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- 8** Al-Attar: "Yemen has a golden opportunity to attract investments"

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
 Do you think that negotiations with China's Hutchison Whampoa Ltd will result in a better deal compared to that of Dubai Ports International for managing the Aden container terminal?

I don't know (8%)
 No (21%)
 Yes (71%)

This edition's question:
 Do you think that the newly elected anti-corruption authority will succeed in fighting the spread of corruption in the government sectors?

- Yes
 - No
 - I have no idea!

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

Mediation efforts stumble yet continue

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SA'ADA, June 27 — Amidst confusion and varied opinions, the Doha mediation seems to start its first steps in real grounds. A mechanism for collecting Houthis' weapons was devised by the Sa'ada ceasefire implementing committee, and members of which have started going on record regarding the process. MP and deputy head of General People Congress Yasser Al-Awadhi, who is a member of the committee had warned Houthis existing in Magz, Qataber and Baqem districts to descend from the mountains and hand over their arms by yesterday, 27 July before noon. It is not known yet whether the arms have actually been collected or not.

The committee dictates dividing war areas into six areas. Observers believe there should be a road map for implementing the agreement, at the top of which come the issue of displaced and detained citizens.

Al-Awadhi revealed some Sa'ada

locals are not happy with the agreement articles and they view the agreement as futile and Houthis are not serious about implementing it. They further believe Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, Houthis' leader, is stalling in order to rearrange his forces, who are at the verge of defeat.

In return, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, publically announced that they are in favor of peace and will wait for it patiently as they have done for the last five years.

"What was published in some local and Arab media as for the dissections among Houthis are ridiculous and baseless, and it fulfills the dreams of those who want to hinder the implementation of the agreement," he said.

Others seemed optimistic about the success of the Qatari mediation, particularly when Qatar is ready to pay money. The early indication of such tendency appeared in Doha where a memorandum of understanding was signed for establishing Qatar Foundation for development with a



Any travels into Sa'ada has to be heavily escorted as clashes are reoccurring including surprise attacks by Houthis.

Retired Army Generals threaten to riot

By: YemenTimes Staff

ADEN, June 27 — The Coordination Council of the 18-Civil and Military retirees Associations has declared objection to meet any committees send either by the ministry of Defense or by the interior ministry to discuss their demands. This statement comes after the government decision to dismiss many military employees from the service and forced them to early retirement.

Head of the Coordination Council, Mr. Nasser Al Noobah, has announced the Council's rejection to discourse with the government represented in the ministries of Defense and Interior unless a presidential decree was issued to solve their problems; "As along as the retirement of those military persons was imposed by a republican decree, so we will not accept any negotiation with the state unless a similar decree was undertaken to solve the problem". Al Noobah confirmed.

On the other hand, Mr. Al Noobah has renewed his call to the people of the eastern and southern governorates to exercise all possible pressure through their parties, NGOs, and the press to defend their Just cases of

which is the forcible retirement decision which was imposed by a political decision.

"In case we agree to have dialogue with state, it will have to be sponsored by an international mediation body as the state proved to be deceitful and unreliable in all accounts, including the frequent presidential promises which also were found fictitious" Al Noobah claimed.

Officially, the harmed retirees demanded in a statement distributed to the press to be fully compensated for unpaid pension period since July, 1994 up to date. They reconfirmed their absolute refusal to any individual negotiation except if the government offers a collective and a just solution that satisfies all the retirees around the country.

The military retirees pledged in their declaration the escalation of their peaceful protest until they got their demands met. Further, they have announced their determination to stage an open sit-in, dressed in military uniforms, at the festival shows area of Khur Maksser in Aden on July 5th, 2007. The statement added that the Coordination Council for War Retirees presided by Al Noobah is the only authorized body for any negotiations. The Retirees' concluded their statement in calling for the solidarity and support from all political parties and civic society organizations in order to get their rights which the government has denied.

On the other hand, while demonstrations and riots are witnessed in some southern and eastern governorates, one retired army officer, Saeed Shahtoor

and his followers are still dwelling at Mahfad Mountains, Abyan governorate, announcing their commitment to their demands and denouncing the state policy towards their issue.

In addition, Al Wassat newspaper reporter located in the area reported that the armed group of Shahtoor aids headed to Jay-shan district to block roads in anticipation for a government attack and that the army car which was taken by them was finally released after tribal mediation took place.

It is worth to mention that since Shahtoor resided in the mountains, his armed followers and allies are dramatically increasing in all over Abyan and the nearby areas. This indicates the extend of tension and outrage against the state in these areas especially because that most of Shahtoor supporters are military retirees who got retired during the war of 1994 or those who were deprived of joining the public employment.

Meanwhile, a bomb explosion took place in targeted governmental compounds in Ahwar district led to concrete damage to the buildings and was followed by fire-shooting exchanged between security officers and unknown armed gun men, no casualties reported.

In Lahj governorate, security forces have arrested two people holding large quantities of explosives they were hiding in their car. However, the official response of the state through the defense minister described the retirees as rebels and separatists who are trying to provoke a national disturbance under the so-called demands of retirees which based on unhidden political motivations, according to official media.

"The retirement rule was applied on both civil and military sectors fairly according to the law unlike the baseless accusations of those separatists and sick-hearted people" Defense minister declared according to the military forces website.

capital reaching \$200 million as well as embarking on establishing Al-Saleh Medical city with the same sum of money.

Further, the inability of the army to win the war would help the success of the Qatari mediation. They further believe the state's financial position started to shake especially when huge sums of money are spent on Sa'ada war.

Al-Ishtraki.net reported what it described as an informed source that there is a big disparity among the committee members and some social figures as to prioritization of implementing the Sa'ada ceasefire agreement.

"The members of the committee do not give importance to the agreement articles, they just focus in getting done with it as soon as possible," Al-Ishtraki.net reported.

One disputable article in the agreement, dictates sending Abdulmalik Al-

Houthi, his two brothers, and Abdullah Aydhah Al-Ruzami on exile. Another article which was not discussed and is not practically foreseeable under the given political priorities is regarding the return of the displaced people and providing means for their protection.

Political observers from the opposition claim that the state's refusal to cease fire during the last few days despite the agreement is a final attempt for inflicting more losses among Houthis before the ceasefire agreement becomes effective, especially when some field leaders reject the agreement once and for all and requested more time from the President to eliminate the Houthis.

So far the communication between the disputed parties and through the mediation committee has been through the phones, and other distant communication methods such as fax and email.

The committee stated that Houthis further raised new conditions for continuing the negotiations including handing over the corpse of Hussain Al-Houthi who was killed by government forces in September 2004 as well as freeing the detainees in return for their cooperation with committee.

However, Al-Houthi denied setting new conditions for effecting the ceasefire agreement or any dissection in among his followers and stressed his commitment to the agreement they signed with the Yemeni government in Qatar.

A tribal sources in Sa'ada reported that Houthi leaders are conducting daily meetings to discuss their reactions towards the agreement and the implementation of committee's demands; thus, refuting the rumors speaking about the dissection among Houthis.

Parliament elects Anti-Corruption Committee

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANAA, June 27 — In its meeting held on Monday, the Yemeni Parliament excluding opposition members approved forming two committees for organizing and vote counting to select the anti corruption committee members. There were 30 candidates nominated by the Consultative Council on March 25 to form the Supreme Anti-Corruption Committee, of which only 10 men and one woman were elected on Monday by the Parliament.

The resulting list of names of the anti-corruption committee differed slightly from the list of prepared by the General People Congress in a meeting held earlier.

The winning candidates belong all to the General people Congress and their names are as follows:

1. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Anisi (125 votes),
2. Balqis Yahya Mansour Abu Isb'a (121 votes),
3. Mohammed Hamoud Hassan Al-

- Matari (117 votes),
4. Abdu Rabu Gradah (101 votes),
5. Yassin Abdu Sa'eed Noman (95 votes),
6. Sa'ad Addin Ali bin Talib (93 votes),
7. Ez Addin Sallam Al-Asbahi (85 votes),
8. Ahmed Abdurrahman Qarhash (79 votes),
9. Mohammed Ahmed Ali Sanhoub (78 votes),
10. Obeed Awadh Salim Al-Humar (75 votes), and
11. Kahlid Mohammed Abdulaziz (62 votes)

One hundred and sixty one members participated in electing the committee, mostly the members of the General People Congress (the ruling party). The Joint Meeting Parties' members and other opposition members withdrew from the session in protest against the law-violating measures made during the selection of the committee whose members belong to the General People Congress.

Reciting their withdrawing statement,

deputy head of Islah bloc at the Parliament Zaid Al-Shami pointed out the opposition blocs noticed gross violations when checking the profiles of the candidates, hinting the committee did not ask for documents that prove their integrity, eligibility and clean job record.

Al-Shami further indicated the committee did not ask those who withdrew from the elections about the reasons of their objection. Commenting that only 22 of the 30 candidates had complete files.

"The members of this committee should be committed to eradicating corruption; yet some of those candidates don't even admit there is corruption in the state's institutions," remarked Al-Shami.

Opposition believes the newly appointed committee lacks in the required expertise and knowledge that enable them to fight corruption, maintaining those who were supposed to join the committee were dropped from the list by the Consultative Council during the early uncontested elections.

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In brief

Barriers built to prevent sea-water flow

SOCOTRA, June 27 — In collaboration with a company building roads in the Island, Socotra Public Works Office is making sand and stone barriers and wave breakers along the coast of Hadibo city to prevent the flow of sea water into the houses.

This comes after the continuous threats of sea water to locals' houses and further in preparation for climate changes which might inundate Hadibo and such a step is taken as a preventive act.

More support for modern farms in Hadramout

SAYUN, June 27 — Hadramout governor Taha Hajer paid a visit to Hud Basiyud Farm in Sayun to know closely about the techniques adopted in the farm to produce rice. Hadramout assured the local authority will provide the required support for such typical farms including modern techniques, hinting they will honor Hud Basiyud in recognition of his efforts in developing a number of crops.

Basiyud told Al-Motamar.net he has been working over the last period in his farm, reaching five acres, to develop new types of wheat and further managed to produce modified types of other crops like dates and some fruits and vegetables.

Finger Print and photo identification system launched in Ibb

IBB, June 26 — Minister of Civil Service and Social Insurances Khalid Hamoud al-Sufi launched on Monday biological finger print and photo identification system which targets over 45,000 public servants in the governorate within 29 units of public and mixed sectors.

Al-Sufi told media outlets the implementation of finger prints and photo system aims to improve the performance of the general administration in Yemen as well as creating a capable administrative system.

He added his ministry's priorities include terminating the existing randomness, job duality, and other wrong acts.

Crimes on increase in Sana'a

SANA'A, June 27 — A report issued recently by the Social Affairs Committee of Sana'a Local Council attributed the rise of the crime rates to the increased unemployment among youth, hinting a noticeable increase in crimes has been recorded over the last few months.

The total number of crimes recorded over the first half of 2007 reached 3629, including 175 non-criminal crimes; while the terrific accidents reached 1743. Terrific infringements recorded during the same period amounted to 139,915.

Saifna Festival to be staged in Sana'a and Taiz

SANA'A, June 27 — Preparations are underway and Seasons Foundation is adding the final touches before the inauguration of the grandest Inshad festival in the whole Arab area.

The festival is to be attended by famous Arab Munshideen including Kuawiti Ahmed Al-Hajeri, Jordanian Ashraf Yousuf, Syrian Yahya Hawa, and Iraqi Mohammed Al-Azawi, together with Yemeni Abdulqader Qawza and Ameen Hamim. It will be staged in Sana'a-based Fun City over the period July 18 to 20 and moves to Taiz later on. Chairman of the board of Directors of Seasons Foundations Omar Al-Zindani assured this year's festival will be the best and will enjoy wide coverage by local and foreign media.

Terrific traffic Accident kills ten citizens in Al-Hodeidah

AL-HODEIDAH, June 27 — A horrible traffic accident in Al-Hodeidah's Bajel caused the death of ten citizens. The accident took place when a big truck hit a Peugeot car at the northern entrance of Bajel city. The ten citizens boarding the Peugeot died immediately. Reckless driving and speed were blamed for the accident.

Journalists support Al-Khaiwani, calling for Nobel Prize

SANA'A, June 27 — Journalists, human rights activists, as well as partisans and women leaders held a sit-in for the seventh time in front of the cabinet in the "freedom Square" within the frame of the sit-in activities organized by the civil society organizations, protesting against blocking the SMS news services, and calling for releasing the journalist Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani.

At the commencement of the sit-in, lawyer Khalid Al-Ansi, the executive manager of Hood organization for defending rights and freedoms, requested the audience to make a respected stance for the symbol of freedom, Al-Khaiwani. "Our fresh news this time, in this sit-in, is that Al-Khaiwani is detained," Al-Ansi declared.

He also said, "We are having victory and we will continue till we achieve our complete demands. Al-Eshteraki and Al-Shora web sites have been unblocked and we will continue holding our sit-ins till the release of the SMS news services of Without Chains and Nass Press, as well as allowing the Without Chains Newspaper to carry on."

For her side, Tawakul Kurman, the chairwoman of Women Journalists Without Chains, delivered a speech in which she said, "It is a pity to have this sit-in held in the freedom Square." "To call for releasing media means and insure a wide bias for practicing freedom of expression without any violations coincide with abducting Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani, who is still in the precaution prison without charging him of any accusations." She added.

"While we are holding this sit-in for



the sake of freedom of expression and the right of having its media means, we salute journalist, Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani, and announce our solidarity with him, considering him one of the pioneers of freedom of expression," Kurman added.

"The good pressmen are being violated, imprisoned, abducted, beaten, and wiretapped all over Yemen," she elaborated.

However, during the sit-in, Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqeeh, Professor of political science in Sana'a University, said, "The Yemeni regime is portraying the Yemenis to the world to be a people of explosive belts, who are ready to explode themselves, as well as the world, calling the civil society to collude." Al-Faqeeh also called the civil society to nominate Al-Khaiwani for



Nobel Prize in its next turn. He also suggested preparing a letter draft of nomination and contacting the human rights organizations to support the Yemeni nominee for the prize.

He went on to say, "The prevention of having media means in Yemen suggests depriving the Yemenis from taking creative actions and transforming them to consumers of behavior examples and virtues as well as values of others. He also questioned how his regime could allow its citizens to have broadcast channels while it fears from 70-letters messages.

Al-Shuaibi trial: the accused are no-shows, judge orders arrest

By: Nisreen Shadad

SANA'A, June 24 — Neither Rizq Al-Jawfi, director of the Criminal Investigation Unit in Sana'a, nor Saleh Al-Salihi, head of the unit's investigations department, both accused of rape and abuse, attended the second session of Anisah Al-Shuaibi's trial in the West Court.

Al-Shuaibi's lawyers left the courtroom, as justice and equity appeared not to be guaranteed and her rights seemed to be unsecured, according to Khalid Al-Anisi, executive director of the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD.

Legality is the means of guaranteeing justice and equality, which is why Al-Anisi left the courtroom with the other lawyers.

"I was informed Saturday night that the courtroom would be full on the day of court in order to prevent journalists from being present," Al-Anisi said, "In order to guarantee justice, we demand the media's presence because it is a witness able to present the true image of the case to citizens. To ensure the equality of the two sides - victim and accused - we demand the prosecution appropriate the capacity of its position in order to have power over other security bodies.

Al-Shuaibi claims the Criminal Investigation Unit arrested her illegally and treated her cruelly, adding that she was raped at the Central Jail in Sana'a. The accused, Al-Jawfi, has denied her accusations and refused to appear before General Prosecution several times. When he finally attended, Al-Shuaibi's attorneys weren't informed to attend two sessions of the proceedings and Al-Jawfi continues to stay away from court.

Before the second session began at around 10:15 a.m., Al-Shuaibi's volunteer lawyers from HOOD left the courtroom. On their way back to the organization, several individuals followed them and insulted them, saying, "You aren't bringing a case against Al-Jawfi only, it's against all security bodies," according to Al-Anisi, who added, "We brought a case against individuals who used their power and position to violate the rules."

The media wasn't allowed to present



During the trial.

the trial and cameras were taken; however, just before the judge pronounced the sentence, journalists got the opportunity to attend.

Moreover, preventing the media from being a witness at this trial, as Al-Anisi described, were the attendees in the courtroom, who were employees of the security apparatuses. "These faces weren't new, as I knew many of them," Al-Anisi commented, wondering how such individuals could leave their positions to attend the trial.

"Their attendance and their insults sought to threaten us, as if they wanted to say, 'You don't face just one person, but the Interior Ministry as a whole,'" he added.

Abdulaziz Al-Samawi, attorney for the accused, explained his clients' absence, saying, "Al-Jawfi is sick and Al-Salihi is on a secret army mission in Sa'ada." He produced a prescription in English to prove the reason for Al-Jawfi's absence and for Al-Salihi, he produced a copy of a June 20 warrant from Brig. Gen. Mohammed Saleh Miyad He requested the judge not say what the warrant included because it contained secret army information.

Al-Samawi demanded reading the bill of indictment in his clients' absence, noting, "I have power of attorney, so there's no article preventing me from substituting for the absentees today and answering all questions addressed to them."

Because the excuses presented before Judge Abdulkarim Al-Shami, head of the criminal cases department, were unsound, he didn't accept them and instead, ordered arresting Al-Jawfi and Al-Salihi.

"Because the accused were informed

Trade Minister calls manufacturers to produce goods compliant with standards



Minister of Trade inaugurating the exhibition.

SANA'A, June 26 — At the opening of the First Exhibition of National Products staged in Sana'a International Exhibition Center known as Shumailah, Minister of Supply and Trade Yahya bin Yahya Al-Mutawakel called, last Monday, the national manufacturers to produce goods, that comply with the international standards, and commit themselves to quality.

The exhibition, due to last for six days, was organized by the Ministry of Supply and Trade together with Yemen International Company for Exhibitions and International Conferences. It is worth-mentioning that 35 national companies participated in the exhibition, including ten government-owned companies.

Al-Mutawakel indicated that such an exhibition, being the first of its type in Yemen, aims at supporting the private sector, which plays a pivotal role in development, helps strengthening the economy, and alleviates unemployment.

He also noted that his Ministry is working on expanding the national matrix of standards. Further, he called on manufacturers to comply with the national standards as well as the Gulf ones in order to make Yemeni products capable enough of rivaling other prod-

ucts in the Gulf and international markets.

Moreover, Al-Mutawakel announced his Ministry's intention to imprint all Yemeni products with "Made in Yemen", noting they will give more care to national manufacturers and work on having more industrial zones.

He made it clear that Yemen has adopted a package of social, economic, and political reforms aiming to keep pace with international developments as to trade liberalization, joining the Gulf Cooperation Council and abolishing the restrictions before free trade.

General manager of Yemen International Company for Exhibitions and International Conferences Tariq Mohammed Al-Saghir pointed out the exhibition aims at bringing together all companies working in the economic, industrial, and agricultural sectors which help the progress of the national economy.

Al-Saghir added that his company invited many other national companies; however, some of them declined for unknown reasons. He also insisted that the existence of a national strategy for manufacturing and the establishment of industrial zones will help the progress of the economy and strengthen the role of the private sector.

Al-Dhahook accused of harming Yemen's interests

SANA'A, June 26 — Hamad Ali Al-Dhahook denied the accusations, related to contacting a number of unknown Arab countries to harm Yemen's interests, last Tuesday.

Al-Dhahook, 50 years old, refuted the accusations in the first session held by the Court of the National Security Issues. The accusation resolution was cited by the representative of the General Prosecutor, Hamoud Ishaq, to the trial court headed by Judge Najeeb Al-Kadri. The resolution said, "On March 7th, Al-Dhahook tried to contact one of the employees in the Egyptian Embassy in Sana'a to convey false information about Arab countries; Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as well as other gulf countries, pretending that these countries support and train a terrorist group in Yemen so as to be sent to Egypt to carry out terrorist acts targeting to harm the tourist sector."

The resolution indicated that Al-Dhahook submitted some documents to one of the employees in the Egyptian embassy in Sana'a. These documents contain information which indicate that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia support terrorist elements in Yemen to attack the tourist sector in Egypt. Al-Dhahook demanded some amount of money in return for that, according to the indictment.

The representative of the General Prosecutor, who pointed out that this act aims at harming the Yemeni political and diplomatic relations with other countries, requested to punish the accused severely.

However the court decided to postpone the case two weeks from now to enable the Al-Dhahook's lawyer to have the case file in order to enable the General Prosecutor raise the evidences.

Floods wash away houses and vehicles in Hadramout & al-Maharah

HADRAMOUT, June 27 — The heavy rain, fallen during this week, caused a lot of damages to properties in Hadramout and Al-Maharah. For, it blocked some highways linking these two governorates with other parts of the Republic. It is worth mentioning that the floods washed away many trucks and autobuses. Additionally, a driver of an autobus has been reportedly missing.

The secretary general of the local council in Al-Maharah Salim Nimar told media that the floods flowing in Al-Maharah's Wadi Tanhalah swept away a tourist autobus on Monday morning; however, rescue men managed to save the passengers, but the driver is still missing.

Nimar added that the search is ongoing for those missing. Further, he demanded the authorities to bring in a helicopter to help in the search for the missing ones or those blocked by floods fallen since last Sunday.

Moreover, the floods caused the closure of highways, linking the governorate to its other districts, and washed away many vehicles in valleys.

Social defense personnel managed to save an Emirate family consisting of five members in Al-Maharah's Wadi Al-Ghaza'a. It also managed to rescue a batch of Gulf tourists boarding a micro-bus. Worth-mentioning, the heavy rainfall also caused landslides in the main road connecting Sayhout district with Qashin.

Nimar also called on travelers and citizens to exert utmost precaution during their travels in and out of the governorate.

In Hadramout, the heavy rains and floods caused the demolition of a house in Tarim's Al-Wasita area and also caused damages to Al-Khawn area's water project as well as blocking the roads and hindering people from travel and students from taking their exams.

An official at the meteorological station of Sayun Airport told media that the rate of rain, which fell during the last few days, was the highest since the start of this year as it reached 23 mm. The official also expected heavy rains to continue over the two coming days.

Brown takes over as prime minister

By: Sophie Walker

LONDON (Reuters) — Gordon Brown replaced Tony Blair as prime minister on Wednesday and promised changes after a decade of Labour Party rule marred by a lack of trust in the government since the Iraq war.

After waiting 10 years for Blair to go, the long-serving finance minister faces a resurgent Conservative Party and needs to give Labour a fresh start if it is to regain popularity among voters and win a fourth consecutive term.

"This will be a new government with new priorities," Brown said in a statement to reporters outside the prime minister's residence at 10 Downing Street.

"I've heard the need for change ... and this need for change cannot be met by the old politics," he said. "And now let the work of change begin."

On an emotional day, Blair, who has towered over politics since a landslide election win in 1997, went to Buckingham Palace to tender his resignation to the Queen.

Soon afterwards, a smiling Brown, accompanied by his wife Sarah, said goodbye to staff at the Treasury which he has run throughout Blair's premiership.

He then made the same short journey past central London landmarks to the palace where the Queen asked him to form a government. He emerged from the palace after 55 minutes to find his saloon car had been swapped for a shiny new Jaguar.

Brown's first task is to appoint a new ministerial team, with far-reaching changes to Blair's old cabinet.

Blair, the second longest serving prime minister in a century, led Labour to an unprecedented three consecutive election wins. But, for many, his legacy has been tarnished by his decision to back the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

"The first priority of Gordon Brown has to be recognising the disaster of the strategy in Iraq and making plans for the withdrawal of our forces," said Labour member of parliament Jeremy Corbyn, a critic of Blair and the Iraq war.

People will have to get used to a new



Prime Minister Gordon Brown and his wife Sarah arrive at 10 Downing Street in London June 27, 2007.

style in their leader. In contrast to Blair's outgoing personality, Brown is a dour man not given to showing his emotions.

Blair continued to steal the spotlight with reports he was about to be named Middle East envoy for the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations.

Before going to the palace, Blair

answered questions in a packed parliament for the last time, displaying his mastery of debating skills in a session marked by humour and emotion.

Sorry about dangers

Blair began by offering condolences to families of British servicemen killed in Iraq and Afghanistan in the last week and paid tribute to the armed forces.

"I am truly sorry about the dangers that they face today in Iraq and Afghanistan. I know some may think that they face these dangers in vain. I don't and I never will," he said.

He finished with a final word on politics: "It is still the arena that sets the heart beating a little faster" before signing off simply with: "I wish everyone — friend or foe — well. And that is that. The end."

Blair appeared choked up and Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett was in tears as lawmakers gave Blair a long standing ovation.

Brown received a boost from an opinion poll that put Labour just one percentage point behind the Conservatives and from the defection to Labour of a Conservative parliamentarian who slammed David Cameron's leadership of the main opposition.

The Conservatives have surged ahead of Labour in polls since last October. Brown does not have to call another election until 2010.

Brown has vowed to revitalize Labour and learn from what he called the divisive Iraq war, although he still backs the decision to join the 2003 U.S.-led invasion and has said British troops will abide by their United Nations' obligations in Iraq.

Iran fuel rations spark anger

By: Fredrik Dahl

TEHRAN (Reuters) — Angry Iranians torched pump stations and hurled abuse at President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government after the world's fourth-largest oil exporter said it was imposing fuel rationing on Wednesday.

One Iranian news agency, ISNA, quoted an official as saying 19 gasoline stations were set ablaze overnight in the capital Tehran after the government's announcement late on Tuesday that rationing would start from midnight.

"We are swimming in oil and all they do is just put pressure on people," said taxi driver Hasan Mohammadi, 44. "I'm

using my last drop of gasoline."

Despite its huge energy reserves, Iran lacks refining capacity and must import about 40 percent of its gasoline, a sensitive issue when world powers have threatened new U.N. sanctions in a row with Tehran over its nuclear programme.

Concerns Iranian imports would decline pushed down European gasoline paper prices on Wednesday, international traders said.

Some drivers scuffled while waiting to fill up their tanks before rationing began. Others chanted anti-government slogans and openly criticised Ahmadinejad, who came to power two years ago vowing to share out Iran's oil wealth more fairly.

"Last night, in addition to setting fire to and stealing property of 19 fuel stations in Tehran, people threw stones and damaged others," Bijan Haj Mohammadreza, head of an association representing gasoline stations, told ISNA.

Seeking to rein in soaring consumption and costly imports, the government on May 22 raised the litre price by 25 percent to 1,000 rials (11 U.S. cents or 5.5 pence) — still among the cheapest in the world — but rationing was delayed.

Drivers rushed to pump stations after the Oil Ministry said the scheme would finally go ahead after weeks of confusion.

Private cars will get 100 litres of gasoline a month but less if they also burn compressed natural gas, state TV said.

All drivers need electronic "smart" cards to buy fuel.

One fuel station in Pounak, a poorer area of the capital, was set alight while another in eastern Tehran was partially burnt, two of its pumps destroyed by fire, witnesses said.

Windows at the one in Pounak were smashed, six pumps wrecked and walls blackened. State radio blamed "opportunistic elements". Police could not be reached for comment.

Inflation fears

"Last night's riots were an expression of the anger of people with lower incomes," said government employee Saeed Sameti, although he said he in principle backed rationing.

Motorists still faced long lines on

Wednesday in a country where many see abundant and cheap fuel as a national right.

Short of public transport, many rely on cars or taxis to get around in the capital of 12 million people. Some taxi drivers raised their fares by 20-80 percent on Wednesday, media said.

"I cannot tolerate more economic pressure," said teacher Hasan Sanjari. "My monthly salary is \$300. I have three sons."

Parliament had argued for offering fuel above the rationed amount at market prices, a step opposed by the government which fears this would stoke inflation, already at 17 percent.

No announcement was made about whether drivers could buy extra fuel, but analysts said inflation would rise anyway.

Israeli forces kill 12 Palestinians

By: Nidal al-Mughrabi

GAZA (Reuters) — Israeli forces killed at least 12 Palestinians, mostly gunmen but also a 12-year-old boy and other civilians, on Wednesday in the deadliest raid in the Gaza Strip since Hamas seized the territory, medical workers said.

The violence erupted as Middle East mediators prepared to name Tony Blair, who stepped down as Britain's prime minister, as their new envoy in a bid to revive Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking after the Islamist militant group's Gaza victory.

"The absolute priority is to try to give effect to what is now the consensus across the international community — that the

only way of bringing stability and peace to the Middle East is a two-state solution," Blair told parliament in London.

Israel's operation in Gaza City and the southern town of Khan Younis appeared to signal it intended to keep strong military pressure on Hamas along with efforts to isolate the movement financially and politically.

Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said the Israeli incursion was part of a "conspiracy in which (Palestinian President Mahmoud) Abbas is a participant and which is aimed at pressuring Hamas and the people of Gaza".

Four of the nine militants killed in the Israeli operation belonged to Hamas, which routed forces from Abbas's secular

Fatah faction in the territory two weeks ago.

Local residents in two Gaza battle zones said gunmen fired rocket-propelled grenades and detonated explosive devices in confrontations with Israeli infantry and armour.

Boy killed

A 12-year-old lay in the street, his arms twisted at odd angles, near a house in a Gaza City neighbourhood where residents and medical workers said a shell fired by an Israeli tank exploded.

He was pronounced dead in a hospital along with two men, their bodies shredded by shrapnel. Residents said the men were civilians.

A military spokesman in Tel Aviv said a tank shell fired in Gaza City's Shejaia neighbourhood was aimed at a gunman, and he had no information about a house being hit. Residents said tanks in the area later withdrew towards the Israeli frontier.

Two Israeli soldiers were wounded by an anti-tank missile during operations that Israel's deputy defence minister, Ephraim Sneh, described as "preventive measures" to foil rocket attacks from Gaza.

Commenting on the raid, Abbas told reporters: "We strongly condemn these criminal acts, either in Gaza or the West Bank. We are against violence in all its forms and also we are against launching rockets (at Israel)."

At a news conference with Abbas in the West Bank, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the Quartet of Middle East mediators — the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia — had agreed on a mandate for a new envoy.

Ghazi Hamad, an aide to Ismail Haniyeh, prime minister in the Hamas-led government dismissed by Abbas, said the movement did not expect Blair to be even-handed.

"He has always adopted the American and Israeli positions," Hamad said.

Hamas, which came to power in a 2006 election, has rejected Western demands to recognise Israel, renounce violence and accept existing interim Israeli-Palestinian peace deals.

Israel pulled troops and settlers out of Gaza in 2005 but has not stopped air strikes and other attacks against militant groups that frequently fire rockets into southern Israel.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Within a credit from IFAD, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is implementing Al-Dhala Community Resource Management Project in Al-Dhala governorate (Al-Dhala CRMP). Al-Dhala CRMP is a rural development project implemented through Project Implementation Unit (PMU) located in Al-Dhala City. The targeted groups of the Project are the poor of the rural areas to whom development services will be provided. To assist in prioritizing of target the Project would like to contract a social expert for one month to design and implement a Participatory Poverty analysis and mapping exercise in order to provide a better understanding of the spatial distribution of poverty within the Governorate and districts as a guide to the allocation of Village Units for inclusion in the Project by district, to the establishment of appropriate section criteria and to the selection of villages for Project implementation.

The terms of reference would include, but not be limited to:

- Designing the overall participatory poverty mapping exercise including defining the PRA methods to be used, scheduling of villages, etc.;
- Training the STMPs in the PRA methods and the overall approach of the participatory poverty analysis;
- Participating in and supervising the STMPs in the conduct of the participatory poverty analysis;
- Analyzing the data and ranking villages according to relative poverty and mapping the resulting data;
- Providing Project management with recommendations on the allocation of the 100 Village Units by district and ranking of the villages within each district for inclusion on the basis of the poverty criteria and mapping (to be verified by ground-truthing to reflect social cohesiveness of communities and community attitude to Project's basic operational principles).

The Social Expert should have a higher degree in a relevant discipline and a minimum of 10 years experience in the application of participatory poverty analysis and mapping using PRA techniques. Experience in the region and fluency in Arabic would be an advantage.

Qualified experts are invited to submit their application attached with updated CV within One Month to the director of Al-Dhala Community Resource Management Project NiSham Al-Dhala city.

Al-Dhala governorate, Yemen
Tel: 009672421968,
Tel: 009672431971
Email: a-dukail@y.net.ye

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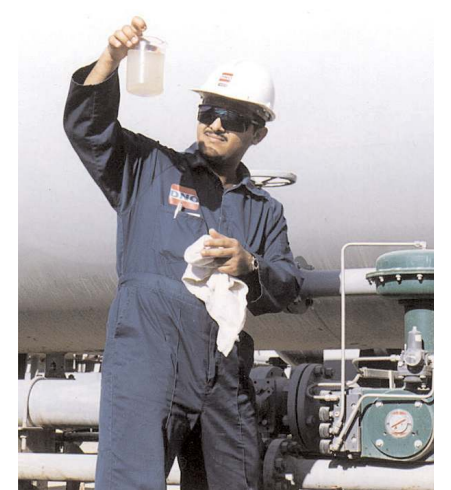
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Abused children, you're not alone

By: Nisreen Shadad and Mariam Al-Yemeni

With a song, Yemeni children welcomed the activists, ministers and representatives of national and international NGOs from many regions who were interested in children's rights at the second Arab ISPCAN (International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) Regional Conference.

The words of their song reminded attendees about the miserable lives of children. Due to technical difficulties, the microphone they were using was unable to convey the tone, so attendees enthusiastically began clapping as if to say, "You're not alone. We are the substitution for the tone to convey your voice and produce an effect around the world."

Organized by Yemen's Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, ISPCAN and the Arab Professionals Network for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, this second regional conference was held June 18-20 in Sana'a to highlight the theme: "Let us work together to protect children in the Arab world."

The main goal was to cast light on the reality of violence against children in the Arab world and propose evidence-based prevention and intervention measures directed toward policy makers, professionals, local communities, families and children.

"The international society is very supportive and works together closely because this is a global issue. We hope to increase partnership through Yemen and the Arab region," noted the executive director of the International Association to Protect Children from Abuse.

On the third and final day of the conference, the approximately 400 participants came up with 23 recommendations to protect children from neglect, abuse

and violence.

UNICEF representative Aboudou Karimou Adjibadé declared that violence is never justifiable and that the conference was an opportunity to share knowledge and experience in order to create a strong network.

"I think the source creating such violence is the core of society – the family. Between 130 million and 275 million children annually are subject to family violence," says Egyptian actor and regional UNICEF goodwill ambassador Mahmoud Qabeel.

The conference also discussed violations of children's rights in Palestine, as Palestinian children face all types of abuse and harassment. "They are killed and abused and have no rights because of their Israeli oppressors," maintained Lubna Qadomi of the Jordan River Foundation.

Explaining the foundation's child protection programs, she said, "Queen Rania Al-Abdullah headed the foundation in 1995. The program has many principles to work toward, all intended to protect children from any type of abuse."

Family, the first school for children

Numerous activists in this field shed light on the family's role in protecting children from violence. Egyptian actor and regional UNICEF goodwill ambassador Mahmoud Qabeel said, "Violence is widespread nowadays, particularly in



the Middle East. I think the source creating such violence is the core of society – the family. Between 130 million and 275 million children annually are subject to family violence."

Sumaya Al-Alfi, director of Street Children in Egypt, agreed with Qabeel, saying, "We need more awareness about children's rights within society, as well as cultivation of the family, fathers and mothers. Parents must understand children's language. Awareness of children's needs and rights also is essential in schools because children spend a lot of time there."

She added, "You can imagine the future of our nations when you look at children."

This second conference's goals and objectives were a focused continuum of the first and based on its recommendation and in complete harmony with a U.N. study on violence against children, its outcomes also are expected to serve the U.N. study's MENA regional consultation.

Engaging a wide range of children's rights activist in networks across the region, this regional network undertook the responsibility to hold this next ISPCAN conference, as well as other activities involving professional training and exchanging knowledge.

International experts gathered again

June 25-27 to review the status of implementing the global study's recommendations.

Children and crime

The main factor increasing crime in society is neglect and abuse of children, who actually are the future leaders. As a result of abuse and violence, children are directed toward becoming drug addicts, stealing and applying the violence they faced as children toward society, according to Hayat Azmi of the Christian Youth Association in Aswan, Egypt.

"We want to keep our children innocent, but the world around them is not innocent," says Maisoon, a pediatrician in Bahrain.

"An essential component in the success of any program is public awareness of its importance, particularly this issue. All of society has an effect upon children; therefore, all parts of society must be aware and interact with our programs" she added.

Child trafficking is a new phenomenon in Yemen, having begun nearly five years ago, and closely related to poverty. While the poor exist in numerous Yemeni governorates, the highest numbers are in Taiz, Ibb, Sana'a and Hodeidah governorates, according to Deputy Social Affairs Minister Ali Saleh Abdullah. Three reports by the Ministry of Planning indicate that child trafficking has decreased by 5 percent.

"What makes our program successful is establishing a common plan of action between us and Saudi Arabia, since most children are smuggled into Saudi Arabia," he noted.

Sexual abuse is another form of abuse children face worldwide, but they sometimes aren't aware about it. Maisoon, a pediatrician from Bahrain, confirmed

the importance of children understanding sexual abuse, with such information needing to be according to their age, as well as their culture. "We want to keep our children innocent, but the world around them is not innocent."

She related numerous stories that occurred while she was working out of her home. "A little girl came to me and she was at maturation. We discovered that her mother's husband had sex with her when she was nine years old. The little girl didn't know such a thing would cause her to become pregnant."

A fellow attendee, a doctor in Switzerland, agreed with Maisoon about children's unawareness about what has happened to them.

The first Arab ISPCAN Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect was held in Jordan in 2004 under the patronage of Queen Rania as a result of joint efforts between international and Jordanian organizations. The majority of Arab countries participated in that event, whose theme was, "Violence against children: Breaking the silence...strengthening responses."

How children understand their rights

One attendee suggested finding a good mechanism to present children's rights and how parents should deal with them. "A girl came on the first day of the conference with her mother, who told her, 'Tomorrow you must go to your studies. It's enough to attend today; otherwise, you'll miss many lessons.' Her daughter protested, saying, 'You abuse me.'"

Ameera Al-Muraisi, a 10th-grader and decision maker in Yemen's 39-member Child Parliament, explained, "We discuss children's abuses in the Parliament and depending on the issue, we then call on those in charge of children's rights to help us. While some responsible parties really interact with us, there are still many obstacles to granting Yemeni children their rights."

One child protested at the conference about society's view of youths, alleging, "Elders consider us naive and stupid when we express our thoughts and feelings. Instead, why don't they make us feel confident and proud of ourselves?"

Djiboutian ambassador to Yemen Mr. Sahal Ismail Naur "Djibouti to join the Sana'a Forum"

The Republic of Djibouti has recently celebrated its 30th anniversary since independence (June 25th) on this occasion, YemenTimes spoke to the Djiboutian Ambassador in Yemen on the bilateral relations of the two countries.

Interviewed by: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

How would you describe the development of the Yemeni-Djibouti relations?

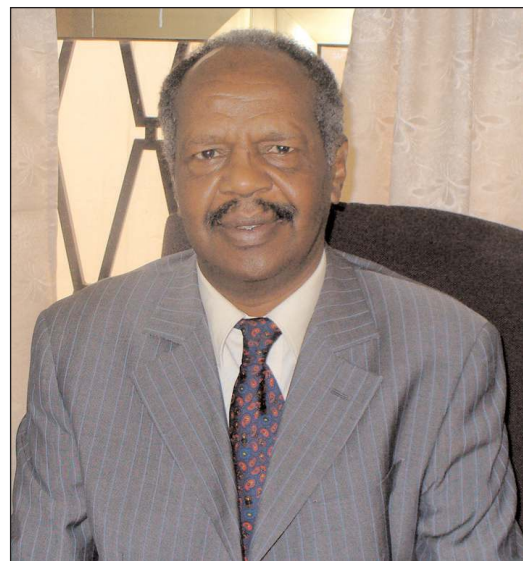
The Yemeni Djibouti relations are at its finest levels, we have historical ties as the Yemeni and Djiboutian people share a lot more than one might think, it is a similar culture and the same religion, Arabic is spreading very fast and Djibouti and on its way to becoming an official language. In fact, many businessmen, parliamentarians and officials in Djibouti are Yemenis and of Yemeni origins.

Please tell us more on the cultural ties between the two neighboring countries.

Djibouti and Yemen share a lot of traditions and cultural values as a result of their history, but more recently, the cultural ties are being strengthened by the educational systems which are becoming increasingly similar. There are around 300 Djiboutian students studying in Yemeni universities in a number of academic disciplines, these students were given fellowships and scholarships from the Yemeni government and Yemeni universities, and have been accepted unconditionally to enroll in these universities, receiving treatment as if they were Yemenis.

Additionally, the university in Djibouti has adopted the curricula of Yemeni Universities at the bachelor degree, believing the quality and value of education here, there are Yemeni supervisors and inspectors from the universities who come to Djibouti and help Djibouti students in their studies and discuss academic affairs with Djiboutian professors.

Even in the schooling level, the largest school in Djibouti is the Yemeni school, and many schools there teach the Arabic language.



H. E. Mr. Sahal Ismail Naur

Other ties between the two countries include Security, how do you define the developments in security cooperation.

Security is very important issues for the two countries, we both face the threat of terrorism especially in the light of the regional unrest, but the main challenge is how to continue sustainable development in the country while maintaining excellent relations with neighboring countries. In the event of conflict it is very important that the parties involved should sit together on the table and talk, or follow the Djiboutian example of sitting under the shade of a tree and engage in a constructive discussion towards the betterment of their country, without allowing any exterior or foreign intervention in their internal affairs.

Let's talk about the economic aspects of the relationship, the two presidents agreed to construct a bridge linking the two countries, how impact would that have on economic ties?

If this bridge is realized this would be a huge step in the bilateral relations, and will link the two continents with each other. The potential is huge, for transport of passengers and goods, this bridge could be the gateway of Africa to the Middle East and vice versa, this bridge will indeed highlight the strategic importance of the two countries in the region.

As you know, we are a small and a poor country, we don't have natural resources, and we also don't have agriculture, but all we have is services, all our income comes from services rendered, and our challenge is to challenge the nearest ports to us, what is important to us is to maintain the fact that we are the gateway to 80 million people in landlocked Ethiopia, we are the only gateway Ethiopia has, so we must modernize our ports, we are a member of the Comesa, so we are facing all these challenges, as a port we are competing with Aden and Salalah who have better capacities, but we are improving.

In 2001 we have signed an agreement with Dubai Ports International to administer and modernize the capacity of our port, until now we didn't have any problem with the Dubai Ports company, the contract is going on, they have enlarged the port, and they also separated the commercial port from the petroleum port, they made especially docks and terminals.

Will Djibouti join the Sana'a forum?

So many people ask me why Djibouti hasn't joined the Sana'a forum. And if my comment on that that there are no obstacles stopping Djibouti from joining the forum, we see many benefits from joining the Sana'a forum, especially economic benefits. Djibouti has successfully maintained excellent relations with all its neighboring countries, namely Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Yemen at the same time, so I think that we are very likely to join the Sana'a forum soon.

Your Excellency, thank you for your time, are there any other comments you wish to add?

Thank you, I'd like to take this opportunity to salute the Yemeni government, and thank them for the support they give Djibouti students in Yemen and the Djiboutian people, I am very glad to be in Yemen and it is my pleasure to be working in Yemen.

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Public education: dreams and challenges

The most recent words I am reading these days, which were also the oldest words I used to read about education in the past, are as follows: "The school can change the community to a great extent, and this is a role, which other social institutions are unable to do." The words produced by the American educationist John Deyo and the results they reached, are restated by others in tens of books.

The significance of what I say is neither a proverb nor a common saying. Rather, it is the summary of a deep and comprehensive research on education-related issues and the roles played by schools, as well as what people expect schools to do in order to change their lifestyle and take them from one situation to another and improving their living standards. Therefore, schools, including kindergartens where children learn the alphabet, are great labs for making men and building minds. They constitute the base of real development for communities.

Since the old times, and not only in our present time, the good education standards have been considered indispensable for the development of

nations, particularly the spread of schools in cities and villages. More important than this is the interest in building the mental capacities of pupils, and improving the performance of schools and the quality of knowledge and skills they offer to students.

It is not the product of chance when I was recollecting words of the American educationist Kent too, as I found in our local press amazing reports on the scores of applicants for yearend examinations in the country. Currently, students enrolled in schools outnumber the population of Yemen at the time of the 26 September Revolution. This confirms that the great obstacles and challenges couldn't foil the goals, nor could they control the progress toward reaching the sought goals.

Such a shining and golden picture of the increasing number of schoolboys and schoolgirls, plus the expansion of school constructions, should not blind us against the lack of teachers and the necessary equipment required for the progress of students, whose numbers



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

increase over years. This fact troubles the Education Minister and his Ministry and makes everyone in the Yemeni society be responsible for the educational process. All the government officials, parents, and businessmen, who are able to assist the state in the construction of schools, furnishing and restoring them, are responsible for generations of the future. These personalities are needed to do their best so that the education outputs can be capable of serving their community in the future.

It is noteworthy that every loyal Yemeni should play his/her role in resisting those who call for suspending the expansion of education under the pretext that this will leave bad consequences on the country's future. The real concern is caused by the large number of illiterate people, who have no access to education at all.

Another concern is associating with the poor quality of school curricula in our country that doesn't enable school leavers to be qualified enough and competent to join the labor market in

the future. Citizens throughout the Arab world frequently and repeatedly raise the same complaint because the educational curricula do not reflect ambitions of the new generations in order to change their living style and resist defeatism. This defeatism is the result of our inability to confront the external invasion, plus our failure to pay closer attention to schools and their roles in building new communities and helping them get rid of the circle of backwardness and the problems, which backwardness leaves in the Arab life, thereby making Arabs an easy mouthful for the evil forces.

We should not forget that there is a talent in every house and a genius in every zone and village, who are waiting the open way and reasonable facilities via which they can cross into the future and reach the national dreams. These dreams are impossible to reach without a top quality education.

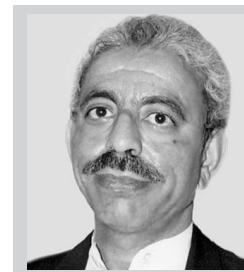
Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is Yemen's prominent poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

COMMON SENSE

The past is just a good bye! (III and final)

Jalal now wanted an air of optimism to prevail in the room and was beginning to discuss issues close to home: "If Fatima is thinking that joining the GCC will solve all our problems, she better do some more contemplation. Yemen's problems have become so deep and so intertwined that a mere change in the formal regional arrangements would hardly add any cause for optimism. However, one is indeed pleased that one of the present members in the GCC, the tiny but very active State of Qatar does display a considerable amount of interest in the Yemeni situation."



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

"Look Brother, if you want to talk about the role that Qatar is playing in the region, a lot of people are thankful that Yemen could be of increasing interest to Qatar. For many in Yemen the role is life saving if you hail from Sa'ada. So do not knock Qatar's small size or anything like that. Remember David was smaller than Goliath when the ancient Philistines had it out with the Hebrews."

Yasmine walked in with a kettle and four empty cups and started to pour some tea starting with the cup she had placed in front of her brother in law. Then she said: "Maybe this is what the Palestinians should listen to. The Palestinians might be better off going back to slingshots rather than useless Ghassan missiles that seem to zigzag in the sky 'like a frightened cornered cat in flight', as one of my favorite American journalist, Jennifer Lowenstein noted so eloquently once. In any case, when the Palestinians were throwing stones at the Israeli occupations forces two decades ago, they were much more successful at harnessing a lot of international support for their just cause. Besides they were less inclined to throw stones at each other than now, where they are lobbing all kinds of ordnances at each other for no real apparent reason to justify the extreme combativeness being displayed."

"I would bet that the Israelis are glad that the leading Palestinian factions are so tenaciously enmeshed in mortal combat" pointed out Yasmine, continuing: "They are serving the Zionist cause better than the IDF could do so for another ten years. I think Olmert should give the Star of David award to Abbas and Henayih. Just imagine 33 fighting Palestinians a day. That is one of the latest casualty counts coming out of Gaza these days."

Her daughter, Fatima was even more critical of the Palestinians: "I was really dismayed to hear one of the Palestinian factions declare in a celebratory mood: 'We have overtaken the building that housed the intelligence unit of the traitorous ... , etc.' I had hoped they were going to say, we have today liberated the Al-Aqsa Mosque from the Zionist occupiers. But to declare victory against your own fellow victim of the most discriminatory occupations of all times is really pathetic. I would say our brother Palestinians have their marbles and forgotten their cause d'être. If they do not get their act together, the situation for the helpless millions of Palestinians of Gaza and the West Bank will turn into a tragically disastrous situation one, which even Qatar would be unable to salvage."

"Jalal, you have a fine daughter there with wide open eyes and a high sense of realization of how dreadful the state of the Arab nation has become." Farid was noting his niece's high intellect.

"Look, Farid, what we are seeing in Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq, Somalia, and of course Palestine, indeed raises the contempt of most of the citizens of this tested nation of ours. We can always say it is the 'external enemies of the nation that are keeping the Arab Nation in such a helpless state'. However, in the end it really boils down to the nation being the ongoing victim of the failings of its leaders and their easy submission to the wishes of their masters in the Pentagon and to the wishes of the international Zionist establishment." Yasmine also wanted to show that she had a knack at understanding what is really going on in the region.

"I think we can forget about the salvation of the Arabs coming from within the nation", said Fatima. She proceeded with her prognosis: "Perhaps, our fellow Moslems from Chechnya or Bosnia will be the source of our liberation, as was the case when the Kurds gave us the Ayyubids, including Saladin, and the Turks gave us the Ottomans, both of whom came just at the right moment when the Moslems were about to be annihilated by the powers of their time, and were victorious notwithstanding the overwhelming odds against them."

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

Stopping wars' behavior is a top priority

The most recent Sa'ada war is the longest one from among the domestic destructive events since it broke out at the very beginning of the current year until it was halted under an official declaration, issued on Saturday, May 16.

We should acknowledge that months of the most recent Sa'ada war have been tragic times full of pains and sufferings. As the war was halted, the black cloud, which covered Yemen, disappeared but cheers over halting the war will never compensate for the catastrophe, which the war left behind. Thousands of homes have been damaged or destroyed and tens of thousands of innocent families were displaced, suffering the pains of starvation, diseases and insults. Souls of hundreds of killed people and pains of the injured ones are hovering in the skies of damaged villages and cities. The Yemeni people lived hard times of sadness over bloodshed, human rights abuses and looting of property in the war which left heavy damage, psychological frustration, malice, and despair. Additionally, the war had negative impacts on the moral values and the national social fabric.

Yemen paid a heavy price for this war and is bound to pay the price of its bad consequences for tens of years to come. Unlike the goal of some media means loyal with the regime, the neutral media community questions who is responsible for bloodshed and massive destruction in Sa'ada. More questions should be raised to detect reasons for the war, its relevant catastrophes and its consequences in a responsible way but not in a revenge-like manner. The post war time shouldn't be an open period for taking revenges, sparking conflicts, and putting more oil to re-inflame the just extinguished fire.

Various media having intimacy with the regime started to behave in a way fuelling sedition during the wartime and invented a lot of fabrications and inauthentic stories without any feeling of clear conscience. After the war was over, such media began to thwart any hope of social peace following the fighting and tended to spark fears over

accountability and blames on what has happened. These media have neither intention nor plans to create positive climate that may help resolve consequences of the war and prevent any recurrence of such clashes.

As these media have been behaving in a way shifting attentions away from bloodshed, massive destruction and the looting of property during the wartime, they were unhappy about halting the war. Since the very beginning, they aimed to plant new seeds for the war to erupt once again in the future to be an extension of the just-halted war. Their primary goal of renewing the war is to destroy any remaining undamaged infrastructure in the restive province.

Questions about the causes of the war and the manner in which it was waged are necessary for the time being in order to convince the country's key politicians to remain committed and suggest a package of procedures and moves that help tackle the political and social environment, which merely produces wars. Also, these procedures and moves may prevent the wars and clashes from breaking out once again. This is the main topic we have to concentrate on seriously.

All the claims and allegations, used in fuelling and justifying the Sa'ada war, have gone silent while the government bodies and media loyal with the government seem to intentionally ignore these claims and allegations under the pretext of the urgent need for conciliatory atmospheres to help lay down the curtain on the Sa'ad war.

The desire for creating conciliatory environment is a good one and should be boosted and encouraged by all the political parties and organizations until the end. But everyone in Yemen has to always bear in mind that it is a shame on us to let wars break out so easily. We have to care for studying and detecting any reasons and causes leading to wars and conflicts.

Any way, this country cannot



By: Ali Al-Sarari

maintain its survival nor can it win the respect and support of others as long as wars are approved by the influential moods that prefer the personal interests to the public ones. When they want to wage a war for any trivial reason, they don't allow anyone to oppose to such a type of crazy decisions. And, when they want to halt the war,

they don't allow anybody to ask, "Why did they fuel the war and then turn to halt it?" Through this behavior, they intend to renew the war whenever their moods reach a decision on war and they once again used their moods to halt the war. For them, wars are simple games for funny and entertainment. They don't understand that the war kills innocent people, destroys the infrastructure and gives the chance to the opportunists to loot private and public property.

The regime resorted to use all the means of pressure, threat and intimidation in order to hinder Parliament from doing its job in investigating reasons and factors behind Sa'ada crisis before it escalated into a destructive war. It rejected any suggestions offered by the opposition with the aim of seeking peaceful solutions to stop bloodshed, maintain law and order, and ensure that concerned constitutions and laws remain effective. The regime needs to remember the shameful moments when Parliament quit its constitutional and national responsibilities and turned to behave in line with the authorities' fabricated allegations regarding the situation in Sa'ada. Parliament then delegated the government an absolute power to control the mobilization of military forces and equipment and attack innocent citizens under the cover of fighting the rebellion.

Had the government had serious moves to deal with the crisis since the very beginning, it would have helped Yemen escape massive destruction and bloodshed. Nearly \$1.5 billion was spent on funding the war at a time the country was in an urgent need for the money to alleviate poverty, fight

unemployment, provide basic services to deprived citizens and curb the proliferation of epidemics.

The regime paid harm to the Yemeni people when it placed them in the heart of the catastrophe, which it created in Sa'ada. In addition, it harmed its relations with the brotherly countries when it accused some of them of standing behind Sa'ada rebellion, as it did with Libya and Iran.

The regime transgressed all the national values when it invented numerous sectarian and ethnical fabrications and gave these fabrications precedence over facts. Today, it is behaving as if it didn't say anything or was not excessive in the use of fabrications and lies before, during and after the war. However, its foolish behavior may be responsible for similar clashes and confrontations to break out once again in Sa'ada or in other areas of Yemen in the days to come.

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

Source: Al-Thawri Weekly.

Sharm El-sheikh summit

The Palestinian uprising



By Samer

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Copy Editor

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Offices

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

Hadramout Correspondent:
Saeed Al-Batati
Mobile (+967) 77383733
Email: albatati88@yahoo.com
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Taiz Bureau:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
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A restructured Palestinian Liberation Organisation

By: Azmi Bishara

The US and its Western followers revealed what democratisation of the Arab world actually means to them when they rejected the results of the Palestinian legislative elections and instead began an economic boycott. The result was escalating internet violence fuelled by the lure of money.

The Mecca Agreement between Fatah and Hamas to form a unity government opened the horizon for a unified Palestinian strategy that would include the restructuring of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) and that would compel Arab governments to face their obligations to press for an end to the blockade against the Palestinian people and for the implementation of The Hague ruling on the separating wall. Some pro-settlement Palestinians believed that the Mecca Agreement was aimed at containing Hamas and that since Hamas had agreed in principle then all that remained was to name Hamas's price. They thought a haggling process would drag on as the new Fatah-Hamas partnership stumbled from one crisis to the next while at the same time negotiations and communications would be conducted through diplomatic channels aimed at a permanent solution and these would require discussions between members of the unity government. There was, therefore, room for political action.

But the US and Israel were dead set against the Mecca Agreement. They saw it as a defeat for the forces within the Palestinian Authority (PA) in which they had invested such high hopes, one being that they would turn against Arafat. These forces, it is now apparent, accepted the agreement not because they liked it but because others in the PA felt that they could not take on Hamas in Gaza. The Mecca Agreement, then, was a way to put off the inevitable confrontation against Hamas. In the interval the PA would have to be funded through its executive branch while the presidency, the security agencies and the relationship between the two would have to be strengthened in preparation for the next elections or the next showdown. The US, meanwhile, knowing that to boycott the president of the unity government would drive Fatah closer towards embracing that government,

came up with the notion of holding "theoretical talks", as Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert termed them, over a permanent solution so that people would get used to hearing certain ideas -- the "hypothetical" relinquishment of the right to return and the "hypothetical" renunciation of Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state. As long as everything was couched hypothetically it would be possible to keep a unity government intact with people in it advocating such ideas until they became perfectly normal.

In spite of the Mecca accord, on the very day of the 59th commemoration of the nakba -- the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 and the consequent dispossession of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians -- a Palestinian shot another Palestinian in Gaza. But this was nothing compared to what happened next. In the course of Hamas's attempts to pre-empt any possible action by forces opposed to the Mecca Agreement undermining the unity government and delivering a debilitating blow to Hamas, the movement's field operators indulged themselves in a spate of retaliatory violence that surpassed in bloodthirstiness anything their leadership could possibly justify.

Call Hamas's actions a coup, if you like. The decrees that followed, however, were nothing less than a complete overthrow of the elections that had brought Hamas into power in the first place. Worse yet, the forces that broke with Hamas after these decrees were issued pushed for escalation. These are the forces that vanish in times of unity and thrive in times of strife, and they want to see a tighter economic stranglehold on Gaza and an easing of conditions in the West Bank so that people will draw the comparison between the "successful" recipient of outside financial aid and provider of public services and the boycotted "failure" in Gaza, paying the price for its refusal to accept Israel's conditions. For some reason former US special envoy to the Middle East, Dennis Ross, after having heard this scenario from second-rank Fatah officials and from sources in west Jerusalem, felt it would inevitably play out. He wrote about it in the Washington Post of 5 June. But even the thoroughly pro-Israeli and anti-Arafat and anti-Syrian Ross had reservations.

Apart from voiding the Palestinian cause of any substance beyond the rivalry

between two entities, one of which will have the screws of the vice tightened because it needs to learn its lesson, the other having the good fortune to take part in delivering this lesson, the strategy leads to other nightmare scenarios: the starvation of people in Gaza while PA offices in the West Bank drown in money; the loss of a single agency representing all the Palestinian people and a rise in attacks against Israel following the principle of "as long as the roof's caving in, I'll make sure it crashes down on the heads of my enemies too".

What does the right of return and Jerusalem have to do with all of this?

Is the right of return to become the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their camps after the fighting ends? Is the question of Jerusalem to be reduced to the right of its Arab residents to vote for Ehud Barak as the next Labour Party chief, as they did in the party's preliminary elections, leading a Barak aide to remark, "Too bad we didn't kill more Arabs so we could have gotten more of the Arab vote."

No amount of political pragmatism can justify this collapse in morals and morale. What counts now, more than ever, is will power. Either the Palestinians summon the resolve to unite under the PLO and other frameworks or they resign themselves to total disintegration and the above-mentioned scenarios.

Gaza is not just an occupied territory, whether defined geographically, historically or demographically. Nor is what is happening in Gaza a power struggle between rival factions. To reduce the situation to those terms is metaphysical hogwash. Gaza is the largest refugee camp on earth. The violence that has erupted inside it is not dissimilar to a prison riot, and the dynamics of the factional rivalry has much in common with pecking order battles among inmates to determine who gets to speak to the wardens on behalf of other inmates.

Somewhere on the way to this fracas the national liberation movement lost its identity. The Palestinians became a "party" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; the beginning of the Palestinian cause was postdated to 1967 instead of 1948 and recast as a territorial dispute; and the cause, itself, lost its ethos as a national liberation movement. To refugees in Gaza and the camps in Lebanon this latter means one thing -- the right to return. As

a result large numbers of people who would not benefit from, would even be harmed by, the so-called peace process have lost all sense of direction and are caught between the moral degeneration of those leaders who put considerations of status and the material welfare of their own families first, and the rigid fundamentalism of others. Moral decay on one side, fundamentalism on the other is symptomatic of a national liberation movement that has lost sight of its goals and failed to understand the dynamics of tensions at play inside a concentration camp.

Normally, national liberation movements can rejoice when they achieve their mission of independence and statehood and can set their struggle aside. For Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, though, it changes nothing if the West Bank becomes an empire and Gaza an Islamic republic. They'll still be left in the lurch when these states impose seeking to espouse an alternative legitimacy to that of the liberation struggle. Yet it would appear that something along these lines is in the mind of whoever is engineering developments in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians there, and along the banks of the Euphrates, are being told to rethink their cause in its entirety.

Since Oslo the Palestinians left in the ghettos of Gaza and the West Bank have been penned in behind an impenetrable wall, as if they were an alien lump and Israel the body warding off infection. But it is Israel that is the alien body, though this is not something people are supposed to see. Instead, they are expected to view Israel an authentic state with borders defined by the 1967 boundaries, despite the fact Israel occupies large swathes of land beyond these borders. As for the Palestinians, they are an ethnic minority demanding some rights -- freedom of movement, the right to buy and sell, the right to receive foreign aid. Accordingly, the West Bank is now to be severed from Gaza in people's minds. It will be granted its "rights" while Gaza will not. Such is the treatment in store for Israel's "subject peoples." Meanwhile, the cause of the refugees in Lebanon, Iraq and the rest of the diaspora does not even have a representative.

Ever since Oslo there has been a determined and systematic drive (or, by virtue of the creation of the PA, an unwitting and

random process) to void the PLO of all meaning, substance, structure and power. It is as if the PLO was the queen bee: meant to give birth to the PA, sign the Oslo Accords and then die -- or be killed. It was probably for this purpose that Israel recognised the PLO in Oslo while Arab and non-Arab supporters of the settlement process played along. They adopted the PA as the representative of the Palestinian people and ignored the PLO, indifferent to the fact that the same faction -- Fatah -- controlled both. There was a pitiful and short-lived attempt to breathe life back into the PLO when that same faction tried to outwit the elections that gave rise to the Hamas victory. Posts and titles were taken off the shelf and dusted down but the result was to sideline the PLO even more. For a paltry few months it became a tool in the struggle against the PA and then was laid to rest again. Well before this, the titles and insignia of statehood were given great play. "President," "Minister," "National Security Chief" and other VIPs (Very Important Palestinians) abounded long before there was even a glimmer of independence and statehood.

After the meaning of a process that began in Oslo and ended with a Palestinian gunning down another Palestinian on the commemoration of the Nakba became impossible to deny, it also became impossible to disguise the nature of the PA and its historical role. Little wonder, therefore, that the Mecca Agreement called for the revival, expansion and restructuring of the PLO. But Arab decision-makers and the Arab media did not monitor the follow-through on this point of the agreement, regardless of it being one of the most crucial. It was a grave mistake to let the PLO die its slow death. But it would also be a mistake to bring it back from the dead as it was. If the PLO is to be revived, it must be done in light of new realities, a major one of which is that new and dynamic resistance forces are out there and have to be represented within the framework of any restructured PLO.


Arab mediation will be indispensable in creating a new PLO. But mediation producing an understanding between Fatah and Hamas is not enough. As vital as the two movements will be to restructuring the organization they do not comprise the PLO. The PLO must be revived as an umbrella organisation for all

Palestinians, including those in the diaspora. And it must be revived as a liberation movement, not to produce a PA clone, ie a local administration and policing agency meant to serve as the kernel for a Palestinian state, without Jerusalem as its capital, without the return of refugees and without the dismantling of all Israeli settlements.

Presumably, one of the first tasks of the new PLO's first elected National Council will be to conduct a thorough review of the peace process and the political consequences of its failure. As it engages in this endeavour representatives on the National Council will have to be very realistic. I mean by this that they must take to heart the fact that under current circumstances peace settlement is still a long way off. In the meantime they must do their utmost to safeguard Palestinian unity and the cohesive values of Palestinian society, which have been shaped by the aims and aspirations of the national liberation movement. Realism also means refusing to accept anything but a just peace with Israel, for otherwise the Palestinians' fate is disintegration as a people and a cause. Being realistic will entail hard work. It will require sustaining the struggle in a way that will not turn resistance into the permanent, the only possible, way of life.

It will simultaneously require satisfying the day-to-day needs faced by Palestinians in the territories. A national unity government can only succeed if it fully appreciates these are the tasks that fall to it. It must tend to education, health, the economy, the infrastructure, and leave the question of the success or failure of the settlement process to the PLO. Resistance is a long term strategy. The PA is charged with the proper organisation of the life of the people under its administration. If that is not how the PA perceives itself then the Palestinians would be better off without it. The PA, after all, was imposed by agreements that have proven misguided and which enabled the occupation power to wash its hands of any responsibility for the welfare of those under its occupation without first granting them liberation.

Azmi Bishara is a Palestinian Christian who was a Member of the Israeli Knesset and leader of the Balad party from 1996 until resigning in April 2007. Source: Al-Ahram weekly on line.




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Al-Attar: "Yemen has a golden opportunity to attract investments"

Mr. Salah Al-Attar, Director of the General Investment Authority, is one of the few young officials in Yemen who is spearheading one of the most critical government agencies in the country, with a huge relevance to the economy. Al-Attar has a decade of international experience in government and the private sector, and has traveled extensively across Europe and North America. YemenTimes had an in-depth interview with Mr. Al-Attar, and tackled a wide array of subjects relevant to the economy, among which the issue of investment promotion in Yemen.

Interviewed by: Raidan Al-Saqqa
alsaqqa@gmail.com

Kindly brief us about yourself

I am a Yemeni citizen, from Hujayra, lived most of my life abroad, in Lebanon, The United States, France, Switzerland, and the UK, I majored in international relations and political science. I came back in Yemen after finishing my MBA, and worked here at the General Investment Authority as Undersecretary – head of investment promotion for about a year and a half, after which then I left the public sector and joined a prominent multinational corporation, and held several senior positions within that corporation. Earlier this year I was appointed as the Director of the General Investment Authority by a presidential decree. I'm married with a two year-old son, Ryan.

How do you describe the success of the recent investment conference in Yemen?

I strongly believe that the last investment conference in Yemen was a success, it is another milestone following the success of the donors conference last November. This conference was a huge success as evident from the level of participation and number of participants; we expected somewhat between 200-300 investors, however we were surprised to get over 650 participants attending the conference. The materials exchanged at the conference and the level of discourse we shared with participants along the sides of the conference indicated that many attending investors are very keen on discovering suitable investment opportunities in Yemen. In fact, many of them have come forward after the conference and we have licensed a number of projects by leading corporations, such as Qatar-based Al-Dyar constructions, two cement factories in Abyan, Al-Qudra Corporation has a project on the way, LULU hypermarket expanding in Sana'a, among others. We are currently negotiating with many parties who want to invest in Yemen; However, most potential investments are limited in two sectors; tourism and real estate. Also, a number of European companies were interested in the mining sector in Yemen.

Can you elaborate on the new competitiveness of Yemen in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), in the light of the success of the investment conference.

Before answering your question, let me point out that it is still far too early to give quantifiable numbers on the

increase of FDI into Yemen as a result of the conference, the conference was only two months ago and it is far too early to pass a judgment. Having said that, five projects out of 360 projects per year is a meaningless number, yet five projects is all what we have had so far, in terms of practical signatures, but negotiations are still on-going with a large number of potential investors, therefore it is still far too early to judge the success of the conference at this point of time.

However, we can say that, from an interest point of view, the interest of investors in Yemen has increased substantially, I assure you, as this is reflected in the number of visits, requests, phone calls and information requests that I am getting from potential investors. But I'd like to stress that Yemen is still far behind in attracting FDI, actually in 2005 Yemen has a negative number in terms of FDI flow, but I think that this trend has been reversed and I hope and feel confident that the future outlook is going to be far better, considering that Yemen has a historical opportunity knocking on its door.

This historical opportunity is in the increase in Oil prices has the subsequent inflow of money to the region, coupled with the political economy of international relations post the September 11th attacks, the flow of FDI has seen a change as more FDI is flowing between developing countries as an example for South-South cooperation, not only from Gulf Cooperative Council members, but also from China and India.

With particular reference to GCC countries, they have become more reluctant in investing in the west and therefore the competitiveness of investment opportunities in Yemen are becoming more attractive to them, so I think Yemen has a tremendous opportunity to seize this occasion and try to attract investment, that's why the speed of reforms, not only macroeconomic reforms but also reforms within the legal system, the pace of these reforms should increase rapidly, time is a luxury we don't have, therefore we have to do whatever it takes to speed up reforms and attract investments.

In the past, maybe we haven't been aggressive enough in promoting for investment opportunities in Yemen, because it could've backfired on us hadn't we started to increase the pace of reforms, you need to ensure that whatever investment opportunities you are promoting, do not face impediments during the implementation phase, otherwise it



Mr. Salah Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar

will be counter productive.

Several Investors complained that Yemen has a 'false advertising' campaign when it comes to investment opportunities, harming the image of Yemen, how do you feel about this?

I certainly share with you the view that Yemen has a negative image outside, the attributes of this negative image are two fold, the first is party objective and substantiated, because we do face problems and issues here and have our own share of mishaps, and part of the success of any solution is to first accept and acknowledge the problems that we have, so that we would be able to design solutions to our problems to sort them out through appropriate remedies. The second is subjective, and it a failure of our part to be actively involved in image building, the only news that used to go out of Yemen are mostly negative news, we didn't even have sort of a crisis management office to try and dilute the negative issues we have, and because we also didn't start feeding the networks with positive news until late in 2006, we have, in our promotion strategy, a full fledged plan on how to improve the image of Yemen for the International Community, media has a key role to play in establishing the positive image of Yemen and we rely on the media to help us and help the country in that regards.

I urge the government to review the legislations and have a direct relationship with investments in order to ease issues with investors, secondly the issue of lands, we are working on a project to surrender all lands allocated for investments, to be submitted to the general investment authority to disperse off these lands to serious potential investors according to a pre-set and predefined mechanism.

How do other government agencies cooperate with the GIA in helping its mandate?

In fact, within the current government I

ed with an overlaps in the span of authority with other government organizations, one key example is investment promotion; GIA does some investment promotion, the tourism development board does some, the Islands development program does some, the local governor office does some, the Prime Minister's office does some, the Ministry of Industry and Trade does some, so you see there is an overlap, we are currently mapping out all organizations who are involved in investment promotion, for example who is involved in policy making, who is involved in advocacy, and who is involved in facilitations, and also image building, there are institutional and structural issues which we need to minimize, and reinforce the concept of the one-stop shop, because the message gets diluted along the way and you might end up with contradictory messages from different bodies, which will negatively impact investors, who should know who to believe and who to talk to.

Do you face any obstacles or interferences by influential persons as such?

There are such interferences here and there, like in most Least Developed Countries; I have thought that such interferences are more of an issue than they really are, I'm not denying that they exist, or the fact that they are counter productive, but I am positively surprised to find that the number of such interferences are decreasing, and I have seen that there are quick interventions to limit such interferences at the moment they arise, I am speaking from experiences, I did face some interferences over the last two months with specific projects, but we have been able to take serious action against such interferences because is a sincere will from President Saleh to ensure that Yemen becomes an investor-friendly environment. I have worked in the General Investment Authority nine years ago, and I have to say the difference between now and then is huge, and the improvement is very tangible, and I look forward to more improvements and prosperity in the future.

Having said that, I understand that there are intrinsic problems that limit the cooperation of several government bodies with us, some organizations are creat-

Business In Brief

France to provide nuclear technical support to Yemen
The French president and government has promised president Saleh that France will help Yemen develop a nuclear power plant to generate electricity, and also to desalinate and purify sea water to provide drinking water using nuclear technology.

European Commission increases Aid to Yemen
The European Commission has decided to increase its developmental funding for Yemen to 81 million euros during the years 2007-2010, the main focus would be in social security, health, fisheries and civil society organizations.

Yemen to expand Marib refinery
Sources at the Ministry of Oil indicated that the government will invest over US\$ 100 million in the expansion of Marib refinery, to increasing its refining capacity from a daily 10,000 barrels to 25,000 barrels.

Parliament elects anti-corruption committee
While opposition members withdrew from the voting session, parliament members of the General People's congress votes for 11 persons to constitute the anti-corruption committee, most of them are affiliated to the ruling party.

Yemen & Syria sign free trade cooperation agreement
Yemen & Syria signed a cooperation agreement to activate the technical and administration cooperation agreement between the General Institution of the Syrian free zones and the Aden free zone.

Locust threatens agricultural production in Marib
Swarms of desert locust are spreading over 60,000 to 90,000 hectares of agricultural land in Marib governorate, threaten the agricultural production of the governorate, FAO plans to launch an eradication campaign on the 28th of June to limit the damage of the locust.

Qatar Airways launch daily flights to New York and Washington

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, June 26 – Qatar Airways held a U.S.A Launch Party last Monday evening in the Sana'a-based Sheraton Hotel to announce new and daily flights to the Washington DC and New York, starting from July 19, 2007. The party was attended by the Qatari Ambassador to Yemen Jassem Abdul Aziz Al

Bouainain, together with many ambassadors and aviation, travel and tourism agencies' representatives.

When launching the ceremony, Qatari airways regional manager Wa'el Al-Khaalidi delivered a speech in which he introduced his company together with the plans set for future, hinting his company exerts utmost efforts to keep high standards of safety



QATAR AIRWAYS القطرية
Taking you more personally

and luxury.

Al-Khaalidi further pointed out that Qatari Airways, the first and the fastest-growing airline in the Middle East, will start daily flights to Washington and New York as of July 19 as part of their future expansion, maintaining his company was awarded the prestigious 5-star status by Skytrax for the five-star and luxurious services provided to Qatar airways passengers on board. It also twice received the award of the best airways.

Qatari Airways now have over 80 destinations across the globe and it also aspires to reach more destinations in the future. In expansion of its fleet, the company recently added new Airbus planes to its available fleet.

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SAFER

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENINGS

SAFER EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION OPERATIONS COMPANY ("SEPOC")

SEPOC is the Republic of Yemen's leading national oil and gas Company. It is the upstream Operator of Yemen's premier Marib Block (18) and largest and second largest producer of gas and oil in the country respectively.

After an impressive year of achievements, SEPOC is embarking on an aggressive growth plan.

As part of its expansion project, SEPOC is currently seeking to expand its workforce by hiring the following talented, qualified and dedicated professionals who desire a fulfilling and rewarding career with a growing and outstanding organization :

1. Job Title & Description: Plant Operators

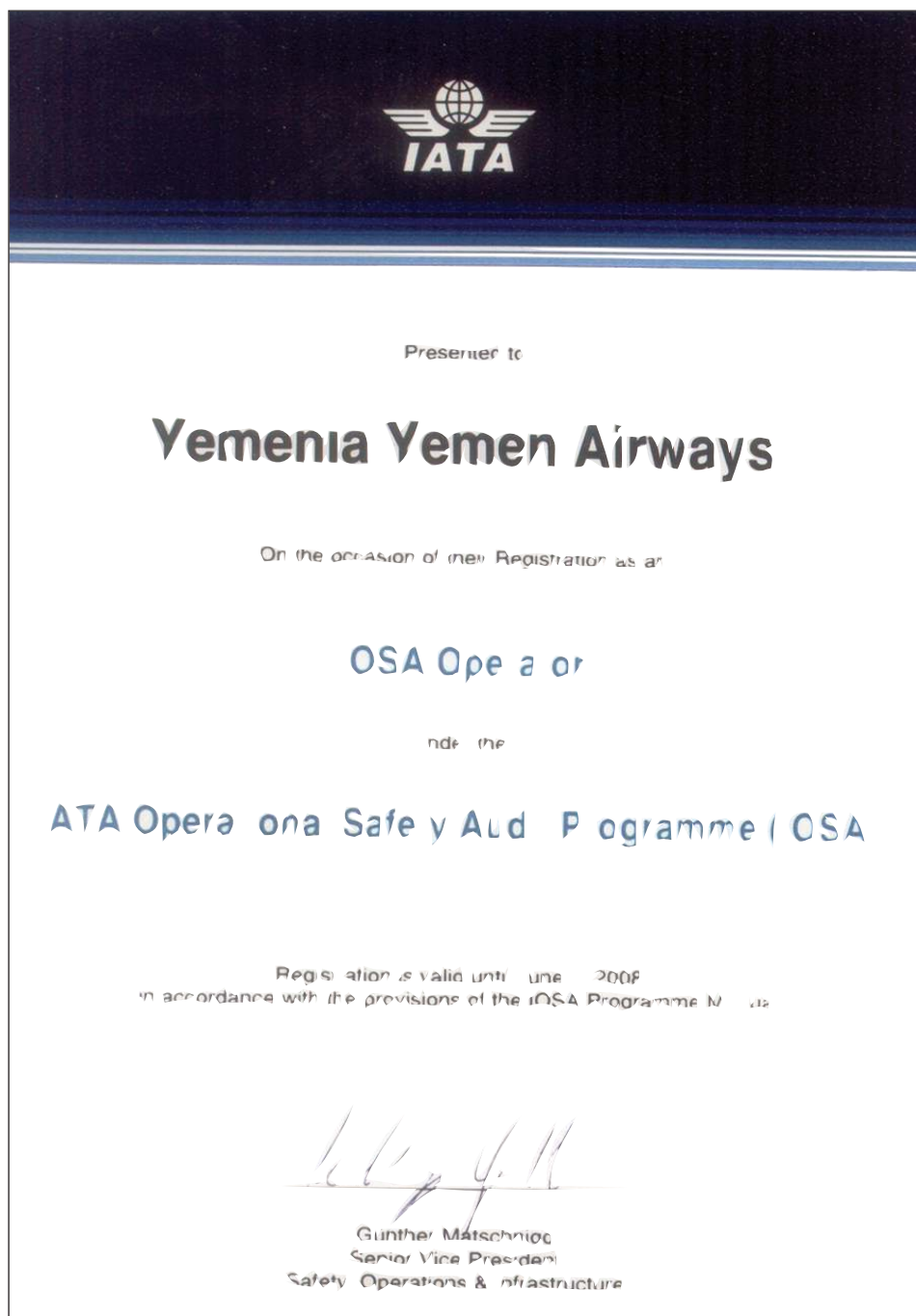
Education & Qualifications Required:

- A bachelor's Chemical engineering from a recognized and a reputed university.
- Fresh graduate
- Must possess proficiency in English, both spoken and written.
- Must have good computer skills
- Must possess a strong work ethic with a "can do" attitude.
- Must be committed to work in the desert.

Job Details of the above and other positions are posted on 'Careers' at SAFER'S Website: www.sepocye.com .

To apply and process your application and CVs online for the above positions, please visit SAFER'S Website. Thank you.

For obtaining the international certificate, IOSA, Yemenia paid tribute to its employees



On the occasion of obtaining the international certificate, IOSA, Yemenia paid tribute to its employees in its headquarter in the capital city of Sana'a.

During the celebration, attended by a number of the company employees along with journalists, Capt. Abdulkhaliq Al-kadhi, the head of the board of Directors, delivered a speech in which he said, "We have the right to be proud of Yemeni youths who spare no efforts to make the world respect us. I traveled to Geneva to meet the head of IATA, International Air Transport Association, and taking pride of Yemenia name. Your company will not

be known unless respected by others and their concerns."

Al-Kadhi also said, "Unfortunately other peoples look at Yemen with a mundane view or rather with a view less than it deserves. But by the efforts of one single faithful work team, we could prove not only for ourselves but also for the world that there is no difference between Yemenia and other long-experience international companies."

Al-Kadhi went on to say, "This is a great effort. And the team who worked hard to make Yemenia succeeded to obtain the international certificate, IOSA, must be recognized today."

"Honoring is for all", and those youths are the future youths who will administer the company in the future, he asserted.

He also pointed out that the international certificate, IOSA, came late but when a company comes from a difficult environment along with limited capacities and reaches to a high level such as Yemenia, they respect it.

The IATA is ready to support us and provide us with training in order to help us achieve more than what we have done, Al-Kadhi maintained.

"We have already appointed a manager special for the IOSA because we are going to be inspected in 2008 so as to renew the IOSA certificate every two years. This coming inspection will include the ground equipments.

He further added that Yemenia will be under international observation to evaluate our works and activities. He also thanked all those who cooperated with Yemenia whether from inside Yemen or outside, especially Yemen Civil Aviation Authority and Sana'a Airport.

"I don't like to mention the names of the recognized employees because everybody participated. I hope that we will continue working in this way in order to be recognized and respected by others, Al-Kadhi concluded.

At the end of the celebration, the deputy of the general manager of operation affairs, the head of IOSA team, on behalf of the IOSA team, granted a "Certificate of Appreciation" to Capt. Abdulkhaliq Al-Kadhi, due to his continuous assistance and support to the team who contributed to make Yemenia succeeded in obtaining the IOSA Certificate.

The Honoring ceremony was attended by Ameen Ahmed.

Al-Haimi, Assistant chairman of the board of directors



Warmth over the Earth, frost over the hearts

By: Ghayda Assakaf
r_18000@yahoo.fr

It is glaringly obvious that global warming is increasing year in, year out, and so are the tempestuous tensions between North and South; to be more specific these are the tensions between the US administration and the region of Arabia and Persia, judiciously called Middle East.

It seems like nobody is making the effort of a gesture towards peace and concord to minimize the intensity of these complicated quandaries. Even Pan Ki-Monh, UN Secretary General, gives the impression of watching the aggravating events, as a mere spectator and waiting for episodes to take a more calamitous course (as if it wasn't bloody enough...) in order to, probably, raise one eyebrow...

Where is the world heading to? What is inside the cynical mind of the US administration decision makers, and AEI schemers for the few years to come?

Let's attempt to take stock of the current global situation:

Terrorism (the American version of it) has undoubtedly amplified and broadened out since 9/11. Like a disease, it has progressively taken up more ferocious ways of attacking, after the fashion of H5N1 bird flu virus. And Mr. Bush and consorts seem to believe that the best way to deal with it, is to eradicate its elements, in the same manner as hundreds and thousands of virus-infected and healthy birds have been brutally stamped out, altogether.

In reality, terrorism has adopted so scary proportions that it appears to have gotten out of its bounds, frantically striking innocent victims, it was not at first place supposed to target. And the

world, infuriatingly silent just keeps on watching this big screen of events Bush's USA is entertaining us with. Sometimes, out of boredom, or despair, it may simply zip to other more amusing channels, also provided by US media.

That is one big furuncle in the ears of this world, gradually coming unstitched.

Does it sound pessimistic? Well, it would rather be... The US administration, along with its yes-man allies, might be concocting for some other ominous war, which may this time adopt some Iranian scenery. Mordant project once more.

In the 24th of February 2007, Mr. Nabil Khoury, vice-ambassador of USA in Yemen, in an Al Jazeera International interview, back answered to some participating callers interrogating about the current situation in the region:

"Whether we intervene in a drastic way, like when we overthrown Saddam's dictatorship in Iraq, or whether we intervene peacefully in the region, you do not like it. What does the public opinion want exactly?"

This whimsical way of interacting with the public opinion, as well as these ambiguous policies directed to "improve" the Middle Eastern people conditions, do not really give weight to what could be called the "sincerity" of the US administration. In addition to which, they incline to the belief that one of the main strategies of this government, in term of dealing with the populations of the area is, to mock at them, to make a fool of those masses, which will result in spreading confusion everywhere and the region will be facing a situation whereby the why and the wherefore are not quite clear. But although most of the media tend to show how "incapacitated" populations

of the area are, as a result of these American striking policies, it is not perfectly correct to say that there are no projects of counterbalancing the situation (movements of passive or active resistance, here and there, all over the globe).

From that standpoint, how is it possible to initiate any kind of dialogue with the US administration? This question was raised during the feverish debate in the AlJazeera famous Faisal AlKassim program ("AlItijah Almu'akes", the opposite direction), in this year's 20th of February. The debate had Mr. Martin Indick, former US ambassador in Israel, and Mr. AlBayoumi, founder of "AlDemocratiya AlSha'biya" (The Popular Democracy) movement, gathered together around one table.

When Mr. AlBayoumi, in an attempt to illustrate the "American dialog", showed Mr. Indick a collection of pictures displaying the way US soldiers treated prisoners in Abu Ghreib and in Guantanamo (in particular, that famous photo showing a black dog savagely attacking a terror-stricken, defenseless prisoner), the latter sarcastically replied that "well, the US Government could drop a brick sometimes, but these prisoners anyway, if being asked, I am sure all they want is to kill us!". One wonders why...

In order to commence any kind of dialogue, the opposed parties should first free their minds from any prejudice, so as the dialog may not be one of the deaf.

Bit by bit dark designs clear up, facets of not friendly plans materialize and public opinion awareness builds itself up, developing new ways of conceiving things and having appropriate reflexes.

Back to the concocting of a new war,

the 10th of this year's February, The Guardian was going on the assumption that the US administration would attack Iran exclusively from the air, to destabilize its system at first place; plan also confirmed by the Sunday Times which reported the US government's firm willing of disturbing the structure of the Persian country. If we have a global look at the Iranian political, economical and social tissue, it is not, really a rock-solid one. In fact, according to the pre-eminent Mustafa AlHamarna, historian and director of the center of Strategic Studies in Amman University-Jordan, Iran is totally cut off, and this isolation has augmented due to the country's negative role in Iraq, especially after the scandalous hanging of Saddam Hussein, in the 30th of December 2005, also Eid day for masses of Muslims around the world.

Besides, the Iranian army is not much of a strong one (air pilots in the neighboring Saudi Arabia are far better equipped), and it is uncertain that they possess the nuclear weapon (The Russian government has lately withdrawn its support to the country, in terms of nuclear technology), in brief, the US administration managed to get Iran away from the region's apron strings.

Furthermore, yes-Bush allies in the region, in particular Saudi Arabia and the Gulf in general, along with Israel are, still according to Mustafa AlHamarna, extremely ready to face up any possibility of war (frenetic arms race, reassuring and heartening promises from "chief of the region" Condoleezza Rice, US administration touching upon the shiaa-sunni string...)

Nevertheless, there is another opinion saying the opposite of that. US administration could find a compromise with the Persian country and the countries to blame would then be the ones constituting the Gulf. This is all very geopolitical. But is the US administration willing to send more troops, and to spend more billions of dollars for a new disaster? Certainly, Ahmadi Najad is a tough resistant and might not be willing to submit to all Bush's desires. But this is no pretext for a new catastrophic war. Is that what the world really wants? More casualties, more blood, more suffering? Where are the good-hearted people, the merciful pacifists, and the tolerant men of Religion? Why is poverty increasing so monstrously, when did human beings become so cruel to each other? When is fighting going to stop? Nature is protesting and the Earth is raging, and we are waiting for miracles to happen and to save us...

O, who are thee indeed?

For Yemen Times
By / Abdulkader Ajarbani
A student at Sana'a University
Faculty of education
Department of English
Level two / parallel system

O, thee who hurt others
O, thee who unseen by others
You look friend and kind,
Who drops by unexpected time?
You're known and hidden,
Destroy the life and preserve
Let others gather and part,
How quaint you are!
You're known as blind,
And can see in the darkness
You let others see you and some
not,
But who are thee indeed?
Allow me to surmise thee,
As you're known blind you're love
Indeed thee are love,
Please pass me but gently
Pass me when my guests not with
me
To exchange with thee sense,
And leave me alone in other time
To be friends in other times.

THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE

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



Youth: Between obeying the leader & reality facing

In his speech on the 17th of January 2007 in Mukala, the President proclaims youth to keep consciously open-minded for the lies and rumors that are propagandized by some people. He reaffirms his promises regarding the youth affairs like solving the problems of unemployment and poverty, distributing lands for farmers and young people, etc. He also advised youth to join sports clubs instead of chewing Qat, which eats into the backbone of the society.

The president is thankfully appreciated for unforgetting his promises and for his much care about the youth. Undoubtedly, giving-up Qat chewing widens the youth's role in pushing the development-wheel of the country. Obeying the leader is religiously recommended. But all of us should think about the matter, foreseeing all its expected consequences in order to take a rationally suitable final decision.

One may say that the President mentions only joining sports clubs as an alternative of vainly spending time and money in Qat-sessions. It may be because sport is not costly, or maybe because it is good for people's health. According to the latest statistics of Childhood and Youth Strategy, children and young people form about 76% of the country overall population.

One may wonder if the current clubs can receive about three-thirds of the nation! In all the cases, youth must not worry about that because it is the fault of the investors who did not work in the field of sports. As a solution, they would be forced to have business projects with some facilities offered by the authorities like "Taxes", "governmental fees", etc.

Close eyes dear youth; and let imagination be wider. The "Qat-chewers" would no longer spend money for buying Qat. That is great. But, "what would be the situation of those who sell and farm it?", a Qat-seller may ask. Such people are depending on this work to earn their daily incomes.

It is really questionable whether the ministry would allow them to join the "sports clubs", not as subscribers, but as employees. If not, the crisis of unemployment may appear once again-"if it has already disappeared". There might be a solution. It is the responsibility of The Ministry of Youth and Sports which must specialize a separate budget for those who would work in the clubs instead of selling and farming Qat which is not the responsibility of any other ministry.

Another person suggests that not all young people have interests in sport. In this case, the Ministry of Education is to be blamed because it did not include sports as a subject in the school curriculums. To be frank, as far as I remember there was something like "sports subject" in the elementary school; but, it was in the last period in order to be studied "practiced" "at home" as teachers used to say. No need for more details, and I think the Ministry of Education would not reject the idea of specializing a separate budget to find other alternatives for those who are not interested in sports.

All of us must not forget the poor people, who may not have money for subscription. Though solving the poverty problem was included

in the leader's "Program", some persons may "lie" that they do not have the subscription money. Here, it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Endowment and Instructions for not instructing mosque preachers to focus on religious values like truth-telling, cheating avoidance, ...etc. I think the Ministry would not need a big amount of money for this purpose since it would be the era of "richness" and "welfare", according to the leader.

Of course, sport needs special types of equipments, dress, shoes, and other items. When all the young people turn to sport at once, there would be a shortcoming of such sports materials. It is not clear to me which ministry would be responsible for that because "I am really weak in mathematics". I think we have a ministry called the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is "industry and commerce" in its original Arabic term. But English language plays the "trick of coinciding" with the reality since "commerce" in the form of importing is superior to "industry". In the case of the sports materials, it would be difficult to be locally manufactured in such a crucial time. So the ministry would pay only the "importing expenses" as a contribution to encourage the youth- "Union's Youth".

A problem may occur in the streets and roads which are not wide enough for some sports exercises like "running", "bicycling", and others. It, nevertheless, seems easy to be solved by the Ministry of Finance which has enough "excellent" experience in "loaning money" from the International Bank. As usual, the loan would finance projects to have wider new streets. It would be better to have the new streets for all the purposes so that sports men get a sense of encouragement when they do exercises and competitions among the others.

I am really sorry for forgetting the problem that may occur with women for there would be no special clubs for female, or like in restaurants "family section". Frankly, I do not forget it. I just neglect it because I am sure that the organizations of women's rights are conscious about that since their interests have been widened to call for new rights rather than the "traditional" ones like "education" and "working". And since most women do not chew Qat, "as I know", they would not face all such troubles. For those who chew Qat, on the other hand, there would be separate clubs for female in case this is not charged as a "gender-inequality" procedure or "women's rights violation".

In short, no need to worry about all these dear youth. You can stop Qat. But, my last advice is to think over the matter once and again in order to be self-satisfied with the decisions you may take. That is really critical; because you are the only ones who would pay for any undesirable sequences. So never hesitate, you need nothing more than thinking, not through shyness or personal temper, but 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.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION HEALTH REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT (FRSP) - Cr NO.3625 CREDIT ADMINISTRATION UNIT (CAU)

DESIGN AND PRODUCE CURRICULM MODULES FOR HEALTH MANGEMENT TRAINING CENTRE (NHMTC)

This request for expressions of interest follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) issue No.607 dated 16 May 2003, AL-Thawra Newspaper issue No. 13944 dated 28 May 2003, and Yemen Times issue No.641 dated 12 June 2003.

The Government of Republic Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Consultancy Services to Design and Produce 20 no. Curriculum Modules.

The curriculum modules will be designed by using modern training techniques based on an effective participation of the trainees. The objectives of the required services are to design and produce 20 no. curriculum modules in the fields of the health administrations to strengthen the administration knowledge for health leadership staff in different levels in the Ministry of Public Health and Population-Central and Peripherals.

The Ministry of Public Health & Population, through the Health Reform Support Project now invites eligible **Consultants (Firms)** to indicate their interest in providing the services.

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc).

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's *Guidelines Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers* January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2000) and printed April 2004.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 9:00 am to 15:00 pm.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by 28th July 2007.

Ministry of Public Health and Population
Health Reform Support Project
4th Floor-Al-Hassaba-Sana'a
Tel: + 967-+ 1 252224
Fax: + 967-+ 1 251622

Job openings

A media foundation for press, promotion and media services announces the following vacancies:

- 1- Three journalists
- 2- Three public relations representatives
- 3- One English language translator
- 4- Press Producers
- 5- Copy Editor
- 6- Female accountant

Job Description:

The applicants of the above mentioned posts must have the following:

- 1- University degree related to the required post.
- 2- Minimum of three years of experience
- 3- Solid knowledge of English language written and oral in press translation

The interested applicants must send their CVs to the following e-mail: info@alesthmar.net

CVs are to be sent within two weeks as of publishing this announcement



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 Email: shaibani@yemen.net.ye

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سيارات

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للتواصل: ٧٧٧٣٩٤٩٣

عقارات

• للبيع: عمارة حجر مسلح - المساحة ١٠ لبن - مكونة من

• صبري محمد عبده - خريج جامعة عدن في علوم الكمبيوتر والبرمجة - خبرة أكثر من ثلاث سنوات في مجال السياحة -

• فتاة ترغب في خبرة أكثر من سنتين في مجال العمل في أي مجال نسوي ودون اختلاط -

المؤهلات: تدرس حالياً في الجامعة - تخصص لغة إنجليزية - عدة شهادات في اللغة الإنجليزية - عدة شهادات في السكرتارية - عدة شهادات في المهارات والأشغال اليدوية (كروشية + سجاد يدوي) - تجيد الطباعة على الكمبيوتر - تجيد اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية - تجيد استخدام الانترنت - خبرات مختلفة على مدى عشر سنوات في مختلف المجالات من أعمال السكرتارية إلى تدريس إلى ورش أعمال وأعمال تنظيمية

• عمار نعمان - بكالوريوس كيمياء - كلية العلوم - (جامعة

• خليل - بكالوريوس في علوم الحاسوب - خبرة في مجال المرسلات الالكترونية +خبرة في مجال بيع وبرمجة التلفون

• سجاد يدوي) - تجيد الطباعة على الكمبيوتر - تجيد اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية - تجيد استخدام الانترنت - خبرات مختلفة على مدى عشر سنوات في مختلف المجالات من أعمال السكرتارية إلى تدريس إلى ورش أعمال وأعمال تنظيمية

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• للبيع: ١٠ لبن حر، حده، مسوره، 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، مسوره، ٣ ثلاثة شوارع. مستظيلة، معدة ومسجلة بالسجل العقاري.
 • سعر اللبنة ٢،٥ اثنين 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 لبن حر. سعر اللبنة ٥٠ خمسين مليون ريال
 • ٥- دور وبدوم جديد، حي المهندسين، بيت بوس. مساحة الأرضية ١٥ لبنه، حردايري، تصميم رائع، تشطيبات ممتازة.
 • سعر اللبنة: ٧٥ مليون ريال
 نسعى لتقديم الأفضل والأحسن في مجال الإستثمار العقاري

وظائف شاغرة

• مطلوب موظفات تسويق.

للتواصل: ٤٢٥٩٣٥

• مطلوب مهندس كسارات (حجار)

فعلي من يجد في نفسه الرغبة التواصل مع هذا الرقم:

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للتواصل: ٢٦٩٧٩٣

- ٧٧٧٧٩٠٣٩٠

باحثون عن وظيفة

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خبرة في المراسلات التجارية الإنجليزية - عمل لسنوات في تنصيب وبرمجة شبكات

• صيانة الحاسوب - من أهم البرمجيات التي صممها

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للتواصل: ٧٧٧٩٠٩٦٩٠

• خليل العزاني - دبلوم صيدله - خبرة لمدة سنتين في هذا

المجال - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه (في شركة أدوية أو صيدلية).

للتواصل: ٧١١٨٢٣٣٤

• سليمان - مدرس متخصص بمادة اللغة العربية لجمع

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مستشفيات

مستشفى الثورة ت: ٠١-٤٢٥٩٧-٦٦
 المستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٨١/٧
 مستشفى حدة الأهلي ت: ٠١-٤١٣٨١
 المستشفى الألماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠/٦-٢٠٠٠٠
 فاكس: ٤١٨١١٦
 E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق

فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٢٥٩٧-٦٦
 فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠٠
 فندق موفيك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦
 فندق تاج سبأ ت: ٠١-٢٧٣٧٧٣
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مطعم وخبازة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
 تلفون: ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - ٥٠٥٢٩٠
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 الإنقاذ ١٩١، طوارئ المياه ١٧١،
 الإستعلامات ١١٨، حوادث (المرور) ١٩٤،
 الشؤون الخارجية ٢٠٢٥٤٤/٧، الشؤون الداخلية ٢٥٢٧-١/٧، الهجرة
 ٢٥٠٧٦١/٢، وزارة المواصلات (تلفون) ٥٧٢٢٢٠٢،
 الإذاعة ٢٨٢٠٦١، التلفزيون ٣٣٠٠١/٢،
 مؤسسة البصائر للنقل داخل المدن ٢٦١١١٧/٣،
 وزارة المواصلات ٢٢٥١١٠/١/٢/٣، السياحة ٢٥٤-٢٢،
 الصليب الأحمر ٢٠٢١٣١/٢، تأمين ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

إعلاناتكم يرجى التواصل
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Memoirs of a journalist visiting Sa'ada

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori



14 year-olds and 15 year-olds are fighting the Sa'ada war, and they are in most cases the first casualties and victims of the war.

For the first time since the fourth war erupted in mid-January, Yemeni government authorities allowed a group of representatives from local, Arab and foreign media outlets to visit war-afflicted areas in Sa'ada following an approximate five-month complete media blackout.

I was hoping to visit Sa'ada to see firsthand what has happened there and to what extent the war has affected citizens and the environment there. Certain images ran through my mind and I thought differently about the visit. In fact, I had a different picture of Sa'ada and I thought that Sa'ada locals are happy about the signed peace agreement with Houthis and the halting of military operations.

My dreams began to vanish as soon as we boarded the bus. Despite the fact that I was among my colleagues and therefore, wasn't lonely, I felt something strange within me, but I didn't know what it was. There was something dubious, beginning with taking different routes than those decided upon before the trip. At that point, I sensed the mistrust that still exists between both warring sides, despite the formal truce.

As soon as we reached the borders of Sa'ada, the war's effects were everywhere, as wreckage and ruin were evident wherever one directed his gaze in nearly all of the governorate's districts. Everything beautiful

had lost its beauty and the region's fruit farms, which used to produce the sweetest fruit, were no exception.

Contrary to my expectations, Sa'ada locals weren't happy and sadness was evident on their faces, especially those of children and the elderly. Their looks seemed uninviting and somewhat aggressive; however, I told myself that this could be the residue of their bad and catastrophic experiences from the war, which now had stopped.

Shivering and trembling with fear, a young soldier began narrating his story and the scenes of blood and torment he had seen, something his immature mind was unable to understand.

He added that he still feels insecure and he can't forget the bloody scenes constantly churning in his mind. He remembers his friends' last calls for help, as well as their blood and their bodies, maintaining that such images will never depart his mind.

Another young soldier, whom I think was just 14 years old, said the Sa'ada war was catastrophic and although he was lucky enough to escape death, he too is unable to forget the scenes of war he experienced when he faced possible death with every passing moment.

He went on to say that Houthis used to take them by surprise and that most of the young soldiers were the victims because they were inexperienced and

not trained sufficiently for such battles.

Furthermore, he complained about the toughness of land and the hot sun, as well as the longing for home and family, indicating that local residents received them with an unwelcoming attitude. "They wouldn't give you a cup of water, even if you were on the verge of death," he said, describing the attitude of locals toward them.

However, such an attitude can be excused when we consider that the Sa'ada war has destroyed their homes, halted education in their schools – which became barracks for both Houthis and the army – disrupted and ruined their businesses and generally turned their lives into a living hell.



A Guerrilla rebel hides at the most absurd locations in order to launch a surprise attack on the armed forces.



This century-old house defies missiles and attacks, and continued to stand strong as a witness in defiance to the armed conflict of man.



A government complex in Sa'ada which was invaded by the rebels, booby-trapped, and then regrouped armed forces attacked what was left of it.



One of the water storage facilities of the People of Sa'ada, contaminated.



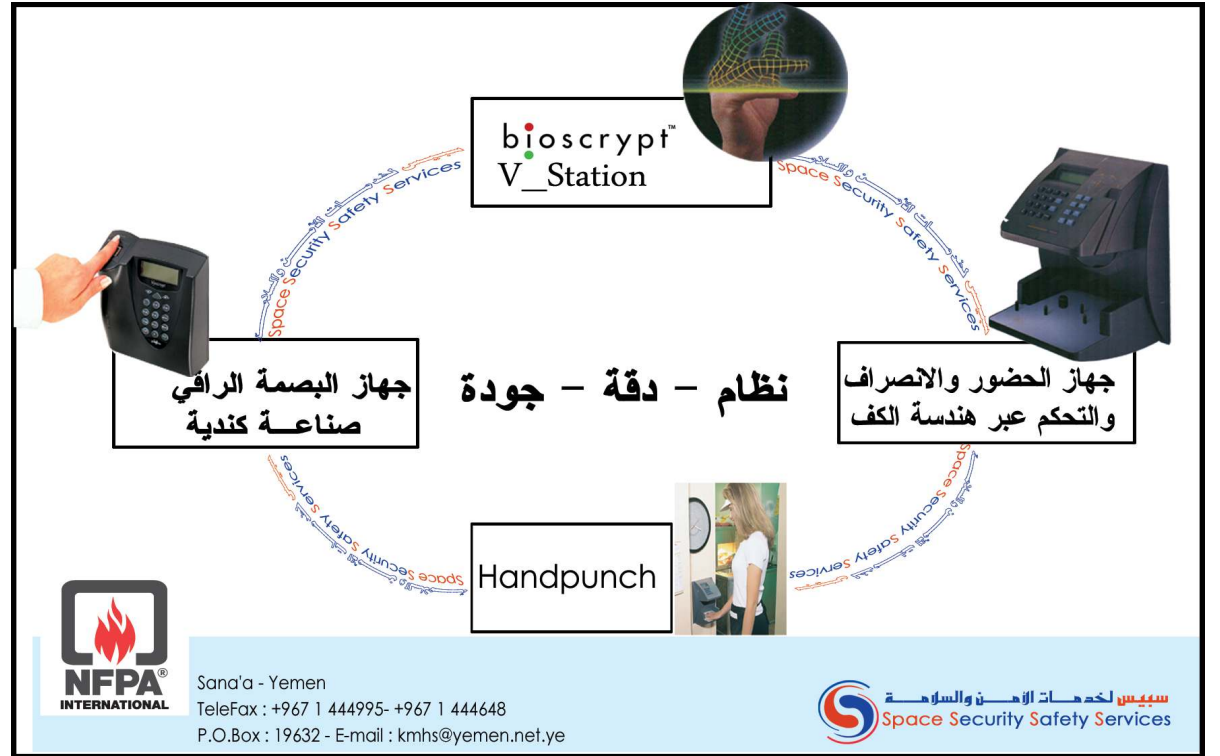
This 15-year-old soldier is suspicious of journalists, having learnt to live with fear of Guerrilla attacks.



An armored vehicle party damaged because of collision with another armored vehicle, a soldier said.



Almost all government buildings and houses are damaged in Sa'ada.



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