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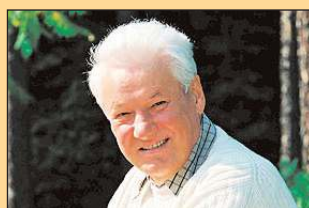
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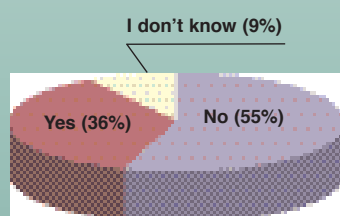


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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Do you think that the investment conference will spark confidence for investments in Yemen?



This edition's question:

Do you think that the regime will allow electing governors?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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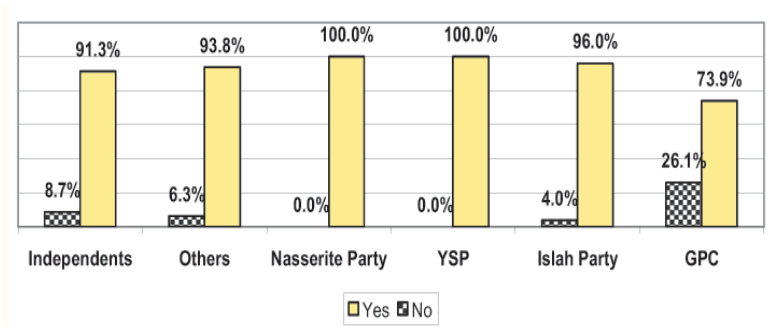
84% want governors elected, not appointed, study finds

By: Adel Al-Khawilani

SANA'A, April 25 — Eighty-four percent out of a total of 307 local council members interviewed in various parts of Yemen backed the idea of voters directly electing governors instead of them being appointed, as revealed in a public opinion poll the Yemen Polling Center conducted ahead of last year's presidential and local council elections. The polling's results were discussed at a workshop on Monday.

According to the poll, nearly 67 percent of respondents wanted deputy governors to be elected directly in lieu of being appointed, while 31 percent disagreed with the idea. Compared to responses to the previous question, the number of interviewees backing such an idea declined because they believe governors (not deputy governors) have more dominance over running affairs of executive offices than other officials.

Based on responses from those polled, 70 percent also supported affiliating branches of the Central Organization for Control and Audit with local councils, while 27.5 percent disagreed. Only 2.3 percent of interviewees said they didn't know whether



The chart shows interviewees support for the idea of electing governors in light of their political affiliation.

this was feasible or not.

The survey further disclosed that 51.5 percent of respondents supported extending the local council term to six years, while nearly 48 percent disagreed.

Just over 79 percent of the sample confirmed that they back the nomination of qualified women to run for local council posts, compared to 18.2 percent who stated that they don't support nominating women. Interviewees belonging to the Islah Party outnumbered those with other party affiliations in terms of opposing the nomination of qualified

women for local council seats.

Respondents offered varying viewpoints in their assessment of citizens' level of awareness enabling them to select the most eligible local council candidates to represent them, the survey added.

From interviewees' viewpoints, the poll explained that the main problems and obstacles posed to the local council experience in Yemen, which is in its infancy, mainly relate to unlimited powers exercised by executive government offices.

Continued on page 3

Investment conference: Great start, limited success

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqa@gmail.com

SANA'A, April 24 — The most recent investment conference witnessed unprecedented success in terms of participation, with more than 600 participants from neighboring Gulf countries and a total of \$3.7 billion in investments through 15 different projects in the tourism, oil, gas, minerals, construction and industry sectors.

Observers and attendees were quite impressed with the outcome of the conference, realizing that Yemen offers much potential for large-scale investments. It also was noted during the conference that Yemen's underdeveloped economy is promising to boom and that an inflow of foreign investment will have its part in that.

However, it was commented that Yemen could have benefited from more investment, especially as many businessmen and investors have a genuine interest in Yemen, as well as funds available. Several businessmen told the Yemen Times that they were disappointed with the presentation of proposals for investments, explaining that they were offered a two-page feasibility study for a \$7 million investment, which lacked even preliminary details about the project.

The conference concluded with investors coming forward to invest in 15 out of a total of 300 proposals presented during the conference. Additionally, Gulf-based and Yemeni



businessmen held extensive talks on trade relations and possible joint ventures in Yemen.

Gulf Cooperative Council Secretary-General Abdulrahman Al-Attya marshalled hundreds of Gulf-based investors and businessmen to attend the conference and explore business possibilities in Yemen. He stated that Yemen's economic growth is a priority for the council, adding that Yemen has a lot of potential to build a diversified and prosperous economy, which in turn will have a positive impact both on Yemeni society and the region as a whole.

The conference's main theme was to exhibit Yemeni investment opportunities to GCC investors and to lure the petrodollars of neighboring Gulf countries toward making strategic investments in Yemen. The two-day conference included industry-specific roundtables to discuss growth scenarios for each of the separate sectors.

For more details on the Conference for Exploring Investment Opportunities, see page 11

NDI calls for more electoral reforms, criticizes ruling party violations

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, April 25 — The National Democratic Institute recently published its report on last September's presidential and local elections, wherein, despite shortcomings, it commended Yemen's electoral experience, but maintained that major challenges remain ahead.

Although it achieved a lot during the last elections, many things remain to be done by the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum, including deleting duplicate names on voter registries. The institute called for adopting a mechanism to correct the voter registry by eliminating the names of dead and underage voters. It also called upon the commission to provide an electronic copy of the registry to all political parties.

Further, the report requested the elec-

tion commission upgrade the performance of its media sector and shrink the wide gap between the different political parties regarding election campaign expenses, thus ensuring transparency and equality between all parties, and affirming that the existence of observers is a must in order to gain people's trust. It also called upon the commission to continue preparing for all elections and not just confine itself to seasonal work.

In this regard, the report stressed the importance of all parties participating in making political decision, including Parliament, in order to take the necessary measures to reinforce the election commission's authority. It also called on the commission to ease measures related to election administration and control.

Continued on page 3

Houthis seize four Sa'ada districts

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SA'ADA, April 25 — Yemeni army forces have intensified their all-encompassing operations in most Sa'ada districts using fighters and helicopters to initially bombard targeted areas, in addition to Katyusha missiles, together with heavy and Hawn mortars.

Tribal sources reveal that such army offensives have included Sudan, Beit Al-Qabaili, Ghalfan, Al-Qahrah, Al-Al'al, Harf Ja'fer, Sha'eb Sudan and Al-Madhloum villages in Sahar district's Bani Mu'ath area, further extending to Dammaj area, as well as Al-Hanajer and Brash Mountains south of Sa'ada.

Clashes are ongoing in Al-Qal'ah city, the capital of Razih district, which Houthis seized many days ago. They also stretch to other areas within the district, the second largest in Sa'ada governorate with numerous fortified sites.

The same tribal source added, "Houthis managed to completely control four Sa'ada districts at the outset of this week."

Over the past two weeks, armed forces leaders have amassed approximately 70,000 soldiers, with the participation of forces from Central Security, Al-'Amaliqah Brigade and parachute units, to launch a conclusive battle against Houthis. In fact, the battle already has been launched in some districts.

Sources also indicate that Yemeni army forces have halted their military operations in areas of Magz district, likewise stopping operations in some parts of Baqem district, allegedly seized by Houthis.

Such measures were taken after the army learned that Houthis have scouts

in various areas of Bani Mu'ath, gathering information about army movements and being in contact with each other on one hand and with Houthis on the other.

In related news, Dhahian city, located some 8 km. north of Sa'ada, witnessed intensified air raids, together with several other areas in the district, which shares the same name, including Al-Saifi and Bani Urig, thus compelling locals to evacuate their homes for nearby areas in Al-Khamis and Al-Mujawar areas, according to media sources.

Earlier, military leaders ordered their soldiers to vacate areas of Dhahian in order to enable fighters to bombard those areas.

Sources mention that new Sa'ada Governor Mutahar Rashad Al-Misri has dictated transferring all Sa'ada war prisoners to other governorate prisons, as well as detaining all of those who come to ask about such prisoners. He also prevented transporting gas cylinders to Dhahian, lest Houthis use them in the war; however, the source didn't specify how such cylinders could be used in war.

Similarly, Al-Misri ordered halting aid from those areas accused of accommodating Houthis, which action is considered as collective punishment and banned by international law.

A media source confirmed that most security and military leaders in Sa'ada will change in the coming days, adding that leaders of military units have received higher directives demanding they end the Sa'ada crisis before the May 22 Yemeni Reunification Day.

Some observers believe the war's expansion aims to be finished before President Ali Abdullah Saleh's visit to the United States next month.

Continued on page 2

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In brief

HADRAMOUT

Fist civil aviation school
April 25 — The General Authority for Civil Aviation and Meteorology along with GoldenWay Company signed Tuesday an agreement to establish the first civil aviation school in Mukalla, the provincial capital of Hadramout. Eng. Abdullah Saleh Al-Shabibi, Manger of Mukalla Airport said that the school is the first of its kind for training local staff on civil aviation. He added that the school is due to be constructed with a total cost of YR 320 million as part of a series of investment projects.

TAIZ

Court tries sons over father's murder
April 25 — Chaired by Judge Yahya Bin Abdullaah Al-Ansi, the Taiz Appeal Court continued its hearings on the murder case of Ali Khalid Ghaleb. On Tuesday's hearing, the court judge read out the court orders for the two parties of the case to bring the suspects Munir Ali Khalid and his brother Mamoun, sons of the victim, who are accused of killing their father over inheritance of property. The court seized the revolver used for shooting Khalid to death.

ABYAN

Court receives suit against embezzlement suspects
April 24 — Chaired by Judge Abdulqawi Ahmad Al-Abbasi, the Junjubar Preliminary Court on Monday looked into the lawsuit it received from Public Money Prosecution, which filed a case against 23 government officials accused of embezzling public money. Only 4 of the 23 suspects stood trial, which compelled the court to return the case file to Public Money Prosecution until all the suspects stand for trial.

DHAMAR

Educators lash out at committees for misconducts
April 24 — Branches of Yemeni teachers and education professions syndicates in Dhamar governorate condemned the committees mandated to deliver hardship allowances to teachers and other education workers for the illegal and arbitrary conducts it exercises to extort them. The syndicates' leaders urged the Ministry of Education and the governorate's leadership to take quick action against such arbitrary procedures exercised by the committees concerned with delivering hardship allowances.

ADEN

Outstanding teachers receive honors
April 24 — Under the auspices of Ahmad Hamed, Director of Sheikh Othman District, the education office in the district organized an awarding ceremony for outstanding teachers on the occasion of the Teacher Day. As many as 70 outstanding male and female teachers received honors at the ceremony. Abdulkarim Shayef, Deputy Aden Governor and Secretary-General of the governorate's local council, gave a speech in which he congratulated teachers for the noble role they play to educate children.

HODEIDA

Students protests insults
April 24 — Tens of students enrolled in the Radio and Television Department at the Hodeida University's Faculty of Fine Arts held a sit-in Tuesday at their faculty in protest against the insults they received from their teachers. The students sent a letter to the University President threatening to escalate their protest unless the university resolves their problems. They complained of insults by the department chairman and the faculty dean.

SHABWA

Disputes over Dutch-funded projects
April 24 — Local sources said that disputes broke out between the governorate's local council administrative staff and the Dutch Technical Support Office over the projects due to be implemented during 2007 with funds coming from the Government of Netherlands. This led William Frenci, Manager of the office to leave the governorate for Sana'a before approving the 2007 projects' plan.

Around the Nation

Activists discuss case studies of Police violations for human rights

SANA'A, April 24 — Shaef Al-Haimi, a citizen residing in Sana'a, disclosed his ordeal in a month's detention at the National Security as he was accused of stealing a police officer's cell phone.
Al-Haimi, who appeared unable to move, talked about the goings-on at the detention during a symposium organized Monday by rights groups and civil society organizations. The citizen noted police officers threatened to torture his family in case he disclosed the goings-on at the detention.
Al-Haimi said seven police officers from the National Security arrested him at midnight and led him to detention with his eyes folded on charges of stealing a mobile phone that belongs to one of them.
"As I was crying out in pain, investigators increasingly beat me up; and as I cry out with thirst, they spattered me with cold water, forcing me to keep silent. When I was crying with pain, they brought a bottle full of urine and force me to drink it, and pour some on my head. They even put a bar of soap in

my mouth and tied up. For many times they [investigators] put a shoe into my mouth while beating me up with thick military shoes, which made my left ear go deaf," Al-Hami said.
His two hands have become paralysed and his left foot immobilized as he was tortured for several days. He was then moved to the Criminal Investigative Bureau, where he was put in a cell that is one metre in length and half a metre in width. There he was forced to waive the case, and officers threatened to try him with charges of homosexuality. "Investigators here played music and songs and forced me to dance although I was fatigue," he said.
Abdul-Rahman Barman, who is the lawyer of Al-Haimi's case, said the Specialized Penal Prosecution ordered to send Al-Haimi to the National Security, but after that law was absent. "He spent 28 days at the National Security detention. For 16 days, he was attached to electrical wires with a cold water dropper over his head. He was

then put on a bed made of iron," Barman said, adding he was released on bail.
Human rights activist Ali Al-Dailami, who was detained last year, said at the symposium that there are around 4,000 detainees at the political security detention at the backdrop of Sa'ada clashes, although "they are not guilty". He called for releasing them or sent them to fair courts and help MPs and rights groups visit them.
Dr. Al-Murtadha bin Zaid Al-Mahdouri, head of Badr Sceintific Centre, complained of security authorities that arrested several of his friends without charges. It is worth mentioning that several individuals have been arrested since clashes between government forces and Al-Houthi followers renewed early this year. In its annual report for 2006, the US State Department said arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention without charge or, if charged, without a public preliminary judicial hearing within a reasonable time, were common practices in Yemen.

More African immigrants die on way to Yemen

SAN'A', April, 26 — At least 18 East African immigrants who were being smuggled by boat to Yemen have died, including eight who were killed after they were thrown overboard in high seas, the United Nations (UN) refugee agency said on Tuesday.
Jennifer Pagonis, a spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the new arrivals were abroad a smuggling boat and a transport vessel used to carry fish and cattle. One of the boats arrived at Buroom fishing port in Yemen carrying 60 Somalis and 80 Ethiopians. The other

boat arrived 25 km west of Mukalla city in the governorate of Hadramaut carrying 10 Somalis.
"Eyewitnesses from the two boats which made the voyage said that at least 18 people died on the trip — eight people were thrown overboard in high seas and 10 more died due to asphyxia and dehydration." Pagonis also adding that the Yemeni authorities have taken 35 Ethiopians into custody. The Somalis, recognized by the Yemenis as refugees, were provided with food and water before being taken to UNHCR's Mayfa reception centre.

The survivors said that they paid \$100 for crossing the sea to reach Yemen, the frequent destination for those fleeing violence and deprivation in the Horn of Africa.
The UNHCR has warned that smugglers often act ruthlessly, particularly if they spot coastguard boats or if they fear that their vessels are overloaded.
More than 5,600 people have landed on the Yemeni coast so far this year, while 26,000 people made the voyage last year, at least 330 lives were lost and another 300 people were reported missing and believed dead.

For the first time in Yemen, Otolaryngology Scientific Conference held

SANA'A, April 24 — Over 170 international and local specialists and experts participated in Yemen's first Otolaryngology Conference last Tuesday to discuss the health problems of ear, nose, and throat (E.N.T.).
Sponsored by Ministry of Public Health and Population in cooperation with Al-Thawra Public Hospital, the conference continues for three days during which 30 medical researches and work papers are presented by specialists from Yemen, Egypt, Oman, Saudi

Arabia, Syria, Sudan, Germany, Italy, and Austria. In addition, several lectures are delivered on the recent developments in this field particularly concerning otolaryngology surgical operations.
Dr. Abdul Kateem Rasee, minister of public health and population, confirmed that the conference represents a good opportunity for all the participants in order to share expertise and benefit from the medical researches and studies presented by experts from different countries.

For his part, Dr. Mohammed Al-Khateeb, director of the conference, revealed that the aim of such activity is to improve the Yemeni E.N.T. specialists and help them recognize the latest researches conducted in the field all over the world. He further pointed out that the conference will be held regularly every year since the world witnesses new things in the field of Medicine almost everyday and Yemeni specialists should be aware of any medical information so as to offer people better services.

GPC reinforces the concept of dialogue with Opposition

SANA'A, April 25 —Abdulqader Bajammal, the secretary general of the General People Congress (GPC) assured in the regular session for the GPC that the ruling party aims to find national harmony. He stressed to reinforce the dialogue with different parties, being a national necessity aiming to reform the political and democratic system.
Bajammal denied the rumors, by some MPs, concerning the political partnership. He added that the

Congress aimed to achieve its objective to make dialogue with all political parties regardless of their different ideologies so as to join in the new development.
Additionally, he stated that the congress will not accept the breakdown of democracy. He also pointed out that there are some parties deviating from the new development. However, the Congress and its General Secretariat will continue their duties.
The Congress held a series of meet-

ings with Joint Meeting Parties to discuss three key issues related to electoral system regulations, as well as parties and local authority laws. Furthermore, he added that the ruling party was trying to impose a control authority over parties' work.
However, the dialogue was halted because of disagreements with JMP over the issues under study. At that time, the congress claimed that they are in need for rest before resuming the dialogue.

Project to monitor women rights in Yemen

SAN'A', April, 22— On Sunday April 29, Yemeni Media Women Forum inaugurates the first conference to present the report of monitoring women's rights movement in 18 governorates in Yemen. The report has been funded by the National Endowment for Democracy for the first three months (January, February, and March).
According to a press release, issued from the Forum on Sunday, the project is to monitor the positive and negative changes in women's way of rights and how the social, political, economical, and cultural attitudes are changed towards women.
The results of monitoring will be

issued in periodical reports to clarify the changes on the level of each of the concerned Yemeni governorates which were monitored. "This process depends on the direct watch, living and following up of 18 researchers from the different 18 governorates. The monitoring process also includes what have been published about women in websites and Yemeni newspapers to make an available scientific curriculum and reference to the other organizations that are interested in women issues." Said the press release.
The reports will be distributed to international and local organizations that work in women's rights in Arabic

and English languages to help them in their struggle to achieve their programs.
At the end of the conference, Media Women forum allocated an hour for the Darfur's victims in Sudan in the occasion of the international day of Darfur which was decided by number of HR activists, journalists and bloggers from different Arabic and foreign 14 countries, who participated In " the second annual leadership & civil rights seminar (which was held between 11-15 April, 2007) " in Morocco. Similar activities will be held in these countries in the same day of April 29th 2007.

Government to ban arms trade

SANA'A, April 24 — Ministry of Interior announced Monday a draft law to shut down arm shops in the country.
Minister of Interior Rashad Al-Alemi said his ministry is determined to implement the draft resolution during the next phase which is a three-fold project.
The draft resolution aims also to identify the number of bodyguards for the state's high figures as well as to gather heavy and medium weapons during the next six months. The project is important and tends to provide security and stability in the country, Al-Alemi said.
The announcement came two weeks after the National Defence Council approved a plan set by the ministry of interior to collect small and heavy arms as well as firecrackers from markets.
The first phase of the plan is confined to identify the places of arm trading. The second one would identify types of arms and compensation amount for each piece in accordance with its model and condition. And, the third phase is related to how field committees would

collect arms and provide financial compensations for arm owners.
Arm bearing is a part of Yemeni society traditions, especially in rural areas, where 75 percent of Yemen's 21 million inhabitants live. As a result, It is estimated that there are about 40-50 million pieces of arms nationwide. In the capital city, Sana'a, it is common to see state high figures and Sheikhs accompanied by heavily armed men.
A draft law to control and organize possession of arms has already been passed on to the parliament but has not been approved yet. Further, It is decided that a media campaign on the danger of arm bearing will commence during the three stages.
There are approximately 18 legitimate markets for arms trade nationwide. In 2005, the government embarked on a plan to collect heavy weapons, which reach 9 million pieces according to a survey by the UN in 2003, from tribal communities and arm dealers. It is worth noting that around 44 million dollars were spent to buy back weapons.

Judge removed after being convicted of drinking alcohol

SANA'A, April 24 — In its meeting held on Monday, Supreme Judicial Council headed by Essam Abdulwahab Al-Samawi decided removing a judge from his post after he had been convicted of committing professional mistakes while performing his routine duties and drinking alcohol.
Earlier, the Accountability Council affiliated with Judicial Inspection Authority issued a gentle ruling against the judge, but the Supreme Judicial Council viewed the ruling unmatched with the volume of profession mistakes together with drinking alcohol that is banned under Islamic Shari'a.
The council also reviewed the

Ministry of Justice performance over 2006 so as to upgrade the judicial administration, documentation, and inspection. It also discussed establishing appeal division, expanding primary courts, and increasing the number of judges in the courts with density of cases.
It also discussed the Justice Minister's request related to setting up Al-Taizia Primary Court to lessen the density of cases presented in Taiz's East and West Courts.
It is worth mentioning that the Supreme Judicial Council is the only authority in charge of pursuing the performance of judicial authorities which used to be a part of President's duties.

Al-Muayad health condition deteriorates in Colorado prison

SANA'A, April 24 — A legal source expected that Sheikh Mohammed bin Ali Al-Muayad, imprisoned in the United States along with his companion Mohammed Zayed for terror-funding verdict by the American Judiciary, may be subjected to surgical operation at a US hospital in Brock Len in the few upcoming days.
Khalid Al-A'ansi, executive director of HOOD organization, maintained that Al-Muayad should be taken to hospital for the operation since he is undergoing a very poor health condition while in Colorado especially in the last few days. He further added that Al-Muayad and Al-Zayed's trial will begin next summer in the American Court of Appeal so that their lawyers can offer their appeal against Brock Len court's sentence of

75 years imprisonment for Al-Muayad and 35 years for his companion in addition to \$ 2 million as fine.
Sheikh Hamood Hashim Al-Tharihi, Chairman of the National and People Committee for defending Al-Muayad and Zayed, has already criticized the decision of Colorado Prison Authority which refused to allow Al-Muayad to be transferred to hospital for medical check-up and taking a specimen from his lever as required by the doctor. He also pointed out that the American authority's refusal is considered a violation against human rights as well as international laws and norms. Al-Muayad's doctor had conducted some medical check-ups three months ago and set an appointment for other check-ups.

Shura council reforms local authority law

SANA'A, April 24— the Shura Council held the first session on Tuesday to discuss the draft of the reform law on the local authority election. The new reforms dictate electing governors and the chiefs of districts in all Yemeni governorates and not to be appointed.
About four members of the shura council had refused the new reform procedures to avoid getting random outcomes, criticism, or negative feedback from the nation, like what happened concerning the failed experience of the assembly of the anti-corruption law.
Abdulsalam Al-Ansi, a member of the Shura Council insured the importance to wait before making any kind of reformation "we have to limit the discussion and focus on specific points rather than discussing the new reformation in general." Al-Ansi stated.
Furthermore, Mohammed Al-Khawi, another member, described the election of governors and general managers as dangerous. Also, he pointed out that the nomination of governors is the best decision especially in this period. Adding that Yemen is still far from democracy and Yemeni people need tens of years to understand the real meaning of democracy. Achieving this,

Yemen will be able to interact with election and democracy in the right way. "Only corrupted Sheikhs and authorized men will benefit from such reformation if it is reformed without careful study." Al-Khawi stated.
On the other hand, the Chairman of Shura Council Abdul-Aziz Abdul-Ghani commented on Al-Ansi and Al-Khawi interposition by indicating that in spit of the failure, Yemeni people are able to fulfill high success in the experience of local authority. He added that it is necessary to give the shura council more authorities as well as to the local authority representatives. In addition, he ensured to develop the administrative and institutional capabilities of local authority cadre nationwide. While, Mohammed Al-Saeif noted that it is important to make questionnaires for the public to know their opinions about the new law before implementing it.
Centralization and non centralization system on local authority law are classified as a main reason in losing nation rights and have many negative aspects "the centralization produces more hatred." The minister of the Local administration, Abdualqader Halal noticed.

Continued from page 3

84% want governors elected, not appointed, study finds

For example, 92 percent of local council members polled believed that executive authorities dominate all of the main duties and powers and thus, hinder their performance, while 50 percent said they see similarities in tasks, duties and powers delegated to local councils and executive government officials.

The local council's role is unclear for the members themselves and those in executive offices, according to nearly 50 percent of the sample, thus adding lack of awareness to the list of obstacles hindering the performance of local council representatives.

Those acknowledging that low awareness about the role of local councils is an obstacle posed to their performance accounted for 84.3 percent of those surveyed, followed by admitting to the weak relationship between citizens and local councils.

The poll was conducted in six governorates, with 47 male and female field researchers, who attended a two-day training course at the Yemen Polling Center, collecting data from the field and filling out questionnaires. Some 307 interviews were conducted with those who had won local council seats during the first

vote or had run for posts in the most recent elections in September 2006.

Additionally, researchers interviewed citizens while collecting data for another poll targeting public viewpoints. According to the researchers' reports, large numbers of citizens feared being interviewed, as the response rate was 66 percent. Field researchers visited 1,522 households in six governorates: Sana'a, Amran, Dhamar, Taiz, Aden and Hadramout. Citizens in 414 of the total households visited by researchers refused to be interviewed.

NDI calls for more electoral reforms, criticizes ruling party violations

Moreover, the report demanded training security committees on how to play their role and act according to the authority granted them in a way ensuring both voters' and observers' rights. It also requested holding more training courses for election commission members and employees.

Regarding women, the report criticized political parties' attitudes concerning women, as they failed to commit to their promises to empower Yemeni women by allowing them to participate in the electoral process as party candidates and designating them a certain number of seats in

local and parliamentary elections.

The report added that there was no indication that parties would allow women to join the political process; thus, it asked the election commission to give more support to women and adopt effective and positive steps to ensure that Yemeni women receive equal chances with men, especially the right to nominate themselves in upcoming elections.

The report commended the experience of the Joint Meeting Parties coalition, suggesting that such a coalition enabled them to stand against the ruling party, the General People's Congress.

However, according to the report, neither the Yemeni Socialist Party nor Islah Party took advantage of available resources. Further, those in charge of campaigns for the two parties' candidates lacked sufficient training and organization, which prevented opposition candidates from achieving success.

It also attributed the failure of opposition candidates to the voter registry and a series of violations and infringements committed by the ruling party, including exploiting state resources, terrorizing opposition candidates, interfering with security committees and incidents of violence.

Despite political tension before the elections and during the electoral campaigns, election day witnessed

minor incidents of violence, with only three deaths, as compared to 47 cases in 2001 and seven cases in 2003, according to the report.

It also criticized army and security personnel interference during the elections, which sought to be impartial. It indicated that such personnel displayed a clear bias toward President Ali Abdullah Saleh and ruling party candidates, maintaining that efforts by the election commission's security sector weren't up to par.

Meanwhile, the report recorded numerous violations, mostly by the ruling party, including exploiting public funds and media in the interest of General People's Congress candidates. Another gross violation by the ruling party was resorting to a fatwa issued by a Sulfi scholar from Marib, which forbade rivaling the ruler and was telecast on the Yemeni satellite channel.

The National Democratic Institute is a non-profit organization aiming to spread and enhance democracy. Working via an international web of volunteer experts, it provides assistance to those civil society organizations interested in democracy, as well to political leaders.

The institute's main goals include supporting civil society organization initiatives, assisting electoral bodies to ensure conducting impartial elections, enhancing public participation and encouraging transparency and

accountability in rule, together with democracy and an independent judiciary

Houthi seize four Sa'ada districts

In related developments, the families of military victims in the Sa'ada conflict have asked the Red Cross organization to transfer the bodies of their sons from a location they've been unable to access.

Residents of Taiz's Sabr and Al-Misrah areas point out that for more than a week, they've been attempting to reach their sons' bodies, but in vain due to the prolonged fighting. However, a Red Cross source assures that they too are unable to reach such areas.

In an article published by Al-Sharq Al-Awsat last Monday, political thinker Ahmed Al-Rub'i alleged that no one is satisfied with the justification that what's occurring in Sa'ada is nothing more than a Houthis-led insurrection.

"An insurrection lasts days or weeks, but what we're seeing is a real war that's continued for two years and reaped thousands of lives belonging to both warring parties," Al-Rub'i noted.

He went on to say that the Yemeni government has offered only vague indications and reports about the Sa'ada events, at one time saying

Houthis aim to restore Imamate rule to Yemen and at others, saying they're rebels led by elements from Iranian intelligence. It alleges that they are advocating Shi'ite ideas imported from Iran, while claiming at another time that Libya is playing an important role via one of Badraddin Al-Houthi's sons who is living there.

"There are many questions in need of an answer. Those afraid for Yemen should ask about the reality of the two-year war and the difficulty of achieving victory by the central state in Sana'a and the large experienced army. People have the right to know the real reasons for this insurrection and the nature of regional relations with Houthis, as well as the ideology they advocate and for which they sacrifice their lives, as well as the source of the modern arms and money they receive," Al-Rub'i wrote.

Concluding his article, Al-Rub'i pointed out that what's more dangerous about the Sa'ada war is its vagueness and the silence about the real reasons for it. "The matter is given over to oversimplification and no one knows what's going on."

"Those worried about Yemen's future and that of the Yemeni people should know the full truth, as the continuous government claim about a family's insurrection doesn't stand for long, especially in front of such a huge number of victims and the war's costly bill," Al-Rub'i lamented.

Yemeni Jews elect Yahya bin Ya'ish as Rabbis

AMRAN, April 25 — Yemeni Jews elected Yahya bin Ya'ish bin Yahya as a Rabbi, replacing his father Ya'ish bin Yahya who passed away in a London hospital on April 6 at the age of 83 after he suffered cancer and kidney failure eight years ago.

Yahya told 26 September he made his

father a consolation ceremony in Raydah district, Kharf area, and it was attended by Yemeni Jews and Muslims together with his father's friends from inside and outside Yemen including those who were treated at his hand.

He added that such an election is based on religious and knowledge conditions.

Further, the one selected as a Rabbi should be knowledgeable about Jewish religion as well as medicine and agriculture.

Ya'ish bin Yahya met his early education at the hand of Mary Yusuf in Hajjah. Later on, he moved to Sana'a where he studied at the hands of Al-Qa'

jews earlier to their emigration to Israel under what was known to be "Magic Carpet Operation".

He was born in Kharf's Bait Al-Qudaimi and has seven children (six boys and one girl). He visited Israel once and declined to go there any more. He also prevented his family from traveling there.



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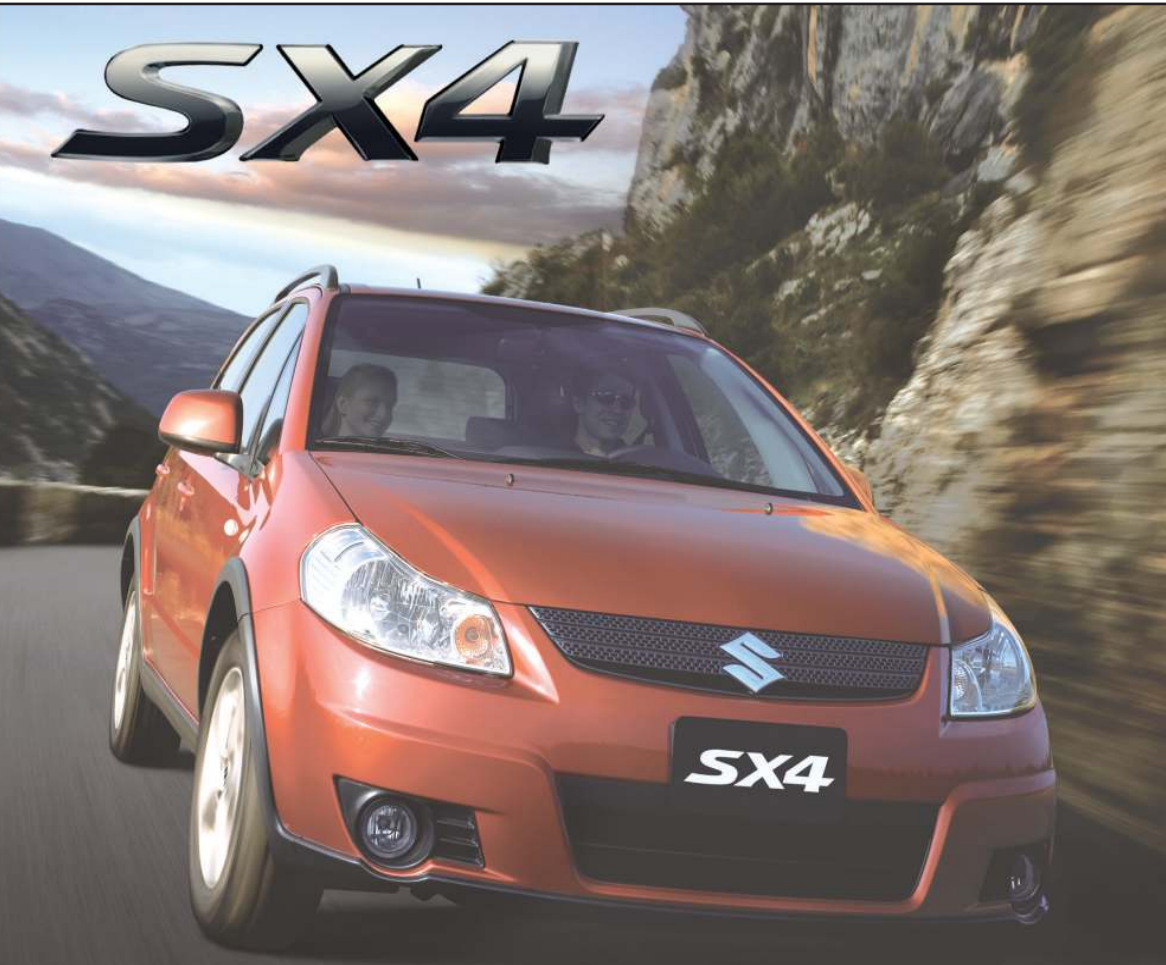
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U.N. raps Iraq for withholding civilian toll

By: Yara Bayoumy

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - The United Nations criticised Iraq's government on Wednesday for not disclosing politically sensitive civilian casualty figures and said the humanitarian crisis there was rapidly worsening.

Violence continued as a suicide attacker walked into the police station in the volatile Diyala province and detonated a bomb, killing nine and wounding 16, police said.

The military toll has also risen, with a British soldier who was killed in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Monday marking the deadliest month for British forces since March 2003, when U.S.-led forces invaded to topple Saddam Hussein.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) said Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government had withheld data on civilian deaths amid spiralling sectarian violence between majority Shi'ites and once dominant Sunnis.

Maliki's administration has accused UNAMI of exaggerating the death toll and banned Iraqi officials from releasing data.

"UNAMI emphasises again the utmost need for the Iraqi government to operate in a transparent manner and

does not accept the government's suggestion that UNAMI used the mortality figures in an inappropriate fashion," UNAMI said in a report.

It said the government continued to face "immense security challenges" and a "rapidly worsening humanitarian crisis".

Iraqi officials say the civilian casualty toll has declined in Baghdad since the launch of a Baghdad security plan nine weeks ago. U.S. military commanders say a surge in car bombings, however, has pushed up the overall toll countrywide.

Officials have not released any specific figures, using only percentages to describe broad increases or decreases.

UNAMI said in January that 34,452 civilians were killed and more than 36,000 wounded in 2006, figures that were much higher than any statistics issued by government officials.

Maliki's office had no immediate comment on the report.

Crackdown

Eleven British soldiers have been killed in April, pushing total British fatalities to 145. The previous worst month was March 2003, the first month of the war when 27 were killed. The U.S. death toll rose past 3,330



A teacher shows a bloodstained book belonging to a student, who was killed in a mortar attack on the way to school, in Baghdad April 25.

after nine soldiers were killed in an attack by two suicide truck bombers at a military outpost in Diyala, north of Baghdad, on Monday, one of the worst strikes against U.S. ground forces since the invasion.

U.S. President George W. Bush has committed 30,000 more troops to Iraq, mostly for Baghdad, where tens of thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops are sweeping through districts to try to curb communal bloodletting.

Reinforcements have also been sent to Diyala to take on militants who slipped through the net.

Both Bush and Maliki are under domestic pressure to show progress in the crackdown after four years of conflict.

The U.S. Congress will vote this week on a funding bill that sets March 31, 2008, as a goal for pulling out most troops but Bush has repeatedly threatened to use his presidential veto.

North Korea fetes fearsome but fragile army

By: Jon Herskovitz and Jack Kim

SEOUL (Reuters) — North Korea celebrated with a grand parade on Wednesday the 75th birthday of its "invincible"

army, which experts say is capable of dealing a quick and devastating blow, but is hollow at the core.

With nearly 1.2 million soldiers, the secretive communist state has one of the largest standing forces on the planet. But the crippled economy has left the military short of food for its soldiers as well as lacking fuel and parts for its tanks, planes and ships.

The Korean Peoples Army (KPA) would not last long in a prolonged conflict with superior forces such as the U.S. military, but it could inflict a lot of damage before falling, experts say.

"North Korea can provoke a war and has the military power to cause initial damage, but does not have the ability to carry out and win the war," said Baek Seung-joo, a military expert at the South's Korea Institute for Defence Analyses.

Under the eyes of leader Kim Jong-il, the honourable tribune of the celebration, North Korea paraded military hardware and goose-stepping soldiers through central Pyongyang, the KCNA news agency said.

"Columns of rocket units also went past the tribune of honour, demonstrating the invincible might of the KPA equipped with modern offensive and defensive means," KCNA said.

Kim's power stems from his position as the chairman of the National Defence



North Korean leader Kim Jong-il (C) inspects Korean People's Army Unit 1637 at an undisclosed location in North Korea in an undated recent photo released by the Korea Central News Agency April 23, REUTERS/Korea News Service

Commission. His late father, Kim Il-sung, is the country's "eternal president".

North Korea admits to economic shortcomings, but says the military will still triumph.

"A rosy future is in store for the people, who though not fed well, give priority to the development of the defence industry, build their army into a strong one and convert their whole country into an impregnable fortress," KCNA said.

Ballistic missiles

North Korea can deliver a quick strike with rockets and artillery that would

likely wipe out Seoul, inflict serious damage on almost every major South Korean city, and trigger turmoil in global markets, experts said.

It also has tested longer-range missiles with the potential to reach Japanese cities. South Korea's defence ministry said the North had amassed more than 13,000 pieces of artillery and multiple rocket launchers, many of them aimed at Seoul.

Jane's International Defence Review estimates if North Korea launched an all-out barrage, it could achieve an initial fire rate of 300,000 to 500,000 shells an

hour into the greater Seoul metropolitan area, home to half the country's 49 million people.

Forces from United States, which deploys about 30,000 troops to support South Korea's 670,000-strong military, have been poised for decades to deliver a quick counter-strike to knock out the North's artillery.

But North Korea also has around 800 ballistic missiles behind its artillery array.

Joseph Bermudez, an analyst with Jane's, said the North has one of the largest arsenals of ballistic missiles in the world.

Proliferation experts do not believe that North Korea, which conducted its first nuclear test in October, has the ability yet to miniaturise a nuclear warhead to mount on one of its missiles.

But it has been working toward that end and has also been trying to develop chemical and biological weapons.

The average North Korean soldier lives in squalid conditions that reflect the poverty of the country, but may have a few more perks than the average worker. The country does have elite forces and units trained to sneak into the South, experts said.

The role of the North's army, in a state that advances a policy of putting the military first, goes far beyond defence. It is a key part of its political and diplomatic machinery, said Jeung Young-tae of the Korea Institute for National Unification.

"The National Defence Commission has the people who have Kim Jong-il's utmost trust and those he needs," Jeung said.

Peacekeepers alone can't help Darfur - UNHCR chief

By: Alaa Shahine

EL-GENEINA (Reuters) — Even a force of 100,000 peacekeepers could not secure peace in the Darfur region of western Sudan, the head of the U.N. refugee agency said on Tuesday.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres said only a comprehensive political solution to the crisis would end the four-year-old conflict in Darfur, in which the United Nations say around 200,000 people have died and 2.5 million people displaced.

"Without peace, there is no miracle. No security force will be able to guarantee security in the whole of Darfur. Darfur is very big," he said during a meeting with the so-called sheikhs of the displaced people at the Krinding Camp in El-Geneina, the capital of West Darfur state.

"Even if you have 100,000 policemen in Darfur, they will not be able to cover the whole territory," he told the men, who gathered inside a small hut.

The Krinding camp is home to more than 30,000 people who live in small huts and complain about deteriorating security, abject poverty and the lack of educational services.

Sudan recently agreed to a "heavy support package" for the African Union peacekeeping troops in Darfur, to include some 3,500 military and police personnel. Khartoum, however, has rejected a U.N. demand to let in around 20,000 peacekeepers.

U.S. President George W. Bush warned Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir last week he had one last chance to stop violence in Darfur or the United States would impose sanctions and consider other punitive options. Sudan said it would not respond to "Western blackmail".

Guterres, speaking later in an interview with Reuters, said: "There needs to be a political solution first. Of course we need peacekeepers, but peacekeepers can do only so much if there is no peace. In any humanitarian crisis, there

is always behind it a political problem. If you don't solve the political problem, you will never solve the crisis."

A 2006 peace agreement between the government and one rebel group has failed to stop the violence in Darfur. Eritrea, the Red Sea state that has friendly relations with Sudan, has said it is trying to bring other rebel groups to the negotiating table with the government.

These efforts, however, have made little progress. Rebel groups want to renegotiate the 2006 peace deal, a demand that Khartoum rejects.

Guterres arrived in Darfur one day after several international aid agencies said they were temporarily halting their work in the town of Um Dukhun because of worsening security in the area, which lies in West Darfur state near the border with Chad.

The agencies, which include Britain's Oxfam, Save the Children Spain and U.S.-based Mercy Corps, said their decision would disrupt the services to around 100,000 people in the town and surrounding rural areas.

Guterres said UNHCR was planning to increase its presence in West Darfur despite the security risk.

Asked about the decision of the humanitarian agencies, he said: "There are regions in Darfur in which access is relatively easy, regions in which access is limited and difficult and regions where there is no access at all."

Sudanese Presidential Adviser Majzoub al-Khalifa said on Monday that security in Darfur was improving. The acting governor of West Darfur, Abdallah Khamis, said on Tuesday 80 percent of the state was stable.

"We hope that this land becomes one of the paradises in which people will live until Judgment Day," he told Guterres and the visiting U.N. delegation.

Sudan says only 9,000 people have perished since the conflict flared in 2003, when rebels took up arms against the government, charging it with neglect.

Thousands pay respects to Yeltsin



Guards carry the coffin of former Russian President Boris Yeltsin into the Christ the Saviour Cathedral in Moscow, April 24, 2007.

MOSCO (Al-Jazeera) — Thousands of Russians have queued to pay their respects to their former president, Boris Yeltsin, by visiting his open coffin.

As Yeltsin's body lay in state in Moscow on Tuesday, a host of foreign dignitaries including former US presidents George Bush senior and Bill Clinton were heading to the Russian capital for his funeral on Wednesday.

Yeltsin, the first democratically elected president of post-Soviet Russia, died of heart failure on Monday at the age of 76. The former prime minister of the UK, John Major and Viktor Yanukovych, the prime minister of the Ukraine, were also scheduled to attend Wednesday's service which will culminate in Yeltsin's burial at the landmark Novodevichy Cemetery.

Key figure

Russians queued in thousands on Tuesday to pass by Yeltsin's coffin in the Christ the Savior Cathedral on the banks of the Moscow River. Many lit candles and said prayers.

Despite being a key figure in his country's move to democracy, Yeltsin's legacy was also seen as being tainted by incomplete reforms and economic mismanagement that pushed millions of Russians into poverty.

Jonah Hull, Al Jazeera's Moscow correspondent, said that while it may have come as something of a surprise that so many Russians wanted to pay their respects to Yeltsin, it was also a reflection of the key role he played in his country's history in the early 1990s. He said that Russians have had seven years since Yeltsin retired from the presidency in 2000 to recover from the adverse effects of his economic poli-

cies. Officials estimated that around 4,000 people, mostly middle-aged or older, had paid their respects by early evening.

"I followed Yeltsin as soon as he appeared, I followed him everywhere ... he was the first honest and decent president," Taisiya Shlyonova, a 75-year-old pensioner, said.

Press reaction

Tributes to Yeltsin in the media on Tuesday focused on his apparent contradictions: a hero to many for dismantling the Soviet Union but a villain to others for appearing to allow the new Russia to sink into chaos.

The *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* daily said: "The man who gave people new life and new opportunities to pursue their dreams also, and this was important for him, removed fear from peoples' hearts. "People saw their difficulties in adapting to a new way of life as [being] the blunders of the country's leader. And as people no longer had fear, the head of state was ostracised by just about everyone."

The *Moskovsky Komsomolets* newspaper said: "The malevolence of fate: everything he initiated turned out the opposite way round. He wanted to make many rich, but only enriched a few."

Many of the Russian tributes to Yeltsin viewed him through the prism of seven years under Vladimir Putin, Russia's current president.

Moskovsky Komsomolets said: "He was president of Russia for eight and a half years and not once ... did he stifle the freedom of the press. Because of that we can now publish what we think."

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Post Title: Public Financial Management Associate
Duration: 12 months
Location: Ministry of Finance

Responsibilities:

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

Qualification:

- Hold at least a bachelor degree in accounting, finance, business administration or economics.
- Have at least five years experience (for bachelor holders) and two years experience (for master holders) in public financial management, covering budget preparation, execution, controls and financial accountability, procurement and capacity building.
- Ability to communicate in English and experience of working on PFM issues in the region are desirable though not essential.
- Ability to use word processing and excel.
- Experience in implementing complex PFM reform agendas, including effective engagement with government officials at all levels will be an asset.

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

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

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



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals only** to apply for the following position within its project Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

Terms of Reference

Post Title: Programme Assistant
Post Level: GS-5

Background

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is a global entity concerned with the protection of global environment. It funds the Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), executed by United Nation Office for Project Services (UNOPS), with technical assistant from a GEF/UNDP Central Program Management Team (CPMT) and currently operational in nearly 80 countries around the world. The SGP believes that local solutions to global environmental problems can be solved at local level.

Objective

The Program seeks to recruit a full-time Assistant to undertake technical, administrative and financial tasks. He/ She will report directly to the Program National Coordinator.

Scope of work

Administrative Tasks

- Assist in all administrative, financial, operational and logistical aspects of running the program including managing and organizing everyday office work, travel arrangement, procurement, information dissemination, correspondence and translation.
- Prepare progress and financial reports, review payment requests, prepare requisition orders, monitor Memorandum of Agreements and disbursement schedules, etc..., and other ATLAS-related tasks.

Qualifications/ skills required

- First University degree, preferably in Business Administration or an environmental science field related to GEF focal areas.
- At least 3-5 years of relevant experience in office management, including financial reporting

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

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Founded on: October, 2003

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3. Empowering woman to get her basic rights socially, politically and culturally
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Mareb: The home of Sheba and the history of Yemen

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

As it was named at 1000 B.C, Mareb, the capital of the kingdom of Sheba, stands today to remind us of the Yemeni civilization that once was, giving us lessons in history of how great our ancestors were.

Located 172 km east of Sana'a, Mareb is one of Yemen's richest archeological sites, its many historical sites have become a mekka for tourists coming to Yemen; for example, Brackish, where was the first capital of kingdom of Maecen and one of its most sacred religious sites. Maecen is located in wadi Al Majzar in Mareb governorate.

The city of Barakish is surrounded by an 8-meter wall which survives to our present day. The city has 57 observation towers and two gates; one in the east and the other in the west side, the wall protected the city against all sorts of attacks, and defeated great armies such as the Persian army of Aloys Galyos in 24 B.C.

Landmarks of the city include the prime temple located in the southern part of the city, the temple exemplifies the Maecenian architecture, having 16 vertical and horizontal columns, formulating a grid-shape. Researchers believe that this temple was built for the worship of Athtar, the sun god. There is also another temple in the heart of the city of which four columns can still be seen.

Apart from Baraqish, there are many other sites worth visiting in Mareb, including several sites located along the famous route for frankincense trading in MAGZAR province, such as old Mareb dam and valley and several other ruins of previous civilizations.

Heading to north gate of the great Dam, one can glimpse two natural water routes and several other man-made streams for water, old legend says that those two water routes supplied the valley of the Twin-Paradises, also known as the Gardens of Sheba.

The old city of Mareb was our next station along the road, the old city was the administrative capital of the kingdom of Sheba, and includes the site which was mentioned in the Holy Quran where, Belquis, the Queen of Sheba was called to visit prophet Suliman in Jerusalem around 950 B.C.

Old Mareb has three gates, to the north, west and eastern south directions of the city.

It is believed that the abandoned mud village, which is situated on a mound that rises 25 meters above the surrounding land surface of the site, is located on a part of the historical Salhein Palace, which led to the Royal Temple, as there are huge columns sticking out near the well. There are also three other temples 2 are found in the northern part of the City of Mareb and the third is in the southern part.

The Great Dam of Mareb

One of striking marks of the Sheba civilization' that is the construction of Great Dam of Mareb; According to ancient inscriptions the construction of the dam goes back to the 8th Century BC. The construction of the dam passed through numerous stages over extended periods of time. This viewpoint was stressed further by German researchers who carried out some excavations in one of the old dams in Wadi Dhanna.

The Great Mareb Dam is considered a fixed historic structure that traversed Yemen's cultural evolution from the ouster through the peak of prosperity until the moments of collapse. The technology involved in the construction of the Dam is considered to be the most sophisticated technology for irrigation systems in that ancient world of the time.

The dam was built between mountain called Balaq Al Shimaly (the Northern) and mountain called Balaq Al January (the Southern), where all the rain runoff floodwaters coming from the watersheds of the highlands converge along side of wide areas of Dhamar, Rada'a , Murad , and Khawlan as rains fall during April all through August. The dam then distributes water to irrigate the land of an area exceeding 72 kilometers. It was a huge dam, and was 15 maters high and the length of the dam's body was 720 maters and the breadth of the base was 60 maters.

The foundations of the dam were made from huge rocks topped by earthen Walls that were tiled with stone and gravel on both sides. The outside surface of the walls was covered by unrefined volcanic rock. A section of the dam still stands near the northern drainage outlet.

At the end of the body are the two outlet openings made to distribute water through a network of smaller streams and channels. The purpose behind establishing this great dam was not only to store water as it is the case of the new Dam. However, the old dam was meant to keep level of the water as high as it could easily reach and irrigate the adjacent plains.

The ancient inscriptions mention that the dam was subject to numerous breakdowns and renovations, the last being during the Ethiopian occupation of Yemen in the Mid Sixth Century A.D. However, both walls of the outlet openings are still standing as they were described by Al -Hamadani, Yemen's famous historian, a thousand years ago.

Al-jufeinah Dam

Another famous dam is called Al-Jufeinh Dam, which is an ancient dam situated 8k m southwest of Mareb city, and is linked with the Great Mareb Dam Network. Its history goes back to the first Sheba era (that is around 1000B.C) and is considered as a subsidiary diversion dam for the flooding waters of the Great Dam.

The aim of building the dam was to increase the land area of the "Lost paradise"

The dam had four distribution canals, they are built out of dilapidated stones to which a number of supporting walls are connected with a height that could reach 10 meters and extend out for 300 maters.

The width could reach 4meters at the foundation of these walls at the base and 1 1/2 meters at the top of the walls.

The dam got damaged and its walls were rebuilt with unrefined volcanic rocks plastered with qadhadh, a mud-like substance, the use of which goes back to the second Sheba Era from 100BC to 250AD.

Diversion Dike

To the east of great dam there exists a unique waterway diversion structure called the

Diversion Dike, a German archeological expedition excavated at the site of the diversion dam in 1988/1989 and gave it the above name. This is one of the water diversion dams that were built prior to the construction of the Great Dam in Mareb. The Diversion Dike is situated about 200 meters East of the Great Dam, in the middle of Wadi Dhannah . It is deemed to be the last diversion dam of many that were constructed over a long period of time, in many locations on the wadi Dhannah. Watercourse, period of time in many evolution of the idea to construct the Great Dam at both tight Jabal Al -Balaq water passages

The results of the excavation work indicated that this dam was constructed between 1.000-2.000 years prior to the construction of the great Mareb dam. It was 55 maters long and 30 maters wide, built from stone (where the length of single rock may be up to two meters) and in a manner that made the dam resistant to on rush of torrential floods. Stones were connected by Lead.

However, these efforts were unsuccessful due to the accumulation of silt and sediments. It was only when the Shebian exploited the natural advantages of the twin Jabal Al -Balaq narrow passages that the solution was found for the silt and sediment problem, and the irrigation miracle of the Ancient World was thus realized.

To the west of old city of Mareb, and few mares only from the dam, there is a notable historical site pertinent to techniques of water storing by ancient Shebian. The site is called The Sheba Well

The well is located a few meters on the right side way leading to the dam and six km west the ancient city of Mareb. The opining of the well is few meters high, while its depth is 35 meters. The well square -shaped, was built in a



The Shrine of Bilquis, also known as the Temple of the Sun.

unique mode of construction as in each furrow of the well there is only one chamber.

The Shrine of Bilquis

To the south east of mud village of Mareb, there locates one of the striking sites of Sheba civilization. That is Shrine of Bilquis (or the temple of the Sun)

The Shrine is situated 4 k m to the Southeast of the Throne of Bilquis, and it is considered the largest most important of the Sheba Temples.

It was used for worshipping the Moon God, the ancient Yemen also worshipped the sun, moon and Venus.

The shape of the temple is oval and probably it had no roofs, with walls that rise to 9merers. In front of the main entrance to the temple on the northern side, threr is a hall of columns on the sides and 10 meters away from the entrance stand eight columns in a single line

The temple is associated with story of queen Belquis and her relation with prophet Suleiman.

The date of the Temples construction goes back to before the 8th Century BC according to the ancient inscriptions, which also indicate that the Temple continued to

Function for approximately one thousand years.

The Temple was abandoned along with the gods of Saba at the end of the 4th Century A.D, after one of the Hematite kings converted to Christianity, and Judaism.

The American foundation for Human Studies undertook partial excavations at the Temple site in early 50(s) of the twentieth century .but the site need further excavation work.

The Throne of Bilquis

It is the temple of Bran, which is presently known as the Throne of Bilquis . The mane of the Temple of Bran was in the Sabaian inscription as the Temple of the Moon God (lmuqah).

It is located 1400meters to the north-west of shrine of Bilqise, and it is less important than Owam temple, and is widely known as "Al-amaeed "

A German Archeological mission undertook excavation work at the temple site with the results indicating that the Temple is a square shaped structure with an open area in front of the six columns, with the center of the area occupied by the Holy well and its accessories. The stone basin is rectangular in shape, which is fed water by means on the western and northern sides envelop the Holy street .Walls on the southern, western and northern sides envelop the open area. There is a line of fixed marble seats connects this open area and the Quds, where the six columns (currently five only) stand on fixed foundations.

These columns are topped with decorated cube-shaped endings .Each column weighs about 17 tons with a length of 12 meters and thickness of 80x60centimeters.

The holy square of the temple is surrounded by a mud brick wall that is topped by five towers, three of which are in this western side, a tower in the northern side and the fifth in the southern side .the major gate of the temple is on the northern side.

The excavation work at the temple site, with the results indicating that the temple passed through two historical phases as the walls obviously revealed. The first phase extends from the Second Millennium BC to the start of the first Millennium BC, while the second phase

starts at 850BC until the end of the Sabaian Kingdom,

Serwah

One of the most important historical cities following Mareb city is called Serwah.

It is situated 37 km to the west of the Mareb Governorate Center, and 120km to the East of the Capital City of Sana'a.

The site of the ruins of Surwah is the second ranking archeological site after Mareb and held an important position in the Sabaian Kingdom.

It encompasses several important archeological sites, which include: the temple of the Moon God (or temple of lmuqah), which is dated back to early first millennium BC. The temple continued to function till the fourth Sabaeen Era.

It is located atop natural hill that rises about 10merers from the foot of the wadi (valley) the eastern part of the temple is still standing in a semi circle, which rises to a height of 7 meters and built of brushed stone. In the eastern side, there are the temple's four columns, linking the western walls.

Beside the walls from the inside there is a rectangular stone table surrounded by seats of stone. Near the southern entrance there is the famous victory inscription, which is composed of two pieces each with a length of three meters, a width 80 cm, and breadth of 60 cm

At a distance of 30 meters north of the temple of the Master of the lexes is where the Holy Well is situated , which is still operating to this day ,and there is a tower of 10 meters length , and remains of another temple .

These sites in Serwah city represent a good example of Sheba architecture.

Catholic priest collects money to build German mosque

Cologne priest Franz Meurer has been encouraging dialogue between Christians and Muslims for a while now. He also loves to initiate projects: like collecting money to help the Muslim community in Cologne build a mosque.

By: Monika Griebeler

Whether it is getting people at his parish to offer tables and chairs which they then donate to the Muslim community for a project room in their mosque or applying for European Union funds for language courses for girls, Pastor Franz Meurer is a man of action.

His church, St. Theodor, is located in the Höhenberg-Vingst areas of Cologne - two bordering, lower-income districts with high immigrant and Muslim populations.

Meurer's interaction with Muslims has been a driving force behind his projects. After speaking with church authorities and the church council, he began collecting money to give to the Turkish Islamic Union of the Institute for Religion (DITIB) to help them build their new mosque in the city most famous for its Catholic cathedral.

In mid-March, Meurer raised 2,000 euros (\$2,660) in a collection during

services in his parish.

"Several years ago, when our new Catholic church was inaugurated, we received a present from a neighboring Protestant church," said Meurer. "We thought the idea was so nice, we wanted to do something similar ourselves."

That's when the idea to donate something to the Muslim community was born

Returning the favor

"It's a good idea to support those who think sensibly and want to live together in peace," Meurer said. "I think it would be a dangerous thing if everyone just lived in their own worlds, separated from one another."

Bekir Alboga, DITIB's appointee for inter-faith dialogue, said she thinks Meurer's willingness to pass the plate for understanding across religions.

"I think it's great that he's brave enough to show his true colors," Alboga said. "It's a wonderful thing when a Catholic priest dares to do what he's doing, even though right-wing extremism and xenophobia, and even Islamophobia, are on the rise."



Up to 1,000 mosques in Germany opened their doors for visitors last fall but many in Germany are opposed to the building of new mosques.

But not everyone in Meurer's parish agreed with collecting money for the new mosque.

"I don't like the idea," one parishioner said. "People from all religions should be tolerant, and I don't see Muslims being that way."

Another man said that since donations helped to get St. Theodor built five years ago, he felt it was a good idea to help peo-

ple of other faiths build their own places of worship.

"Everyone has the right to live their faith," another woman said. "We pray to our God and the Muslims to theirs. If we can build a church, then they should be able to build a mosque if they want."

Controversial mosque

The Cologne Central Mosque is to be



Catholic priest Franz Meurer promotes inter-faith dialogue - but not everyone in his parish agreed with collecting money for the new mosque.

built in the district of Ehrenfeld - at the site of the current, smaller DITIB mosque - and will be one of Germany's largest. It is designed to hold more than 3,000 worshippers, and building is set to begin in the fall.

However, construction of the mosque has been controversial. The right-wing extremist "Pro Köln" group - a political party that also sits on the Cologne City

Council - has been one of the biggest opponents of the mosque.

It's the opposition to a new mosque that Alboga said makes Meurer's decision to back its construction a strong statement of support.

"I think Meurer's gesture is worth a lot more than the money the community wants to give us," she added.

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Concerns about Yemeni sports

By: Ismael Al-Ghabiri
YemenTimes Staff

Most Yemeni sportsmen and critics believe that, with all of their different games, sports require more attention by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in order to upgrade them and bring them up to the level to compete at all international championships. They further assert that all obstacles before Yemeni sports should be eliminated and that the Sports Ministry should do away with random planning and start ambitious and systematic planning for the future.

Ahli Taiz Football Club Chairman Jamal Al-Surimi believes the Ministry of Youth and Sports should care more about youth because they hold Yemen's future. He maintains that resources should be developed to reinforce the sporting infrastructure, which is an important factor in creating strong teams, adding that such infrastructure will enable Yemen to hold real championships and host various Arab and international sporting

events.

Moreover, Al-Surimi believes that championship and competition timetables should be fixed, citing the delay of the 2006-2007 first-level sports season as an example, while the second-level sports season hasn't been launched yet.

Essam Al-Sanabani, secretary-general of the Yemeni Tennis Federation, hopes new Minister of Sport Hamoud Obad will establish new plans for institutional work within the ministry and facilitate procedures sports unions and clubs must follow, adding that such measures will help facilitate such groups' tasks.

Al-Sanabani went on to say that administrative dysfunctions exist, together with duplicated procedures, as more than one party supervises the activities of clubs and ministry unions.

Additionally, he wishes the Youth and Sports Ministry would care about all sports, not just football, as Yemen can achieve better in sports aside from football, provided that equality is maintained between all sports. He further asserted that there should be good and effective planning allowing for

Howais



Yemeni sports men and women have won many local and international awards in many categories.

future requirements, in addition to rearranging and restructuring sporting institutions.

"Perhaps we've achieved a lot regarding facilities and halls; however, youth and juniors still require more care, as well as technical and administrative personnel, in order to accomplish more achievements in the near future," Al-Sanabani noted.

Ahmed Al-Hadda, chairman of the Yemeni Swimming Union, emphasizes that our problem lies in a shortage of sporting infrastructure, e.g., there are no Olympic swimming pools in Yemen, even in Sana'a, although one was planned at Al-Thawra Sport City, but never implemented.

He notes that, although they cost a lot of money, such pools are important in order to develop the sport, as

Yemen has many distinct swimmers who can add to its international record.

Yemeni Cycling Federation Chairman Mohammed Al-Aidrous requests supplying the required sports equipment for all sports, as this also will help improve Yemeni sports.

Abdulfatah Lutf, sports supervisor for Sha'ab Ibb Football Club, demands the Ministry of Youth and Sports increase the support provided to clubs, especially from the Youth and Sports Fund, together with raising the allocations for activities because the current allocations cover just 20 percent of club expenses.

He further maintains that such an increase will help develop Yemeni sport, particularly football, which is popular worldwide.



Team-based sports are most difficult to nurture in Yemen, considering that they require some serious funding for facilities and to provide a livelihood for team members.



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National authority for truce with corruption

The Shoura Council selected as many as 30 names for Parliament to select 11 people of the total number of 30 candidates to make up the National Anti-corruption Authority. Excluding few names, the 30 candidates include corrupt individuals ranging between top and small corrupts, coupled with people, who aren't corrupt but they are not courageous enough to wage war against corruption. The small number of honest people, who are courageous and competent, is expected to be excluded from the list due to be selected by Parliament soon, which lacks balance as the majority of MPs belong to the ruling party. Worth-mentioning, Many MPs raise and lower their hands according to the orders they receive from outside Parliament.

Is it possible for Yemen to have an independent national authority to fight corruption?

Undoubtedly, the corrupt officials in Yemen feel satisfied as the risk is still far away from them and their interests, and in the worst circumstances, Parliament may select 11 ordinary names to form a national authority to reach a truce with corruption, not to fight corruption. We rule out that the Parliament will select an authority to fight corruption, as this authority is expected to be in line with corruption.

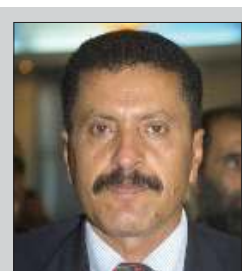
Some corrupt officials dare to forward their credentials to the Shoura Council, which, for its part, did not feel shy when it selected them as part of the 30 candidates. And, now we don't know whether the Parliament will select them as a part of the 11 most eligible people to make up the Anti-corruption Authority.

Nowadays, rumours circulate about the name of the person who is expected to chair the authority. Further, they imply a corrupt individual, whose name disgust people because of his notorious role in foiling one of the biggest political processes in the country.

Corrupt officials, who dominate the country's fate, turn to lash out any voice to disclose their scandals or criticize them. If the Parliament selects the expected members to form the Anti-Corruption Authority, the corrupt officials will say that the Shoura Council and the Parliament represent the good will of the people. In the meantime, they are due to explain that the Parliament elects members of this authority as it is mandated by people to do so and speak about their interests.

At this point, a door opens and leads to a controversy about reality of the two councils' legitimacy and their relation with the people's will. However, the task of selecting the Anti-corruption Authority members by the Parliament, whose elections experienced infringements and vote frauds, increases doubt with regard to the credibility of this authority concerning fight corruption.

The mechanism of selecting the authority members seems baseless and inconvenient as the will that controlled appointing the Shoura Council members and electing the members of the parliament is the same one, which decided to form the Anti-corruption Authority. Corruption is the main problem for those having this will which interprets why



By: Ali Al-Sarari

they have the desire to constitute an authority to reach a truce with corruption, not to fight corruption.

Any way, forming a weak authority doesn't mean the unwise selection by representatives of the people. Rather, it means the lack of seriousness on the part of Yemeni authorities and their incredibility when they declared to remain committed to conditions set by international donors with regard to fighting corruption and forming an independent national anti-corruption authority to do the task.

Frankly speaking, the current Yemeni authorities don't show intent to fight corruption as claimed by people. Instead, these authorities turn to fight corruption in order to gratify international donors, however, in real-life situations; these authorities are scheming to deceive the international donors and they aren't credible enough to ensure success of the partnership between them and international donors.

The international donors bear in mind that they were deceived and fell prey to the bewitching acts demonstrated by the Yemeni regime. They have become convinced that they should not seriously deal with the authorities' allegations, commitments, and promises but rather they would deal with any practical procedures and steps to be taken by these authorities.

In order for the international donors not to be overcome by despair, Yemen's regime decided to show them practical steps to persuade them to continue offering assistance, grants, and loans. For this purpose, the regime issued reform laws, one of which is concerned with forming

a national authority to fight corruption.

Observably speaking, the regime works hard with the aim of emptying these laws from their contents and controlling the Anti-corruption Authority. The regime dealt with NGOs, which are under its control, and then delegated the formation of the anti-corruption authority to the Shoura Council and the Parliament, which it dominates too. As a result, the anti-corruption authority will be formed in line with the regime's will which declares the independence of the authority in terms of the form. However, it seems to be unable and incompetent to fight corruption in reality as it has no content and practicality.

The main subject, which is a point of interest on the part of the regime, proceeds toward taking preventive measures which lack the effectiveness required for fighting corruption. Gradually, those measures are expected to turn into a weak process, which is unable to reach the sought goals.

At the end, Yemen appeared to respond to the demands of the international donors with regard to reforms and corruption fighting. However, out of the practical perspective, it might succeed in spreading ashes on the eyes and in changing reforms into a sterile process. On the other hand, the international donors, I assume, should bear in mind that their grants and aids are not spent on the specified purposes. Also, they should not put more burden on the poorest people than they can afford.

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni Socialist Party.
Source: Al-Nass Weekly

COMMON SENSE

In praise of Col. Ely, God bless and safeguard Mauritania

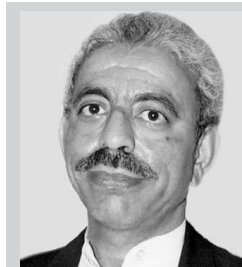
Amidst all the misery and tribulations one sees throughout the Middle East and North Africa, mostly thanks to the rule of untiring and relentless dictators serving the interests of those who seek to bleed the region of all its bountiful resources, one is relieved very much to see the very respectable recent developments in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

On April 19th, the leader of the military junta that has ruled in Nouakchott for the last year and a half, Col. Ely Ould Mohamed Vall, took the only once precedence of abdicating his ruler's seat to the newly freely elected President, Sidi Ould Sheikh Abdallahi. This was a very welcome and heart relieving move by an enlightened African leader and patriot. Colonel Ely has indeed entered his name in the history books of his nation and the entire region, while his predecessors and all the likes found throughout the region will have their names even thrown out of garbage dumps, let alone out of history books.

It goes without saying that some two and a half decades ago or so another great Arab leader, who took over the helms in a very troubled country, the Republic of the Sudan, likewise transferred full authority to the freely elected government of Former Prime Minister (Dr.) Sadiq Al-Mahdi. However Col. Suar Al-Dhahab's kind gesture to his people and the fine example he set out for all the rest of the dictators (royal, military or partisan) that continue to transgress on every human rights that their people are endowed by God with. But alas, that short-lived remarkable development was not left to take its normal historical route to success and prosperity for the rich country of the Sudan and its proud and highly cultured people. The evil dictatorships that surround the Sudan (surely Egyptian intelligence and Saudi money played a big role), exerted every effort to undermine the regime of Dr. Mahdi, even after it has reached a commendable settlement to the enduring rebellion that was brewing in the South and elsewhere in the regional configuration of the Sudan. Yes, these dictatorships felt very uneasy about having a democratic neighbor that insisted that the rule of the people must prevail and that governance is a social contract between the citizens and the rulers of a country, which entailed responsibilities and obligations on the part of the rulers, for which most Arab dictators have little regard or even respect. This observer recalls being in Saudi Arabia at the time of the Bashir coup, and was surprised to see that the morning newspapers in that country on the day following the coup were issuing diatribes against the former democracy of Sadiq Al-Mahdi and showing how the democratic government of the Sudan saw foolishness and senselessness in Saddam's war on Iran. To add emphasis to their displeasure at this, the Saudi press showed pictures of Al-Mahdi shaking hands with the new leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Whatever the case, it was clearly an effort to dispel any favorite views of the very positive developments that transpired in the Sudan, which had heretofore pleased every Arab from the desert plateaus of Mauritania to the rugged mountains of Yemen, the latter of which was just settling into another enduring dictatorship that was implanted by the same forces that implanted the Bashir dictatorship in the Sudan.

This historical dissertation is meant to get the new freely elected government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to take heed of the evil that surrounds them in the region. There are bound to be many an Arab regime, which is not at all happy with the historical civilized developments in Mauritania, because they themselves could never elevate themselves to the highly cultured attitude of Col Ely. In fact, these regimes have been given eternal mandates by the West to step on the necks of their people, so the latter can continue to freely bleed the people of the area of their vital resources. So one should forget about the desire of the West to see democracy flourish in the region. That will be the biggest danger to the existence of Israel and of course to the control of the Western oil companies of the region's important natural resources. So beware, Sidi Abdullahi, and take note that not one Arab leader took the courteous step of taking part in the festivities for the remarkable peaceful transfer of authority in Nouakchott. How could they take an Arab leader abdicating the helms of authority in the land and even handing over the official car that the leader used during the 19 months he worked diligently in to carry out his promise of giving his people what they have been desiring and yearning for, for sometime now. For most current Arab leaders, giving their people their rightful due is an abomination they could never live with. May God relieve us of all of them once and for all!

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The small village

By: Mohammed Al-Ariqi

The open skies, the spread of media, the fast transmission of information, and the direct viewing of events before they occur anywhere worldwide made the globalization scientists call the sphere a "Small Village".

It is supposed that the population of this village should be more modest and should understand each other. Thanks bestowed to the numerous benefits associated with information technology.

Such a distinctive move, which has opened wide doors for exchanging information and knowledge, justifies the establishment of stronger bonds and ties between people of the small village.

Strangeness and lack of understanding among people of this village don't function as a wave of clashes among civilizations, as alleged by Samuel Hanghton, the famous author who wrote a book on the conflict of civilizations.

The technology of making destinations closer to one another has its own reflections on the human beings' intellectual, religious, economic, and political concepts as well as values. It deepened the gap of differences and made people look as if they live in multiple planets and not in the only planet of earth.

Such a huge contradiction of space nearness and mind farness are not only among people living in different continents or between the economic and reli-

gious cultures or between different races, as we realize that differences, disputes, and conflicts have taken various forms, the fiercest of which are the armed confrontations under numerous pretexts and allegations, particularly following the 11 September attacks on the U.S.

The US-led armed conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan came under the cover of fighting terrorism. But the extremist groups reacted with explosions here and there. The term "terrorism" is used by the superpower in addition to the weapon of media and word, as well as the conflicts among religions. Within the frame of the unified country, Iraq is now suffering a sectarian conflict with more prominence of the sectarian and ethnical privacy.

Letters to the Editor

Readers Comments about Yemen Times articles

I read the story on the Yemen Times regarding Dar Al Rahma, I am interested in learning more about the orphanage. Do you know of any website? I will appreciate if you draw my attention to any institution that will provide me with information to help.

Abdulrahim Abdulaziz Said Baghouth
abdulrahim.said@gmail.com

Sada War

So sorry to hear about the fighting around Sada, the interesting old town where I spent some lucky time working at the hospital. Since that time, Yemen has a special place in my heart.

I hope the problem will be solved. So, people can live as usual.

Lennart Aberg, Sweden
lennart_aberg@yahoo.se

It's my first letter to you. I really like the way you write. It is really very impressive. I have seen some of your Newspaper articles in the Local Newspaper stalls of Sultanate of Oman where I reside. I shall be thankful to you if you send me all of your articles as I like your way of writing.

Perry Abbasi
perryup@yahoo.com

I have read the article of the Yemen Times on 29/3/2007. It was a good one that concentrates on our tradition. Also, it attracts the readers' attention. Really, I do request you please to write about other governorates of YEMEN such as Taize and Ibb.

Akram Almashraqy
akram_saeed2006@yahoo.com

I'm just one of the Yemen Time's readers. I read the story about the psychiatry hospital. How sad I

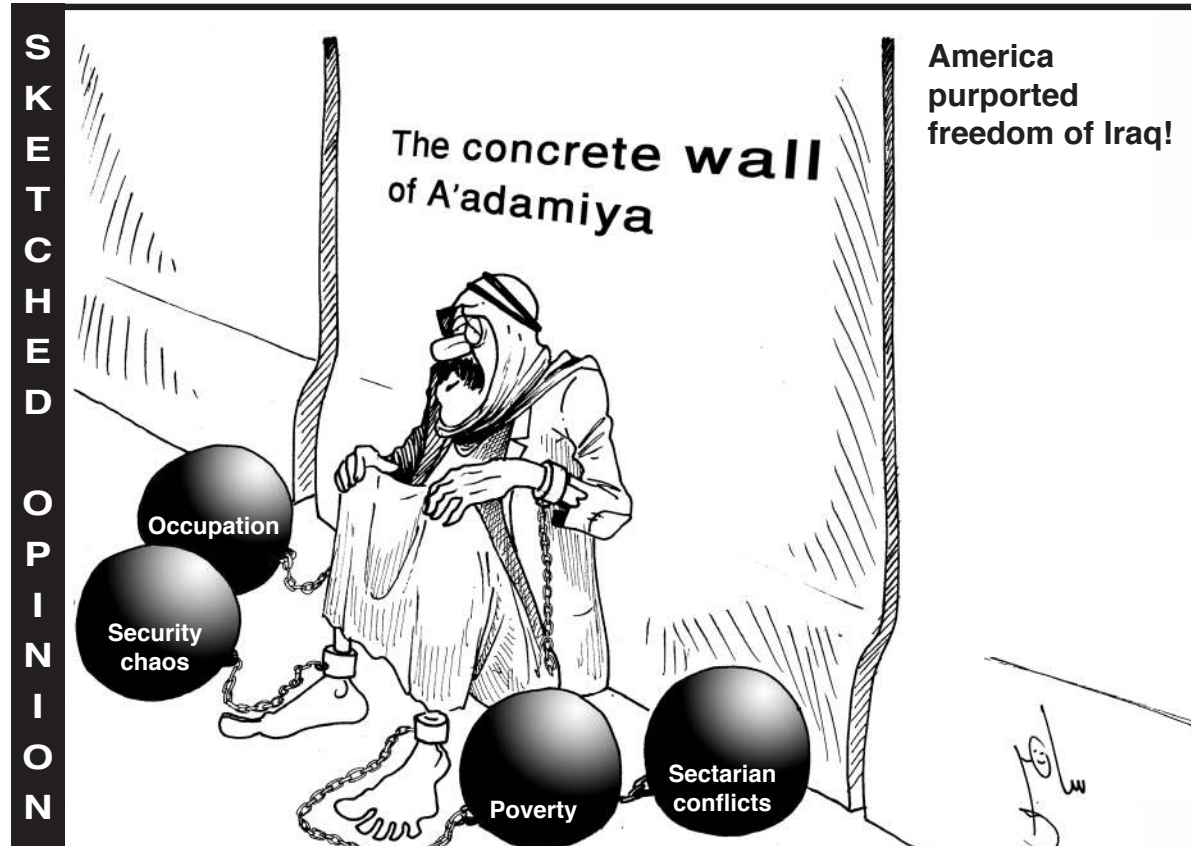
felt when I read it. That story affected me especially when the lady was from my home town, Hadramout. I like to read stories especially imaginary ones. Just I thought may be you could be my only window to publish my writing. What I want is to tell me how I can publish any article or story in the Yemen Times. Am I allowed to write or my weak English bans me? If so tell me where I should start from.

Abdulla Al-Nahdi
alnhd2001@yahoo.com

Dear Akram, Perry, Abdulrahim, Abdulla and all Yemen Times readers:

It is a pleasure to receive your comments and feedbacks. We value your opinions and appreciate your writings. So feel free to send us your letters, comments, and articles. We will publish them for you appropriately in due time.

—The editor



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Yeltsin: The hero of his time

By: Nina L. Khrushcheva

Boris Yeltsin was utterly unique. Russia's first democratically elected leader, he was also the first Russian leader to give up power voluntarily, and constitutionally, to a successor. But he was also profoundly characteristic of Russian leaders. Using various mixtures of charisma, statecraft, and terror, Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, Alexander II, Peter Stolypin (the last tsar's prime minister), Lenin, and Stalin all sought to make Russia not only a great military power, but also an economic and cultural equal of the West. Yeltsin aimed for the same goal. But he stands out from them in this respect: he understood that empire was incompatible with democracy, and so was willing to abandon the Soviet Union in order to try to build a democratic order at home. At the height of Yeltsin's career, many Russians identified with his bluntness, impulsiveness, sensitivity to personal slight, even with his weakness for alcohol. And yet in the final years of his rule, his reputation plunged. Only in the last few months of his second presidential term, after he launched the second war in Chechnya in September 1999, did he and his lieutenants regain some legitimacy in the eyes of the Russian public, while causing revulsion among any remaining Western admirers. Despite his caprices, however, Yeltsin

kept Russia on a course of broad strategic co-operation with America and its allies. Although he opposed America's use of force against Iraq and Serbia in the 1990's, his government never formally abandoned the sanctions regime against either country. Moreover, no nuclear weapons were unleashed, deliberately or accidentally, and no full-scale war of the kind that ravaged post-communist Yugoslavia broke out between Russia and any of its neighbors, although several of them were locked in internal or regional conflict in which Russia's hand was visible. The tasks that faced Yeltsin when he attained power in 1991 were monumental. At several crucial moments, he established himself as the only person who could rise to the challenges of transforming Russia from a dictatorship into a democracy, from a planned economy into a free market, and from an empire into a medium-ranked power. In 1992, as the emerging Russian Federation teetered on the brink of economic and monetary collapse, he opted for radical reform, prompting a backlash from vested interest groups. In the years that followed, he would tilt toward liberal economics whenever he felt powerful enough to do so. Yeltsin was quintessentially a product of the Soviet system, which makes his turn to democracy and the free market, though imperfect, even more miraculous. The son of a poor building worker, he had a meteoric rise through communist



Boris Yeltsin

rank to become party boss in the industrial city of Sverdlovsk (now Yekaterinburg) in the Urals. Unlike most other party leaders, he was good at talking to ordinary people, a skill that helped him win support and then power later, but he also showed no sign of questioning the Marxist-Leninist gobbledygook that he was required to recite at public events. It was only after Mikhail Gorbachev summoned Yeltsin to Moscow in 1985 that he began to differentiate himself from dozens of other senior party apparatchiks. Sensing the bitter frustration of Moscow's middle class-in-waiting,

Yeltsin quickly gained a reputation as a harsh, if not always coherent, critic of the party's old guard. Campaigners for democracy admired Yeltsin's struggle against the conservatives in the politburo – especially after he was forced out of the party's inner circle in November 1987. Determined to outbid Gorbachev as a reformer, he persuaded liberals to overcome their distrust of his provincial manners. They gave him lessons in democratic theory, while he gave them tactical advice. As the Soviet Union steadily disintegrated, with virtually all of its 15 republics straining at the leash, Yeltsin gained the

leadership of the largest – the Russian Federation – which placed him in a tactical alliance with independence campaigners in Ukraine, the Baltic states, and Georgia. By June 1991, after quashing a series of challenges to his leadership, he became the first elected president of Russia; two months later, real power fell into his hands, after the failed putsch against Gorbachev of August 1991 by conservatives seeking to prevent the Soviet Union's disintegration. For most Westerners and many Russians, his finest hour came on August 19th that year, when he stood on a tank outside the Russian parliament and defied the hardliners who had seized power. But Yeltsin himself never succeeded in fully throwing off the intellectual shackles of the past. As president, he talked of economic performance as if it could be improved by decree. Like most Russians, he wanted the material advantages of capitalism, but had little respect or understanding for the rule of law and dispersion of power, which makes capitalist institutions work.

Nevertheless, for most of his presidency, Yeltsin kept alive – albeit with many tactical retreats – the goal of economic reform. At some level, he sensed that Russia's potential could be unleashed only if the government either faced down, or bought off, the special interests – military, industrial, and agricultural – that stood in the way. The economic orthodoxy pursued after the collapse of 1998 laid the groundwork for today's sustained Russian boom. Yeltsin's tragedy, and Russia's, was that, when the country needed a leader with vision and determination, it found an agile political operator instead. By not permitting Russia to disintegrate into anarchy or leading it back to authoritarianism, Yeltsin kept the way open for such a leader to one day emerge. Unfortunately, that man is not his hand-picked successor, Vladimir Putin, who has only perpetuated the vicious cycles of Russian history.

Nina Khrushcheva teaches international affairs at the New School in New York City. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007.

Not worth a tear

By Jihad Al-Khazen

Paul Wolfowitz apologized and said he will not resign from the presidency of the World Bank after using his authority to raise the salary of his mistress, Shaha Ali Riza. After he apologized, President Bush announced that he supports him staying in his post.

Perhaps the apology was enough as far as the Bank is concerned, but there is also Iraq and the victims of its war, and an apology will not bring the dead back to life and it will not relieve the grief of their parents. That's bearing in mind that the war cabal did not apologize after the war, while the president still insists that the decision to go to war was correct, and that success is possible.

With this logic, elephants could fly; but I'll stay on the ground and continue with Wolfowitz, who is a Zionist extremist like his father, Jacob (Yaacob), and his sister Laura lives in Israel. The entire family is made of Likud extremists.

He studied political science at the University of Chicago, and was influenced by the lectures of Leo Strauss, the theoretician of the neo-conservatives, and influenced during the preparation doctoral thesis by Albert Wohlstetter. Since his star began to rise, he has been an extremist par excellence, as his first work was with a group lobbying the building of an anti-missile defense system. When he joined the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, he opposed the SALT treaty reached by Henry Kissinger with the Soviets. Then he worked in 'Team B', whose task was to analyze Soviet military intentions. It misjudged that the Soviet Union was believed that it could win a nuclear war, and that the absence of evidence of secret weapons in the possession of the Soviets did not mean that these weapons did not exist.

The war on Iraq did not come from nothing; Wolfowitz's role in it long predates the 2001 terror attacks, as he participated in the foundation of the Project for the New American Century (PNAC) in 1997. The Project's Statement of Principles, which bears the date June 1997, was signed by 25 of the most prominent advocates of the American Empire and the war against Arabs and Muslims. Wolfowitz was at the forefront.

The PNAC openly called for American military hegemony over the world, and letters from the members went to President Bill Clinton and then to George W. Bush, urging an attack on Hezbollah and Syria and the toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime. The Likud Zionists put Israel's interests ahead of every other interest.

This background alone is proof enough that the war cabal had not made mistakes in collecting information on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the existence of a relationship with al-Qaeda, but had deliberately lied to facilitate an old dream recorded in the annals of the building of an American Empire, where Israel is the policeman of the Middle East.

Wolfowitz was the 'architect' of war, overseeing the work of Douglas Feith at the Office of Special Plans. I didn't come up with this myself. I'm merely relaying the information from the report of the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General after study-

ing intelligence information used to justify the war. It said:

The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy developed, produced and then disseminated alternative intelligence assessments on the Iraq and al-Qaeda relationship, which included some conclusions that were inconsistent with the consensus of the Intelligence Community, to senior decision-makers. While such actions were not illegal or unauthorized, the actions were, in our opinion, inappropriate given that the intelligence assessments were intelligence products and did not clearly show the variance with the consensus of the Intelligence Community. This condition occurred because of an expanded role and mission of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy from policy formulation to alternative intelligence analysis and dissemination. As a result, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy did not provide 'the most accurate analysis of intelligence' to senior decision-makers.

I say that the foregoing is part of the picture, as the office managed by Feith, under the supervision of Wolfowitz, was directly involved in the most capricious lie that preceded the war, namely: forging documents and letters claiming that Iraq had tried to purchase uranium or what is known as 'yellow cake' from Niger.

Here, the name 'Michael Ledeen', who is still calling for war against Iran, comes to the surface. He visited Italy, where he had served before, and was working with the Office of Special Plans that sent him to Rome, where he contacted friends in the Italian Intelligence (SISMI). If I had surplus money, I'd assign special investigators to follow this forgery and identify everyone who participated in it. Here the role of Wolfowitz also surfaces in the official US investigation. It seems he persuaded Vice President Dick Cheney to follow up the Italian Intelligence information about the Niger uranium.

We all know today that the Italian press revealed that the letters were false, and Dr. Mohammed ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, who gave the messages a quick look, said that they were forged. But President Bush included the forged information in his State of the Union Address in January 2003, not withdrawing it until after the war.

Wolfowitz was a key player in pushing the US toward war on Iraq, and after the alternative intelligence was all proven false, and after American soldiers, along with hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, paid the price; neither Wolfowitz nor the other elements of the war cabal were tried. Instead, he was rewarded through his appointment as President of the World Bank, as he acted with arrogance, monopolized decision-making, until he was found to have committed the crime of favoritism toward his mistress, not that of premeditated murder. After all, if he had destroyed a country over the heads of its people and was not held accountable, then he has every right to expect not to be held accountable for promoting an employee.

A thousand Wolfowitzs are not worth a tear of an Iraqi woman over her man or son. *Source: Al-Hayat*

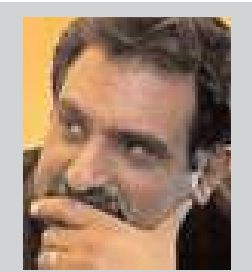
Back to square one

From the moment the Palestinian struggle was referred to as the Arabs' first cause, one of liberation and return, of a nation usurped, to the time an Arab diplomat first used the term the "Palestinian-Israeli dispute" a political cultural age passed.

True, one could expect to find some Arabs eager to have the most slipshod Palestinian national entity knocked together so that they can get rid of the Palestinian cause forever. And it might be argued there is not so great a difference between the phrases "the two leaders discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian cause" and "leaders from both sides discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli dispute". The arguments, though, would be false: the "dispute", after all, is not between two equally constituted sovereign entities vying, as the Zionist left would have it, over "the same right to the same land". Dispute is not a word that can be applied before even half a Palestinian entity has been created, and that on only a portion of the territories Israel occupied in 1967.

Arab officials are not the only ones guilty of this usage. A major segment of the Palestinian national movement -- the PLO, the prime shaper of the modern, post-1948 Palestinian political identity -- also started down this route when it insisted on establishing itself as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. When, after the 1973 War, which showed that the Arabs could attain a tactical victory that could be translated into political results, there arose the possibility of forcing Israel, over the negotiating table, to restore the territories it occupied in 1967, the PLO made another mistake. Fearful that the Arab states, alone (heaven forefend!), would regain sovereignty over the lands they lost in 1967, it proclaimed that "the Palestinian entity" would be established "on any territory liberated from the enemy". Then step by step, the "establishment of a Palestinian entity on territory liberated from the enemy" became the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, an interim solution, without relinquishing the internationally recognised right of return, which Israel rejects out of hand and which can only be obtained through liberation. Liberation comprises the right of return -- as a goal of the national liberation movement, not just because it happens to be supported by a UN resolution and international law.

Israel was right in saying the Palestinians had an incremental plan though the alleged premise was wrong. Israel claimed this plan aimed to gradually destroy it whereas in fact the plan proceeded in the opposite direction: from total liberation to an initial entity on any liberated inch of land to the creation



By: Azmi Bishara

of a state on any liberated territory to an interim state in the West Bank and Gaza to a two-state solution. We have now entered the stage of accepting a state on a portion of the West Bank and Gaza within the framework of the two-state solution. The PLO was founded as a movement for refugees striving to liberate their land, not as a movement to fight the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. It was founded in East Jerusalem at a time when that city was under Arab sovereignty and when the creation of a Palestinian entity meant the creation of a liberation organisation embodying the political aspirations and national identity of the Palestinian people. There was never any question of the creation of a state on only a portion of the land; indeed, in order to receive the Jordanian monarch's approval to hold the PLO constitutional assembly in Jerusalem the founders had to assure him this was not the intent.

The PLO leadership, though, was not satisfied with just being an entity. They wanted to rule a state just like the other members of the Arab League. These other states succeeded in instilling in the PLO leadership a desire to pursue its goal not under the banner of liberation but under that of "eliminating the effects of the aggression [of 1967]". The latter was an essentially Arab mission to be pursued through negotiation in accordance with UN Resolution 242, which did not address the Palestinians or the PLO, or by war, as occurred in 1973, or by diplomacy, in accordance with Resolution 338. It was not the Palestinian liberation movement's mission, though it became so, if only because the liberation movement feared it could not survive otherwise.

The PLO's confrontation with Jordan following Black April had much to do with this transition. It was then that liberation and rule over the West Bank became its prime mission, for fear that Jordan would regain control over that territory and rule it within the framework of a "United Arab Kingdom", for example. Regardless of Jordan's designs, one has to admit that a United Arab Kingdom, which would have comprised the whole of the West Bank, including Jerusalem, Gaza and the Transjordan, and which would not have sacrificed the Palestinian right to return, was a vision that opened immeasurably greater horizons than the project of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. To have said so at the time, of course, was to court ignominy and death. But that doesn't alter the fact that it's true in hindsight.

To prove itself capable of ruling whatever territories were turned into a state by international decree, the PLO began to act as if it were a state. It set up offices abroad as though they were diplomatic missions and tried to play a

game of one-upmanship with Israel, exchanging boasts along the lines of more countries recognise us than recognise you. But none of this meant anything. Israel didn't have to prove itself through such games. It proved itself by building a nation, firstly by populating the country with Jews and creating an Israeli identity and ethos; secondly by building an army, an economy and governing institutions; thirdly by developing an organic alliance with the US. Israel, for example, could get along quite well with an India that had a PLO Embassy and that refused to recognise Israel, and it continued to get along until eventually India recognised it and then entered into an agreement of strategic cooperation with it. The game of let's pretend has limits. There is a big difference between a real state and a hypothetical one, even if the latter's representatives can sit around a table imagining themselves equal to the former's representatives, even if Palestinian and Israeli kids can play in the same youth orchestra, conceived of by some European philanthropist as a way to illustrate the possibilities of mutual co-existence and brotherly love, as opposed to the same kids pelting each other with stones, even if Palestinian writers can engage in fruitful debate with their Israeli "counterparts" as an alternative to the "mutual exchange of violence", and even if Palestinians can "liberate" international peace prizes as the symbolic alternative to true liberation. There is a big difference. Unfortunately, today we are witnessing the consequences of the obfuscation of this difference.

By pretending to be a state the PLO hoped to transform 242 into a resolution concerning the Palestinians so that it would be able to claim back territory in accordance with the principle prohibiting the annexation of others' land by force and set up rule in the West Bank and Gaza. The result was that Israel was rewarded with a liberation movement that had abandoned its original calling, structures and alliances while the Palestinians were still without a state. The second result was that the 1967 boundaries were transformed from the eventual lines of a peace agreement, as was the case with Syria and Egypt, to the ultimate hope in eventual negotiations over a lasting solution to the Palestinian cause. The third is that the Palestinian people became one of "two sides", and now have to prove themselves worthy in order for the occupying power to negotiate with them. It seems even Islamist resistance movements such as Hamas are being lured into the game of proving themselves in an attempt to win the acceptance of the international community, an almost impossible task for any Islamist movement.

These may be the rules of the game of nations but they are not the rules by which national liberation movements should play. For the moment Hamas is hesitating at the threshold. If it steps across it will go down the same slippery path as the liberation movements that preceded it.

The PLO lost the structure, vision, alliances and rights of a liberation movement before it even became a state. Because it wanted the prerogatives of state so prematurely it had to accept the obligations of a state prematurely. This entailed not only calling off the resistance, as nations do once they achieve independence, but also fighting the resistance, now termed "terrorism".

The former Palestinian resistance movement is now being asked to "fight terrorism", not just in body, to protect Israel, but in soul. Israel isn't interested only in a truce or ceasefire. It wants an end to the movement of Palestinian refugees, the people who never had a chance to exercise civil disobedience because they were never under Israeli rule, who never had the advantages of living under direct occupation because they were the victims of the ethnic cleansing of 1948 and whose only means of breaking back across the borders into their former country and of breaking the silence that engulfed them was the gun.

It was the Palestinian refugees that created the Palestinian national liberation movement. It was from beneath that umbrella that there emerged the anti-occupation resistance movements, on the one hand, and, on the other, the drive to create a Palestinian state as an end in itself.

Who among us has not met that loathsome specimen that is forever trying to shed his connections with the people who gave him the initial leg up on the ladder to success? Such people's sense of self-importance is so great that they suppress all memory of those to whom debts of gratitude are owed. Such inflated egos quickly reveal a propensity for other evil.

The case is not all that different with certain offshoots of the Palestinian refugee movement. They too combine self-centeredness with a willed amnesia. "Yeah, yeah, we heard that already," their every action seems to proclaim. "Do you have to keep harping on about the refugees and Jerusalem?"

Among such people we must count those who shot to the limelight through the Palestinian cause to the degree that they began to symbolise it, but then developed interests of their own, distinct from the interests of the cause that gave them their start and from the interests of the people that cause is meant to represent. This was when they began to privatise the Palestinian cause, after which the refugees simply became a bother.

When refugees become too much of a bother for the Palestinian state enterprise something is terribly askew. A state without the right to return is not just a perversion, it is a burden on the cause of Palestinian refugees, of Jerusalem and of the struggle against Zionism.

Azmi Bishara: is an Israeli Arab politician and an elected member of the Knesset
Source: www.ahram.org.eg

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Investment Conference to be an annual event

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs AbdulKarim Al-Arhabi has stated that the Conference for Exploring Investment Opportunities in Yemen would be held as an annual event in order to measure the developments within the Yemeni economy and investment environment in Yemen on an annual bases, and more importantly in order to exhibit how serious is the government of Yemen when it comes to welcoming investors and undertaking fundamental reforms in order to develop the business environment.

Al-Arhabi said that the government and the people of Yemen were very pleased with the participation especially from gulf countries, he emphasized that this conference was a great success for the region, not only in terms of the investment opportunities which have been offered, but also in terms of publicizing Yemen as a destination for investments.

President Saleh, in his opening remarks, has stated that Yemen is overwhelmed by the economic and business support it receives from its neighboring gulf countries, adding that Yemen is willing to do what it takes in terms of legislative and other reforms in order to ensure that gulf investors are most welcome in Yemen and can go about their investments in

an unrestricted and trouble-free manner; "Yemen opens its doors for your investments" said president Saleh.

With no exception, all officials vowed to make sure that this conference was a success and all investors would be met with open arms, realizing that the inflow of investments may be the only means available for a rapid economic development of the country.

Similarly, local businessmen have welcomed the investors, and pointed out that the existence of foreign investors will help develop the local market and open new business and partnership opportunities, and it will also force the government to reduce its interference within the market, adopt more transparent mechanisms in its dealings with the business commu-

nity, and maintain a stable and progressive regulatory framework.

On the sidelines of the conference, there were several business agreements signed between the government and investors, most of which are "agreements to invest" within the Minerals sector, Transportation, construction, tourism, and other opportunities. However, there were over 300 investment opportunities presented by the government and the private sector, out of which only 15 opportunities were signed on, most substantial of which were the agreement to invest in the Aden Free Zone, and another agreements to establish luxury resorts and hotels.

The Midroc group has stated that it will start the construction of two luxury

hotels in Sana'a and Hodieda, costing over US\$ 100 million, while the Bin Farid group announced plans to build the Aden Gardens luxury resorts in Aden, costing over US\$ 2 billion.

Seven Agreements to invest in the mineral sectors were also signed, most prominent of which was an agreement with Al-Rahabi group worth US\$ 250 million, to establish a DRI plant, which will produce Steel products utilizing the black sand reserves available in several parts of the country.

However, the potential for more investments is still open, this conference has opened the minds of gulf investors for opportunities in Yemen and it is very likely that the following conference in the years to come will be more successful.

Business in Brief

President Saleh promises a one-stop shop for investors

In his opening speech of the Investment Opportunities in Yemen conference, president Saleh promised investors that the General Investment Authority would be the sole government agency responsible for dealings with foreign investors, and that it will have full authorities to sort any problems or obstacles investors might face with high levels of efficiency.

Bahah: we plan on increasing production to 500,000 bpd

Minister of Oil, Gas and Minerals Khalid Bahah has stated that Yemen will increase its Oil production from its current 350,000 barrels per day within the next few years. He also added that Yemen will expand its refining capacity as the government is currently studying five offers to construct refineries in Yemen.

Total to invest an additional US\$ 2 billion in Yemen

Total E&P of France has announced that it will invest up to US\$ 2 billion in Yemen during the Years 2007-2009. The company indicated that it will expand its operation in block 10 to dig up about 20 exploratory oil wells, with the potential of producing 50,000 barrels per day by the end of 2008.

Saudi Businessmen to establish a Bank in Yemen

Yemeni Businessmen have announced plans to establish a new Islamic bank in Yemen under the name "Islamic Union International Bank" with a paid-up capital of US\$ 10 billion. The bank will be established in partnership with Yemeni investors who will have a majority stake of 65 percent.

Saudi's Al-Awjan group to build a beverage factory in Yemen

Sources at Al-Awjan group of Saudi Arabia has indicated that it will invest US\$ 30 million in the establishment of a juice and beverage factory in Yemen, the factory will be established in 2008 and will be followed by the establishment of a package facility to cater for the factory and its employees.

Teshome G/selassie:

"Ethiopia is the new holiday destination"

Ethiopian Airlines are back in Yemen, this time with a brand new strategy to take advantage of the booming airline industry in Yemen and also to market Ethiopia as a trendy holiday destination for Yemeni tourists. YemenTimes made an interview with Mr. Teshome G/selassie, General Manager of Ethiopian Airlines in Yemen, and asked him a few details on the subject.

Interviewed by Raidan Al-Saqqaf (alsaqqaf@gmail.com)

Q: Please tell us about your professional background and experiences in the Travel & Tourism Industry.

I graduated from Addis Ababa University, majoring in Political Science & International Relations, and I also studied marketing in the Ethiopian Air Lines School of Marketing, after which I have worked for over eleven years in the travel and tourism industry, most of my work was focused within the aviation industry with special reference to marketing management and business strategy in Ethiopia and also in other parts in the region.

Q: Please brief us on Ethiopian's regional expansion strategy in Yemen and in the region.

Ethiopian Airlines is one of the oldest in the region, we've been flying for over 60 years to over 47 destinations in Africa, the Middle East, Europe and other parts of the world, we consider ourselves to be Africa's gateway to the world.

In line with that, we have expanded our destinations to include Sana'a, mainly driven by the growth in the number of passengers traveling between Ethiopia and Yemen, and also



Teshome G/selassie.

the socioeconomic growth Yemen is currently enjoying, we see a boom in the air travel industry in Yemen and we want to be a part of that.

We feel that the commencement of flights between Addis and Sana'a will further strengthen the ties between our two peoples and governments. Ethiopian's extensive worldwide connections seek to offer greater reach and

travel opportunities to its passengers originating from and destined to Sana'a.

Our service is intended to connect Sana'a via Addis to Bangkok, Hong Kong, New Delhi, Mumbai, Paris, Brussels, Rome, London, Lagos, Accra, Guangzhou, and also other destinations.

Q: What's the competitive advantage for Ethiopian's over other airlines working in the region?

Ethiopian is a well-recognized brand in the aviation industry and is known for the quality service we provide, we deal with our passengers with utmost care and provide premium services in-flight and in all stages to ensure convince and comfort for our passengers, all at competitive rates.

With specific reference to the Yemeni market, our competitive advantage is that we provide holidays packages to introduce Ethiopia as a holiday destination for the Yemeni people,

Ethiopia has a lot to offer Yemeni tourists, including those seeking adventure, site-seeing and also luxury getaways that only a couple of hours away from home. Our tourism packages are very affordable and we have different schemes that appeal to different segments.

Q: please tell us about your promotional offers during the summer of 2007?

We offer group-discounts for travellers to Ethiopia or through Addis, we also offer holiday packages for families, honeymooners and other tourists to Ethiopia, the packages include air travel and accommodation along with other supplementary perks. We are currently working on a few more schemes to be introduced to the Yemeni market shortly which are guaranteed to publicize Ethiopia as your trendy holiday destination, coinciding with the millennium celebration of the Ethiopian Calendar, which will be next September.

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Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY – A British INGO) is announcing the following vacancies for National Professional Personnel based in Sana'a Governorate for Conflict Transformation & Peace Building Programme (CTPB):

1. Position: Programme Coordinator
Duration: 24 months

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- Provide direction and support to project staff
- Establish linkages with GO, NGOs and other institutional donors
- Prepare narrative and financial reports
- Undertake any other task assigned by the Programme Manager

Requirements:

- Post-Graduate degree in conflict prevention, developments studies, international relations, political science or other relevant academic background
- Proven experience in conflict prevention /peace building / human rights work
- Ability to develop strong relationship and work closely with diverse individuals and organizations
- Clear effective communications skills
- Excellent command of the English and Arabic languages
- Proficiency in major computer software (Microsoft Word, Excel and Power point) database use, and advanced Internet search engine tools

2. Position: Programme Coordinator Assistant
Duration: 24 Months

Responsibilities:

- Assist and advise the project unit on overall programme activity
- Assist the project team with the development and implementation of project components, analyze data as required
- Implement policy and strategy guidelines
- Participate in various meetings, working groups, assessments as requested
- As part of the project team, assist prepare narrative and financial reports
- Assist to provide direction and support to project staff
- Undertake any other task assigned by the Project Coordinator

Requirements:

- Degree in social sciences or related field
- Experience in project planning/ implementing and monitoring management and working in rural areas
- Excellent command of the English and Arabic languages

• Experienced in using computers including word processing, excel and power point

3. Position: Admin and Accounts Assistant
Duration: 24 Months

Responsibilities:

- Accounting of all incoming and outgoing financial transactions
- Oversee purchasing inventory, transport, and procurement of project materials
- Recording transactions according to project guidelines
- Ensuring financial reports are transparent, accurate and representative
- Producing monthly reports, and assuring adequate cash on hand.
- Meeting arrangements and minute taking
- Maintaining the filing system
- Maintain smooth office operations including provision and operation of equipment.
- Perform other duties as deemed necessary

Requirements:

- University degree in accounts/finance
- Minimum of three years experience in finance and accounting field: proficiency in computerized accounting systems
- Good knowledge of internal accounting procedures and reporting systems
- Computer skills in both Arabic and English languages
- Clerical and administrative experience
- Good knowledge of Arabic and English languages

4. Position: Driver
Duration: 24 Months

Responsibilities:

- Drive a motor vehicle as requested, with due regard to time schedules, apply knowledge of driving regulation, safety requirements, traffic and conditions; take suitable precautions for the security of the vehicle and its contents when left unattended
- Ability to deal with various government authorities to process paperwork
- Make minor purchases and collect required goods from local supplier on demand
- Maintain legal status of vehicle, cleanliness and appearance
- Carry out clerical duties upon request including photocopying and logistical support

Requirements:

- Minimum of Primary education
- Drivers license, knowledge of driving rules and regulations and possess skills in minor vehicle repair
- Five years work experience as a driver with safe driving record
- Minimum knowledge of English is a plus

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 05th May 2007.

Admin Department – Ref: CTPB/IPD/220407
Islamic Relief Yemen, P O Box 15088, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen Fax No: 01-415998 Or Email: secretaryir@y.net.ye

Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief
Islamic Relief is an equal opportunities employer. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

مبروك النجاح الكبير

تتقدم شركة CCC بأجمل التهاني والتبريكات
لفخامة الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية
والى أبناء الشعب
بمناسبة النجاح الكبير في
مؤتمر فرص الاستثمار في اليمن
متمنين لهم النجاح في مهامهم النبيلة

مؤتمر فرص
الاستثمار في اليمن

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Congratulations

The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

Namaste: When the soul becomes the priority in life

By: Shadjar
For The Yemen Times
writer01@hotmail.com

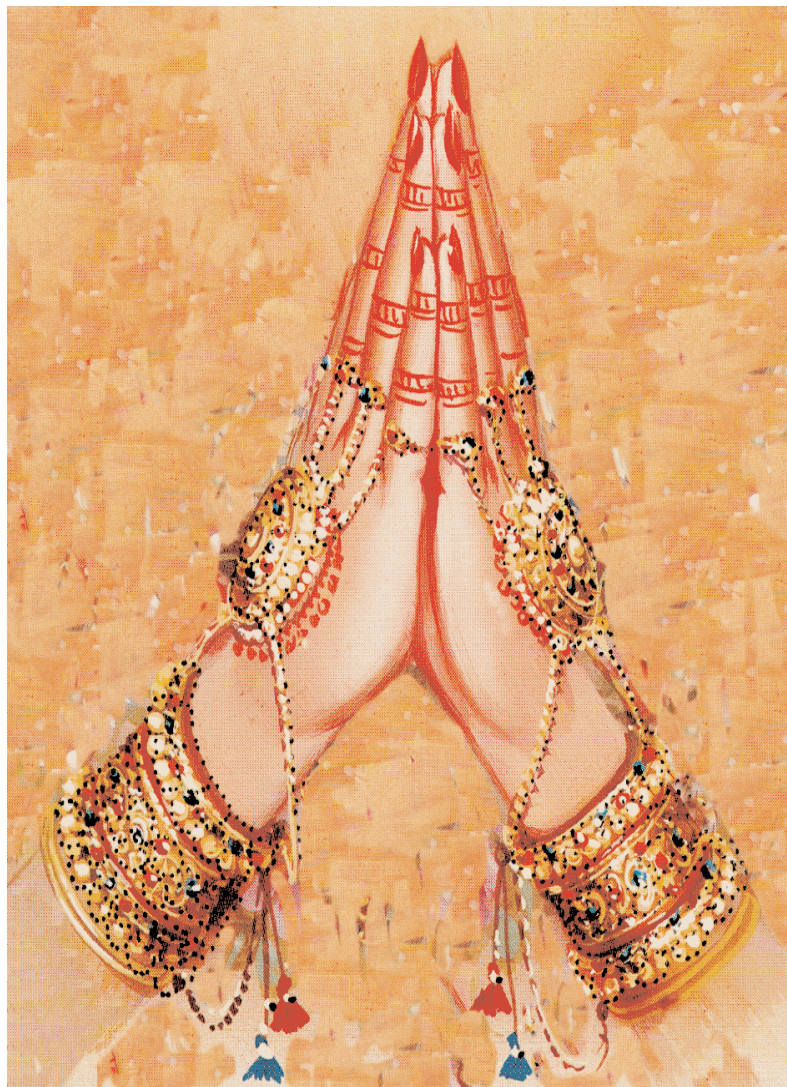
What is the soul? What does it do? A movie I once saw said the soul is like the sense behind the eyes that truly understands what it sees. The soul keeps one alive when the odds are against the body. The soul keeps one vibrant when the world seems gray and bleak.

Nevertheless, the soul is like a flower opening to the sun and embracing the warm rays of life into its being. It must be cultivated, fed and clothed with nourishment, understanding, compassion and hope.

God is in the details and the details of a person are in his or her soul. Many confuse this with stark preoccupation with ritual discipline to the extent where the body takes over and the soul silently watches on the sidelines. That first sip of hot tea or coffee in the morning can be as inspiring to the soul as it can be nourishing to the body, but only if we view it as such. A smile, which can be automatic, can become the road to wonderful possibilities, if accompanied by the soulful truth of intention. Just look at a photo and see how absence of a smile changes the entire perception of that person.

Perception is what the mind uses as vocabulary to communicate with the "other" that goes on within the soul. Hope, compassion and faith are integral parts of the soul's speech – the mind just executes it. However, perception and reality rarely are synchronized.

For example, how easy it is for some to joke about things that will knowingly hurt another and then when



the reception is sour, they effusively say it was only a joke? There's a reason the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) said to cage the tongue because it is the chastisement of the body. However, we don't heed his word's meaning as much as many adhere to his words and actions literally.

A Buddhist magazine referenced a story to make this same point:

"Two monks on the way to the monastery encountered a woman on the road. It had rained all day and the roads were flooding. The woman was desperate to get to the other side, but the way was blocked by rising water. One of the monks saw her, saw her predicament and without a word, took her into his arms and waded across the water to cross the road, depositing her

safely on the other side.

The woman smiled, gave the salutation 'Namaste' and continued on her journey. In like manner, the monk smiled, bowed slightly, responding 'Namaste,' and then turned to his companion to continue their journey.

The other monk immediately began voicing his protest over the entire incident and walked alongside his companion for a good hour berating the silent monk. 'You know it's prohibited for us to touch a woman. How could you carry her across the road?' The other monk turned and smiled at him, 'Yes, I know. While I carried her to safety only for an instant, you have been carrying her ever since.'"

Our preoccupation with ritual in whatever form it takes – be it cooking, cleaning, speaking, walking, praying or sleeping – masks the truer significance behind such actions.

The Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) said knowledge (and I believe the significance behind this knowledge is wisdom) should be sought all the way to the walls of China. So, before we lose ourselves in the forest in search of the tree, first think why you are reacting to the world around you as you are now and compare it to reacting to the perceived meaning you thought you heard in your mind. The difference will be in the details of the answer.

When you do, your soul will speak to you and even the act of removing your shoes to step onto a prayer rug will take on greater significance.

Namaste has various meanings: My soul greets your soul; I honor the spirit in you, which also is in me; The spirit in me meets the same spirit in you; I greet the place where you and I are one.

THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE

By: Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy
maged_thabet@hotmail.com



Islam in the political game

Approximately since 11th September 2002, a war has been launched against Islam whose enemies exploit the behaviors of some Muslims, as it is claimed, to attribute terrorism, injustice, and cruelty to its norms. The word "terrorism", in particular, is a "new fashion" against any Islamic group or organization not for being practicing terrorist attacks but mainly for being Islamic.

Let us consider it a conflict, or even a war. A logic question every one may ask: "what are the other parts of that war"? As a part, Islam is never accused of being standing against any other religion(s). The war seems not religious at all. In fact, the other parts, currently like U.S.A, Israel, or others, play no more than a political game.

Firstly, everyone should believe that Islam as a religion neither recommends any such terrorist acts, nor it stands against any other religion. The so-called terrorist attacks, done by some individuals, "only some" under the umbrella of religion, are considered against the Islamic values and principles. That is, of course, a way for the right of self-defence.

Secondly, what the so-called peace-keepers claim against Islam or any Islamic groups serves no other religion(s) or partial organizations. It only enhances their interests which are political rather than anything else. So, they could establish their dominance over Arab, Islamic countries, and, I think, over the world, as the sponsors of terrorism-fighting, democracy, and human rights in the world.

Thirdly, it is really a matter of questioning why all the charges of

U.S.A., for example, do always serve its interests and widen its dominance. In fact, terrorist acts, which are sometimes painful, do take place. Of course, those who sponsor them should gain the benefits of any kind. The situation proves the opposite, if we consider it so. That is to say, such acts are attributed to Islamic groups, without forgetting an announcement of being the masterminds of such acts. Such groups should be fought and punished at least with an imprisonment-sentence in Guantanamo. Many other demands should be soon responded by the government of the country otherwise it would be grouped among the terrorism- sponsoring countries. Through such acts, the U.S.A. achieves its aims. The charges, accordingly, as well as the punishment should be to such "Islamic groups" in order to keep the world stable and secure as it is now!!

Lastly, one may, but should, ask "What is the role of such governments in this political game? And does it have any relation with the current situations of these countries? Since the questions are related with "governments" and "their current situations", they are better to be answered by "governments", or even by "the current situations" themselves. It may seem silly to ask such questions. However, clever answers are expected if the questions are seriously passed through the mind's eye.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a writer from Taiz, currently doing his M.A. at English Dep, Taiz. Uni. He is an ex-editor of English Journal of the University.

From here we start

By: Hanan Mohammed Al-Shibami
hanan_alshabami@yahoo.com

We have aims that we want to achieve in our life, but we don't. We need to know from where we should start. We have ambitions, but we can't express them. We face many problems, but we don't know how to deal with them. We have everything, but we can't do anything. Many questions come to my mind: How can we overcome these barriers and from where

do we start?

In fact, we should start with ourselves and send a positive message to ourselves: "We can do anything, no matter how difficult. If anyone thinks something is difficult, it will become difficult, even if it's easy." We should dig into the rock, no matter how hard it is. There's nothing impossible in the world, except what we make for ourselves.

We should look at life with a broad view and internalize this concept in our memory: "If one lives to make something small in his life, he'll be

small all of his life and in death; however, if he lives to make something great, he'll be great all of his life and often in death."

We should dream about the future as much as we can and talk with people about our ambition proudly. We should try to deal with problems softly and consider it a game that exposes our strength, whether we're able to solve it or not. We should look at life as a challenge.

Finally, try to be like the wind, which moves everything in front of it. Don't be like a stone, which can't move anything.

Escaping the cage of memory

By: Minya Abd Al-Hakim Nasher
University of Sience & Technology

Fate plays a pivotal role in our lives. Along the way, we may find people who appreciate and encourage us, or we may find people who make things difficult for us. When we sit and contemplate we may remember different people who help us when we have problems, or people who are problems themselves.

We may discover people who willingly sow seeds of hope in our life and help us to grow and blossom. We may also find people who are trying hard to shoot poisoned arrows right into our hearts. Some of them may leave cherished memories, others will merely leave us with scars of sorrow and grieve.

Thus it will not be strange if we have tried to escape our memories. As many faces are eventually vanish, and many addresses are completely for-

gotten, some faces will still emerge from time to time, those can not be away from our hearts, one appears when we have problem, and we find upon it a person of giving and magnanimity.

Therefore I always try to discard a lot of faces which do not deserve to stay in my memory. So, it is better to let the beautiful feelings dwell in you, in order to be able to communicate with people normally, and feel happy and content all the time.

Hopes in the sky

By: Salem Abbod Salem Basuhai
basuhay@yahoo.com
B.A. in English literature

*Candle in the sky,
Never let you die.
It gives you hope to fly,
But hope that shall never stop,
Since there is a candle in the sky.
Scatter and shine, more and more.
Between having and giving up,
Focus on hope and let it continue.
With smile and worry the same,
Giving more hope and hiding,
As it will happen in time.*

*Hopes fulfilled refresh your mind
And give a way to a bright future,
But that candle in the sky,
Never let it die.
More and more candles in the sky
Present the various hopes of various
people,
From the worst to the best,
To their deepest of feelings
For health, wealth and wife.
And that search for happiness is
everywhere,
But the true feelings of hope never
stop.
Until your last whisper,*

*And even death should not interrupt
it.
It transfers to eternal life,
Since there is a candle in the sky
That never lets you die.
Here and Hereafter will always be the
same.
Those who are given God's grandeur
Consider being different
For the Eternal One remains.
As hopes are always different,
Hopes are always candles in the hand.
And since it is God's gift,
Be sure that no one forbids it.*



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- To provide effective support to the colleagues and advice on specific project in the region.
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You can download a copy of the application form and job description from our Website www.britishcouncil.org/me-about-us-working-with-us.htm only completed forms will be accepted. The closing date for the applications is **2 May 2007**.

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Saudi-Yemeni Cement Company to sign an agreement with China's Sinoma Company to establish a US \$250 million Cement factory



شركة الإسمنت اليمنية السعودية



Chairman of the Board of Directors Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmer: "The factory will provide jobs for 550 employees as direct labor force and over 3000 as indirect labor forces."

The Company's General Manager, Mr. Ali Abu Bakr: "The factory will create a comprehensive development in Abyan and create jobs for locals."

Yemeni-Saudi Cement Company represented by Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar signed an agreement with Chinese Sinoma International to construct and equip Batais Cement Factory with total costs of US \$250 million and total capacity of 4000-5000 Ton/day, around 1,300,000-1,600,000 ton/year.

Sheikh Al-Ahmar declared that signing the agreement is an important event especially when wishes of Yemenis and Gulf investors met together for achieving development as the project is considered an outcome of partnership between Yemenis and Saudis.

He further indicated that agreement signing is timed with the activities of Investment Opportunities Exploration Conference prepared at higher level by the political leadership in Yemen and the Gulf Cooperation Council's General Secretariat.

The Saudi investors hold 40 percent of shares divided in half between Emir Sultan bin Mohammed bin Saud and Al-Eysa Group while a group of Yemeni investors own 60 percent at the top of which comes Al-Ahmar Group. It is expected that Saudi side's shares will mount to 50 percent.

The agreement, signed by Sheikh Al-Ahmar, and Mr. Woo Shoufu, Deputy Chairman of sinoma, includes constructing a production line together with all administration, maintenance and service buildings as well as electrical power station generating 45 megawatt, water distillation station and sanitation. The campus will also include employee's residence, mosque, medical center and water walls.

Al-Ahmar also assured the Chinese company will implement the project over 25 months starting from signing date, indicating the factory will provide job opportunities for 550 as direct labor force and over 3000 as indirect one.

He added the total costs of the project swelled due to the international increase of demand over cement, rising from US \$160 million to US \$ 250 million.

"I wish the factory will be an addition to Abyan governorate and cement sector in Yemen. The project is due to cover for the increasing needs for cement in Yemen and further the surplus will be exported abroad. The raw material will meet the needs of many years ahead," said Al-Ahmar.

Most apparatuses and equipments will be imported from Europe and the filtration system is working according to international standards in order to prevent pollution, according to the statement.

The company's general Manager Ali Abu Bakr pointed out the ventured the project after conducting a feasibility study and it proved a growing demand for cement and the market needs are to be met. Following operating the existing projects, there will be still a shortage equal to 25 percent according to a study conducted in 2004.

Abu Bakr added that they deliberately bought European equipments in order to reduce the pollutants and anticipated an all-inclusive development in Abyan as the project will provide jobs for locals and develop the area in which the factory exists.

Chinese Sinoma Company is considered one of the biggest companies specialized in constructing cement factories and takes over 90 percent of China's cement factory construction field. It has also signed 20 percent of implementation contracts outside China including four bigger projects in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Ahmar: "We hope that state can provide an environment pulling for investments. We also demand the state to fight corruption and alleviate the obstacles before investors. We have to focus on developing Yemeni citizen in order to create an environment apt for investment."

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 Email: shaibani@yemen.net.ye

صنعا - شارع حده - أمام مركز الكيم التجاري
 تلفون: ٥٠٥٢٩٠ - ٢٦٦٣٧٥
 فاكس: ٢٦٧٦١٩

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 والطباعة والنشر

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 صنعاء - الجمهورية اليمنية
 الفون: ٠١-٢٦٧٨١٦/٢٤
 فاكس: ٠١-٢٦٧٨١٦/٢٤
 ص.ب: ٢٦٧٨١٦
 Email: yemen@yemen.net.ye

ARAMEX
 ٤٤١٠٢٤/٥ ت: أرامكس صنعاء
 ٢١٢٤٨٩ ت: تفرع
 ٢١٩٢٤٣ ت: الحديثة
 ٢١٩٢٤٣ ت: الحديثة

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 ١-٤٤٤٥٠٠، ٤٤١٩٢٥ ت: ولرد ليك

مستشفيات
 مستشفى الثورة ت: ٠١/٢٤١٩٦٧-٦٦
 المستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٨٦/٨٧
 مستشفى حدة الأهلي ت: ٠١-٤١٢٩٨١
 المستشفى اليمني الألماني ت: ٠١-٤١٨٠٠٠
 فاكس: ٠١-٤١٨١١٦
 المستشفى الألماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠٠/٦٠٢٠٠٨
 فاكس: ٤١٨١١٦
 E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق
 فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٢٥٩٧/١٧
 فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠٠
 فندق موفيكيب ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
 فندق تاج سب ت: ٠١-٢٧٢٣٧٣
 فندق ريلكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١
 فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٦٠٣٢٥٠-٦٠٢١٣/٨

معاهد
 معهد يالي ت: ٤٤٨٠٤٨-٢/٤-٤٤٥٤٨٢ فاكس: ٤٤٨٠٣٧
 معهد اللغة الألمانية ت: ٢٠٠٩٤٥
 المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٢٦٦٢٢٢٢
 فاكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥
 معهد كاروكوس ت: ٥٢٢٤٢/٥ فاكس: ٥٢٢٤٣٦
 معهد أليكس ت: ٢٦٥٨٣٣-٠١-١١٢٢٠٢ فاكس: ٢٦٥٨٣٧

شركات للتأمين
 الوطنية للتأمين ت: ٢٧٧٧١٢/٢٧٧٨٧٣ فاكس: ٢٧٧٩٢٤
 صناعا، ت: ٢٠٦١٢٩/١٢
 الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين
 صنعاء ت: ٢٨٤١٩٣
 عدن ت: ٢٤٤٢٨٠
 تفرع: ٢٥٨٨١
 شركة اليمن للتأمين صناعا ت: ٢٧٧٨٠٠/٢٧٧٩٦٢/٤٣
 عدن ت: ٢٤٧٦١٧
 تفرع ت: ٢٥٠٢٤٥

مدارس
 مدرسة رينيو ت: ٤١٤٠-٢٦/٤٢٤-٤٣٢
 مدارس صنعاء الدولية ت: ٢٧٠١٩١/٣ فاكس: ٣٧٠١٩٣
 مدرسة التريكة الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٢٥٨/٩
 مدرسة الماجد اليمنية ت: ٢٠٦١٥٩

سفرات
 التسليم للسفرات ت: ٣٧٠٧٥٠
 العالمية للسفرات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١٥٨٩/٦٠

مطاعم
 مطعم ومخبازة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
 تلفون: ٥٠٥٢٩٠ - ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - فاكس: ٢٦٧٦١٩

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 للتواصل: ٧١١٨٣٠٣٨٥
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 للتواصل: ٧٢٤٤٢٧٠٩٧
 • مدرس عربي يجيد الإنجليزية نطقاً وكتابتاً - يريد أن يدرس العربية لطلاب أجانب.
 للتواصل: arabic-t@hotmail.com
 • توفيق مسعد - ثانوية عامة - حاصل على دورات كمبيوتر + دورات تسويق + دورة حول التوثيق والأرشيف وأعمال السكرتارية + دورة في مجال التنسيق وإدارة وتنفيذ الأنشطة - قادر على توفير الضمانة التجارية.
 للتواصل: ٠٤/٢٦٦٣٨٧
 • للبيع: أرضية في أرتل على شارع ١٦ بسعر (٠٠٠،٢٥٠) وأرضية على شارع المياه ٢٥ لبنه بسعر (٢٧٠،٠٠٠) و ٣ أراضي كبيرة على شارع الخسبين. للإستفسار: ٧٣٣٨٨٩١٢٤
 • للبيع: بيت دور واحد - ٦ لبن في مثلث بيت بوس بسعر تسعة عشر مليون وكذلك للبيع بيت شعبي دورين - سبع لبن في حده على شارع ١٦ وشارع ١٠. للإستفسار: ٧١١٤٤٧٧٣٦
 • للإيجار: شقة مفروشة في فيلا - تحتوي على ثلاث غرف - غرفة نوم وغرفتان استقبال وحمامان ومطبخ وصالة مع غرفة طعام وأيضاً حديقة. (مطلوب عائلة أجنبية). - العنوان: شارع حدة - أمام شركة صافر للتواصل: ٧٧٧٧٨١٨٢٨ - ٧٧٧٧٨١٨٢٨ - ٠١/٤٤٢١٧٩
 • للإيجار: شقة مفروشة حديثة - الموقع: قريبة من وزارة الخارجية - الإيجار: ٢٠٠ دولار.
 للتواصل: ٠١/٤٠٤١٢٩

سيارات
 • للبيع : سيارة مرسيدس - اللون الذهبي 300SEL - موديل ٨٨ بحاله ممتازة جداً - استعمال نظيف جداً - السعر مناسب. للإستفسار: ٧٢٣٨٨٢٨٧٨ - ٧٧٧٥٠٢٥٠٨
عقارات
 • للبيع: فله في بيت بوس - ١٣ لبنه على شارعين - دورين - وبسعر مناسب وكذلك للبيع: ٩٠٥ لبنه قريبة من سوق المقالح وأرضية ٥ لبن في حزين بسعر (٥٥٠،٠٠٠). للإستفسار: ٧٧٧٢٢١٥٢

• البيع: تلفونات نوكيا (١٢٥٥) (DMA) - يمن موبايل - بحالة ممتازة (تاريخ الشراء قبل ٤ أشهر) - السعر: ٧٠ دولار للتواصل: ٧٧٧٧٣٧٢٢٨
 • البيع: محل اتصالات (خمس خطوط) - الموقع مناسب - والسعر مناسب جداً. للتواصل: ٧٣٣٢٠٦٤٥٣

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• للبيع: مبنى مكون من ٣ فتحات ومدخل سيارة ومدخل شخصي وشقة خلفية وشقتين كبيرة فوق في الحي السياسي قريب من شارع الجزائر والمجمع الليبي، حديثة وسعرها معقول جداً. مساحة الأرضية حوالي ٧ لبن حره.
 - فيلا من حق هائل سعيد، بيت بوس. موقع ممتاز جداً. الأقرب إلى شارع الخمسين، مساحة الأرضية حوالي ٤٠ لبنه. دورين أنيق جداً، جلسة مغلقة شمسية، مسبح مغطا بهناجر، حديقة رائعة، وأشجار مرتفعة. رائعة جداً لأي أسرة تريد مساحة خارجية كبيرة. سعرها للبيع حوالي ٧٥٠،٠٠٠ دولار قابل للتفاوض للمشتري الجاد.
 - شارع الخمسين، بيت بوس، ١٠ لبن فيها ٣ فتحات، بدروم داخل. سعر البيع: ٧٠٠،٠٠٠ ريال قريبة جداً من بيت بوس.

• نسعى لتقديم الأفضل والأحسن في مجال الإستثمار العقاري

وظائف شاغرة

• يعلن المعهد الأمريكي الأكاديمي عن حاجته إلى شغل الوظائف التالية:
 ١- سكرتيرة ، للعمل دوامين على أن تكون ذو مظهر جيد ولبقة ، لا يشترط في المتقدمات سوى الحصول على الشهادة الثانوية علماً بأنه سيتم تدريبهم في المعهد دورات لغة إنجليزية وكمبيوتر خارج الدوام الرسمي.
 ٢- مدرسين لغة إنجليزية سبق لهم التدريس في معاهد وخبرة لاتقل عن ثلاث سنوات وأن يكونوا حاصلين على درجة البكالوريوس أو الماجستير في اللغة الإنجليزية
 ٣- مدراء علاقات عامة عدد ٢ .
 ٤- علاقات عامة عدد ٣.
 فعلى من يجد في نفسه الرغبة والكفاءة الإتصال بالأرقام التالية ٢٨٨٠٧٣٢٦٠ أو ٢٩١٥٠٧٣٢٩
 • مطلوب
 ١- سكرتيرات تنفيذيات يجدن اللغة الإنجليزية واستخدام الكمبيوتر ولديهن الخبرة السابقة
 ٢- مندوبين ومندوبات مبيعات لديهم الخبرة السابقة في نفس المجال وبرواتب مغرية
 ٣- مصممين مواقع انترنيت وفوتوشوب لديهم الخبرة السابقة في نفس المجال
 ٤- موظفات استقبال ومرشدات اكاديميات لديهن الخبرة السابقة في نفس المجال
 - مديرمالي لديه الخبرة أكثر من سبع سنوات
 ٦- مدراء تسويق لديهم الخبرة السابقة في نفس المجال للعمل في الحديدية (عدن)
 ٧- موظفين وموظفات قطع تذاكر لديهم الخبرة السابقة في نفس المجال
 ٨- موظفين مراسلات تجارية لديهم الخبرة في الإدارة التجارية والمراسلات التجارية والمراسلات مع إجابة اللغة الإنجليزية.
 ٩- مدراء إداريين أو موارد بشرية لديهم الخبرة السابق في نفس المجال.
 للتواصل: ٠١/٢٧٩٨١٩
 ٢٧٩٨٢٣ - ٧٧٧٨٤٦٦٩

• مطلوب سكرتيرة للعمل لدشركة العبيلات للمقاولات والخدمات النفطية على أن تكون تجيد اللغة الإنجليزية.
 للتواصل: ٧١١٣١٠٢٦١ - فاكس: ٦٢٥٠٥٣
 • يعلن مركز اللغة البريطاني BLC عن حاجته لعدد: ٢ سكرتيرات
 الشروط: ١- الحصول على الثانوية العامة
 ٢- الحفاظ على خصوصية العمل
 ٣- لا يشترط أي خبرة أجنبية
 ٤- التدريب والتأهيل يتم في المركز
 للتواصل: ٤٤٠٧٠٣

The ninth Yemeni Deaf Week Help the deaf children, please

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
fatimafnfr@yahoo.com

The Foundation for Deaf-mute Care and Rehabilitation in Sana'a recently organized the ninth Yemeni Deaf Week in this week. The regional workshop for teachers of the handicapped launched on Sunday at the Sana'a-based Culture House.

Participants from Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and Denmark presented papers focusing on the phenomenon of weak reading and writing skills among the deaf, the reasons behind it and some solutions.

Abdo Zaid, executive manager of the deaf-mute foundation, reviewed the unusual way deaf students read and write, which relates to their brains. A deaf child receives visual signs and then retains them in the brain's language center as sign language or pictures and then reflects them back to others as visual signs. Deaf children often face difficulties recognizing the letters of the Arabic alphabet, which have a similar form, but can easily recognize the word as a drawing or picture.

Another problem is deaf writing style, which is full of grammatical mistakes because their communication is about words, not sentences. If they do write sentences, they use only simple words without any conjunctions.

A poll conducted by Al-Amel Foundation for Deaf-mutes in Sana'a found that approximately 97 percent of those who teach the deaf believe such students can't acquire reading and writing skills easily, especially after primary school, due to losing their



From left to right, Sa'eed Al-Gahadani, Suhail Abdulhafid and Abdo Zaid, who translates sign language for attendees.

sense of hearing. However, this belief is absolutely wrong because deaf students are smart enough to acquire language with practice and in a suitable environment.

Reasons for the deaf's weak reading and writing skills and some solutions

In Yemen, most of those who teach deaf students aren't sufficiently qualified to do so. According to another study by Al-Amel Foundation, only 22 percent of those teaching the deaf are qualified, while 78 percent then or is the first one only 12 percent are either secondary school graduates or volunteers with scant experience in sign language. This weakness in qualifying and rehabilitating such teachers is considered the main reason for the declining level of deaf students' reading and writing skills.

Sa'eed Al-Gahadani, a member of the Arab Union and chief of the Saudi participations, pointed out that in Arab

countries, the deaf use only signed words. "However, these words never build into a language for the deaf, so in order to improve their reading and writing skills, we need a special dictionary and curriculum related to all aspects of deaf life and then we can join them with society," he stated.

Basically, the age of the handicapped incident's occurrence and non-intervention at an early age in deaf cases develops the problem in a child. Additionally, generalizing a deaf individual's incapacity contributes to increasing the phenomenon. For example, some children are only partially deaf, but due to family neglect at an early age, they go completely deaf.

Moreover, providing a suitable environment helps avoid increasing the problem. "It's important for teachers and families to know individual differences. When deaf students attend school, they often join non-deaf stu-

dents, without classifying their case, so they encounter difficulties following the teacher and students," Egyptian participant Suhail Abdulhafid observed.

In his paper, Jamal Al-Mosadi, manager of general training in Damar governorate, added that most teachers use only visual signs as a simple way to communicate with their students, thus neglecting other sign language and modern technical tools. Additionally, they have neither specific programs nor a unified sign language when teaching deaf students reading and writing.

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