khalfut port in Al-Mahara – estimated cost: US\$ 70 million
- Al-Mukalla port upgrade – estimated cost: US\$ 37 million
- A maritime transportation company – estimated cost: US\$ 33 million
- A domestic Airline – estimated cost: US\$ 100 million
- A cargo Railway – estimated cost US\$ 150 billion
- A company for navigation and sea

- transport – estimated cost: US\$ 20 million
- A passenger / cargo Land Transportation Company – estimated cost: US\$ 35 million

Industrial Zones

- Hodieda Industrial zone - infrastructure construction – estimated cost: US\$ 36 million
- Mukalla Industrial zone - infrastructure construction
- Capital Secretariat's Services and handicraft industrial zone – infrastructure construction
- Lahej Industrial zone – upgrade & second-phase development
- Belhaf's export-originated industrial zone
- Abyan's Industrial zone – infrastructure development
- Raw-Material zones in Al-Jawf, Maareb and Shabwa governorates
- Joint Economic zones between Yemen and Saudi Arabia as well as Yemen and Oman.
- Aden Free Zone - infrastructure construction – estimated cost: US\$ 50 million
- An air Cargo and Goods village (Aden) - infrastructure construction – US\$ 15 million.

Tourism Investment Opportunities:

- A resort and tourism village - Midi city and Dawima Island (Hodieda) – estimated infrastructure cost: US\$ 7 million
- A resort and tourism village - Mount Sirr beach and Morq Island (Hodieda) – estimated infrastructure cost: US\$ 7 million
- A resort and tourism village – Al-Khokha (Hodieda) – estimated infrastructure cost: US\$ 11 million
- A resort and tourism village - Ras Kotheib (Hodieda)- estimated infrastructure cost: US\$ 7 million
- A resort and tourism village - Malak valley beach (Taiz) – estimated infrastructure cost: US\$ 9 million
- A luxury resort and tourism village - Fukom-Emran (Aden) – estimated cost: US\$ 120 million
- A resort and tourism village – Ras Omran beach and the Ozaiziya Island (Aden) – estimated infrastructure cost: US\$ 13 million
- A resort and tourism village – Shahr beach (Hadramout)- estimated infra-

- structure cost: US\$ 7 million
- Dhafer valley recreational park (Sana'a)
- A maritime tourism & adventure company
- A desert tourism & sporting company
- A tourist mud village project (several locations)
- A tourist mountain village project (several locations)
- Chains of restaurants (several locations)
- A therapeutic tourism resort – Al-Raouda, sik & Soubir (Hadramout)
- A therapeutic tourism resort – Jaref valley – Belad Al-rous (Sana'a)
- A therapeutic tourism resort – Hammam Ali (Dhammar)
- A therapeutic tourism resort - Howeimi (Karsh) Hammam (Lahej)
- A therapeutic tourism resort - The Joweiri Hammam and the Bamabed Hammam (Shabwa)
- A therapeutic tourism resort - The Zara Hammam (Ibb)
- A therapeutic tourism resort - The Sokhna Hammam (Hodieda)
- A therapeutic tourism resort – Damt (Al-Dhale'e)

Oil, Gas and Minerals Sector:

- An oil Refinery – estimated cost: US\$ 700 million
- Upgrading Aden refinery – estimated cost: US\$ 500 million
- Upgrading Mareb refinery – estimated cost: US\$ 70 million
- An oil Treatment facility (Aden) - estimated cost: US\$ 12 million
- A facility to produce petrochemicals – estimated cost: US\$ 180 million
- Exploration and extraction of minerals (various locations)

Other Investment Opportunities:

- Glass manufacturing
- Cement manufacturing
- Car assembly
- Household electric appliances
- Iron fusion and other iron products
- Manufacturing of Sodium hydroxide
- Marble extraction and production
- Manufacturing and assembly of electronics and electronic components
- Paper recycling
- Ceramic and porcelain products
- Fertilizers

Source: Conference for exploring investment opportunities in Yemen

Business in Brief

Opposition Denounces Cabinet's Agenda

Opposition blocks in the parliament have denounced the Cabinet's new agenda for 2007-2009, labeling it as a disappointment and a continuation of the economic failures of previous cabinets, it also asked the new cabinet to provide measurable objectives on which the success of the new cabinet can be accurately measured.

Al-Attya: The investment conference will endorse regional partnership

Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperative Council Mr. AbdulRahman Al-Attya has stated that the upcoming investment-in-Yemen conference will strengthen the mutual economic ties between Yemen and GCC countries, as well as develop the Yemeni economy on the micro and macro levels.

Al-Attar: Yemen needs a stock exchange

Director of the General Investment Authority has stated that in order to help Yemen attract more investments, Yemen needs to have a functional stock exchange where companies can enlist and attract mutual funds and other investors interested in the purchase of shares instead of the establishment of companies.

Ministry of Oil and Oil Search LLC sign cooperation agreement

The Ministry of Oil has signed an Oil-sharing agreement with Oil Search LLC of Australia, for blocks 7 in Shabwa and 74 in Hadramout. Oil search is likely to invest over US\$ 37 million in the development of the two blocks.

Supreme Court Delays Hearing on Sales Tax to May

In its session held last Tuesday, the Supreme Court has delayed the next hearing to the 2nd of May,

with regards to the lawsuit filed by the Capital Secretariat's chamber of commerce on the unlawfulness of the Sales Tax law of 2001, and the demand for 10 million riyals in compensation.

Eemar Constructions Interested in Soqatra

Chairman of Eemar's board of directors Mohammed Al-Abar has stated that a team of experts will shortly visit Soqatra island in order to research its economic potential as well as to conduct feasibility studies for several projects in the island.

Yemen Post Wins Bronze EMS Award

The International Office for the Post Union has awarded Yemen Post Service with the Bronze Award in the category of Speed Post Service EMS. Eng. Mohammed Murgham, director of Yemen Post, is heading to Switzerland in order to receive the award on behalf of Yemen Post.

Al-Barah Cement Sales Exceed 10 Billion Riyals in 2006

Al-Barah Cement Factory has announced that its accumulative sales during the year 2006 has exceeded 10 billion Riyals for the first time in its history, the factory sold over 583 thousand tones of cement with a growth rate of 18 percent compared to the previous year.

Mobile Phone Subscribers reaches 3.2 million

Sources at the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology has indicated that the number of Mobile Phone Subscribers in Yemen has reached 3.2 million subscribers through the three mobile Telecommunications Companies operating in Yemen, which are MTN Yemen, SabaFon, and Yemen Mobile.

مباروك الثقة

بالتفاني الكبيرة التي أولتها لهم القيادة السياسية الحكيمة
مبذلة وبفخامة الأخص /

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية
تقديم

البدن زود

للمقاومات والتوكيلات التجارية
بغالب النجاة وأطيب التبريكات

إلى دولة الدكتور / علي محمد مجور، رئيس الوزراء
ومعالي الاستاذ / خالد محفوظ بحاج، وزير النفط والمعادن
والى كافة أعضاء الحكومة الرشيدة
بتوليتهم مهام إدارة الحكومة الجديدة
متمنين لهم النجاح في مهامهم الوطنية الثمينة

عمر الكثيري
المدير العام

With the trust of the wise leadership represented by
H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh,

Trading Road

Contracting & Commercial Agencies

Present their warmest congratulations to
H.E. Dr. Ali Mohammed Mojawer, Prime Minister
H.E. Mr. Khalid Mahfoudh Bahah, Minister of Oil & Minerals
And the new Cabinet for holding the new government,
Wishing them all success and prosperity,
In their national responsibilities.

Omer Al-Katheri
General Manager



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افتح واربع



صنعاء



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الحديدة



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المكلا

بمصادقية تامة أعتاد عليها جمهور المستهلكين من شركة الشرق الأوسط للتجارة **METCO** الوكيل الحصري في الجمهورية اليمنية لمشروب الطاقة **SHARK** قامت الشركة وبجميع فروعها في المحافظات بتوزيع الدفعة الثانية من الجوائز للفائزين بمسابقة شارك **افتح واربع** والتي حصد خلالها الفائزين العديد من الجوائز القيمة .
الجدير بالذكر أن الشركة قد رصدت لهذه المسابقة ما يقارب ستة وستون ألف جائزة متنوعة ليتاح بذلك فرصة أكبر لجمهور المستهلكين بالفوز والشركة وهي تنشر بعض صور الفائزين بالدفعة الثانية من الجوائز لهذه المسابقة ، تبارك لهم وتتمنى لمن لم يحالفهم الحظ الفوز بمسابقات شارك القادمة .

تمنينين للجميع الحظ الأوفر ،،،،



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حرض



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تبدأ الحملة من تاريخ ١٥ / نوفمبر ٢٠٠٦ م ولمدة ثلاثة أشهر



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انزع الغطاء واحصل على جائزتك الفورية
من أحد مراكز الاستبدال
المعتمدة أو أحد فروع شركة متكو





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Executive assistant

(Job Number Y002)

Major Duties/Tasks (day-to-day tasks & activities)

This is a key departmental role that will be suitable for a highly motivated individual capable of multi-tasking while maintaining attention to detail. The responsibilities for this position include but are not limited to the following:

1. Implement administrative projects and tasks for the leadership team.
2. Manage contacts and schedules for leadership team.
3. Setup and maintain department filing system.
4. Prepare company correspondence in both Arabic and English.
5. Manage company correspondence database.
6. Contract Administration
7. Perform Translation

Requirements (Minimum education, background, experience, skills)

1. College Degree with a minimum of 5 years experience
2. Fluent English and Arabic (written and spoken). Candidates with professional translation certifications will be given preference.
3. Proficient in Excel & Word
4. Self starter with a high energy level, and the ability to deliver results independently in a multi-tasking, fast-paced environment.
5. Analytical and critical thinking skills, with high attention to detail.
6. Ability to work overtime as needed

General Ledger Accountant

(Job Number Y027)

This is an entry level position that will be suitable for a newly qualified graduate in Accounting. The responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

1. Recording monthly journal entries
2. Preparing monthly reports
3. Bank and other account reconciliations
4. Other accounting tasks as assigned

Required Qualifications

1. Degree in Accounting with a passing grade of at least 80%
2. Fluent English and Arabic (written and spoken)
3. Proficient in Excel & Word
4. Excellent interpersonal skills, high degree of comfort working in a team-oriented environment
5. Self starter with a high energy level, and the ability to deliver results independently in a multi-tasking, fast-paced environment
6. Analytical and critical thinking skills, with high attention to detail
7. Problem-solving skills – demonstrated ability to consider, analyze and recommend multiple solutions to problems
8. Ability to work overtime as needed

Accounts Payable Accountant

(Job Number Y028)

This is an entry level position that will be suitable for a recently qualified graduate in Accounting. The responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

1. Processing invoices – input, review, coding and routing invoices for approval
2. Maintaining contracts and service orders
3. Account reconciliations and other accounting tasks as assigned

Required Qualifications

1. Degree in Accounting with a passing grade of at least 80%
2. Fluent in English and Arabic (written and spoken)
3. Proficient in using computers including Excel & Word
4. 1 to 2 years post graduation experience preferred
5. Excellent interpersonal skills, high degree of comfort working in a team-oriented environment
6. Self starter with a high energy level, and the ability to deliver results independently in a multi-tasking, fast-paced environment
7. Analytical and critical thinking skills, with high attention to detail
8. Problem-solving skills – demonstrated ability to consider, analyze and recommend multiple solutions to problems
9. Ability to work overtime as needed

Asset Protection Manager

(Job Number Y029)

1. Basic Function:

Responsible for all Blocks S-1, 20, and 75 Security activities at the CPF facility area of Operations (includes the Main Oil Pipeline from CPF to Jannah Hunt Block 5) as well as Sana'a operations.

2. Work Performed:

- a. Continually reviews the effectiveness of CPF and Sana'a office Security Operations, with particular focus on the type of resources employed. Makes recommendations for change/improvement where necessary.
- b. Liaises directly with the Military Commander on CPF Security requirements, with support from the Military Liaison and Security Manager.
- c. In conjunction with the Asset Protection Director has responsibility for facilitating required training resources for all CPF Security personnel working in support of CPF Operations.
- d. Participates in the weekly CPF Management Meetings.
- e. Maintains contacts and oversees the services provided by third Party Contractors in support of the CPF Security issues.
- f. Provides Security briefings for Visits etc., as required.
- g. Facilitates the efforts of outside Consultants, working in support of, and providing training to, the CPF Security personnel.
- h. Provides regular written reports to both the Asset Protection Director, Military Liaison and Security Manager, and Operations Manager on operational and administrative aspects affecting the Security of the CPF, including cost benefit analysis where necessary.
- i. Organises and facilitates quarterly exercises involving Security aspects of the Crisis Management Plan for the CPF.

- j. Performs other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Operations Manager or the Asset Protection Director, and liaises regularly with the Military Liaison and Security Manager.

3. Minimum Requirements:

- a. Must be fluent in English, both spoken and written.
- b. Security Management training and experience of at least 10 years (Military/Police background).
- c. Thorough competence of originating plans and procedures.
- d. Minimum proficiency in computer skills including MS Word and Excel;
- e. High-level communication skills, written, oral and presentation.
- f. Contracts and negotiations experience.
- g. Cultural sensitivity in dealing with subordinates contractors and expatriates. Must have the interpersonal skills and sensitivity needed to be effective in dealing with Arabic cultures and work in a multi-cultural environment.
- h. Must be able to communicate effectively using patience and persistence to influence decisions in areas of concern
- i. Must have International experience, including third world experience.

Human Resources Generalist

(Job Number Y030)

Essential Job Duties

Assisting with management of human resources functions for Occidental in Yemen. This includes but not limited to all the following:

1. Recruitment, selection and hiring
2. Benefits, Payroll Administration, Compensation, and pay and administration
3. Policy and procedure administration
4. Employee relations
5. Training and development
6. Performance management

Required Qualifications

1. Bachelor's degree in HR or Business with a minimum of 3 years of experience
2. Demonstrated ability to perform all essential job duties
3. Demonstrated proficiency in administering payroll to include a strong working knowledge of Yemen Labor Law, Income and Social Security tax regulations.
4. Demonstrated proficiency in providing consultation to line managers
5. Excellent written and verbal communications skills (Arabic and English)
6. Excellent interpersonal skills, high degree of comfort working in a team-oriented environment
7. Self starter with a high energy level, and the ability to deliver results independently in a multi-tasking, fast-paced environment
8. Analytical and critical thinking skills, with high attention to detail
9. Problem-solving skills – demonstrated ability to consider, analyze and recommend multiple solutions to problems
10. Strong computer skills including a high level of proficiency in MS Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Experience using and creating databases is also desired
11. Willingness to travel

FOR ALL POSITIONS ABOVE YEMEN NATIONALS NEED ONLY APPLY. CLOSING DATE FOR ALL POSITIONS IS May 25, 2007.

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Decision-making skills for youth leaders

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
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and Mariam Al-Yemeni

People make daily decisions for everything in their lives, but many don't have the skills to make the right ones. Leaders are believed to be those mostly possessing professional decision-making skills; thus, youth in every nation are the ones most needing to know such skills because they are the future leaders.

At an April 14 seminar arranged by the foundation "All Girls Society for Development", in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Halal Al-Asmar, a consultant with Deloitte & Touche Yemen, provided mixed youth more information about leadership and decision-making skills in the following areas:

There are two types of decisions. Direct decisions involve personal desires and reflect the decision maker's inner desire. Direct decisions are clear and have a specific purpose. The second type of decision is indirect decision, which always considers variable circumstances and has no aim.

Making right decisions

The basic principle in making right decisions is having enough information, which actually is built through a database or knowledge. Then the decision maker makes his decision with using the Information; when a leader or someone wants to make a specific decision, he or she must have enough background



In his presentation, Deloitte's Halal Al-Asmar focuses on cultivating youth leadership skills and making right decisions.

information about the matter.

"Actually, women are able to make decisions quickly, whereas men must think a lot before making a decision in order to avoid making a wrong decision or due to fear of failure," Al-Asmar noted.

Team decisions are considered the best because when a group of people discusses a matter, they actually focus on the major issues and can categorize them according to importance. A team easily can come to a right decision after following a specific process involving description, evaluation, etc.

While a decision by a minority within a group mostly is classified as

wrong, it's an indicator of potential trouble for the decision maker and his or her company.

Leadership qualities

Many people ask how leaders can make right decisions; basically, a successful leader is one who makes decisions in a team. Making a right decision follows a specific system begun by all group members working as one team and employing scientific approaches.

Education is the main source of high-quality leadership. "Observers notice that educated people are the most successful leaders and people in general," Al-Asmar pointed out.

Regarding top management leadership, education is the main requirement in building a successful leader, as well as building a good network and company culture.

Steps to making right decisions

Al-Asmar provided the youth with the main steps in making right decisions, explaining: "In the decision-making progress, looking is one thing, but seeing what you're looking at is another. Understanding what you're seeing is a third, while learning from what you understand is something else still. But acting on what you learn is all that really matters."

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