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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
Do you think the funding dedicated to UNHCR program in Yemen is sufficient to improve refugee conditions in Yemen?

I don't know (4%)
Yes (14%)
No (82%)

This edition's question:
Do you think private sector will actually get a chance to invest in TV and radio channels as per Minister of Planning's invitation?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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and have your voice heard

Women journalists stage sit-in protesting discrimination



Women activists considered the restraints against Women Journalists Without Chains organization issuing its own newspaper a form of violence against women.

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, July 29 — A number of women journalists and civil society organization activists staged a sit-in on Wednesday before the Parliament in protest of discrimination against them.

Women Journalists Without Chains chairman Tawkel Karman noted that she came with other women to denounce the discrimination exercised by the govern-

ment as it unblocked all news services provided through GSM companies with the exception of Women Journalists Without Chains news service because it is released by women.

Karman further hinted that it is time to support women especially when a woman is capable of possessing media means and has the ability to make the news, however, the government works against this wish.

Continued on page 3

Optimistic about achieving peace, ceasefire committee meets with Al-Houthi



With the relative calm in the city, medical services and support are becoming more accessible to the people of Sa'ada.

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SA'ADA, July 29 — Media and tribal sources revealed that the ceasefire committee met for the first time with Houthi leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi. The committee spokesman Yasser Al-Awadhi declined to mention the meeting location.

The meeting took place the middle of last week after a secret agreement.

Committee members accompanied by 150 of their bodyguards left Sa'ada and met Al-Houthi who was unarmed.

Al-Shar'e newspaper mentioned in its Saturday issue that Houthi loyalists were distributed throughout the area surrounding the meeting place in order to prevent the occurrence of any firing incident, especially when the committee was targeted earlier in Al-Ghubair.

Moreover, Al-Houthi hosted the

committee members for lunch, after which they returned to Sa'ada around 8 p.m.

Al-Awadhi revealed that the meeting was positive as both parties agreed to proceed in the peace process and work for ending the war. He further hinted there was no agreement made, however, a contact channel was opened for further meetings.

Continued on page 3

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Media investment and modification of press law

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, July 28 — A Yemeni official revealed the government will carry out a new series of reforms over the next three years regarding investment in mass media.

"The government, through applying its reforms program, will encourage investment in different fields including investment in the media field. It will remove any restrictions against setting up private TV channels and radio stations," Planning and International Cooperation Minister Abdul-Karim Al-Arhabi said in an interview with official Yemeni agency SABA.

Al-Arhabi confirmed in an interview published Saturday that the second stage of the national reforms agenda would include modifications to the press law. Adjustments would include ensuring the ability to receive and exchange information, protection of journalists, and promotion of press freedom, in all mass media including print and electronic media.

The minister's statement came during review of his ministry's reforms agenda for 2007-2009, which will be referred to the government for discussion and approval.

There are currently only two T.V. channels in Yemen, one located in Sana'a, which is a starlit channel, and the other based in Aden. There is no

law regarding running a T.V. radio station in Yemen.

Arab Press Freedom Watch report, in its 2006 coverage of freedom of expression in Yemen, concluded that despite a promise made by the Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh to reform media laws and abolish the imprisonment penalty for publishing offences, Yemeni journalists continue to be subjected to violation by the government, the ruling party, opposition parties and religious groups.



Minister Abdul-Karim Al-Arhabi

Recently journalists and human rights activists staged a sit-in demanding the right to obtain visual and audio media, besides releasing the SMS news services and E-media, which were shut down by the government. The journalists also requested the government to carry out the press law's articles, which ensure the right to obtain media websites as well as protect press freedom of expression. Such demands continue to be made at sit-ins and marches organized by journalists and civil organizations.

Continued on page 3

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In brief

ADEN

Culture caravan to endorse national unity

July 28 — The Yemeni Writers Union has launched its third caravan this year but this time from Aden and Lahj. The caravan, in which seventy writers and poets from Aden and Lahj participated, headed towards Taiz and Ibb last Saturday. The caravan is accompanied by artistic and folklore groups and will carry out cultural activities and performances in Taiz and Ibb this week. The first of the events took place at Sabir Mountain in Taiz and aims at endorsing feelings of national unity and cultural exchange between the various regions of the country.

25 tons of raisins and ginger destroyed

July 29 — The plant protection office in Aden affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture seized 24 tons of imported ginger and one ton and 350 kilograms of imported raisins because of not being suitable for human consumption.

Marketing skills for women

July 29 — Organized by the Social Fund for development, 30 women from the Fund's branch in Aden started a two –week training on marketing management. The trainees will be skilled on marketing concepts and techniques, as well as gathering information regarding price, location, and branding among other factors that lead to a successful business. They will also learn about direct marketing and sales communication with respect to dealing with clients and attracting customers. The skills will add to the Fund's effectiveness in assisting poor men and women in the community in handling the white loans provided by the fund to help the poor generate a new source of income.

SHABWA

Industry and commerce employees trained

July 29 — Nineteen of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce office employees in Shabwa are receiving training at the National Center for Administrative Sciences in Aden. The participants will be trained on project planning, monitoring, and evaluation. This training is a part of a whole reform program for government employees around the Republic to develop their management and administrative skills and equip them with modern techniques.

DHAMAR

Book exhibition in Dhamar

July 29 — As a part of the first As'ad Al-Kamel cultural festival in Dhamar, the deputy governor inaugurated a book exhibition in the city. Eleven publishing houses participate in the exhibition with a total of 7,200 unique titles. The exhibition takes place at Al-Baradouni Library and includes publications on various fields.

HUDEIDAH

Oil, wood and corn come to Yemen

July 28 — Hudeidah port received five commercial ships on Saturday carrying 39 thousand and 535 tons of oil, corn and wood, in addition to a number of containers. The Yemeni Red Sea Ports Establishment reported that “Yemen Oil 17” and “Yemen Oil 11” Ships arrived Saturday carrying 16 thousand and 897 tons of oil, while Ship “Yukazo” arrived carrying 19 thousand and 954 tons of corn. Also in the same day Ship “Tiger Wave” carried 406 containers carrying various goods.

MARIB

Official visit to review conditions of historical sites

July 28 — The Media, Culture, and Tourism committee at the Parliament has started field visits in Marib and Al-Jawf in order to review the conditions of historical sites in the area and discuss with local authorities what can be done to improve the situation. The committee is exercising its monitoring role in ensuring effectiveness.

Socotra nominated as one of world's natural seven wonders

SOCOTRA, July 29 — The Swiss foundation "New7wonders" has registered Socotra Island in the list of world's seven natural wonders, this is different from the general new 7 wonders declared earlier this month. The New Seven Wonders of the World were announced during the Official Declaration ceremony in Lisbon, Portugal, on Saturday, July 7, 2007.



A drive to Ras Momi (Irisal) at the eastern end of Socotra takes almost four hours, but the scenery en route just gets better and better with isolation. there are plenty of snorkeling spots on the way and no shortage of sparklingly white sandy beaches close to the end. Photo by Catherine Cheung.

On Wednesday, July 25, Ministry of Tourism announced that it had finished procedures to include Socotra Island among the world's new seven wonders of nature. Additionally, he pinpointed that his Ministry followed up the nomination process with the Swiss-based-for-profit Corporation called New Open World Corporation. “The island of Socotra has been declared to

be among the best natural tourist sites in the world.” Nabial al-Faqih, Minister of Tourism, stated.

According to him, the process of voting will be through the internet and there will be a special website for voting which is www.new7wonders.com. The Minister also clarified that the voting process will continue till August 2008, when the results will be announced. “The registration site for voting is ready so I call upon the citizens to vote for the attractive and amazing island.” The Minister noted.

The first vote will be free and then any additional votes may be acquired through payment to NOWC organization. On August 8, 2008, the voting count will decide seven natural wonders from a list of 21 worldwide natural candidates.

The other six new wonders are the Colosseum in Rome, India's Taj Mahal, the Great Wall of China, Jordan's ancient city of Petra, the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru, and the ancient Maya city of Chichén Itzá in Mexico.

The U.N. World Heritage Administration has declared 200 World Heritage cities and reserves worldwide,



Topographically and scenically, Socotra Island is dominated by the Haggeher Mountains in the central-eastern parts. Photo by Catherine Cheung.

including Sana'a and Shibam Hadramout. Apart from the cultural heritage cities in Yemen, Sharma and Bura'a Natural Reserves are due to be officially declared, thanks to their rare animal species.

The long history of Socotra begins in the mists of mythology. The origin of

the name of the island remains highly mysterious and controversial. Today's linguists think that it most likely came from the Sanskrit name "Dripa Sukhadara," meaning "Island of Blessing," which was also the origin of the name by which the island was known in ancient times: Discorida.

Parliament fails solving problems of seized Aden lands

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, July 26 — The Yemeni Parliament admitted failing to oblige the government to ensure the specific mechanism for handling the pending investment issues. It brought this issue in a Parliamentary session on third week of July on investment stating that it couldn't pressure on the government to develop a strategy to protect investors from the frequent aggressions on their properties, especially, in Aden's Free Zone.

It was confirmed that the Parliament has granted Abdulqader Helal, Minister of the Local Administration, along with the local authorities in Eden the opportunity to coordinate with the Services

Committee in the parliament to find solutions for the problems resulted from removing and destroying citizens' and investors' establishments in Dar Sa'ad, Aden.

The Parliament's decision was due because of a demand, from the Minister of Local Administration, who was attending the Parliament's session for discussing the concerned matter, to find practical solutions for these problems and present them to the Parliament on the coming Saturday.

On the other hand, Ansaf Mayo, the reformation representative, criticized the Services Committee for hiding some of the facts in its report and considered the Committee deliberate for doing that.

Mayo added that the

recommendations of the Committee didn't scale the level of the notices which reach its claim with reference the court. He also called for shouldering the responsibility to bring justice for citizens, compensating them well and fixing their rights in land-ownerships.

Mayo emphasized the necessity of the Parliament's stand against the documented lands in Eden, which became a source of corrupted people's trading inside and outside the government.

Similarly, Sakhr Al-Wajeeh, the independent representative from the Congress Party, criticized the Committee's report for not uncovering the names of the 26 individuals to whom the governor of Eden gave

lands, as well as those people, that Al-Wajeeh thought, are responsible and powerful in the governorate.

The Committee's report confirmed that the process of destruction, which controlled by the local authority in the conflict area, is wrong and a rash action which is contrary to the President's orders, that included handling the establishments according to the law of the lands and the real estates of the country. Additionally, the report considered this process as a negative spot on the side of the governorate, which is supposed to attract the internal and external investment.

The report also indicated that the land problems, in Aden, go back to the political events which happened in the

governorate before the unification. That is like, the nationalization of lands and the disposal of lands, which were owned by the government, throughout releasing beneficial contracts under several names.

The parliamentary report criticized the government's policy in this respect as well as not submitting the presidential decision, 1999, to the court to be put into action.

Furthermore, the report accused Aden's authorities of not bringing a complete report to the President about the current situation of land disputes in the governorate. For instance, a governor (without mentioning his name) got benefits from agricultural contracts that were released for the 26 persons who got their prescribed lands.

Terrorist act targets oil tanker in Marib

MARIB, July 29 – Media sources revealed, last Wednesday, that an armed gang blew up an oil tanker in Marib. Al-Ishtiraki.net reported that a big oil tanker was seen aflame in Al-Irqeen area located between Safer and the government complex in Marib city.

The source quoted an eye witness as saying that a group of armed men fired an RPJ shell at the tanker causing its explosion; however, no fire brigade came to set off the fire until the tanker was completely destroyed.

Such a terrorist act, which is, according to the authorities, is blamed to Al-Qaeda, came just in few weeks

after the terrorist operation that targeted and killed eight Spanish tourists in Marib.

Meanwhile, a tribal group from Al-Awaleq tribe, residing between Abyan and Shabwa governorates, in the south of Yemen, seized 12 oil and gas tankers and distributed their content among the area's gas stations; however, they were reconciled through a tribal mediation.

The tribe expropriated the tankers in an effort to force the authorities to free some of its sons jailed in Aden's Al-Mansourah Prison or shift them to Abyan so that their families can visit them.

Medical error causes death of child, angers tribe

DHAMAR, July 29 – A tribal ruling prevents a Yemeni male nurse from carrying on his job throughout his life-time. As a result of the frequent deadly medical mistakes he made.

Amat Al-Rahman, a 6-year-old female child, died last week due to the flaws committed by the nurse, who was working at a medical center in Mekhlaf (Semah), Otoma region.

He used a clorcone injection, used for Malaria, where as the child was suffering from a serious cough. As a

result, she died. Her father informed the criminal investigation. Later, the nurse was arrested.

The People in charge tried solving the case tribally. The nurse admitted his mistake and asked for arbitration from the father, himself. Consequently, the father ceded the right of his daughter's death, in punishing the nurse, in return of a tribal ruling, which stated that this nurse will be prevented from practicing his job or any other medical activity in his remaining life time.

Delinquents' crimes on decrease, Juvenile Court confirms

SANA'A, July 29 — Sana'a Juvenile Delinquency Court registered a steep decrease as for the number of crimes committed by the youngsters aged 10 to 17, according to a source in the court.

The source made it clear that most crimes, mounting to 80 cases, were committed by male delinquents especially theft crimes, while two cases were committed by female delinquents and related to honor crimes.

Sana'a Juvenile Delinquency Court Judge Afrah Badwilan told the 26 September.net that her court is still looking into 14 cases out of the total number of cases reaching 82.

Badwilan assured there has been a decrease of delinquents' cases as 230 cases were registered last year, attributing such a decrease to the increased awareness among families and interest given by media outlets to delinquents' issues.

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Bribery rampant in state institutions, study shows

By: Anwar Mughram
For Yemen Times

Yemeni individuals and groups, including civil society organizations and political parties, agree that bribery is rampant within Yemen's various governmental institutions, however, there is disagreement regarding its volume, reasons and consequences.

The Yemeni Polling Center conducted a study on bribery in 2006 and included responses of 699 informants from Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Al-Hodeidah and Sa'ada.

Volume

The overwhelming majority of study participants believed that the rate of bribery within government is high. Around 78 percent declared that bribery is rampant in all governmental institutions, while 16 percent declared that bribery is only existent in some governmental institutions. A little over three percent mentioned it being existent in very few governmental institutions, while less than one percent believed it to be non-existent. Less than one percent either declined to answer or answered, "I don't know."

Reasons behind bribery

The results of the study pointed to inadequate government employee salaries as being the main reason for the spread of bribery, with 75 percent of participants indicating this reason. Sixty-two percent

related the reason to the absence of a religious deterrent while 50 percent believed the weakness of legal punishment is a prime reason for the spread of bribery. Just 12.6 percent held the absence of bylaws and the complexity of legal measures as reasons for bribery.

State institutions and bribery

The study indicated that Yemenis believe the judicial system is the most bribery-afflicted state institution with 65 percent, as opposed to 59 percent who believe bribery is mainly within the security sector. The Ministry of Finance and the Tax and Customs authorities came in third with 47 percent.

Instances of bribery were believed to take place within water, health, and electricity institutions by 20, 28 and 28 percent study participants respectively.

Bribery's future in Yemen

According to the study, bribery in Yemen is increasing with 80 percent of informants believing this, while 11 percent believed it is decreasing.

Bribery mechanisms

Seventy percent of study participants believed employees who take bribes delay people's dealings as a means of forcing people to comply with their demands. However, 58 percent believed employees ask for bribes before doing anything and this can be explicit or implicit.

The study also indicated that 90 per-

cent of informants connected bribery with someone's desire to hasten the processing of transactions followed by wanting to hasten the approval of an illegal application according to 58 percent of informants.

Bribery effects

Bribery is dangerous and damages the national economy and investment as it deprives the country of customs, tax revenue and other due fees. Money paid through bribery causes inflation of expenditures, cheating in business dealings and poor implementation of projects.

It also poses a great threat to the maintenance of moral and social norms especially when people view bribe-takers as clever and an example to be emulated by others.

Ninety-four percent held that bribery passively affects economic and social development, while 1.3 percent indicated it has no effect and further believed that bribe-takers do enjoy respect from people. Thirty-nine percent believed that the government is not serious about fighting bribery.

Bribery and absence of law implementation

Articles 151 to 161 of penal law No. 12 issued in 1999 declare any request or payment to a public official to be a bribe for which the perpetrator should be sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. The law also dictates sending the one who

offers a bribe to prison for five years in addition to punishing a mediator between the bribe-taker and bribe-giver.

What was surprising about the study is the punishment directed toward an honest employee who admits to accepting a bribe with 53 percent of study participants noting that honest employees are subjected to punishment, sidelining, and pressure. Sixty-five percent pointed out that an employee proven to have accepted a bribe is not punished and another 52 percent held that state employees taking bribes are not punished because they enjoy the protection and support of high officials.

Recommendations

The study called for coordinated efforts to reform Yemen's judiciary and security sectors as they are the most important sectors to focus on when attempting to eradicate the practice of bribery being that bribery is most widely practiced within them.

The study also stressed the importance of increasing awareness and supporting mass media to work in warning the public about the harmful effects of bribery.

Moreover, the study called for calculating government employee salary according to the minimum requirements needed to ensure a decent life, as this would help the employee to keep his dignity and not resort to bribery in order to face increasing financial demands.

Lastly, the study called for enacting more strenuous and just bribery laws.

Workshop on capital Secretariat's efforts in fighting poverty

By: Esam Al-Duais
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, July, 29 — A workshop on the Capital secretariat's efforts to fight and alleviate poverty was staged in Taj Saba Hotel, in Sana'a, on Sunday, July 29th. The function was attended by Yahya Al-Shuaibi, Secretary General of the Capital Secretariat of Sana'a, along with Ameen Jum'an, Secretary General of the Local Council, and Mohammed Al-Sermi, First Deputy of the Secretariat. Also, it was attended by the directors of four districts of the capital city of Sana'a.

During the workshop a work paper on evaluating projects of elevating poverty in the capital city of Sana'a was presented by a work team consisting of Dr. Najah Al-Faqih, Najah Sayim, Ameen Al-Erayani, and Fuad Al-Qudaimi, who discussed in their work paper how the poverty elevation projects, in Sana'a, could decrease poverty indicators by providing basic services to the population. The work paper mentioned that poverty does not lie only in food supply but also in different aspects of life such as education and infrastruc-

ture services. The work paper mentioned that 90 % of families have exceeded poverty. However, the study indicates that 80 % of the population of the capital city receives water and 98 % gets power supply. Furthermore, the study pointed out that 90% of the households has access to paved roads.

Worth-noting, the Arab Institute for developing Cities participated in the workshop. O'thman Al-Hassan, one of the institute representatives, presented a work paper in which he focused on the tasks of the local administrations in alleviating poverty. In his paper, O'thman urged these administrations to prepare plans and strategies to reduce the brunt of civil poverty. He also said that the citizens must take part in drawing the policies of fighting poverty. "The concerned parties should also hold training workshops to train women of poor families to master skills and apprehend crafts to administer their own enterprises," he elaborated.

Furthermore, O'thman discussed in his paper the challenges facing the implementation of civil poverty alleviation program. "There are economic, administrative, and building-capacities


challenges that must be overcome in order to reduce civil poverty that most of the Arab cities suffer from" he emphasized.


Ali Mosa, also a representative of Arab Institute for developing Cities, discussed his work paper, related to the project of civil poverty and Population Dynamics in the Arab Cities. Mosa explained that the project aims at preparing a comprehensive and general framework to unite efforts of the concerned parties so as to reduce the brunt of civil poverty. He also mentioned that there must be practical policies to overcome poverty through urban and sustainable development as well as through creating a continuous support and expanding the population knowledge of the danger of poverty. He clarified that the project of urban poverty and population dynamics aims at achieving a number of recommendations, one of which is expanding the information role on the population dynamics and poverty reduction along with its accompanied activities. His paper also recommended holding four training workshops in four cities of the Arab world. "The implementation

process includes paying care and attention to the performance evaluation and follow-up" he pointed out.

It is worth mentioning that the ceremony was ended with a hot discussion in which the directors of Sana'a four districts demanded the upgrade of the statistics presented in the work paper of the work team. The directors argued that the data are dated back to the year of 2000. They also said that the work papers did not discuss the main factors that affect the success of reducing poverty such as corruption, bribery, lack of conscience, and qat tree, which play a vital role in increasing poverty.

The directors also stressed that reducing urban poverty should not only be limited to the fund of social development, the projects of public works, and the micro financing projects but also include the participation of the local council in alleviating poverty. They, however, insisted on launching some enterprises that encourage families to be productive and not to be reliant on the monthly subsidies. Additionally, some of them urged for establishing a ministry of poverty alleviation.





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Parliament approves tender law to increase transparency

SANA'A, 27 July — Last week the Yemeni parliament has ratified a new legislation to regulate government tenders and contracting awards after inserting some minor modifications. The new legislation aims at increasing transparency and limiting corruption involved at the corporate level where government tenders and awards are given without a bidding process, thereby facilitating under-the-table transactions between the business community and government officials.

The parliament has passed the law after eight months of study and deliberation, during which each one of the 114 articles within the legislation was discussed. The law is enforceable on all ministries and government agencies, with the exception of joint venture companies with the private sector, where the government owns a minority share.

The legislation also includes the formation of a Supreme Tenders Authority, to include seven persons from a list of fourteen personalities nominated by the

consultative council to the President. The authority will be responsible for overseeing the execution of the legislation and look into any complaints or disputes that might arise as a result of the legislation.

However, if the authority detects any cases where the law has been violated, it will refer these cases to the Attorney General for prosecution. The law also includes instructions about forming a supreme committee for bidding affiliated to the cabinet, in order to act as an implementing and technical body in support of the supreme authority.

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Al-Arhabi stated that the legislation meets the international standards of transparency and is expected to be very effective in protecting public funds from corruption, he also said that the ratification of this legislation is a milestone for Yemen to prove, for it is serious about its reforms, and will curb around 70 percent of the existing corruption.

Continued from page 1

Ceasefire committee meet Al-Houthi

Voicing his optimism, Al-Awadhi assured his committee is keen about implementing the agreement. In return, Al-Houthi stressed his followers' commitment to the agreement.

Parliament member and Houthi spokesman abroad Yahya Al-Houthi demanded the realization of peace, freedom and equality among all Yemeni people and considered the current crisis between the state and his followers to be political.

In an interview with Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel, Yahya Al-Houthi noted wrongfulness exercised upon Believing Youth Organization prompted its followers to raise arms against the ruling system in Sana'a.

He also called on the state to commit itself to the signed agreements between both sides as well as evacuating the military units and soldiers from Houthi villages and areas in order that people may return to their homes.

Moreover, Al-Houthi expressed the his followers' solidarity with popular demonstrations by civil society organizations in southern and eastern governorates demanding equality, peace and freedom and exposing the restriction of freedoms and wasting of resources. Demonstrators also spoke out against the rampancy of poverty in Yemen as well as the dramatic setbacks faced by economic and social institutions.

As for the security situation in Sa'ada, Al-Houthi pointed out the situation is relatively calm in most of the district save some scrimmages in Sha'lal and Al-Jum'ah areas, hinting the army shot a ten-year-old girl there.

Regarding the background of conflict between Houthis and the state, Al-Houthi indicated the conflict is not sectarian but

political, noting they [Houthis] have a political project wherein there is freedom and equality in wealth distribution.

He further stressed they want people to be equal and not to see some with utter richness while others suffer from hunger and diseases, as is the case in Al-Mahweet and Al-Dhal'e.

As for displaced people, Al-Houthi noted there are over 120,000 internally displaced people in Sa'ada. They are starving due to lack of aid supplied by the International Red Cross or other domestic charitable societies to the region.

He also hinted some high-ranking military leaders failed to evacuate farms and citizens' houses, especially in Al Amar, in an effort to ignite war once again.

Media sources revealed the resumption of the official address that attacked Houthis following the withdrawal of the Qatari delegation and the referral of some suspects to the judiciary were among the reasons that hindered the implementation of the ceasefire agreement.

Sources close to decision-making circles hint the withdrawal of the Qatari delegation aims to ease Saudi anger over the role being played by Qatar in Yemen, presenting themselves as doing something that others have not done.

The same sources added that President Saleh, in person, will supervise forthcoming negotiations in implementing other pending articles in order to give an impression the matter is a national affair.

Sources also pointed out, regardless of any interpretation of the Qatari delegation withdrawal, the state will not allow failure of the Sa'ada peace effort and will prevent any potential war to erupt in Sa'ada or any other governorate.

According to media sources, conflict between Houthis and pro-government tribal fighters is prevalent in Dhuab area and the nearby mountains and intermit-

tent clashes take place between both sides.

Furthermore, Houthis are digging trenches in mountains facing Al-Safra district's Al-Brash and Al-Mudawar areas and eyewitnesses noted Houthis were seen using digging machines for this purpose.

Sources also mentioned that a military vehicle struck a mine and the incident caused the death of six army personnel, including two officers and four others injured. The vehicle was completely destroyed.

The sources noted Houthi loyalists are involved with the incident, however, details have yet to be released.

Women journalists

She viewed the non-response of the government to the Parliament resolution calling for unblocking Without Chains news services to be evidence that we live in a uncontrolled state, where there is no meaning for the parliament's unanimity or its resolutions.

In a copy of a released statement, Women Journalists Without Chains expressed its disappointment over the government not unblocking its news services, considering the non-acceptance of the government to give it the license to have a paper and the block of its news service as a loathsome discrimination, particularly when it deprives women from serving the society and raising the awareness of its members.

The statement also called on Parliament to work for the implementation of its resolution issued on July 16, which dictated lifting the block imposed on Without Chains news service.

Meanwhile, the organization called all women activists to participate in the women's demonstration due to be staged before the Parliament next Sunday. They

also called on media outlets to participate in covering the demonstration in defense of women's rights. They further urged Yemeni Journalists Syndicate to work in removing the block imposed on their news service.

The sit-in scheduled for Sunday before the Parliament will include women sending letters to the members of Parliament demanding them to take a serious stand on the continued censorship of Without Chains. The women will then head to Freedom Square, before the Cabinet building, requesting implementation of Parliament's resolution

Media investment

The demands of the journalists were referred to Parliament last week, when parliament members asked the government - represented by the Ministry of Information - to provide more detailed explanations of the situation.

A parliament member accused the Ministry of Information of managing the media in a totalitarian fashion, without regard for media law and the constitution. He further accused the minister of information Hassan Al-Lawzi of inappropriately shutting down SMS news services and blocking websites. Some members demanded abolishment of the ministry and many stated that Al-Lawzi should not shut down any news service without a judicial order. Al-Lawzi in turn asked all of the MPs to help and support application of the media law on all media outlets that do not possess a proper license, claiming that procedures of the ministry in shutting down certain websites and SMS news services were justifiable based on the law that obliges all media to have a license before embarking in its activity. This is even if they were publishing positive and important information.



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High cost of living crushes the poor

By: Ridwan Alawi Ahmed & Ismail Al-Ghabri

High food prices in Yemeni marketplaces have had the most detrimental effect on the country's poor. Prices have been increasing daily since the end of presidential elections last September, despite claims of the Yemeni government ensuring protection against price inflation.

Officials in charge of implementing pricing regulations confessed that the process of fixing prices is a difficult matter. Recently, the Minister of Trade and Industry, along with the Minister of Agriculture, released a statement that the two ministries are diligently striving to find a solution to this real dilemma.

During a field investigation undertaken by Yemen Times reporters, the following price inflations were recorded within a weeks time: Wheat rose from YR 3700 to YR 4200, flour rose from YR 3500 to YR 4500, sugar rose from YR 3800 to YR 4400, 3.5 liters of oil was YR 650 and now 2.5 liters is YR 900 and Al-Qamariyya ghee rose from YR 270 to YR 370.

Most high-priced goods are locally produced, contrary to a statement made by the prime minister who said that imported products are becoming costlier because of global increase in prices.

The price of other important foodstuff like rice is also hiking: a kilo of Thai rice is presently YR 150 whereas a kilo of Indian or Pakistani rice is YR 300. Before, a kilo of good

quality rice was YR 200. Non-food items also are experiencing price inflation, including cement, which increased to YR 2000 for 50 kilos.

Yemeni citizens of many governorates expressed their mortification and fury at the price hikes and high cost of living. A large number of locals revealed that they can barely stay alive, including one man who stated, "Today we see the foodstuffs have reached the highest price with an increase of 50 percent." He also demanded the governorate as well as food suppliers not to increase product prices, especially those highly consumed. "The baby milk and the beans can cost as much as 1350 and 150 riyals respectively. Salaries can meet neither the tariff of electricity nor the bill of water," he asserted.

Ahmed Suliman, a vegetables vender, said, "The prices have been increased highly to the extent that simple citizens barely keep themselves alive. They cannot afford such prices. Now, they buy from retailers." He also indicated that vegetables suppliers are being sold goods at higher prices, forcing them to resell their products at inflated prices.

Jabri Hamoud, a government employee stated, "My salary is YR 34500, which is not enough to live up with. Yesterday, I paid YR 8000 for the bill of the electricity. If my salary is doubled, it will not meet the electricity consumption. In Aden, we operate air conditioners as it is a must. The electricity corporation does not take into consideration the increasing prices of foodstuff or the hot weather of the city particularly in the summer season."

Saleem Ahmed, another citizen suffering from price hikes, shared, "I think that the image of these cottages and houses made of hay in Aden city along with poverty and



Sweets and candies have become a luxury for many Yemeni families who are struggling to fulfill the basic needs for living.



The value of Yemeni Riyal has degraded rapidly over the past few years. Economic experts say a dollar will equal (207) Yemeni Riyals before the end of this year compared to (185) last year.

unemployment is a reflection of price hikes. Aden is one of the top cities living under the line of poverty." He went on to say that he has been living in his cottage since the Gulf war without proper infrastructure such as water, electricity, or sanitation. "When we try to have the simplest of our rights, the government says it is a

randomly planned project," he stated, adding that unemployment is the key reason behind the loss of youth and an increase in the crime and suicide rate.

Awadh Al-Yafa'y, a police officer, said, "My salary does not go further than the 10th of the month because of the price hikes and high cost of living. We request the president as well as

the government to put an end to this misery as well as to the greed of food suppliers. We have kids and big families living in a miserable condition." He added, "The salt bag [price] has been increased to 100 percent. The ministers have been changed several times while the prices are increasing constantly."

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- A celebration In The Season Of Festivities.
- NATCO inaugurates the largest electronics and home appliances showroom.

To reinforce the success already achieved by the National Trading Company- NATCO in inaugurating the newly designed car showroom for the automobile makers it represents, once again, NATCO launches a celebration on this season of festivities by inaugurating the largest electronics and home appliances showroom in the country. The new showroom is located in one of Sana'a prominent streets, Haddah street. It includes world-class brands and brings together under one roof electronics, home appliances and computers.

The new showroom was inaugurated by Mr. Abdul-Wasaa Hayel Saeed, a board member of the Hayel Saeed Group, Mr. Nabil Hayel Saeed, The Director General of NATCO and Mr. Munir Ahmed Hayel, Deputy director general of commercial companies of Hayel Saeed group. The inauguration was attended by a large number of invitees from the diplomatic & Businessmen and the press. After cutting the ribbon declaring the new showroom officially opened, the invitees toured the various sections of the showroom which was creatively designed to be both spacey and attractive and to offer an aura of sophistication that is rarely seen in Yemen.

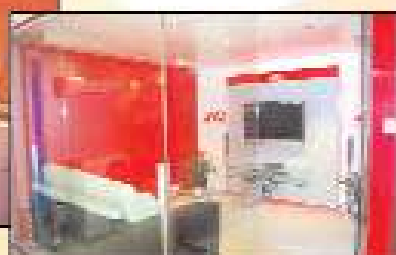
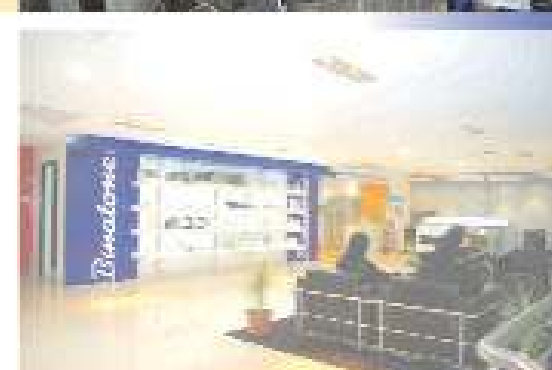


The showroom has a contemporary design which is very attractive utilizing both floor and ceiling space. It includes various sections for televisions, audio, computers, digital cameras, refrigerators, washing machines and juicers as well as others appliances. These products are from well-known brands and have been presented in a highly visible and attractive manner to offer the customer easy access to feel and test the performance and quality of each product.

The showroom also bring something new. It introduces a new way of selling products in Yemen which is in par with any showroom in the world. It allows family shopping in a very comfortable environment and enables the prospective customer to choose whatever he/she desires easily and comfortably.

The inauguration of this showroom is the result of NATCO's keenness to make available electronics and home appliances of high quality and those that offer value for money which are appropriate to all income levels. The showroom contains world class markets from the USA, Japan, Korea and China. The brands and products have been carefully selected to offer a gamut of products of high quality and reasonable prices. This serves NATCO's mission for providing high quality products to the consumers.

In addition, the showroom includes sales advisers from both sexes who are well-versed on the products being offered. They can assist the customer to select the most appropriate products and suggest the required features and set-up for the appliance for your home.



Based on its mission statement which calls for the acquisition of high-quality world class products, the new NATCO's home appliances showroom doesn't only embody this statement, but also brings together quality and value for money. This is what has made NATCO grow at a steady pace since its inception in 1982 to become one of Yemen largest commercial firms. NATCO consists of many sectors, including automotive, pharmaceutical, Fast moving consumable goods, IT and communication, electrical and of course home appliances and electronics. All these sectors have gained their own successes collectively making NATCO, a giant commercial firm which provides new and innovative products to the Yemeni market.

No matter how much we try to explain what is inside this new showroom, we will not do it justice. You have to see it for yourself to be immersed in the experience. The best way to experience anything is to see it first hand. Here you will see a whole gamut of electronics and home appliances which brings both quality and value for money. It also offers a nice place for shopping from a company which has always been known for its excellent customer-care record and after sales services throughout the years of its existence.










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Service Centre
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Service Centre
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Words of Wisdom



The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge. This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play.

*Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times*

OUR
OPINION

Rule of law

Lately, a researcher asked me a very significant question. Surprisingly, though I never thought about it before, I found the answer to it easily. He asked: "what is the one thing that must be done so that Yemen can be better?" My answer was ensuring the rule of law. Just like that. For, I believe that every thing in Yemen could be fixed if only the law is applied equitably. Then, everything else would follow smoothly.

The problem with Yemen is that, first of all, most, if not all, of the ones legislating and applying the law are either corrupt or ignorant. Additionally, there is the issue of equal citizenship; for, not all Yemenis are equal before the law. In Yemen, the family name, the tribe, the bank account, and the relatives in positions of power mean everything. Sometimes, to the extent that intelligence, talent, and a good character become a curse.

Another important thing is that instating the rule of law insures a good environment for investment. Therefore, businessmen would not be afraid to put their money in a country where there is a good judiciary system. Obviously, implementing good law would also insure provision of satisfactory facilities and services to the citizens. It would also mean a better health care system, a good education system, as well as good employment opportunities. Furthermore, rules would be supportive of production... and the list goes on.

It would also help promoting security, not only the hard security, the one the government exercises through investigative systems and police forces, but also the soft one through giving citizens a sense of security about their livelihood and future. Terrorism and criminal acts will be reduced significantly because the citizens will feel ownership towards their environment and society. And instead of the indifference Yemenis feel whenever they hear about the various crimes in their surrounding, they would take things into their hands and do whatever it takes, believing that their society and country is safe and secure.

The state of law and order is what our President keeps repeating as an achievement of the current system. The truth is that Yemen is not a state of either law or order, as indicated by everyday incidents.

What we need is to fix our judiciary and law enforcement system before anything else. And, the rest will follow smoothly.

*Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief*

Half the course toward democracy

Many young African countries have understood well the rules of the state; however, they obtained their independence four decades ago or more, particularly in the eastern and western parts of the Dark Continent. They have established proper democratic systems and entered advanced stages of the peaceful transfer of power in a way provoking surprise, respect, and consideration.

On the contrary, no similar experience has been seen in the Arab countries, except for a few such as the Mauritanian type where the African style is more prevalent than the Arab style. This nation managed to understand well the broad democratic system while most of the Arab states stumbled in the middle of the path and proved unable to cope with any international developments and regional changes. They couldn't complete the course toward real democracy until the end. They have a formal democracy without any real content until the majority of political slogans have turned into periodic propaganda for the local consumption. We are trying to resolve such a challenging issue through the following:

Democracy doesn't mean the electoral process only. Rather, it is a complete system that has something to do with culture and education, as well as the equal opportunity, human rights, law and order, and other issues, which have become a main topic for daily discussions at different levels. Therefore, we find that many political practices and official rituals began to lay down the curtain on the existing gap because the political will is still missing amid the absence of the peaceful transfer of power. This matter doesn't receive the required attention in the political arena of the Arab world.

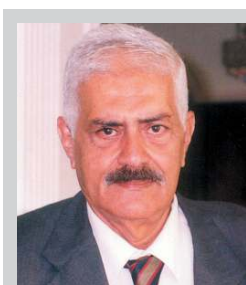
The nations, which have ancient heritage and rich history, often lose the ability to build a political type with the western style since they have no reasonable reference to consult. By the end of the day, these nations discover that they wasted their history and can't invest any ruins of their history.

The new states are more able to benefit from the modern experiences

and start taking a new path after completing the first one. They are not confined by chains of the past and can make use of the available heritage. These states cope with demands of the time and establish parliaments with most modern systems. They attempt to erase any bad consequences left by the foreign invasion and don't have the historic experience and national memory that take them backwards. In my opinion, this is the complex of the decade and a democratic problem we are experiencing in the Arab world.

The phenomenon of correlating religion with politics helped complicate the issues, as the Muslims have not joined the political process with its complete legal form in most of the Arab regimes. In addition, they have not established a good contact for comprehensive discussion to cover all the Islamic currents as part of the political process. They have become part of the problem, and not part of the solution. This, to a great extent, interprets the political disorder prevailing the region and hindering progress of the democratic process.

Matching between power and wealth in the Arab world constitutes a risky phenomenon at all levels because this means a correlation between governance and money. It always put businesspersons on the frontline of the society. These businesspersons forget about the fact that the majority of Arab social groups in the non-oil producing countries suffer limited incomes, scarce services and resources, as well as high unemployment rates, which people face difficulty suggesting possible solutions to. All these issues ultimately take us to the famous proverb, which says: "The one who doesn't have enough food for his/her day is not free." The economic democracy usually leads the political democracy. In the meantime, the social justice is very essential for the social stability and solidarity. From this point, the economic aspect of the democratic issue is a dominant dimension, the influence and significance of which



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Tarbi

can not be reduced or ignored.

We raise these points for discussion while we speak about the false and unwise policies, the pause at the middle point of the path and the transfer of any democratic data into decoration, whose influence is limited to its existence. Such a situation made the political reforms the most persisting issue in the Arab region. All peoples in the Arab and non-Arab countries have to bear in mind that democracy is an expensive political authority and is not exportable or importable since it has something to do with communities' identities and people's culture.

Although we admit that there are neither specific principles of democracy nor rules for the democratic practices, democracy is closely related with nations' privacies, civilizations and cultural heritages. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't walk on the course toward democracy under the pretext of the subjective experiences and talk about privacy or overstating the definition of identity. I beg the readers' pardon to discuss the following remarks.

Resolving the issue of complete and proper representation of all the political forces in the Arab communities is the only approach to the contemporary gate. We cannot talk about the future in the absence of complete political representation for all the political factions because we cannot imagine that existing forces have no popularity. However, the real forces enjoying great popularity have no access to equal political representation. Remarkably, most of the Arab regimes lack real popularities and suffer various crises and political congestions, which prevail some parliaments and constitutional institutions in the region.

The amount of democracy experienced in several countries like Yemen, Lebanon, Kuwait, and Bahrain is not as much effective as the Mauritanian experience. The democratic experience of the Mauritians confirms that peoples have the power to score victory. It proved that entering the democratic

age is possible and that the Arab world is not an isolated fabric, however, it stumbled at the middle point of the march toward democracy.

The role of military institutions and their traditional coalition with the extremist rightists, as a prevalent type in several countries, stopped the democratic growth due to the ruler's strong desire to stay in power for a longer time period under the cover of maintaining stability and enhancing security. The types of Gen. Sawar Al-Dhahab in Sudan & Gen. Mohammed Fal in Mauritania will remain an indication of hope for peoples controlled by the military rulers.

The allegation that democracy is a luxury, which the poor nations are not eligible for, is merely an invented fabrication. The Indian type, representing the biggest democracy in the world, ends such an allegation and proves that the poor nations are more able to exercise democracy and continue the democratic march without any hindrance to their living standards. The democratic system is the only means that help ensuring the constant unity and solidarity of the poor nations.

To sum up, democracy has a very long path and it is not good for any people to pause in the middle point as democracy cannot be divided into smaller parts. Democracy is not a goal by itself. It is a means for good governance, or the so-called the wise administration of the country's affairs. Anyway, we affirm that the relation between democracy, social justice, and equal opportunities is very clear and doesn't need any further explanation. This relation is the base of the strong bond between democracy and status of the law, and helps peoples led a democratic and free life.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarbi is an economist and a professor in Political Science. He is the head of the Arab Group for Investment and Development

SILVER LINING

The pensioners' plight and the same old game

One can not really imagine the consequences of the constant protests of the retired civilian and military people from the south. As I said last week in my editorial, the government keeps giving "tranquilizers" for any serious problem and never tries to address the heart of the matter. This policy of appeasing or containing some at the expense of many others is no more of help.

It seems the political regime has no vision of how to deal with this issue which is becoming a pain in the neck. The government started moving and paying attention to the question of the retired after they planned to stage a protest in Aden July 7th. Before that, the minister of defense called them separatists. However, the decision of President Saleh to return hundreds of pensioners to service and promote others came very late and did target only very few out of tens of thousands who have faced all sorts of oppressions. The government is trying to pacify or, so to speak, contain some of those retired to say that everything is fine and they are thankful for the steps the President has done to sort out their problems. It is the same old stupid game while the real problem remains unsolved completely. We have experienced this in Sa'ada where the fight has kept erupting every now and then. This approach does not any longer work.

The parliament set up a committee with a broad functional political representation to find out the problems of the retired, but it was aborted and then another committee was established. Last Wednesday, the MP Hussein al-Ahmer called for a 50-member fact-finding mission. But, some other members called for expanding the agenda of the committee to address all sorts of harassments the people of the south have been facing including trespassing of their pieces of lands by influential figures from the north.

Given the government's indifference, the issue is going beyond their control to the extent of calling for referendum over the unification. Saeed Shahtoor who is having a stronghold in the mountains of Abyan has openly said the people of the north should leave the south and that they are planning some disturbances to kick "the northern occupiers" out. This is really dangerous.

Setting up a committee after the other will not help to quickly address the problem. The Ministry of Defense has a payroll and knows well those who have been forced to retirement or those who have been forced to stay home without any job, including skilled people from the north. So why wrangling and why trying to introduce external factors into play?

Frankly speaking, we do not need to look for foreign agencies or factors to put their nose in our problems. We have accused Iran and Libya of supporting the rebels in Sa'ada and failed to bring evidence to prove that. Now, we have the problems of the retired Southerners and again they are trying to look for another foreign country to blame on instigating the angry protestors in the southern governorates. Even if there is an external element behind any of these problems, they will not succeed unless there is a good ground inside. Such claims are, in fact, also a pretext meant to escape the actual causes.

Hey guys! Please wake up and try to approach the genuine plights of the people across the country. Poverty is crushing people down to the ground while the government never stops singing the so-called "great achievements" that the people can not see but in terms of poverty, unemployment, insecurity, and the growing of the corrupt crooks who are eating up everything. Such hardships are not targeting the Southern people only and we are all falling victims for the corrupt system. However, the plight of the southern people is greater as after the 1994 civil war, they were completely marginalized and their pieces of lands were looted and many others of such stuff. This makes a sufficient reason for instigating people with broken hearts. The solution is not to wrangle with them over who is patriotic and who is not; who is with the unification and who is not. Do not tell them "unification is a red line" while you are usurping their rights. Give them their due rights first and then hold them accountable for any mistakes they might make. Does this sound reasonable?!

Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.

War crimes

Unlike its attitude toward the military agents in Sudan, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is very satisfied with its agent in Yemen, which is the military regime.

Like the contradictory attitude, which opposes to the principle of freedom and democracy, the crimi-

nal war, which the oppressive military regime has been waging in Sa'ada, has received no attention from the U.S. Administration. In addition, the current U.S. Administration received the head of the military regime and leader of the Sa'ada war at the White House as if it is a key player in the fighting, particularly as it pledged to provide its agent with military and security aides in order to enable him continue the war.

In Sudan, the criminal acts broke out against Darfur inhabitants in 2003, and the issue was immediately internationalized. Also, the prosecutor in Hague ordered the forcible capture of two war criminals out of 21 listed suspects, accused by the United States and United Nations of committing crimes against humanity.

In Yemen, the criminal acts broke out against Sa'ada locals in 2004, but neither the U.S. nor the U.N. showed any reaction to the fighting despite the fact that the war against Sa'ada locals is a pre-planned event waged in containing all the criteria of war crimes. This fact is backed by the humanitarian and international laws.



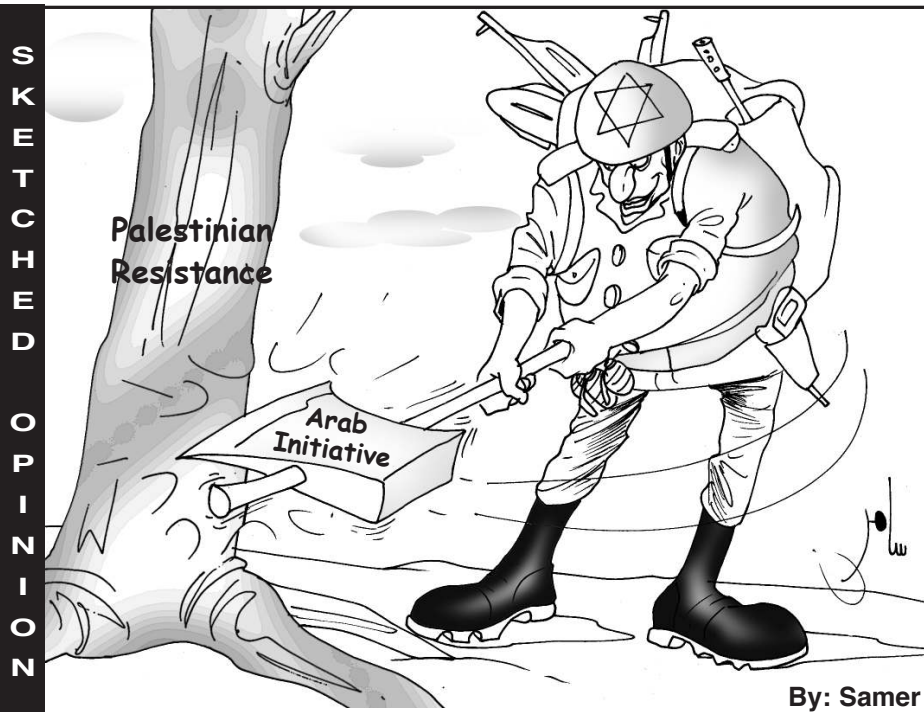
By: Abdurrahim Mohsen

During the Sa'ada fighting, the government uses all the kinds of heavy and light arms to liquidate innocent locals and destroy homes and farmlands.

If Sudan has enlisted 51 war criminals, the Yemeni list of war criminals should include at least five suspects, topped by Higher Commander of the Armed Forces and Commander of the Air Forces.

I think that the United Nations is held accountable for the sufferings of Sa'ada locals and the Yemenis will not forgive the international humanitarian organization for its passive attitude toward what happens to the innocent women and children in the restive province of Sa'ada. The government troops commit crimes against humanity in Sa'ada while the U.N. shows no reaction to what is happening as it does in other countries.

Abdurrahim Muhsin is a well-known Yemeni journalist and opposition activist. Established the anti-regime movement called "Irhalo" which means get out. He was a former media person of the presidency office.



By: Samer

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Yemen Press Review



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday July 26

Main Headlines

- Government allocates YR 124 million as food allowances and aids to ruling party officials, COCA report reveals
- Medical Charitable Society train 650 dentists
- Abyan Joint Meeting Parties' leaders meet National Democratic Institute representatives
- Parliament forms committee to resolve congestions and crises nationwide
- Parliamentary report advises authorities to tackle issues of military and security pensioners
- Hundreds of gunmen stream into Damt streets following murder of three policemen

The weekly newspaper reported that more than two hundred armed men from Al-Beidha governorate have streamed into streets of the tourist city of Damt, one day after a citizen shot dead three policemen during their attempt to confiscate his gun. The newspaper correspondent confirmed that the gunmen came to Damt aboard 20 cars, pointing out that gunmen are positioning with their heavy and light arms at the city entrances. This aroused fear among the city inhabitants.

The weekly quoted local sources as saying that gunmen have come from Qaifa area, one of the Yemeni tribes

known for the possession of different types of heavy and light arms in Al-Beidha governorate, seeking revenge for the murder of their tribesman, Ahmad Qara'a, who was an officer working in the city security department. Qara'a and another two policemen were shot dead on Tuesday as they tried to force a citizen lay down his gun.



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, July 26

Main Headlines

- Politicians lash out at protesters in southern governorates for irresponsible behavior
 - Government to protesters: Clock hands never move backward, nation is bigger than the dream of malicious elements
 - Army pensioners receive their salaries with the approved increases from post offices nationwide
 - Legal Affairs Minister: Ministry to draft a law for protecting national unity, and social peace
 - Vice President scrutinizes progress in several Aden projects
 - \$ 120 allocated for completing sanitation networks in the capital
 - Central Organization for Control & Audit and Anti-corruption Authority set joint work mechanism
- Chairman of the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) Abdullah Al-Sinfi confirmed that his organization

is due to work jointly with the newly established Anti-corruption Authority in order to exterminate corruption from government offices, the Yemeni army's organ reported in a front page article. The weekly quoted Al-Sinfi as saying that leaderships of both organizations will set together to set an effective action plan and work mechanisms for joint coordination.

Al-Sinfi pointed out that the new law drafted by COCA will focus on activating the role of both organizations in fighting corruption and protecting public money from embezzlements. The new law, he added, is in line with the law of establishing the Anti-corruption Authority.



Al-Wasat Comprehensive, Independent Political Weekly
Wednesday, July 25

Main Headlines

- Hundreds of Sa'ada families displaced as reconciliation efforts fail
- Economists warn of economic deformities and decline of local currency price after CBY infuses millions of dollars into market
- Court releases Al-Khaiwani while Press and Publication Prosecution investigates Al-Wasat weekly
- Retirees insist on their demands, urge UN Security Council to intervene in resolving their issues
- Interior Ministry threatens to deport Arabs and foreigners from Yemen following burial of terror suspects
- Citizen shoots dead three policemen

- in Damt district
- Yemen tops the list of Arab countries in cancer proliferation, concerned authorities register 22 thousand new cancer cases
- Parliament agrees to refer former Prime Minister to Public Money Prosecution over corruption

The weekly newspaper reported in its lead story that Parliament accepted Prime Minister Ali Mujawar's request to extend by three months the deadline of investigating former Primer Minister Abdulqader Bajammal and other senior government officials over corruption cases. Ali Ashal, a prominent member of parliament, insisted that officials involved in embezzling compensations, approved by an oil products company for the businessmen who took on lease a fruit fridge and gas station in Aden, be referred to Public Money Prosecution.

The list of officials charged with embezzlement, according to Ashal, include former PM Abdulqader Bajammal, who is currently Secretary General of the ruling General People Congress (GPC) but is outside Yemen for the time being. The newspaper quoted Ashal as saying that a recent report, released by the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA), reveals Bajammal's involvement in the corruption case.



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)
Tuesday, July 24

Main Headlines

- Influential persons from Sanhan tribe kill three people in land disputes
- Joint Meeting Parties hold government responsible for congestions in southern governorates
- Official source in retirees' committee welcomes decision of forming a parliamentary committee to resolve their issues

- Uzbekistani citizen suffers torture in Yemeni prison, his government wants him back
- Aden Appeal Court upholds verdict stipulating YR 50 million compensation to HIV sufferer
- Qatar pulls out its mediators in Sa'ada fighting, parliamentary committee continues mediation efforts

According to the weekly newspaper, Qatar has withdrawn its mediators from a committee overseeing a deal to end a Shiite rebellion in Yemen due to wrangling among insurgency while the parliamentary committee is continuing its effort to settle the crisis. It quoted a Qatari diplomat as saying that his state withdrew from the body set up to monitor implementation of the agreement designed to end a conflict between the government and rebels from the minority Zaidi community. "The leader of the rebellion, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, and its military commander, Abdullah Al-Rizami, have differences over the implementation of the agreement," said an official source, who requested anonymity.

The weekly added that Al-Houthi had also accused the committee of favoring the Yemeni government. Under last month's Qatari-brokered agreement, the rebels agreed to lay down their arms, ending years of fierce fighting that has killed thousands in one of the world's poorest countries. According to a Yemeni official, Al-Houthi and other rebel leaders are supposed to be exiled to Qatar, where they will be prohibited from engaging in any political or media activities against Yemen. They will also be barred from leaving the emirate without Yemeni government permission.



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress (Ruling Party)
Monday, July 23

Main Headlines

- Ahli Sana'a clinches title of Yemen's

Premier League for the season 2006-2007

- Supreme Tender Committee approves nine development projects at a total cost of YR 5 billion
- Ministry of Information grants licenses for four new private newspapers in Yemen
- Vice President confirms the government is serious to resolve military retirees' issues
- Central Bank of Yemen floods local market with \$38 million to maintain stability of exchange rates
- Parliament quits observing tenders and bids
- A workshop at Aden University discuss President of the Republic's role in national and civilized development
- Ministry of Oil and Minerals ready to establish transparency council, invites organizations for deliberations

The Ministry of Oil and Minerals invited civil community organizations to attend a scheduled round of deliberations ahead of establishing the Yemeni Transparency Council in conformity with the World Transparency Initiative concerned with oil and minerals industries, which Yemen joined last March, the ruling party's weekly reported. During the ministry's meeting with representatives of civil community organizations on Sunday, July 22, three organizations, namely they are the Human Rights Information & Training Center (HRITC), Future Current Organization (FCO) and Yemeni Parliamentarians Organization (YPO), were elected as permanent members of Yemeni Transparency Council representing the civil community.

The council is due to be formed from private sector companies working in the field of oil and minerals and the concerned government agencies, plus the three organizations, which have been elected for being concerned with transparency. General Manager of Planning and Statistics Department in the Ministry of Oil and Minerals Mohammed Saleh Moqbil said that the three ministries of oil & minerals, finance and planning & international cooperation will be members of the council.

Population: from explosion to implosion?

By: Koichiro Matsuura

Three unprecedented shifts are taking place in world population. Before 2000, the young always outnumbered their elders: for some years now it has been the other way around. Until now, there have always been more people in the countryside than in towns or cities; within the next few years this will no longer be so. And since 2003, for the first time, most people have been living in a country or region of the world where fertility is below the strict replacement rate of 2.1 children per woman. In the last fifty years median fertility has fallen from 5.4 to 2.1.

Six significant developments will stand out in future world population trends, as recently discussed in one of UNESCO's "21st Century Talks" organised by Jérôme Bindé on the subject: "Population: from explosion to implosion?"

The *population growth* of the latter 20th century will come to be seen as one of the biggest events in history. Though slowing, this significant increase has by no means come to an end: today's 6.6 billion can be expected, under the United Nations' "middle" scenario, to reach 9.2 billion by 2050.

Secondly, there is an abrupt slowdown in the rate of growth, due to the *demographic transition*. Taking hold increasingly in the South as well —even in Africa its first signs are to be seen in a number of countries — this transition shows that there is nothing inevitable about population matters. We shall look back on the 20th century as humanity's apprenticeship: the time when, having delayed death, human beings finally began to take control of life by choosing a family size compatible with their wishes. The fall in fertility is admittedly very uneven, differing greatly from region to region and from country to country. It is proportional to levels of education and schooling, especially among girls, and to development. Nevertheless, the demographic transition has also been taking place in many countries where women have only limited access to education and employment: for television, the demographers tell us, has been fostering a new understanding of women's condition, and new notions of freedom.

Virtually all the *population growth between now and 2050 will take place in the developing countries*. This means we shall be seeing an utter re-casting of the demographic map: in 1950 the population of the South was roughly twice that of the North, but in 2050 no fewer than 86% of the world's people will be living in the South.

Next, if current trends continue, *the whole of this population growth will be*

taking place in towns and cities. The scale of the urbanization under way at present is gigantic — revolutionary, indeed: the amount of building needed, in less than half a century, is the equivalent of 3000 cities of a million inhabitants each!

Fifth, world population is marked by *radical inequality* of various kinds: in the first place, the human population is very unevenly distributed, 10% of the world's dry land accommodating over 60% of its people. Then life expectancy at birth varies almost twofold between the most developed countries and some of the poorest, such as Sierra Leone or Afghanistan. Infant mortality rates have fallen considerably, but the fall has been much slower in certain Asian countries, and particularly slow in Africa.

Lastly, there is another uneven but generally destabilizing trend which will impose an increasing burden: the *aging* of the population as a result of lower fertility and higher life expectancy. This will affect different societies in very different ways. In 2050, nearly one person in three in the North will be over sixty years old, and one in five in the developing countries.

A spectre is haunting the aging societies of the North: the spectre of depopulation, which could have serious effects on many countries in the next few decades if the numbers are not made up by migration. Furthermore, the world's richest countries are in danger of a general loss of dynamism, problematic relations between the generations, and difficulties in funding their social security and retirement arrangements, to say nothing of ethical dilemmas such as whether to prolong life to the utmost or ensure a decent old age for all.

The South will face the agonizing question of how to cope with an aging population when State-based social protection systems of sickness insurance or pension schemes are absent, yet traditional forms of social and family solidarity are crumbling under modernisation and urbanisation.

It is possible, however, that within a few decades population could begin to implode the whole world over, for there is not the slightest reason to assume that the decline in fertility, once started, will miraculously stop just at replacement level.

Meanwhile there are immediate challenges to be faced. I have just touched on the challenge of international migration, but there is a whole battery of others: food security, jobs, the fight against poverty, public health, housing, infrastructure, the environment, and the promotion of sustainable development.

Will there, for example, be enough for everyone to eat in this world where encroaching deserts and sprawling cities are helping to reduce the area of farmland

per person, which is expected to fall from 2800m² in the early 1990s to 1700m² in 2025? Even though rising food production has consistently outrun population growth in recent decades, there is no denying that a further "Green Revolution" is needed if the challenges of the future are to be met.

As early as 1795, Condorcet had the exceptional foresight to realize that the danger of over-population, which he saw could lead to a "diminution of happiness", could be mastered through a rise in productivity, better management, the prevention of waste and the spread of education — especially girls' education. Realizing the threat which population might come to pose to the environment, Condorcet already had an answer: "dematerialized" growth. "The same level of production", he wrote, "will be achievable with less destruction of raw produce, or alternatively will last longer."

Population growth also challenges development itself, however, and hampers the fight against poverty: over the next quarter century the countries of the South are going to need to find room for no fewer than a billion new arrivals on the labour market — yet the phenomenon of "jobless growth" is stalking developed and developing countries alike.

Given these challenges, what are our priorities? Only the emergence of real "knowledge societies" holds out any prospect of coping with population growth and aging. We have no choice but to work for equitable growth and development founded on intelligence, science, technology, and a change in our ways of living, producing and consuming. The greatest priority of all will assuredly be education.

Basic education first and foremost; and especially the education of girls, the best contraceptive of all. According to one study, there are regions where girls are excluded from secondary schooling and the women have an average of seven children each. Where girls' school enrolment is just 40%, this mean figure falls to three. Life-long education for all ought to be recognized as an essential priority as well; for this is the answer to aging populations and rising life expectancy. As knowledge and skills become outdated more rapidly, and people face the need to keep up by retraining or changing occupation, the demand for education is increasingly going to become a life-long matter. At bottom, this is good news: the world population will become older, admittedly; but individual humans will spend more of their lives in what counts as "youth" — for they will never stop learning.

Koichiro Matsuura is a UNESCO Director General
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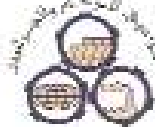
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- Strong computer literacy in all MS. Office based software.
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- 2- Maintain lists of local sources of procurement, contacts local vendors for price quotations, prepares summary of bids including information on price and conditions of offer.
- 3- For more costly procurements required under the procurement procedures, drafts bid invitations and/or requests for price quotations; drafts telex solicitations and related correspondence..
- 4- Prepare meetings of the Tender Committee or Local committee on Contracts, by arranging for suitable dates and rooms, and by preparing and distributing files containing the cases to be presented.
- 5- Assists in obtaining prices and quotations from the market when UNICEF undertakes local procurement.
- 6- Reviews allotment account codes of separate fund sources to ensure funds availability; records expenditures, and advises procurement officer as to status of allotments, on a regular basis.
- 7- Extracts procurement information from logs and records and summarizes for use into the biennium budget presentation, adjusting costs for inflation and other anticipated changes (i.e. effect of staffing changes on office equipment and supply purchases).
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- Completion of secondary education or equivalent, supplemented by courses in purchasing methods and/or accounting.
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- Fluency in English

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to the – **Chief of Operations, UNICEF Sana'a, P.O. Box 725, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.** Applications received after **15th August 2007** will not be considered. Only the short listed candidates will be contacted.

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غني بالألياف والمعادن

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الوزن	لا يفقد منه شيء عند نخله وتجهيزه للإستخدام .	يتم إزالة النخالة منه عند النخل مما يقلل من فائدته ووزنه .
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A matter of life and death: Private sector robs public of medicine

By: Abdulqadir Al-Emad
For Yemen Times

During their latest press conference, in response to questions about the shortage of drugs in several governorates, the greatest shortage being of insulin, the director of the Drug Fund indicated that limitations in drug availability are the product of a reduction of the Drug Fund's budget from 3.5 billion Yemeni riyals to 1.45 billion Yemeni riyals.

One patient expressed their shock at the director's revelation, stating, "As a patient my reaction is that I am horribly terrified by this news and a person like me is undoubtedly dead either influenced by those declarations in this respect or by actual lack of such indispensable drugs."

At Thamar General Hospital, several diabetes patients came for their scheduled treatment, only to be turned away due to an insulin shortage. "For three days I came from Yarim and they told me it [insulin] was not available. Both I and my sister are infected and we do not have money to buy this medicine from a private pharmacy," Nabil Nasser Al-Faqeh stated, adding, "When I don't use insulin it leaves very bad consequences on my health. Thus, the only alternative here is the private sector with its expensive prices, which are beyond my ability." He implored concerned officials to have some mercy and provide enough insulin for health centers. Mr. Al-Faqeh is just one of many patients who are

suffering from a lack of required medicine to treat their illnesses.

Essam Al-Shami, a patient in Wesab province, told Yemen Times, "I came to the health center in the countryside to get myself cured. I got tablets that have no positive effect on me because I am still suffering from a very bad stomachache. Tablets are put in small plastic cases and this is not a good way to [package] medicine. Even the way of dealing with such drugs creates my distrust about their efficiency and maybe they are expired because of putting them in plastic cases." He added, "This is, in my point of view, a result of the absence of supervision and following up by the concerned officials. Through your newspaper I invite and ask the minister of public health to make inspection campaigns and to pay frequent sudden visits to the public hospitals and such health centers. In this way he is going to discover several problems that could get solutions and lead to a better health change."

Public Drugs Sold to Private Sector

Although there are adequate drugs, many are stolen and sold to the private sector, according to an official source in the Supreme Drugs Authority. The source states that birth control belonging to the Ministry of Health has been discovered being sold in private pharmacies at Al-Jumhori Hospital. There are many drugs belonging to the Ministry of Health being sold secretly to the private sector during distribution among governorates, the same source indicated. Currently,



Citizens have gone to the streets protesting the high prices and scarcity of medicines especially in rural areas.

investigation of two suspects is underway. Secret investigation committees have also been formed in Sana'a, Taiz and Hodeidah in order to determine if drugs belonging to the Ministry are in fact being sold to the private sector.

The Problem of Centralization

Dr. Najeeb Ghanim, ex-health minister and current chairman of the health committee in Parliament confirmed receiving several complaints regarding corruption in the health sector.

Centralization is one of the main

causes of this problem, as imported drugs are stored in one central location and not distributed to public hospitals and health centers immediately. According to Dr. Ghanim, delayed distribution increases chances for the drugs to be stolen and then sold to the private sector. He added, "There is a big problem, from which the health sector suffers, [and that is] sharp shortage of life-saving drugs such as kidneys drugs, drugs for incurable diseases like cancer and cirrhosis and drugs for chronic diseases such as saccharine, high blood pressure and so on."

Dr. Ghanim has spoken out about the existence of expired drugs and drugs that do not meet property quality specifications. He also indicated that funding for drugs is inadequate, averaging \$1.50 per patient. Funding needed amounts to around 6 billion Yemeni riyals whereas the current funding lags at one billion two hundred Yemeni riyals.

Struggle Between Ministry of Health & Medical Companies

During a July 4th demonstration, considered the first of its kind in Yemen,

kidney patients demanded that the ministry stop importing "fake medicines," accusing the ministry of buying uncertified medicine at low costs and then charging patients highly inflated prices.

Minister of Public Health Dr. Rasae accused major medical companies, blacklisted by the Ministry of Health, of devising a campaign against the ministry.

Such conflict between the ministry and medical companies does nothing to solve medication shortages. In the end, Yemeni citizens who rely on public access to such medicine are the ones who suffer.

WHO warns of children's vulnerability to pollution

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

With over 30 percent of the global burden of disease in children attributable to environmental factors, the world health organization released last week the first ever report highlighting youngsters' special susceptibility to harmful chemical exposures at different periods of their growth, and the potential effects later in life.

According to (WHO), the stage in a child's development when chemical exposure occurs may be just as important as the magnitude of the exposure.

The report estimates that Four million children under the age of five die every year due to environmental hazards including polluted air or water, or exposure to chemicals.

Poisonings, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoeal diseases and malaria carried by mosquitoes which thrive in dirty water account for most of the toll, the United Nations agency said in a technical report.

The report pointed out to the emerging evidence suggests that an increased risk of cancer and heart disease in adults can result in part from exposures to certain environmental chemicals during childhood.

However, Children have different susceptibilities during different life stages, due to their dynamic growth and developmental processes. Some examples of health effects resulting from developmental exposures prenatally and at birth include miscarriage, still birth, low birth weight and birth defects; in young children, infant mortality, asthma,



Yemen is considered a very young country with more than 50 percent of the population below 15 years old.

ma, neurobehavioural and immune impairment; and in adolescents, precocious or delayed puberty, the health agency said in the report drawn up by 24 scientific experts.

"For example if you look at lead exposure, the effect will be different if the child was exposed in utero because the lead of the mother goes into the bones of the child," WHO expert Jenny Pronczuk stated.

Children are not just small adults, WHO's team leader for the inter-regional research unit Terri Damstra said. "Children are especially vulnerable and respond differently from adults when exposed to environmental factors, and this response may differ according to different periods of development they are going through."

For example, their lungs are not fully developed at birth, or even at the age of eight, and lung maturation may be altered by air pollutants that induce acute respiratory effects in childhood and maybe the origin of chronic respiratory disease later in life, the agency said.

Air and water contaminants, pesticides in food, lead in soil, as well as many other environmental threats which alter the delicate organism of a growing child may cause or worsen disease and induce developmental problems.

The vulnerability of children is increased in degraded environments. Neglected and malnourished children suffer the most, WHO said.

The report mentioned that Africa is the region with the most environmental-related diseases, followed by parts of south east Asia.

Yemen is no exception

Official studies carried out by ministry of social affairs showed that 292,000 children who work in the agricultural sector. A study prepared by the same ministry which covered only three governorates (Sana'a, Albitha and Dhamar) exposed that yemeni children who are working in the agricultural sector, are undergoing many infections and diseases, adding that that 45% of the children are suffering of dermatitis, 30% of ophthalmia that may develop to become blindness, 20% are suffering of intestinal disease and 5% have epilepsy.

The study attributed the reasons of such diseases to the misuse of herbicides and insecticides. Many children, according to the study, don't use any kind of protection means

during spraying the plants with insecticides. Unconsciously they confuse these poisons with water without looking at the instructions that are written on the containers. The direct and constant exposure to dust also makes the children an easy object to respiratory diseases such as asthma, allergy, etc.

Most children who work in the fields tend to work quickly, paying no attention to close the spray and thus some of the herbicides get to their neck and shoulders. They get inflammations in a form of burns.

According to the study 90% of the children from those regions chew Qat that is polluted by herbicides. 56% of the children who spray those poisons are between 8-10 years old.

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مهرجان صيف ٢٠٠٧
باناسونيك أفكار للحياة

إشتري واربح
مفاجآت صيف رائعة من باناسونيك

جهاز تلفاز بلازما من باناسونيك ٤٢ بوصة

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إشتري أي من منتجات باناسونيك هذا الصيف بقيمة ٦٠٠٠ ريال يماني أو أكثر واحصل على قسائم 'إمسح واربح' لتربح جوائز مجانية رائعة فوراً بالإضافة إلى فرصة للدخول بالسحب الكبير على جهاز تلفاز بلازما من باناسونيك ٤٢ بوصة.

هناك أجهزة تلفاز ملونة، خلاطات/وعصارات، مكواة، غسالات، كاميرات تصوير رقمية، مسجلات وأجهزة تسجيل ومشغلات راديو، أجهزة فيديو، أقلام وقمصان بأكماء قصيرة، كل ذلك بانتظارك لتريحه داخل قسائم 'إمسح واربح' بالإضافة إلى المفاجآت الكبيرة الرائعة جهاز تلفاز باناسونيك بلازما ٤٢ بوصة! لذا إبدأ بتدوين ما تتمنى الحصول عليه وسارع إلى أقرب معرض باناسونيك. يسري هذا العرض من ١ يوليو ٢٠٠٧ وحتى ٣٠ أغسطس ٢٠٠٧، أوحى نفاذ الكمية.

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Sana'a Summer Festival Schedule in 31/7 . 1/8/2007

Day	Date	Event	Place	Time
Tuesday	31-7	French glider sailboat Band ALBaras ALMmizmar Band free Drawing for children Folk games Cultural and tourism competition	Nuqum Mountain Alsabeen garden	4:30 pm 9:30 am and 4:30 pm 9:30 am and 4:30 pm 10:30 am 7:30 pm
Wednesday	1-8	Egyptian national circus French glider sailboat Band ALBaras ALMmizmar Band Dragon band free Drawing for children Folk games Cinema show	Nuqum Mountain Alsabeen garden	4:30 pm 4:30 pm 4:30 pm 4:30 pm 9:30 am and 4:30 pm 10:30 am 7:30 pm

1,000 Japanese tourists arrive in Aden

By: Abdul Wahid Muhammed
For Yemen Times

Yemeni traditions and customs exert a pull on all foreigners visiting the country. At a welcome party organized by the Yemeni Women's Union for 1,000 Japanese tourists visiting Aden on (I will ask about the date and write it), one of the tourists adopted the role of a Yemeni bride. Donning a traditional Yemeni wedding dress and ancient jewelry with Arabian jasmine and screw pine, the Japanese bride followed the traditions of Aden, even putting henna on her hands.

The Japanese tourists visited Yemen as a part of a 12-hour "Peace Boat" voyage. Peace Boat is a Japan-based, international, non-governmental and non-profit organization that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. It seeks to create awareness and action based on affecting positive social and political change in the world.

The Japanese expedition was almost exclusively women, and included trips to numerous sites throughout Aden including the archeological museum. It involved people of various ages from different fields, including teachers, students and activists from civil-society organizations.

The Japanese's visit with the Yemeni Women's Union was a part of the tour. The liberal movement of Yemeni women was one of the issues

of most interest to the tourists. Fatima Murisi, director of the union, let the Japanese know that she hoped they would convey what they had seen of the situation of women in Yemen. She talked about obstacles Yemeni women have overcome to reach their current level, occupying important political positions in the government, Parliament and Al-Shura council.

During the welcome party, kindergarteners from Al-Manar sang various songs, however, the song that the tourists were most enthusiastic about and actually sung along to was "The Arab Dream to be United." The tourists enjoyed their stay in Yemen even though it was short. "Though it was short, but it was sweet," Rubyn Lin commented.

Peace Boat departed from Yokohama, Japan on June 9, 2007 and will return on September 20, 2007. The voyage will visit 22 ports, including first-time stops in Mikonos, Greece, and Copenhagen, Denmark, and the first port call in many years to the port of Aden, Yemen. The Peace Boat will take an equatorial course around the world, passing through the Suez and Panama canals.

Peace Boat's call to New York City coincides with Nagasaki Day (August 9), the day which commemorates the dropping of the atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. Exchange and action programs will be organized with partnering U.S. civil-society organizations, fostering understanding between Japanese and Americans regarding their historical connection and working together to build a better



A Japanese lady is wearing the traditional clothes of Adeni bride.

future. The voyage will also dock in Costa Rica, which will give participants the chance to compare the country's current war renouncing the nation's constitution with Japan's very

own pacifist constitution. Many other programs onboard and in port will focus on issues related to the environment, sustainable development and peace.



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How to apply?

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Closing date for applications will be on 15/8/2007

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إعلان

منافسة رقم (٥) لتنظيم الملتقى العربي الرابع

للصناعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة صنعا

٢٠ - ٢١/١١/٢٠٠٧م

تعلن وزارة الصناعة والتجارة عن إنزال منافسة لتنظيم الملتقى العربي الرابع للصناعات الصغيرة والمتوسطة الذي سيعقد في صنعا 20 - 21 نوفمبر 2007م ، فعلى الشركات الراغبة بالدخول في هذه المنافسة التقدم إلى إدارة المشتريات والمخازن بوزارة الصناعة والتجارة لاستلام نسخة من كراسة المواصفات مقابل رسم قدرة خمسة آلاف ريال لاترد .

وتقدم العطاءات في ظروف مختومة بالشمع الأحمر مصحوبة بما يلي:-

- ١- ضمان ابتدائي بواقع 2.5% من قيمة العطاء بخطاب بنكي غير مشروط وصالح لمدة ٩٠ يوماً من موعد فتح المظاريف أو شيك مقبول الدفع.
- ٢- صورة من (البطاقة الضريبية - السجل التجاري - البطاقة التأمينية - شهادة التسجيل لأغراض الضريبة العامة على المبيعات - رخصة مزاولة المهنة).
- ٣- أن تكون مدة سريان العطاء لفترة لاتقل عن ٩٠ يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.
- ٤- تقدم العطاءات بالريال اليمني.

٥- آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات الساعة الحادية عشر صباحاً من يوم السبت 2007/8/11م على أن تسلم بديوان عام وزارة الصناعة والتجارة بالجمهورية اليمنية وعنوانها

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CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

Abdullah H. Humran (The Poet Who Adored Revolution and Unity)

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samman

Abdullah Hamud Humran (1939-1982), was a Yemeni poet, broadcaster, and diplomat. He was born in Al-Err Village in the district of Al-Hayma, Sana'a Province. His father died during his early childhood and his mother was left with the responsibility of rearing and looking after him. He studied the Holy Qur'an, Arabic calligraphy, and fundamentals of mathematics at his village elementary school. In the early 1950s, Humran left his village for the city of Sana'a, accompanied by his mother. He joined the Institute of Sciences called "The Scientific School" where he studied religious and Arabic language sciences. During his stay in Sana'a, Humran read many literary and cultural books and memorized ancient Arabic poetry from famous poets such as Al-Mutanabbi, Al-Ma'arri and others.

In 1956, Humran joined Sana'a Radio and started preparing and broadcasting political programs like "Corner of the Southern Yemen" which spoke out against the British colonization of the southern part of Yemen. He also started composing and preparing many indirect political essays as stories and presenting them during his weekly program "Corner of the Story." During his work on Sana'a Radio, Humran became a member of some Free Officers' cells and made contributions in consultations related to the Yemeni revolution of 1962. On Wednesday, September 25, 1962, at 9:00 p.m., Humran broadcast his distinct voice telegrams that greeted and supported Muhammad Al-Badr, the deposed Imam. In the early morning of Thursday, September 26, 1962, Humran was one of the first voices on the radio that announced the establishment of the Yemen Arab Republic. He vigorously, repeatedly, and enthusiastically announced, "The Radio of Yemen Arab Republic from Sana'a, Sana'a the Revolution, Sana'a the Republic," and called for supporting the newborn Yemeni revolution and defending it from reactionaries and mercenaries.

Humran was appointed to several governmental positions after outbreak of the revolution in 1962 including General Manager of Sana'a Radio, followed by his appointment as the first secretary of the Yemeni delegation in Sudan from 1965 to 1967. During the Seventy-Day Siege of Sana'a in 1967, Humran wrote and composed his most famous political commentaries. Humran broadcasted these commentaries while inside the radio station building under absolute siege, numerous mortar attacks being launched from Ayban Mountain towards Sana'a. He repeated his prominent slogan, "The Republic or the Death."

In 1968 Humran was appointed as



the Vice Minister of Information and he founded some informational establishments such as Yemen News Agency (SABA), Yemeni Company for Printing and Publishing, and contributed in founding and improving local radio stations in Al-Hudaidah, Sana'a and Ta'izz. Later, Humran was assigned to several governmental positions such as Minister of Information and Unity Affairs (1971), Minister of Presidency and Consultation Council's Affairs (1972), Minister of State for Presidency's Affairs (1974), and Minister of State in 1975. He was appointed again as an ambassador to the Yemeni Embassy in Sudan during the period of 1978-1981. Throughout his presence in Khartoum, Sudan, and with the cooperation of his assistants at the Yemeni Embassy, Humran effectively organized weekly meetings at the Center Office of the Yemeni Community in Sudan. These weekly meetings included cultural, economic, social, and historical lectures and seminars about Yemen managed and presented by Humran himself. In 1981, Humran returned to Yemen to find his house was a cultural and literary gathering place in which many Yemeni and foreign poets, authors, and writers met weekly.

Humran was a poet with some literary background due to his radio broadcasting experience. He started writing poetry in the early 1950s during his work as a broadcaster at Sana'a Radio. Initially, Humran was captivated by the work of Ali M. Taha and Elia Abu Madhi, two well-known Arabic poets, and his first poetry attempts imitated Abu Madhi's style.

A poetry divan of Humran's work was published in 1978, entitled "Ana Waa Qalbi" (Me and My Heart). It was reprinted for the second time by Yemen's Ministry of Culture in 2004. The divan contains poems, which Humran wrote during different periods of his life in Yemen and Sudan and it also contains several poems published for the first time. Poem subjects include Yemen, emigration, Humran's dialogue with living friends and his mourning of friends who have passed away. The divan also includes poems penned in the early 1950s and expose Humran's deep faith in Yemeni unity and his extreme hatred of colonization and the Imamate, both of which contributed to dividing his country. His poem entitled "Ghareeb" (Stranger) focuses on emigration and expresses the feelings of a stranger who lives far from his homeland, his family and his friends. In other poems, Humran focuses on Yemeni laborers' emigration with the associated feelings of great frustration, worry, and fear of an unknown destiny. He also expresses his nostalgia for Yemen and Sana'a City in his two poems "A Message to Sana'a: the Mother of the Martyr Saif Bin Thee Yazan" and "Passion of Sana'a."

Humran passed away on April 21, 1982, suffering from bilharziasis. He was unable to finish a collection of poems, which he planned to publish as his second divan.



1000 Japanese tourists, most of them are women; visit the Yemeni Women Union in Aden.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with its project Public Finance Management (UNDP).

Post Title: Public Financial Management Associate
Duty Station: Sana'a, Yemen
Duration: Six months (and will be renewable for at least two years)

Responsibilities:

It is envisaged that the PFM Associate will:

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

Reporting Arrangements

The PFM Associate will report to the PFM Expert.

Qualifications

The PFM Associate should meet the following criteria:

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

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

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448892/E-mail: hr.ye@undp.org

The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 04 August 2007

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Female leadership ignored in Muslim countries

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
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In a study on "Understanding Leadership in Muslim Countries," the American School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont examined Yemen and five other Muslim countries to evaluate how Islamic communities understand leadership for both males and females, with a focus on the latter.

The study aimed to specify the main character traits of a leader in a Muslim country. Does a woman have the qualities needed to be a leader? Does she deserve such an important role in her society? Such questions were discussed in a focus group exercise twice with two different groups, consisting of 8-12 participants each. One group was all female, the other group both male and female leaders.

Kawtar Zrwalli is a university professor and researcher on leadership in Muslim countries. She explained that she would like to learn about female leaders' point of view in particular. A special female focus group is needed to garner an understanding amongst women of the main characteristics of a leader.

Islam gave a woman the chance to assume a leadership role, but men try to minimize a woman's role in building her community, either inside or outside her house. "There is misunderstanding of the Islamic instructions about women's leadership and this leads to neglect of the special role of a woman as a leader," Khadiga Radman, consultant to the minister of education explained.

The distinction made between men and women negatively affects our understanding of the correct meaning of leadership in Islam. For example, sometimes in a company, a man who is in charge prefers to nominate a man



Only religious men and decision makers can change the community point of view about understanding leadership correctly, Khadiga Radman hoped.

to a leading position regardless of his qualifications and ignoring a female candidate who might have better character and higher qualifications. "This is happening in most Arab or Muslim countries and it is also common to find the distinction even in western countries with different aspects," Zrwalli explained.

Financial merits for only men

In a community, it is believed that only men are to be the leaders basically because due to his responsibility for the family. Men have to work outside, while women are confined to their homes. However, nowadays women are entering arenas once exclusively designated for men, with responsibility towards her family and herself.

Most people repeat a concept that says a woman in her mental and physical structure is weak. So how can a woman be a leader? "The woman is a leader innately but man refuses to

accept this," Zafaran Ali Muhana, executive manager of the Middle East Researchers Center for Humanity, Development and Human Rights noted.

"I still remember the male staff in my work when I wanted to go with them to Sa'ada during the war. They were shocked for my decision to go with them. They thought I might be afraid and as a woman I will not bear the difficulties and dangers that they may face. However I insisted on my decision and I could prove to them that a woman can do her best as man and some time better than him," Muhana narrated.

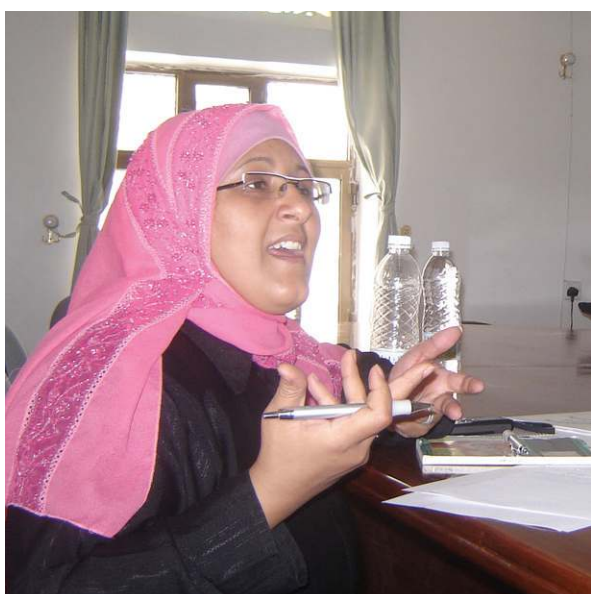
Women have to work two times as hard in order to show they are qualified and responsible leaders. It is rare to see a woman in a high position. "I got this position and other high positions but after a long struggling in the society until I could convince the men leaders of my qualities to be a better

leader than man," Radman stated, advising a woman who wants to be a leader that she has to be patient and active in her work.

Male relatives, religious figures and decision makers are responsible for minimizing a woman's role as a leader. Some religious men give legal opinions, which are a part of Islamic instructions, according to their interest and they force women to follow them even if they are not right. For example, many religious men consider a woman's voice to be alluring and as a result, women do not have the right to express their opinion or participate in meetings or conferences involving men. "Such judgment is absolutely wrong. Islam forbids for a woman to talk with a strange man, a man who is not related to her, softly or impolitely otherwise a woman is free to study and work with men with high respect," Radman mentioned.

The second exercise was for a mixed group of males and females. The questions were the same as those distributed to the all-female group but the discussion was much more heated. "It was like a debate especially when asking the group of men and women if a woman has the qualities which lead her to be a leader. Most of the male response was no. Such an answer enraged the female participants and motivated them to reply strongly," Zrwalli described.

Such focus group exercises are being practiced for the first time in Yemen. The results of the research will be published after evaluation from the School for International Training.



Man has to believe in the woman's achievement and qualities to be a leader and play a positive role in improving her community, Zafaran Ali Muhana explained.



"The concept of leadership in Islamic countries," Rana Jarhum notes down thoughts from the participants.

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