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Inside:

- 5** Youth dreams come true
- 7** The Wealth and Poverty of Yemen
- 9** Yemeni children work in agriculture

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
 In your opinion, what is the best method to stop FGM (read article in page 10) in Yemen?

I don't know (16%)
 (25.2%) religion
 Education (26.4%)
 48.2% laws

This edition's question:
 Do you think that micro financing would boost economic development considering the current business environment?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know

Go to our website at:
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 and have your voice heard

Yemen to launch banks for microfinancing SMEs

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, June 13 – While launching the fourth annual conference on microfinancing in Arab nations, known as "Sanabel," Yemeni Prime Minister Ali Mujawar on Tuesday announced his government's intention to establish microfinance banks in an effort to help decrease unemployment and alleviate poverty, as well as care for orphans and others with special needs.

The announcement was timed with declarations by officials at the Central Bank of Yemen regarding conducting studies to establish a new banking law that will allow non-banking institutions to accept deposits and be specialized in providing microfinancing, facilities and loans to medium-sized and microfinance investors.

Additionally, Mujawar announced that the German Construction Bank and the International Finance Corporation intend to establish a commercial microfinancing firm in Yemen. However, the company will only receive customer deposits, not provide banking services. Such microfinance companies may operate under Yemen's 1992 Investment Law.

The prime minister further revealed that his government intends to establish banks whose sole objective is to provide loans to small investors and small and microenterprises, calling on commercial and Arab banks to provide such loans to the poor, as well as work to improve and develop microfinance services.

Mujawar praised the Social Fund for Development's role regarding developing and upgrading such small projects, as well as overcoming all of the difficulties standing in their way. Further, the fund has ushered in a national strategy for small and microenterprises.

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul Kareem Al-Arhabi assured that Yemen has established 12 microfinance institutions providing more than 150,000 loans. He said the program seeks to target more than a million beneficiaries nationwide.

Asma' bin Hamidah, who chairs Sanabel's board of directors, noted that while the microfinance industry in the Arab world is rather new, having come into existence in the mid-1990s, it has achieved vast success.



Prime Minister Mujawar delivering his speech at the Sanabel conference

Continued on Page 2

Children demand more funds and attention

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri

SANA'A, June 13 – Organized collaboratively by the Democratic School (the General Secretariat of Children Parliament) and UNICEF organization, hundreds of children staged a sit-in before the Cabinet building after marching from Al-Tahrir Square. The sit-in aims at increasing the allowances allocated for children within the state's budget as well as international community organizations' aids.

Raising slogans that call for free education and health services, the children demanded clean water, increased number of schools and protection against fatal diseases. They also declared the interests paid in debt services are restrictions on children's future, especially when these debts are spent on meaningless things.

"We ask the government to raise the financial allocations for handicaps, orphanages and retarded people. We would like state to play its own role towards children and protect them against violence and begging and further work on preventing children trafficking," said Member of Children Parliament Walid Khalid Omar.

Likewise, his colleague Ammal Al-Qibli indicated that she participated in the demonstration to demand the government to increase the support for children. She also demanded officials and ministers to give up some of their allocations for the sake of children.

Meanwhile, the demonstrators sent a letter to Youth and Sport Minister Hamoud Obad, asking for clarifications about the allocations of children in the early budgets and for more allocations in the upcoming ones.



Children below the age of 15 constitute over 50 percent of the population.

In a meeting involving some government officials including Youth and Sport Minister, Justice Minister, and Education Minister with Children Parliament representatives.

Continued on Page 2

Al-Eryani: Democracy and Economic development go hand in hand



By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 13 – At a ceremony yesterday inaugurating the preparatory meeting to establish an Arab Charter for Democracy, presidential advisor Abdulkarim Al-Eryani stated that democracy and development are two inseparable concepts, adding that democratic development and partnering with civil society are very important if Yemen is to develop.

Al-Eryani added that the charter

should push forward democratic development in Arab nations, noting that it is civil society's role to lobby their governments to adopt the charter toward establishing democracy in the Arab world.

For her part, Qatar's Princess Hessa Al-Thani stated to the meeting participants that one of the most difficult tasks is addressing the charter and not losing sight of what's at the helm.

Continued on Page 2

Houthis resist attacks, Fierce confrontations continue

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SA'ADA, June 13 – Tribal and media sources reveal that the situation in Sa'ada is catastrophic and further, the bloody clashes between the Yemeni army and Houthi loyalists have widened to include nearly all governorate districts, as the army was unsuccessful in its offensives launched last week, despite human and material superiority.

The sources add that Houthis fiercely resisted attacks by government forces and still hold their positions in Razih district, particularly Al-Azd Mountain, Al-Shouraq and Qataber, as well as Shohatah, the most important area in Ghamer district.

Fierce confrontations also continue in most northwestern areas, together with areas in the middle, and the number of casualties is huge. Dozens of soldiers and pro-army volunteers were killed on Al-Farkh hill located in Al-Saifi when the Yemeni army attempted to take over the hill last Sunday. In a statement, Houthis noted that the plains and mountain passes are full of

the bodies of army affiliates and volunteers; however, independent sources neither denied nor confirmed such information.

Media sources revealed last Tuesday that Yemeni army helicopters raided various Houthi sites in Kittaf district's Al-Salim area and other areas in Al-Safra. One such raid targeted a house east of Sa'ada governorate, killing Houthis who were inside it.

Fighting renewed on Dakhshaf Mountain in Al-Amar, leaving dozens killed and injured. Both sides exchanged control of the mountain four times, but Houthis now seize it.

Regarding the extension of confrontations, local sources from Al-Jawf, which neighbors Sa'ada governorate, mentioned that Houthi elements opened a new front there by attacking a Central Security checkpoint, which left two soldiers dead and injured five others.

Some observers believe that the Yemeni army's intensifying of the war over the past two weeks will have passive results on mediation efforts aimed at stopping the war; thus, Houthis will distrust the mediation committee and

demand more guarantees.

They further assure that the Yemeni government is doing its best to achieve a material victory before the mediation committee reaches a potential ceasefire. This has become clear over the past few days in the overstating statements by some officials regarding Sa'ada Governor Mutahar Al-Misri's declaration last Saturday claiming that Yemeni armed forces seized Ghamer district, freeing it from Houthis, as well as capturing many Houthi elements, which is counter to field reports.

Media sources indicate that several tribes have voiced resentment at the Yemeni army compelling their volunteer sons to lead the battles against Houthis, with a sheikh from Dammaj questioning Al-Misri about whether the army came to defend the locals or vice versa.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni army launched a widespread arrest campaign during the past two weeks against military men, civilians and those displaced over links to Houthism. A pharmacy owner also was arrested for selling medicine to Houthis.

Continued on Page 2

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Minarets blown up at Iraq Shi'ite shrine

By: Mariam Karouny

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Suspected al Qaeda militants blew up two minarets of a revered Shi'ite mosque in the Iraqi city of Samarra on Wednesday, targeting a shrine bombed last year in an attack that unleashed a wave of sectarian killing.

Fearing renewed bloodshed, Iraq's government imposed an indefinite curfew in Baghdad as Shi'ite and Sunni political and religious leaders called on their followers to remain calm.

A grim mood descended on the capital as people hurried home before the start of the curfew. Police said gunmen set fire to a Sunni mosque in Baghdad's southwestern Bayaa district.

In a joint statement, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq, General David Petraeus, and U.S. ambassador Ryan Crocker called on Iraqis to "reject this call to violence".

"This brutal action on one of Iraq's holiest shrines is a deliberate attempt by al Qaeda to sow dissent and inflame sectarian strife among the people of Iraq. It is an act of desperation," the statement said.

Addressing the nation hours after the attack, Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki also blamed al Qaeda for the attack. He said he had ordered the arrest of security personnel who had been guarding the mosque, closed after the February 22, 2006, bombing that



Dust obscures the Golden Mosque Shi'ite shrine after insurgents blew up two minarets in Samarra, north of Baghdad, June 13, 2007.

destroyed its famed golden dome.

Al Qaeda has sought to trigger civil war between majority Shi'ites and minority Sunni Arabs, dominant under Saddam Hussein, with a campaign of large-scale bombings that have killed tens of thousands.

The attack comes at a critical time in Iraqi politics. Maliki's government is under growing pressure to move faster in passing key laws U.S. officials hope will draw Sunni Arabs closer into the political process and undermine the insurgency.

But there has been little progress thus far and there are signs that a major U.S.-

Iraqi crackdown in Baghdad aimed at buying time for Maliki's government is losing traction. The number of sectarian killings are on the rise again.

There were no injuries reported in Wednesday's attack on the Golden Mosque, details of which were not immediately clear.

The Iraqi government's spokesman, Ali al-Dabbagh, said it appeared the mosque's golden minarets had been hit by missiles, but the U.S. military, quoting police at the scene, said they were destroyed in near simultaneous explosions heard coming from inside the mosque compound.

Anti-Syrian MP killed in Beirut blast

BEIRUT (Reuters) - A blast in Beirut on Wednesday killed anti-Syrian parliamentary deputy Walid Eido, one of his sons and at least six others, security sources said.

Eido, in his sixties, was a member of the majority anti-Syrian bloc of Saad al-Hariri, which controls the Beirut government.

The sources said nine other people were wounded in the blast which hit near an amusement park and a military sporting club in the western half of the city. Television pictures showed a car ablaze and shattered windows of a nearby restaurant.

It was the sixth blast to hit Beirut and the surrounding areas in less than four weeks. Two people have been killed in the five previous blasts, all caused by bombs.

Lebanon has been hit by a wave of assassinations targeting anti-Syrian figures since the slaying of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri in February 2005. In November, anti-Syrian Industry Minister Pierre Gemayel was killed by gunmen in a Christian neighborhood of Beirut.

Eido was the seventh anti-Syrian politician to be killed since Hariri. His murder would further fuel heightened tensions between the government and the pro-Damascus opposition led by Hezbollah, the powerful Shi'ite Muslim guerrilla group determined to topple



Lebanese soldiers secure an explosion site in Beirut June 13, 2007. REUTERS/Jamal Saidi

what it regards as a pro-U.S. cabinet.

The explosion was the latest in a series of bombings in Lebanon, where the army is battling Islamist militants at a Palestinian refugee camp in the north of the country.

Two Lebanese soldiers were killed in fresh fighting at the Nahr al-Bared camp on Wednesday, security sources said.

Al Qaeda-inspired Fatah al-Islam militants attacked Lebanese army posts set up at newly seized territory in the outskirts of Nahr al-Bared camp overnight and in early morning, they said.

One of the dead was an officer shot by a sniper, they said.

Army units, which had seized two militant positions in heavy fighting on Tuesday, responded by firing dozens of 155 mm artillery rounds at the camp. Black smoke rose above the camp's cinderblock buildings as thuds of explosions rocked the area.

The battle for the camp, Lebanon's bloodiest internal violence since the 1975-1990 civil war, has killed 144 people, including 62 soldiers, more than 50 militants and 32 civilians, since it erupted on May 20.

Hamas pressure on Fatah mounts in Gaza battles

By: Nidal al-Mughrabi

GAZA (Reuters) - Hamas Islamist fighters and forces loyal to Western-backed President Mahmoud Abbas battled on Wednesday for control of the Gaza Strip in an escalating Palestinian supremacy struggle he described as "madness".

Many of Gaza's beleaguered 1.5 million inhabitants called the conflict a civil war and Israel served notice their chances of achieving statehood could dim if Hamas emerged victorious over Abbas's Fatah faction, its partner in a unity government.

Chanting "stop the killing", some 1,000 Palestinians marched through Gaza City, only to draw gunfire that killed two of the demonstrators and wounded four. It was not immediately clear who shot at them.

At least 22 people were killed in the latest violence, raising the death toll since the current surge of bloodshed began on Saturday to 70, hospital officials said.

Hamas's armed wing, which tightened its hold on northern Gaza by seizing a major Fatah security base and control of main roads, said "the coup-seekers" -- a reference to Fatah -- in that area have until Friday evening to hand over their weapons.

"Remain in your positions and defend the security headquarters with all your might," the high command of the Fatah-dominated National Security Forces ordered its men in response to



Palestinian militants from al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed wing of President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah faction, grab Palestinians affiliated with Hamas during factional fighting in the West Bank city of Nablus, June 13, 2007. REUTERS/Abed Omar Qusini

the ultimatum.

Hamas appeared to be gaining ground in the Gaza Strip, its main stronghold, as fighting spread to the central and southern parts of the coastal territory. Eighty wounded were taken to hospitals. Gun battles also erupted in Gaza City.

Hamas gunmen killed six Fatah men in one clash, members of Abbas's faction said.

Five other Fatah fighters died in a

Hamas assault on security compounds in the central town of Khan Younis, medical officials said. A statement by an Abbas aide that 13 Fatah members were killed at the facility could not be confirmed.

Two Palestinian employees of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency were killed in separate incidents, and UNRWA said it would temporarily suspend most of its operations in the coastal territory.

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VACANCY

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- Supervise and monitor the implementation of the above programs in liaison with site teams
- Make recommendation to improve and optimize Mechanical tasks

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in Mechanics
- Minimum of 3 years experience in oil and gas industry (Engineering, Construction or Maintenance)

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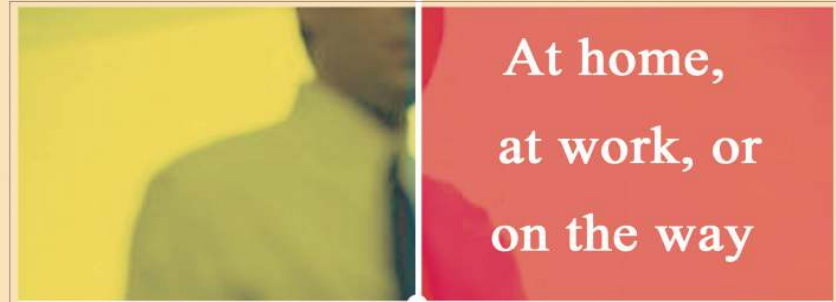
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Damt: Yemen's first medical tourism destination

By: Fouad Muse'ed
For the Yemen Times

Medical tourism has been known throughout the ages. History books have told about the interest of the Romans and other ancient civilizations in such tourism through their travels to certain destinations for medical purposes.

Although medical tourism comprises only approximately five percent of international tourism, many countries are keen on it due to its relatively high returns, as those tourists seeking medical care stay for a comparatively longer time than regular leisure tourists. With stays lasting from two weeks to a month or more, medical tourists spend at least six times more than others.

Medical tourism relies on natural features such as a fine climate, warm sands and mineral and sulfuric waters. It's equally important to have specialized personnel to help regulate and develop such tourism.

Biological hotels are the most recent fashion in medical tourism wherein a tourist can rejuvenate his or her body and mind. Ecotourism and sports programs with specialized personnel are important here as well. Hotels are certified as such because they commit themselves to high standards of cleanliness and nonpolluting energy sources, together with providing a calm and non-smoking environment.

Medical tourism exists in many parts of the world and has gained momentum over the past few decades. Yemen is among those countries attempting to develop this sector and attract additional numbers of tourists, especially since Yemen is vast and rich in both medical and ecotourism.

"Developing tourism is a prime objective for which the General Authority for Tourism Development was established. It seeks to set the proper conditions to develop Yemeni tourist sites, as well as encourage investment in this regard to help establish Yemen's tourism industry, which will assist the nation's economic progress, giving priority to those areas able to draw more tourists," explains Mutaheer Taqi, chairman of the General Authority for Tourism Development.

Taqi added that his authority has surveyed the entire country to explore such tourist areas across the republic, sorting them according to what type of

tourism suits a particular area.

Regarding Damt, Taqi points out that it is a distinct area for medical tourism due to its abundance of mineral water, which complies with international standards. Further, the city has many other features, including fine weather as well as both historical and monumental sites.

Additionally, Damt has relative tourist services and facilities, which are unavailable at other sites. All of these factors have earned the city a good reputation and makes it suitable for those – both inside and outside of Yemen – seeking medical tourism opportunities.

Part of Al-Dhale' governorate, Damt is located 54 km. from Al-Dhale' city and 180 km. from Sana'a. It is divided into two parts by the fertile Wadi Bana and surrounded in all directions by a chain of mountains.

Taqi went on to say that the tourism authority will continue its efforts to make Damt Yemen's first medical tourism site, working to provide it with the basic services qualifying it to be such a place.

The Yemeni state is now working to qualify the area's existing baths in a way befitting international standards, together with creating new opportunities for investors to invest in the city by building integrated medical reserves there.

Yahya Al-Amar, head of Damt's tourism development office, noted some of the medicinal benefits of the area's mineral water either by washing in it or drinking it after feeling cold. He listed several diseases – particularly skin conditions – that can be treated by such mineral water, including diseases of the joints, chronic skin conditions, allergies, inflammations and ulcers.

He added that drinking mineral water after cooling it helps treat chronic poisoning and anemia because the water contains iron, warning that those with hypertension and gastric ulcers should exercise caution before drinking such water.

According to Al-Amar, visitor numbers to Damt are increasing, especially during the peak season from June to August. Visitors come from both inside and outside of Yemen, particularly from neighboring countries, as well as nearby districts.

Fouad Al-Fareh, head of Damt's Culture Office, asserts that Damt has other features besides mineral waters that help attract more visitors and tourists, topped by the Grand volcano-like hole, as well as historical features



Damt is one of Yemen's unique Tourism destinations with a very popular therapeutic baths.

like Sultan Amer bin Abdulwahab's pride, referencing ancient texts found in the old city of Damt and Damt fort.

However, having said this, Damt still has a long way to go in order to reach its potential, as it is a unique asset of Yemen's tourism industry that has yet to be taken advantage of.

Damt's medical attractions are accompanied by any number of other equally interesting attractions. Tourists may spend time at Damt's natural therapeutic baths, tour the old city and learn more about its heritage or go trekking through the surrounding hillsides and enjoy the scenery.

Another advantage Damt enjoys is its proximity to urban centers like Al-Dhale', Taiz and Aden. In only a couple hours' drive, city dwellers in those places can treat themselves to a weekend getaway at Damt's natural therapeutic baths in order to energize themselves for the following week.

Al-Amar indicated that a large number of weekend visitors are elderly res-

idents from surrounding urban centers and nearby cities. Sometimes accompanied by their families, they come to enjoy Damt's "healing touch" on a frequent basis.

One Damt hotel manager indicated that a large number of visitors come because they've heard a good recommendation from a friend or relative. He added that groups of three or four families sometimes come, booking an entire floor of the hotel.

The same hotel manager believes world of mouth is the best way to market Damt's medical tourism, remarking that the healing that happens to many, especially those with skin diseases, is like magic. He went on to recount the story of a young woman with a strange skin disease that doctors in Sana'a couldn't heal, but she was healed at Damt.

Many Damt residents are blessed by this natural spa in their midst, stating that they're very happy the attraction channels traffic to their locality, in turn

providing many of them with employment and business opportunities; however, they fear Damt will suffer if the therapeutic baths dry up.

Two weeks ago, Mohammed Abdurrahman, head of the Al-Dhale' Tourism Office, made it clear that the water level at Damt therapeutic baths is continually decreasing, partially due to random construction and the absence of civil planning.

Although Damt has been declared a tourism and therapeutic reserve, many area locals began building both inside and around the reserve, creating waste and unsanitary conditions, which negatively affect the flow of tourism, aside from other aggressive individuals who began building their homes there and destroying Damt's beautiful image.

A member of Damt's local council has appealed to the Ministry of Tourism to send a team to investigate what's happening at the therapeutic baths, adding that the ministry should be more active in monitoring and regu-

lating Yemen's natural assets.

The tourism office in Al-Dhale' embarked on a cleaning campaign targeting all areas and water basins in Damt, removing approximately three tons of waste; however, the campaign was halted due to shortage of funds.

Admitting the weak role of his office, Abdurrahman attributed such weakness to a shortage of resources, as the office has just two employees coupled with the total absence of material resources to facilitate their tasks.

However, he pointed out that despite this shortage of resources, the office is working on issuing a tourist guide in both Arabic and English, including all of the governorate's tourist sites, as well as establishing a permanent handicrafts exhibition for wood, ceramic and pottery products.

Other difficulties facing investors in Damt include a shortage of water for tourist institutions, repetitive electricity cuts, lack of sanitation services and lack of public parks and gardens.

"My idea" competition makes youth dreams come true

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
fatimafnr@yahoo.com

Lina Al-Abdul is like many Yemeni women dream of being businesswomen and contributing to developing their country through their small, humble projects.

"My nose is the secret of my success," she says because Al-Abdul discovered that she can easily distinguish between different perfume scents. Because she likes perfumes and flowers, she thought to create a new business of her own.

With a strong resolve to succeed, Al-Abdul manages a small business by

producing and selling different types of perfumes and now, for the first time in Yemen, she is producing an aloe scent called "Al-Naed."

With the support of the Social Fund for Development, the Small and Microenterprise Promotion Service is holding its first exhibition June 16-18 at the Sana'a Trade Center. It's a time for Yemeni youths to express their future business ideas via the exhibition, which aims to gather all of their ideas as step one in their projects.

"My idea" is a competition calling such youths with new business ideas to participate. The best idea will be rewarded with a real project for its creator.

The exhibition provides the various

market fields with a new culture and style for new marketing methods for small and microenterprise projects. Additionally, many activities launched during the exhibition, such as cultural activities, have opened the way for seminars for marketing new programs in Yemen like the Business Edge program.

The Small and Microenterprise Promotion Service is one of 12 national agencies established in 2006 and supported by the Social Fund for Development. It offers both financial and non-financial services to small enterprises by providing clients and rehabilitation centers with training courses, as well as exposure visits to the service's branches in four Yemeni governorates.

Creating new links between small enterprise owners and businesspeople, supporting companies for such projects and bringing ideas for new business edges are some of the service's main activities.

"Every week, we bring new ideas for new projects, listing and discussing them. We then start locating clients and youths to begin their projects under our supervision and support," the service's executive manager Weasam Qayied explained.

Difficulties

Due to lack of awareness and a culture that understands the importance of small and microenterprises, it's often difficult finding national companies and businesspersons to support such small projects.

Using Internet as a tool to create



Leena assisting Foud in the final touches of making the net

new incomes through marketing and advertisements. Many national agencies need more support from the Ministry of Communication to reduce the cost of internet and telecommunication.

"We hold a campaign to gather numbers from agencies and clients and then submit them to the communication minister. The aim is give such agencies and small enterprises special discounts on electric and internet serv-

ices," Faizah Al-Salimani, a member of the Small and Microenterprise Promotion Service, noted.

"Lina's is one example of our successful projects. We supported her from the initial step and we're now working to market her product both inside and outside of Yemen," Qayied added.

Al-Abdul's home serves as her business location where she trains approximately nine employees to produce Al-

Naed. Being interested in searching for new, sweet smelling plants and flowers, she recently discovered a Yemeni plant with the same smell as aloe.

"My purpose is to increase the number of my employees, especially when I see the real benefits my small project provides them – a good income and contributing to improve their income. It's in this moment that I really feel that I'm successful," she concluded.



Leena's project is starting to expand

Return our army to us!

The nation fragments while JMP watches

By: Ahmad Saleh Al-Faqih

In the northern province of Sa'ada, innocent civilians are randomly attacked and forced to evict their homes while flagrant crimes are committed during the government's war on citizens. During the war, the government uses aircrafts, rockets, and other heavy weapons that killed thousands of people and troops and displaced tens of thousands in an unprecedented human tragedy in the country.

It is in this war that tribal contractors have turned out to be officers in the First Armored Contingent, according to probes conducted by the Street Newspaper in its zero issue. These contractors are triggering prospected tribal conflicts between the mercenaries summoned by contractors, faked officers and sheikhs, who claim to be Bashmarqa, and Sa'ada inhabitants. The conflict may be between Hashid and Bakil tribes. It is the 'Policy of Divide and Rule' that threatens a nationwide catastrophe.

In the southern areas of Yemen where

citizens' sufferings and living standards exacerbate over time, people turned to talk about invaders who came from the north part of the country. In the meantime, there is the emergence of the Movement of Sa'eed Shahtoor, who claims that either both parts of the country (south and north) should be equal in terms of wealth and jobs in the various government institutions or the invaders, who came from the North, have to leave their land. Such a movement, which appeared for the first time in the country, was preceded by several political parties and movements outside the country that advocated full independence of South Yemen and deportation of the occupiers.

The military and security forces behave as if they are invaders because they open fire on any demonstrators or protesters and then negotiate with them after they have already arrested and jailed large numbers of demonstrators and protesters. The media publishes news stories revealing the son of the President's brother went to Moscow to purchase weapons for his paternal uncle. This is a striking fact because the army

and security forces tend not to be concerned about the Yemeni people a long time ago. The army and security forces turned to be two institutions belonging to only a single social group and they are used for imposing the order of massive oppression and poverty.

The Yemeni army was privatized and dominated along with the security forces in a way contravening the constitution, which stipulates that "Using or exploiting the armed and security forces and any other forces in favor of a particular party, certain groups, or individuals is banned. These forces should be protected from the images of partisan, sectarian, ethnical, regional, and tribal fragmentations in order to ensure that they are neutral and perform their duties in the ideal way."

The problem, which Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) faced is that the regime is elected but via vote fraud. Also, these opposition parties realize that the regime has institutions, which do not work, laws that are violated, and therefore stretches the rope to hang itself. The real problem is that the regime leads the nation to an

unprecedented catastrophe by exploiting the army and security forces for private purposes that has nothing to do with the nation or the public interest.

JMP and all Yemeni citizens have the right to claim respect for the Constitution, as well as advocate the President and his tenure to return the military and security forces to the people because what the people are suffering violates the country's Constitution. Otherwise, Mr. President and his ruling party have to drop the above-stated article from the constitution and replace it by another article reading that the armed forces are the possession of the president and his family. All of us should take to streets to put a stop to such misconducts and malpractices and exert serious efforts to rescue the nation from fragmentation and collapse. The issue is not merely cancelling the mobile messages, shutting down newspapers, threatening journalists, and assaulting them. Rather, the problem is that of the nation to be or not to be.

Source: Al-Thawri weekly.

COMMON SENSE

The Past is Just a Good Bye!

"Dad! How did you spend your summer vacations" asked Fatima as she entered and threw her schoolbag by the door.

"Look daughter, when I was your age, when I came back from school, at the end of the school year, I took my books to my special closet and saved them for future reference." Jalal was telling his daughter the fine art of being a diligent student.

Fatima also had a knack for comparative analysis: "Yeah, but father, you were not given a stack of poorly written textbooks that even the teachers had a hard time reading, let alone understand."

"Hey you two, what are you saying about today's teachers? We are the finest that this land of Yemen could produce!"

Fatima did not want to hurt her mother's feelings at the end of the school year, knowing how hard it is for serious teachers to do their work with so little help and support from the Ministry of Education: "I can vouch for that on the mothers' side, but I know that even the finest teachers in the land are bound to face all the difficulties in the world to do their job professionally."

"Come to think of it, for us the whole year was one long vacation. We always had something to do all year long and not just in the summertime." Jalal went back to his daughter's first question, continuing: Sana'a has become one messy playground with literally scores of gardens and narrow winding alleyways to play all kinds of games in. We had different games for every season. Some had a taint of violence in them, while most of the others were just a lot of fun."

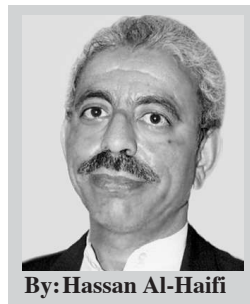
Yasmine, the mother gave one of her long dissertations on the good old days: "Those were the good old days Jalal. Now the kids have a hard time to find a quite peaceful spot at home, let alone in the street. Sana'a has become one messy rendition of modern town planning. If you see most of the neighborhoods from any of the tall buildings in these neighborhoods, all you will see are concrete slabs of ceilings stretching for kilometers, in which one can hardly see any spans of greenery or open space. It is an ugly symptom of modern urbanization without urban planning. One is sure that the Revolutionary heroes had no idea that their hometown was going to be turned from the quite serenity and peacefulness that Sana'a used to manifest for young and old alike, to the ugly rendition of modern urban centers. It seems that our parents and grandparents had a greater taste for the good life that we can hope to see from this post-revolutionary generation. I almost feel like all that beauty in Sana'a and its surroundings was like a pleasant dream that was meant to give us an idea of what Paradise could be like. Would you believe that within one kilometer of our home there were five large gardens with all kinds of fruit trees and vegetables! Everyone who built a mosque in the good old days made sure that the wastewater of the mosque had a useful outlet for the used waters. They endowed an extensive piece of land around or near the mosque to receive such waters and to provide the income for maintaining the mosques from the vegetables and fruit produce of the endowed land. But now, even these thoughtful gestures were corrupted by some of the keepers of these lands or by the Ministry of Religious Endowments and Guidance, which could use a little bit of hard core guidance themselves on how to carry out their moral responsibilities."

"That is the crux of the matter, my dear, it seems that all of officialdom could use some hard core guidance on how to carry out their responsibilities as public servants." Jalal wanted to let his wife know that the tragedy is widespread throughout government.

Fatima was more mature than anyone would ever think she has become: "I really believe that it is not just a matter of teaching or guidance. It is really a matter of accountability, which is almost absent in all spheres of government. It is an 'all you can grab' situation, where officials try to outdo each other for the biggest loot they can carry home every day out of embezzlement, bribery, or sheer thievery from the state treasury, without so much as the slightest worry about being asked: 'where the hell did you get all this from?'"

There is more to come!

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Unity and pluralism vs. wars and conflicts

By: Mohammed Al-Dhahiri

Some historians described Yemen as the graveyard of invaders and occupiers, but now we fear the land may turn into a graveyard for natives, as the Yemenis have become engaged in wars, which they themselves made. In the old times, the Yemeni history gave an exact definition to the phenomenon of wars and the lack of political stability. Additionally, the Yemeni history saw several smaller states and political entities from time to time, and over time, such smaller states numbered up to 12 starting with the Bani Zeyad State (821 - 1012) and ending with the Aemma Zaidis entities (898 - 1962).

During the modern stage of Yemen's history, the country has gone through four wars that broke out between 1962 and 1986. Although Yemen's Reunification is considered one of the most valuable unities worldwide, the establishment of the Unity State and declaring moves toward political and party plurality don't prevent the recurrence of wars, the most prominent of which are the 1994 Civil War or the so-called Anti-secession crisis. Also there are the three Sa'ada wars between 2004 and 2006, the last of which is still escalating. Having a look at Yemen's political history leads one to bear in mind that the country's political regime is based on three mechanisms: arbitration, peace, and war, which is the fundament of the executive rulers of Yemen. It is remarkable

that the Yemeni political ruler comes usually from outside the effective social forces (or the group of tribal sheikhs). And, as the ruler has no strong tribal force to rely on while running the country's affairs, he resorts to the military institutions to ensure his stay in power.

The military institutions can be defined as the sincere organization that helps political opportunists to remain in power for a longer period of time. This organization is usually composed of the ruler's relatives and those whom he trusts, as well as other tribesmen who show loyalty with the regime. An evident example in this context is that many modern Yemeni rulers appointed their relatives and closer tenure to occupy respected and sensitive posts in the military and security institutions. The former Yemeni President Abdurrahman Al-Eryani appointed his relative Mohammed Abdullah Al-Eryani as the Higher Commander of Yemen's Armed Forces during his reign.

These days, relatives of the current President Ali Abdullah Saleh are usually controlling important posts in the different security and military institutions. The transfer of Ahmad Ali Abdullah Saleh, the president's son, from parliament, which is a civil institution, to the command of the Republican and Special Guards is another prominent example. The question, which is being raised in this context, is that 'Why are the Yemenis engaged in wars despite their unity and pluralism?'

To identify shortcomings and weak-

nesses in Yemen's political life, one can say there are several contradictions in the lifestyle of Yemenis. No wonder that Yemenis have succeeded in unifying their country geographically and politically, but they are psychologically separated. They succeed in conducting presidential, parliamentary and local elections, but they usually fail to reap the fruit of these elections, as they engage themselves in wars after elections. The first parliamentary elections in Yemen were conducted on April 27, 1993, the integrity and transparency of which was certified by some regional and international organizations. Regretfully, the election was followed by the 1994 Civil War that lasted for more than 60 days, leaving thousands of Yemenis killed and similar scores injured.

No doubt that Yemenis succeeded in September 2006 to create strong competition for the country's highest political post, but this success was culminated with the third Sa'ada war, which people call either rebellion, fighting, or sedition. Senior government officials acknowledge that the Sa'ada fighting sheds blood of Yemenis and harms the national economy.

The Yemeni cultural tradition is one of the most important reasons behind the repeated crises, wars, and killings. The Yemeni culture is mostly characterized by revenge against the political opponents. A clear-cut evidence of this is that three Yemeni leaders were assassinated within eight months, namely, Al-Hamdi, Al-Ghashmi, and Salem Rubey Ali

between October 1977 and June 1978. Dozens of political opponents were liquidated in the Events of January 1986 and during the 1994 Civil War. Also, the Yemeni stream of blood is currently flowing in the mountains, hills, and valleys of Sa'ada governorate.

According to Ibn Khaldun, the Arabs including Yemenis are the creatures of brutality and sabotage as they are difficult to control and govern. If resolving disputes via peaceful means and ensuring the social peace are two of the most important justifications for enhancing the democratic values and political multiplicity, democracy of the Yemeni unity and its political plurality is not the summation of the two political regimes that were existing in both parts of Yemen. The democratic move faced and is still facing multiple barriers and difficulties, the most critical of which are the repeated conflicts and wars. The Yemenis have become unable to perceive that certain values and ethics constitute the core of democracy and political pluralism before establishing any formal institutions or conducting elections.

Another reason behind the breakout of wars and conflicts in Yemen is the spread of the culture of oppression, as it is noticeable that oppression is a striking feature of Yemen's political situation. The state and the land are absolutely controlled by a single totalitarian ruler. As a result, the ruler's interests are given precedence over the interests of the nation while oppression spreads unexpectedly.

Politics, Ruling intellectuals and Democracy

By: Hooria Mashour

One of the basics of the political theory that we learnt is that democracy means the majority ruling or the nation self-governance. Nowadays, democracy also became an international demand within the globalization rather than just a local public demand. In fact, most of the people of the third world countries became more disappointed and hopeless to witness any real transformation or change in their current regimes. This disappointment can be due to poverty which destroys the middle class that represents the majority of people. As a result, greater part of the people keeps struggling to get essential living staff rather than anything else. On the other hand, educated intellectuals who played a key role in the transformation movement are either drowned in the political game so that some of them were obliged to sell their thoughts, stands and believes to anyone who pays more. However, we can't blame them all as some of them were forced to be involved in such practice due to poverty but some others liked it and took it as a profession.

This comes as preface ahead of the introductory meeting for declaring the Arab Democratic Convention and the foundation of Arab Democratic Movement which is currently hosted by Yemen. The meeting was attended by high political intellectuals from all over Arab world. Nevertheless, some of them think that such Convention project is even worse democratic representation than the current Arab regimes. This leads us to questioning: Are those who claim that they belong and represent the civil society and represent the Arab nations demands, are they extend and natural outcome of ruling bodies? Are their opinions express about what the people need or what the ruler need? Are they really able to reflect the public needs or they just swim with stream to keep up the benefits and interests they got? Is this a cheat over democracy or a real desire to pave the way for democracy in the Arab nation, such away which is seems to be full of hindrance?

Two days ago, a son of an Arab leader declared that his ruling party is more capable to carryout reforms and transformation more than other parties. He justi-

fied his statements saying that his party has experienced the governance or the power -so it is better to use some body who knows how to deal with a situation rather than using inexperienced one! We are to question again; who deprived those rulers, who are in power for more than two decades, to conduct real reforms then? And weren't they fresh and inexperienced long time ago?

The actual democracy is to accept the change and not to suppose that we are genius and others are brainless. I can be look optimistically at the rulers if they act positively in accordance with their continuous declarations about democracy and human rights and if they allow others to contribute in such transformation.

Finally, are we required to change the political theories and adapt it with the rulers needs which was even supported by Fatwas of religious scholars who didn't relay on religious sources as long as it meet the ruler desires. Those new scholars even adapt democracy to meet the interest of the leaders and ensure keeping the shape of the republic regime while they change its content within the absence of real transformational movements.



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The Wealth and Poverty of Yemen

By: Raidan Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
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The failure of Yemen in realizing its economic potential lies in the inability to understand what is Yemen's competitive advantage and how the government should lead the way in developing this advantage and using it to spur on economic development.

The assets of different countries play a major role in their development: Gulf Countries are using their Oil revenue in funding their development; the United Kingdom used coal to spur its industrial revolution; western Europe and North America rely heavily on their capacity to innovate and produce technically-superior products and services to sell to the international market; South Africa depends on its immense natural resources; and China relies on producing low-end products at an amazingly cheaper production cost, and so on.

If we examine developing countries that do not have a particular asset, they strive at strengthening particular points of their economy in order to create such an asset. India, for example, has developed an IT-enabled infrastructure that allows it to attract low-end IT-enabled jobs, resulting in the boom of off-shoring data warehousing and information management jobs to Indian IT graduates, thousands of them, thereby creating thousands of new jobs and creating a competitive advantage in India in this regard. Similarly, Singapore has built a competitive advantage through creating a highly enabled and technologically advanced workforce.

Turkey is another example: since rising from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire and the First World War, Turkey did not awaken to the development strategies of other European countries until well into the second half of the twentieth century. By the 1970s Turkey started focusing on the development of micro and tiny enterprises in several parts of the country, with the objective of creating several baseline industries that have the potential to become a competitive advantage for the country. Such baseline industries included a scrap-metal industry that has grown today to supply the world market with quality automotive and machinery spare parts of European standards.

Examples of countries using their competitive advantages and building competitive advantages are plenty, but what are Yemen's competitive advantages and how can Yemen build any such advantages?

Yemen does not have enough natural resources to be invested in its future (although a large portion of Yemen's Oil revenue is used for running the government's day-to-day operations) and Yemen is yet to start any long-term strategy with the focus of building a competitive advantage for the country. There is a sense of disorientation among policy makers when it comes to anything exceeding a five-year national strategy. I haven't heard any news about the Economic Zone's strategy since the new Prime Minister took office: was the idea to develop strategic economic zones in several parts of the country just a notion in the mind of the previous Prime Minister or is it an on-going government policy to create some sort of a competitive advantage with the aim creating an industrialized economy in the long term? Whatever happened to that notion?

There are cases where the market forces and the private sector have played a major role in developing the national economy, however, quoting a well-known businessman and investor in Yemen: "Why would you operate in a regime of endless paperwork and harassment?" The world has become an interlinked and globalized market place where the most suitable places to run business are the ones which attract business and operation. Can Yemen compete with, for example, United Arab Emirates, in attracting investment and business enterprise?

The major problem with Yemen's policy makers when it comes to the economic realities is that they too often lie to journalists, but when they read their lies being published in the press they tend to end up believing these lies. Yemen, in spite of its potential, does not have an investor-friendly environment compared to neighboring countries or other countries that aim at attracting investment. What Yemen has is a slightly improved business environment, which is still not good enough.

Through my work as the Economic Editor of Yemen Times I get to often speak with fellow economists, businessmen, officials, entrepreneurs, and academics who are interested in "the

way out" of Yemen's poverty. There are different theories of what Yemen should do in order to become wealthier and less impoverished, and these theories can be categorized into three prime areas: the first is government-aided development, the second is business/international community aided development, and the third is a ground level theory of development.

Government-aided development takes the examples of countries such as South Korea and Malaysia, where the government is heavily involved in the economy and regulates market forces. Following this theory, the government of Yemen should invest and be more involved in business enterprise, through the creation of giant corporations, providing employment and producing large quantities of products, labeled as state-owned enterprises. The main developmental spillover is in the job opportunities and the creation of a large number of privately owned ancillary industries with considerable growth potential.

My opinion is that this example would fail in Yemen due to the government bureaucracy and manifested corruption. If we examine how government tenders are currently being awarded we would see that several corporations have become "pets" of the government, not because of their highly competitive pricing and services, but because of links to officials. However, the government is still heavily involved in regulating the market with the central bank interfering frequently to regulate the value of the currency without tackling the problems of inflation and unwise government spending.

The second theory focuses on creating an investment-friendly business environment, allowing the private sector to venture into the country, go about business following best practice and eventually the growth of business operations would have a spillover effect and increase the size of the economy and number of taxable business transactions. However, for this theory to succeed, the government must have a genuine interest in enforcing the legal framework in the country and in maintaining a benchmark of transparency.

This theory has been advocated by the government time and again, with policies that aim at allowing new investors more freedoms and a semi-effective legal system. However, the problem is the interference of influen-

tial persons and entities in the operations of business, and there are plenty of examples where a business corporation finds itself having to choose the lesser of two evils in order to please these power figures and not to fight them considering the current legal scenario.

The third theory, which is development at grassroots' level, where the development of the country is based upon the development of the bottom line of the society, is demonstrated by the success of micro credit as an example of baseline development.

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Al-Arhabi, was the executive director of the Social Fund for Development since it was established in 1997. The fund has the objective of facilitating microfinance for small and tiny enterprises that have the economic potential for growth, but lack the necessary finances. The success of the fund was evident in spite of the obstacles it faced, but let the numbers talk for themselves: The Social Fund for Development has administered over 152,000 micro credit loans, worth over 7.5 billion Riyals, with a growth rate ranging from 20-30 percent per annum, while the number of beneficiaries from these loans exceeds 400,000 persons.

If micro credit has had such success in Yemen, why aren't more resources being channeled towards developing and spreading this program even further? If the number of loans triples within the next few years this means that the number of beneficiaries is likely to increase similarly.

The most important aspect about micro credit is that it helps people help themselves with nominal amounts of money. The Yemeni person is a creative hard working individual, and has a huge potential in business, according to sources who work first-hand in the micro credit programs. It is amazing how many business-enterprising ideas are being raised by loan seekers, some of these ideas are very creative and do have high return rates. Some of the tiny enterprises we have given loans to a few years ago are now worth ten times the amount of the principle loan.

Yemen is a wealthy country because of the Yemeni people. The enterprising potential at the grass-root level is huge and can, evidently, become the prime factor for Yemen's development and could become the competitive advantage unique to this country.



Economics is a big issue for the current government. Photos: Prime Minister Mujawar (who is an economist) conversing with his deputy for economic affairs Al-Arhabi, during the 4th Sanabil Microcredit conference held in Sana'a.

Czech Republic in the European Union and its relations with Yemen

By: Vaclav Zilka

The Czech Republic is one of the land-locked countries in the central part of Europe. With a population of 10 million and land area close to 80 thousand square kilometres the Czech Republic ranks among the smaller member states of the European Union. It joined the European Union in 2004 along with 9 other countries in the biggest enlargement in the Union's history.

The Czech state was constituted at the end of the 9th century with Prague as its capital, shortly after the Christianity had been introduced into the region. From the 16th century until 1992 the Czech country was part of larger state formations, most recently Czechoslovakia which split into the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

Industrial production in the Czech country has developed since the end of the 18th century, and western-style parliamentary system has been adopted since the end of the 19th century with two interruptions - German military administration during the Second World War 1939-1945 and Soviet-backed communist government 1948-1989.

After 1989 the European Union became Czech Republic's largest trading partner and investor. The Union also provided substantial technical assistance and financial support focused on transformation of a centrally planned economy into a market economy.

In 1993 the European Union agreed

on criteria that Central and Eastern European countries would have to meet in order to become member states. The Czech membership application was submitted in 1996, and the Czech Republic joined the Union eight years later after extensive preparations and negotiations. The Czech Republic has 12 votes in the Council of the European Union and 24 seats in the European Parliament.

The Czech Republic still has to implement two important European integration measures. It has to join the so-called Schengen area and to adopt the common European currency - the euro.

The Schengen area includes European countries that have implemented the Agreement of Schengen on harmonisation of visa policy, external border controls and common Schengen visas. It is now expected that the Czech Republic will enter the Schengen area together with several other new member states at the beginning of next year. Currently the holders of a multiple entry Schengen visa can travel to the Czech Republic only on a up to 5-day transit. For a longer visit they need to have a separate Czech visa.

Before adopting the euro, the Czech Republic will have to have fulfilled a set of economic conditions called Maastricht convergence criteria. These are stipulated for the exchange rate fluctuation, price stability, long-term interest rates, government budgetary position and government debt to GDP ratio. There is no fixed timing for adopting the euro. However, the economic development in terms of

fulfilling the Maastricht criteria has to be regularly documented. It now seems probable that the Czech Republic will be ready to adopt the euro sometime between 2010 and 2012.

Czech-Yemeni relations already have some tradition. Czech products have been imported into Yemen since 1920s. The first agreement on diplomatic relations was signed in 1938, and the Czechoslovak embassy was opened in Sana'a in 1964. Many Yemeni students studied in Czechoslovakia or later in the Czech Republic which continues to offer 7 scholarships a year for candidates nominated by the relevant Yemeni ministries.

Other projects of the Czech development cooperation in Yemen are in the field of water management and improvement of power generation. Czech funding for bilateral development cooperation here amounts to around US\$ 1 mil. per year.

The volume of trade between the two countries in 2006 was US\$ 8.5 mil. consisting mostly of Czech exports to Yemen. The major items are Skoda cars, electrotechnical equipment, steel tubes, diesel engines and pharmaceuticals. The Czech Republic imports from Yemen mainly frozen fish.

For Yemenis the Czech Republic has become a popular destination for spa or medical treatment, and Czech tourists are beginning to discover Yemen as an attractive place for touring holidays.

Vaclav Zilka is Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Czech Embassy in Sana'a.





إعلان عن مناقصة دولية

المناقصة الخاصة بمشروع محطة مارب الغازية المرحلة الثانية (400 ميغاوات)

المناقصة رقم (100 / 2007 م)

الجمهورية اليمنية
وزارة الكهرباء والطاقة
المؤسسة العامة للكهرباء

- تعلن المؤسسة العامة للكهرباء للشركات العالمية المتخصصة والتي لديها الخبرة عن إنزال المناقصة رقم (100/2007م) لتوريد وتركيب (تسليم مفتاح) مشروع محطة كهرباء غازية بقدرة 400 ميغاوات (+20% / 5%) في منطقة صافر بمحافظة مأرب وسيتم التمويل من قبل الصندوق السعودي للتنمية والصندوق العربي للإنماء الاقتصادي والاجتماعي والحكومة اليمنية.
- وطبقاً لوثائق المناقصة فإن المواصفات والمتطلبات أعدت لأربعة تربينات غازية ومع ذلك ومن أجل إتاحة فرصة المنافسة يمكن للشركات المتنافسة تقديم عروضها بحيث لا تنقص عن (3 وحدات تربينية) ولا تزيد عن (5 وحدات تربينية) على أن تكون القدرة الاجمالية للمحطة (400 ميغاوات) كما هو مشار أعلاه.
- على الشركات المتقدمة أن تكون متخصصة وذات خبرة مؤكدة في مشاريع مماثلة ويمكن للراغبين الدخول في المناقصة المذكورة الحضور إلى الإدارة العامة للمشتريات في مقر المؤسسة العامة للكهرباء الكائن في الجراف طريق المطار - صنعاء. خلال ساعات العمل الرسمي لاستلام نسخته من وثائق المناقصة مقابل رسم لا يرد وقدره (2000) دولار أمريكي.
- على الشركات المتقدمة تقديم العطاءات في ظرفين منفصلين احدهما مالي والاخر فني طبقاً لما هو منصوص عليه في وثيقة المناقصة.
- على الشركات المتقدمة زيارة الموقع والتأكد من جميع المعلومات الواردة في وثائق المناقصة بما في ذلك القوانين السائدة.
- يشترط أن يكون العطاء مختوماً بالشمع الأحمر ومصحوباً بضمان بنكي مقبول وبمبلغ مقطوع قدره ((ثلاثة مليون دولار أمريكي)) صادراً من بنك يمني معترف به وبنفس عملة العطاء وصالحاً لمدة (210) يوم ابتداءً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف وصادراً عن احد البنوك العاملة في اليمن.
- أن تكون صلاحية العرض لمدة (180) يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف..
- يجب أن يشمل العرض ضريبة المبيعات مع كافة الضرائب بحسب القانون اليمني. في حالة تقديم العرض من وكلاء أو شركات مقاولات محليه أو أجنبية على الشركة المتقدمة أرفاق تفويض من الشركة المنفذة والمصنعة للمعدات والمواد المحددة في وثائق المناقصة وعلى أن يكون التفويض معمداً من قبل جهة رسميه في بلد الشركة المصنعة. على الشركات المحلية المتقدمة إرفاق صورة من السجل التجاري والبطاقة الضريبية.
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علماً بأن موعد استلام العطاءات هو يوم الاثنين 13 / أغسطس / 2007م الساعة الحادية عشرة صباحاً بالتوقيت المحلي للجمهورية اليمنية وسيتم فتح المظاريف علناً في نفس اليوم بحضور مندوبي الشركات المتقدمة للمناقصة المذكورة.

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- The project is Financed by the Suadi Fund For Development, the Arab Fund for Economic and social Development and the Government of Yemen.
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- Tenderers must be fully qualified and specialized and have clear and proven experience in previous similar projects.
The tender document can be obtained from Procurement Department office at the (PEC) headquarter at AL-Juraf- Airport road. Sana'a. during working hours upon payment of a **non-refundable fee of USD 2000.**
- Tenders must be submitted in two separated sealed envelopes, as mentioned in the tender document volume I, Instruction to tenderers clause 18.3.
- Tenderers must visit the site to acquaint themselves with all site particulars, applicable laws and information given in the tender document.
- Each tender must be sealed and accompanied by unconditional tender bond of an amount (Three Million Dollars). issued from a Bank located in Yemen, The tender bond must be valid for (210) days from the date of opening the tenders.
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- The offer submitted will be subjected to the sales tax and all other taxes according to Yemeni Law.
- Tenders submitted by agents, local or foreign construction companies must be accompanied by authorization letter from the manufacturing company of the material & equipment mentioned in the tender document and confirmed by official authority in the country of the manufacturing company.
- Tenders submitted by local tenderers must be accompanied by copy of their Tax Certificate and Commercial Registration Certificate.
- All tenders must be delivered to :-

Public Electricity Corporation
Airport St
P.O. Box 178 - Sana'a
Republic of Yemen
Attention: Eng. Abdul-Moati Al-Jonaid
Managing Director
Tel : (967 1) 328 141-142
Fax : (967 1) 328 150
E-mail : YPECNT@y.net.ye

On Monday 13th of August, 2007, at 11 AM Sana'a, Republic of Yemen local time. Tenders will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of those Tenderers representatives who choose to attend.

Nearly 300,000 rural Yemeni children work in agriculture

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

Nine-year-old Zaid Al-Taweeli wakes up every day at 5 a.m., no matter if it's warm or cold. It doesn't matter if the sun's rays have appeared or darkness still shrouds his small village west of Sana'a. But it's very important to be at his father's farm by 7 a.m.

He knows it's still rather early before he must leave, but he also realizes there are many things he must do before going to the farm. For example, he has to accompany his two sisters to fetch water from the pond located 45 minutes from their home. Sometimes they must go two or three times in the early morning to bring the water, which will be used only during the daytime. He then can eat his breakfast and go directly to the fields.

"My five brothers and I are used to working in the fields from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. doing planting, watering, spraying herbicides and insecticides, cultivating and harvesting, depending on the season and the crop," Al-Taweeli explains.

"We're also cooperating with our father to market our crops, which are qat, grapes and vegetables. Many times, I go with my father to the market in Sana'a. He gives me a certain amount of crops, telling me the cost to offer consumers, and then leaves me in the market."

Al-Taweeli is one of 292,000 Yemeni children working in the agricultural sector, according to a study the Social Affairs and Labor Ministry estimating 624,000 children working in Yemen. The study found that 97 percent of such children working in the agricultural sector receive no money for their labor because they work for their own families, while only 3 percent earn "trivial amounts." Fifty-five percent work in agriculture and crafts while the



Zaid Al-Taweeli is one of 292,000 Yemeni children working in the agricultural sector, he is only nine years old and spends 8 hours every day working in the family farm.

remainder are vendors in public spaces. Poverty, low family income and the involvement of family members in agriculture are the prime factors for children working, according to the study, which stressed that rural Yemeni parents prefer sending their children to work in the fields instead of sending them to school. Forty percent of such children don't go to school, while 60 percent attend irregularly.

"I was in second grade when my father ordered me to leave school, saying he needed me on the farm after one of my brothers was paralyzed," Al-Taweeli recalls, having no idea why his 10-year-old brother became sick.

However, an official field study by the Social Affairs and Labor Ministry exposed that Yemeni children working in the agricultural sector are subject to

numerous infections and diseases. The study, involving three governorates (Sana'a, Al-Beidha and Dhamar), mentioned that 45 percent of such children suffer dermatitis, 30 percent have potentially blinding ophthalmia, 20 percent have intestinal diseases and 5 percent have epilepsy.

The study attributed the reasons for such diseases to misuse of herbicides and insecticides because many children don't use any type of protection while spraying plants with insecticides. They unconsciously mix these poisons without consulting the instructions written on the containers. Direct and constant exposure to dust also makes such working children easy prey for respiratory diseases like asthma, allergies, etc.

Most children working in the fields

tend to work quickly, paying no attention to closing the spray; thus, some of the herbicides get onto their neck and shoulders giving them inflammations in the form of burns.

According to the study, 56 percent of children who spray such poisons are between ages 8 and 10, while 90 percent of children from these rural regions chew qat that's polluted by herbicides.

Like many other children, as well as their parents, Al-Taweeli has no idea about the U.N.'s "Convention on the Rights of the Child." He also didn't know that the Yemeni government has passed national legislation restricting child work, as well as collaborated with several child labor organizations, both local and international, in an effort to alleviate this problem.

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

Today: money or manhood?!

By: Lamis Abdulkarim Shuga'a.
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Responding to the entitled essay "Marriage nowadays as an investment chance" written by Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy, who is my colleague in the M.A program, issue no. 1047, with some points to be taken into account.

As many readers, I like what the writer said, but I disagree with him in some points in which he somewhat seemed to be exaggerating. First of all, every man nowadays appreciates and realizes nearly an amount of money which enables him to get married. Therefore, it has to say that it is a difficult thing to imagine that the 'would-be bridegroom' needs to borrow some money from others to buy wedding-rings and to pay for the cost of the engagement party, as the writer claimed.

As a matter of fact, the social customs and traditions regarding costs of marriage are nearly similar. What it can be noticed, especially in middle and low classes, is that dowry amount is demanded as it is customary among those classes. However, the differences that can be noticed are because of the differences of the social classes themselves. That is to say, people of high classes, of course, spend a lot of money in an exaggerated way during their



weddings in comparison with those of the middle as well as low classes.

What I want to say is that the writer of that essay 'has no experience', as he declared, and if he, or any other man, decides to get married, surely he will ask about a list of demands that is needed.

In other words, he will get a previous idea about the amount of money he needs before involved in such a matter otherwise he actually finds himself in a real 'trap'. On the other hand, a point worth mentioning which I am really eager to explain is what the writer said about the Prophet's Hadieth which in s t r u c t s parents to accept men of good morals

with a dowry of a metal ring.

Many lines should be drawn under the previous phrase "men of good morals". Where are those men? and how can be differentiated from those of bad morals? Here another question imposes itself upon us: Does the writer compare between men at present time and those of the Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) era?

No one can deny the fact that the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), Al-Kulafa'a Al-Rashedin and most of those who followed them fully represented many great features, for example, generosity, bravery, chivalry, honesty, magnanimity,..... etc. In short, they were perfectly the manhood itself and that can be seen from their wonderful stories.

They faithfully and truthfully pursued the Islamic instructions and the religious duties. In their houses, they beneficently treated their wives and when they did not agree with them, they also beneficently separated. Thus, we have to ask: Are there still men like those ones? I can't deny, and no one can deny, that there are very few and rarely can be found. And if I meet one of them having the same morals of those men, I will not only accept him with a dowry of a metal

ring, but I, myself, will frankly propose his hand. Yes!! I will do as khadijah did. She asked the Prophet Mohammad to marry her.

Someone may comments: "since parents face difficulty to know something about the morality of men who propose their daughter's hand, parents present lists of demands to ensure at least getting some money". No, that is not true at all and I have reasons to say that. I will not say all, but many parents share, in a way or other, for the cost of marriage paying some money from their 'personal pocket'. That is because brides spend most of money for buying gold, clothes, ornament materials and so on. So the parents hardly get or benefit some of that money.

From my point of view, getting over complications and passing several difficulties to reach what you want, whatever it is that thing, makes you keep and take care of that thing as hard as you can. In other words, most of men at present time are not responsible. Indifference is one of their main characteristics. And if they are accepted with a dowry of a metal ring, they can take it off easily, bringing 'another metal ring' as soon as they encounter one of the usual problems which normally they face during their marital life.

THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE

By: Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy
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Solace for Primitive Local Industries?!

Shopping is interesting. It, however, makes one feel deploring for the local primitive industries which are gradually replaced by imported ones. It is not because they are bad or low in quality, but for their primitive shapes, size, and ways of selling.

Consumers may have their excuses, while investors are to be blamed. The current investors are appreciated for their investing projects. But, it is really worthy to invest the local primitive industries such as henna, coal, some kinds of sweets, etc. By that, they would improve the quality of such items and, subsequently, increase the sales, save them from extinction, improve the country's economy, and, first of all, they would make money for themselves.

The local primitive industries have their own consumers, who do go down in number with time process. That is because of the arrival of the alternative products, imported from other countries.

In spite of the other qualities of the imported products, their appearance and well packages attract consumers more. Storing and ways of selling are better in comparison with those of the primitive industries. Especially food items, they are distinct for their packages, their dates of manufacture and expiry and even the ingredients which play a positive role in the psychology of the consumers.

The number of every primitive product is less than the number of the imported ones. The modern manufactured and imported products are produced in accordance with the demands of the target markets.

The primitive industries are manufactured arbitrarily, depending on the availability of the raw materials. These limit their target markets and, at the same time, make their prices unstable. In fact, all these are not obstacles on the way of investing. Investors would be thankfully appreciated if they hold the responsibility of

improving simple industries by adopting them as money-making projects to reproduce them with packages, high qualities, suitable ways of storing and selling, stable prices, and stable target markets.

Investors can exploit such industries as raw materials for new business. What they need is to start, while the idea is already there. They can take similar imported products as a reference in their manufacturing process. In case they succeed, good marketing and promotion are required too. Covering the local markets would be the first step, and then the international markets will come later.

Henna, as a primitive local product, for example, is made of henna trees planted only in specific areas to be sold in specific markets with different prices and unguaranteed qualities. The same item is imported from India and other countries to be sold even in small shops and groceries. Recently, one of the investors has taken it as a business. He has used modern machines to reproduce it with high quality, fixed prices, smart packages, and everywhere-availability. Gradually, he could supply almost all the local markets, taking into account international markets as well. It is currently exported to Gulf countries.

Frankly speaking, this is not an advertisement or a promotion, but an example that must be taken by all investors to follow this way of, I think, a successful investment.

Henna is not the only item. There are many others like "raisins", "coals", "some kinds of sweets", etc. What investors need is just to open eyes and minds together just when they are shopping and to think about the personal as well as the general gains of such projects which would be worthy only when they treat them 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.

Hush-Hush

By: Radhieh Amer

Oh. How strange you are!!! How you can dare doing such thing. I know what you mean but I accept it no matter what you think.

Anyway it is only a pure relationship. He is my own friend not more. This is on the tongue of a girl and the same can be said on the tongue of a boy; she is only my friend.

It is highly matters to talk about friendship in which there are many areas in which this term should diminished and blossom in some others. Anyone may speculate that I will comment on such situation but I am not going to do so. I am going to let you listen to these people

around us and have your own comment. I beg your pardon; before we start I would like to expose something about the notions of friendship and being a friend. Here some other people thankfully are going to give a hand and tell us their own opinions of such issue.

Someone says that according to the definition of friendship that he has read at a website, "Friendship is a term used to denote co-operative and supportive behavior between two or more humans." Here George Washington is eager to participate with us, saying, "Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth, and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity

before it is entitled to the appellation."

Now what about the notion of a friend is, once we asked "What is a friend?" Aristotle answered, "A single soul dwelling in two bodies." And another one says on behalf of Walt Whitman, "I no doubt deserved my enemies, but I don't believe I deserved my friends." Everyone calls himself a friend, but only a fool relies on it: nothing is commoner than the name, nothing rarer than the thing.--Jean de La Fontaine.

As I have mentioned above that I am not going to express my own opinion in this respect. I preferred to let others to do on behalf of me. On the other hand, we know that one of the hallmarks of being a person who has a good character is that having friends around you. But what kind

of friend that you would befriend in terms of male and female.

Some people have the notion that the friendship between different sexes is stronger than the one between the people of the same sex. Another group stands on the other side justifying by saying that the people who have such relation strictly speaking the girls have got tough lessons that mostly lead into disaster of being involved in such relation. Over there one who seems puzzled how to answer such question. But his friend snares at such topic saying that there are dozens of movies enough to be the answer of this question. Another one comments that he feels relaxed with the company of the other sex, however, that does not mean that he committed or will make some-

thing wrong.

A girl says timidly that she thinks that the boys are honest friends rather than girls. Another girl comments on the previous statement by saying that some girls tend to such act as a result of heavy pressure that they are under because of their parents' ways of dealing with them toughly, especially, when fathers do not allow their girls to go out alone or do anything unless they are with. Also, she added that girls' psychology plays another role.

A person was sitting but once he heard

the question he jumped out his chair shouting that any relationship of such kind is entirely forbidden and no discussion should be hold on such topic. Oh!! I ask Allah to protect us all. This woman is really boiling with rage looking for something to hit me with or maybe a gun.

I think it is better for me to finish this argue around such sensitive subject. Further, I would give you all the freedom of supporting anyone of them or stating your own opinion of such thorny issue. However, many terms can not be explained by words.

The Situation of English Language in Yemen

By: Abdulghani Al-Shaebi
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In Yemen, English language is taught as a foreign language in all institutions. It is a compulsory subject in schools as well as universities. English is introduced to Yemeni learners quite late. In other words, students exposed to the language from grade 7; usually at the age of 12-13 year-old. In this respect, Shaker (2004) reports that he interviewed some of Arab learners of English with regard to the starting point and status of the English curricula in their respective coun-

tries. He found that the starting point of learning English in Yemen is in level 7. As a result, students have been labeled as weak and unsuccessful learners. They have no ability to communicate properly and successfully with speakers of English or native speakers. Yet, English is deemed a language of great respect in Yemen; as it is the language of the educated people.

English language has been rendered to the students as one of the essential subjects. considers English language in Yemen as a second language in the sense that it is dominantly used in official communications and daily life

such as in schools, academic institutions, trade, etc. He further adds that English is getting high position in Yemeni education especially at tertiary levels, which makes one step ahead for the country to promote cultural relations and friendships with other nations.

In fact, knowing and mastering English language enable Arab learners in general and their Yemeni peers in particular to have great opportunities in getting better jobs especially in the private sectors. It also becomes a prerequisite of entrance to the university particularly scientific sections i.e. medicine, engineering, dentistry, etc.

Teaching English underwent several changes. For instance, the English syllabus was first designed and introduced to the students by Egyptian and Yemeni chancellors. It is called The Nile Course of English, which is considered the first syllabus used in Yemen. Then, the Gulf course which is called The Progress Living English for the Arab World came to replace the Egyptian one. Consequently, a series of syllabi, called English for Yemen, came out to replace the Gulf syllabus. In 1996, a new design appeared as a developed textbook, designed by a group of British and Yemeni experts. It is called Crescent

English Course for Yemen.

Before concluding this article, it would be expedient to mention some of the factors that affect the situation of English language in Yemen. Curriculum is deemed to be among the factors that affect EFL Yemeni learners. The clear relevance of the English courses to learners' needs would improve the learner's motivations and thereby make learning better and faster'. curriculum plays a crucial and decisive role to usher in the desired changes in the academic scenario of any country.

English curricula in Yemen have many deficiencies. the level of Yemen FL learner competence in

English, resulting from some interactions with a cross-section of students at Mahweet and Sanaa, has been particularly disconcerting. A vast majority of learners across grade levels have demonstrated, during in-class and out-of-class interactions, a shaky and perfunctory command of English and those, who seem to possess some competence in the language, make frequent violations of the acceptable grammatical norms, rendering most of their utterances minimally acceptable. In so far as most of their utterances are phonologically flawed, they are, to a considerable extent, unintelligible as well.



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عقارات
• للبيع: عمارة في شارع هائل تتكون من ثلاثة طوابق فيها سبع شقق. للتواصل: ٧٣٤٤٩٧٨١٦
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• للبيع: ١٠ لين حر، حده، مسورة، على شارع مسفلت، البصيرة معدة ومسجلة بالسجل العقاري. سعر اللبنة ٣ مليون ريال يمني.
• ٤٤ ٢- أربعة وأربعون لبنة، حر، حده، مسورة، شارعين ركن، البصيرة معدة ومسجلة بالسجل العقاري، سعر اللبنة ٢ أثنين مليون ريال يمني ٣- حوالي ٥٠ خسون لبنة، حر، حده، مسورة، ٣ ثلاثة شوارع. مستظيلة، معدة ومسجلة بالسجل العقاري.
• سعر اللبنة ٢.٥ اثنيتين ونصف مليون ريال
• ٤- دورين جديد، تشطيب ممتاز، حردايري، حده، ديوان، ٤ غرف نوم، صالنتين طعام وجلس، ٤ حمامات، حوش يسع ٥ سيارات، غرفة حراسة، مساحة الأرضية ٧ لين حر. سعر البيع ٥٠ خمسين مليون ريال
• ٥- دور وبدروم جديد، حي المهندسين، بيت بوس، مساحة الأرضية ١٥ لبنة، حردايري، تصميم رائع، تشطيبات ممتازة.
• سعر البيع: ٧٥ مليون ريال
نسعى لتقديم الأفضل والأحسن في مجال الإستثمار العقاري

وظائف شاعرة
• شركة رائدة تبحث عن سكرتيرة تجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً ولديها خبرة في مجال المراسلات التجارية، الأرشفة، الكمبيوتر، البحث وتصفح الانترنت.
• للتواصل: فاكس: ٠١/٦٧٨٨٥٠
• تلفون: ٤١٨٩١٣-٤١٨٨٦٢
• مطلوب موظف صيانة تلفونات سيارة للعمل في محل العابر للجوالات - صنعاء - الحصبة - شارع مازدا على أن يكون نصف دخل الصيانة مقابل عمل الموظف.
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- إجادة اللغة الإنجليزية.
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- حسن المظهر والسلوك.
- يفضل من لديه خبرة سابقة.
• للتواصل:
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• مساح طرق ومباني - يعمل على أجهزة توتال ستيشن - يبحث عن عمل مع الشركات ومكاتب المقاولات.
• للتواصل: ٧٣٣٦٥٠٠٤٠
• عبدالرحيم محمد - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - جامعة حضرموت - دبلوم تطبيقات الحاسب - يرغب في العمل في إحدى الشركات في صنعاء أو حضرموت أو تعز.
• للتواصل: ٧١١٦٦٠٧٣
• محمد عبد الله - بكالوريوس محاسبة + دورات في نظام الجودة اليمنية.
• للتواصل: ٧٧٠٤٨٦٧٠
• صبري محمد عبده - خريج جامعة عدن في علوم الكمبيوتر والبرمجة - خبرة أكثر من ثلاث سنوات في مجال السياحة - خبرة أكثر من سنتين في مجال الملاحة البحرية + يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية - يرغب في العمل في أي مجال.
• للتواصل: ٧٣٥٧٧٥٥٦
• خليل - بكالوريوس في علوم الحاسوب - خبرة في مجال المرسلات الكترونية + خبرة في مجال بيع وبرمجة التلفون السيارة + دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية وفي مجال المبيعات - القدرة علي البرمجة وتصميم المواقع وصيانة الحاسوب - يرغب في العمل في مجال التخصص.
• للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢٠
• محمد عبد الله - بكالوريوس محاسبة + دورات في نظام

أرقام مهمة
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مستشفيات
مستشفى الثورة ت: ٠١/٢٤٩٦٧-٦٦
مستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠٠
مستشفى حدة الأهلي ت: ٠١-٤١٣٨١
مستشفى الاماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠/٦٠-٢٠٠٠٠
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق
فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٣٥٧٧-١/٢
فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠٠
فندق موفيميك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
فندق تاج سبأ ت: ٠١-٢٣٣٧٣٧
فندق ريلكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٩٧١١
فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٦٠٣٣٥٠ - ٦٠٣٣٥٠/١

معاهد
معهد يالي ت: ٤٤٤٨٣/٣٧-٣٧-٣٧-٣٧
معهد اللغة الألمانية ت: ٢٠٠٩٤٥
المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٢٦٦٣٣٣
معهد كاروكوس ت: ٥٢٤٣٤/٥
معهد أركنك ت: ٢١٥٥٣٧

شركات للتأمين
الوطنية للتأمين ت: ٧٣٧١٣/٧٣٧١٣
صنعا ت: ٢٠١١٣/١١٣
الشركة اليمنية للإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين صنعا ت: ٢٨٤١٣٢
عدن ت: ٢٤٤٢٨٠
شركة اليمن للتأمين صنعا ت: ٧٣٨٠-٦/٧٣٧١٣/٤٣
عدن ت: ٢٤٧١١٧
تعز ت: ٢٥٠٢٤٥

مدارس
مدرسة رينيو ت: ٤١٤٠٠٢٦/٤٤-٤٣٣
مدارس صنعاء الدولية ت: ٣٧٠١٩١/٢
مدرسة التريكة الدولية ت: ٤٤٢٣٥/٩
مدرسة الماجد اليمنية ت: ٢٠٦١٥٩

مخبرات
التسيم للسفرات ت: ٢٧٠٧٥٠
العالمية للسفرات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١١٥٨/٦٠

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

تأجير سيارات
زوييه (Budget) ت: ٣٠٩٦١٨-٥٠٦٣٣٣
بورب كار ت: ٣٧٠٧٥١
هيرتز لتأجير السيارات صنعا ت: ٠١-٤٤٤٠٣٠٩
فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٥٥٣٥٥
عدن ت: ٢٠٢٤٥٢٣٥

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر
أبتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية) شهادة ايزو ١.
صنعا ت: ٠١-٤٣٨٣٠٥
فاكس: ٠١-٤٧٤١٩
عدن ت: ٢٠٠٣٧١٩٩
تعز ت: ٤٠٢٥٠٢٤٣
المكلا ت: ٥٠٢٠٢٧٤٩

البريد السريع
صنعا ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٧٧
الحديدة ت: ٢٤٨٢٣
إب ت: ٤١١٨٨٨
المكلا ت: ٣٠٢١٤١
شبه ت: ٢٠٣٣٦٦
سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٢٩٦

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إب ت: ٤١١٨٨٨
المكلا ت: ٣٠٢١٤١
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World Day Against Child Labor: A call for ending child labor in agriculture

By: **Fatima Al-Ajel**
fatimafnr@yahoo.com

For the first time in her life, 12-year-old Qaeithah hears the words "play" and "education" without knowing their meaning because she has worked as a shepherd for the past six years.

Qaeithah is from Marib governorate. Poverty and her tribe men's retaliation were the main

the questions. All she knows is that she must tend the sheep and return home by the end of the day.

June 12 was World Day Against Child Labor and this year, the world focused on child labor in agriculture, calling for an end to such child labor.

According to a report by the International Initiative to End Child Labor organization, of the more than 350 million economically active children worldwide, 70 percent are engaged in agricultural work. In

example, wild animals attack her without her receiving any help from others, especially as she works in a desert place.

The IIECL estimates that approximately 218 million children ages 5-17 are engaged in child labor, excluding child domestic labor. Some 126 million of these are believed to be engaged in dangerous situations or conditions, such as working in mines, working with chemicals and pesticides in agriculture or working with dangerous machinery.

Child laborers are defined as those below age 18 who are involved in the worst forms of child labor; however, some communities in Yemen don't consider such a definition as a standard for themselves.

The Child Rights Law prohibits child labor; however, the law hasn't been implemented and children as young as age 4 work in workshops, agriculture or as street vendors, according to the United States' 2004 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

Some families think that educating children or allowing them to play is useless, believing it better for a child to train for and learn a career during his or her childhood. Some believe that if a child is able to work on a farm – and regardless of age, children must work – he or she likewise will be responsible as an adult.

"As farmers, we never care about whether a son or a daughter is a child or not. All of us must work on the farm, so we don't have children waste their time playing," comments Saedah Qaied, a mother of two living in a village.

However, those children desiring to continue their studies must balance school and farm work. "After school, I go to the farm to help my parents. I also have to wake up early to start the farm work until time for school, when my father comes," 11-year-old villager Osama Saleh explains.

While IIECL recognizes a difference between child work and child labor and advocates that education should be the first priority for all children, some families may force their children to leave school and work on the farm, thus ignoring the importance of children's education.

Taraq Reazig was 14 when he was forced to leave school and take over all of the farm responsibilities after his father divided the inheritance

between all of his sons so every one has to follow his own business. as the youngest son, Taraq although became the owner of vast fields of qat and grapes in Bani Hushaish, he has to be free to follow his business alone without supports from his brothers. All of them are busy especially after they received equally large portions of the same types of fields.

Protecting children from working in hazardous jobs is weakest when dealing with agricultural work because a society's culture and traditions play a role in allowing

children to work in such a field. For example, in many Yemeni villages, a child must work with his father on the farm as part of his duties to his family.

Every day at sunset when it's time to return home, Qaeithah makes a strange sound and at that moment, all of the sheep gather in front of her, responding to her call in that special communicative language that only she and her sheep understand. This particular day, she disappears into the huge mountains, carrying in her mind the sound of the new words "education" and "playing."



When it's time to go home after spending the day together, all of the sheep are gathered to her.

reasons she and her family left their countryside and moved from one city to another without an identity.

She now lives with her family in a mountain cave near the Bani Hushaish region east of Sana'a. Early every morning, she takes the sheep to the far valley and spends all day with her them, carrying her food and clothing on her back.

When asked if she has friends to play with or if she studies, she wonderingly shakes her head "no" without understanding the meaning of

today's farming, even in developing countries, agricultural work entails exposure to dangerous tools and machinery and extremely hazardous chemicals that place a child's health and safety at risk.

Children working in dangerous conditions are everywhere, but many work unseen, toiling as domestic servants in homes, laboring behind the walls of workshops or hidden from view on agricultural estates.

Qaeithah faces risks daily from being alone in the mountains; for



With an innocent and wondering look, Qaeithah asks, "What do education and playing mean?!"

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