

Hertz
Take A Break From Your Work Load and Take Hertz Along with you.....
Universal Rent a Car
Sana'a Tel: (01) 440309, Aden (02) 245625
Movenpick Branch (01) 546063

YEMEN TIMES

DHL EXPRESS
we move the world
Sana'a: Hadda St. (01) 441099/87/6, Zubairy St. 249878
Aden: (02) 24627/8, Taz (04) 252455
Hodeidah: (03) 286689, Mukalla: (05) 354844
Seiyun: (05) 404288, Ibb: (04) 407418

Monday, 17 March 2008 • Issue No. 1138 • Price 40 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf www.yementimes.com

Inside:  **5** Ambassador Edward Gnehm to Yemen Times: "Culture and religion differences are wonderful aspects of human life"

 **8** Al-Basateen's residents: We are not afraid any more of HIV tests

 **10** Children's festival: We swear to return to Palestine

Houthis refuse to abandon mountaintop positions unless troops withdraw

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam
SA'ADA, March 16 — "Term 7 of the Doha-brokered agreement stipulates that military troops must be pulled out from our villages and farms in order for us to abandon [our] mountaintop positions," Houthi representative Sheikh Saleh Habra told the Yemen Times on Saturday.
"It is impossible for us to abandon our positions as long as military soldiers are deployed in our villages and farmlands. This is unfair and illogical," the tribal leader commented. "There are some people who create obstacles to efforts aimed at reinforcing the agreement by listing conditions and demands, which are not easy to fulfill or achieve," he further said, hinting to military commanders.
With regard to efforts expended by the mediation committee, local sources from Sa'ada said that the Qatari team started its job Saturday, adding that the team visited Matra and Naqa'a areas to conduct direct

discussions with Houthi field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi on pragmatic ways to implement the seventh term of the agreement.
Mandated to oversee how committed government troops and Houthis are to the peace deal, the presidential mediation committee discussed during Saturday's meeting the pressing problems hindering execution of the agreement's seventh term.
Presidential mediation committee spokesman Abdu Mohammed Al-Janadi told some media outlets that the meeting, held in Rahban Sa'ada Hotel, did not meet expectations, but the committee discussed several issues related to the agreement's seventh term. According to Al-Janadi, the discussion was a positive step toward implementing the term, as necessary arrangements were made to activate the role of the field teams deployed in the different Sa'ada governorates to see how Houthis are abiding by the agreement.

The presidential committee also mandated another field team to verify whether teachers and students have easy access to their schools, arrange for the displaced families to return home and remove all the military and security checkpoints set up in the Haidan district. According to the committee members, Houthi supporters also set up checkpoints for searching any by-passing vehicles, which field teams were also authorized to remove.
Al-Janadi pointed out that such preliminary procedures are essential to implementing the various agreement terms, including term 7. He added that executing this term is key to implementing the other terms.
Al-Janadi said that the government authorities refused to release jailed Houthi supporters because they fear being involved in new clashes with Houthis, as in 2006 when Houthis refused to abandon their mountaintop positions after their jailed relatives were freed, according to

an agreement signed by both conflicting sides.
Al-Janadi noted that the presidential mediation committee's role is limited to overseeing how committed both sides are to the agreement, while the Qatari mediation team, which began communicating with local councilors, commanders of army units deployed in Sa'ada and the Houthi field leader, is in charge of doing other tasks.
Al-Janadi ascertained that Qatari foreign minister assistant Samir Abualanein, Qatari mediation team leader, and other team members met Abdulmalik Al-Houthi on Sunday, as part of attempts to remove any obstacles to the ceasefire agreement. He added that team members are working on bringing viewpoints together with the intention of implementing term 7.
"We are optimistic that such efforts may reach positive results," Al-Janadi maintained, pointing out that reinforcing

the ceasefire agreement requires further effort and patience since the issue is not as easy as some people expect. He regretted that the war left negative consequences over the past five years.
Regarding whether schools had reopened, and teachers and students had returned to classrooms, Sheikh Saleh Habra explained to various media outlets that "citizens are still displaced in valleys and mountains, their villages besieged by the army. Teachers, who fled the war-torn Haidan district, have not resumed their work yet because there are no houses to dwell in and displaced pupils cannot return home."
Habra went on to say, "Talking about the seventh term and ignoring the other six terms, of which nothing was implemented except for releasing 120 detainees, is a legal violation of the agreement. The government authorities don't consider the 12 minutes with regard to lifting the blockade on Juma'a Bin Fadhil

citizens, although Houthis lifted their siege of some military troops in the area." He added, "Military units don't allow youths to move between the various Sa'ada districts. We don't know why the army commanders behave this way."
Al-Umma.net quoted one of Abdulmalik Al-Houthi's relatives as denying official media reports that Houthi followers banished teachers and students from 22 schools in the Haidan district. "Our district doesn't have a high number of schools. There are only three schools in our area," the relative said on condition of anonymity. "This is a big media lie."
He reacted that the government is responsible for attacking their mosques and schools, as well as firing many teachers and suspending their salaries because its troops used schools as barracks for them in their fight with citizens, adding that teachers and students constitute two-thirds of the citizens so far killed in the fighting.

Women's National Committee plan for women's development approved

By: Rasha Jarhum For Yemen Times
SANAA, March 15 — The Higher Council for Women, a governmental organization led by Prime Minister Ali Mujawar, approved the Women National Committee's (WNC) plan for 2008 during their conference held on March 8-10. The WNC was formed in 1996 as the

main mechanism to institute pro-woman policies in the Yemeni government. This year, the WNC's plan is to incorporate gender issues into Yemen's development plans.
The WNC suggested establishing more laws that protect women's rights, altering stereotypes of women through use of the media and building the capacity for female involvement in education and employment.
On the first day of their conference, the WNC launched the National Safe Motherhood Alliance, which is a network of government ministries, NGOs and international donors partnering to reduce the mortality of mothers and newborns. The WNC is responsible for overseeing and monitoring the program, under the supervision of qualified medical professionals.
The conference attendees also heard presentations on new reports, such as the Gender Audit Report, a survey of six ministries and governmental bodies that

enumerates the number of women involved in their various projects.
Other topics of interest included the Women and the Priorities of the Investment Program, part of the wide-ranging reforms of the Governmental Investment Plan, which tries to increase investment in women's businesses, a report discussing the importance of including financial allocations for more women in the government, and budgeting for more money towards women's projects.
There were also reports on women and cancer, female education in rural areas, and a draft of the Woman's Status Report 2007, which surveys progress made in women's issues in Yemen.
The WNC gave recommendations for new projects that draw attention to the importance of recording gender-specific data to specify problems in different areas like literacy and employment, among others.
Additionally, the WNC urged the gov-

ernment to participate in the preparation of different projects that will focus on gender issues, specifically urging the nation's Governmental Investment Program to be more responsive to female needs.
The WNC called on civil society organizations to consider gender issues in their projects, in accordance with Yemen's fifth plan for Development and Poverty Reduction, 2006 to 2010, which will create an institutional partnership between the government and NGOs.
"We value his Excellency's initiative to reserve 15 percent of the parliamentary seats for women, which is a realistic percentage when we look at the traditional and social values that still suffocate women and even deny them their rights as stated in the sharia," said Rashida Al-Hamdani, WNC chairperson. "The legislative amendments submitted to Parliament last summer are still under discussion, but it is important to note that the proposed amendments

were created from an Islamic perspective."
Al-Hamdani added that she hoped that Parliament will approve the amendments quickly, before the preparations for the upcoming parliamentary elections take priority.

The WNC concluded the three-day conference with the celebration of Women's International Day, and proposed recommendations to Parliament for approving the legislative amendments related to women's rights and the Safe Motherhood Alliance.

Budget Car Rental
1958 - 2008
Call + 967 1 411727
Fax + 967 1 411728
24 hours (Hot Line) 71100052

Head Office
47 Alzubairi St. - Ishaq Bldg. - Sana'a
P.O. Box: 19214
Tel: (+967-1) 420908-240984
586115-586118
Fax: (+967-1) 240943

الوطنية للتأمين
AL-WATANIA INSURANCE
www.alwataniainsurance.com
Sana'a, Tel: (01)272713, 272874, Fax: (01)272924, G.M. (01)276745
Hodeidah: (03)21994144, Fax: (03)219945

المستشفى الحديث الحديث
Al-Hadi Modern Hospital
بالتعلم والقيم... نرضى مرضانا
سنعاء - فرع عمان - ت. ٤٤٤٤٤٤ - ٤٤٤٤٤٤ - ٤٤٤٤٤٤
Email: info@hadithalhi.com
www.hadithalhi.com

PILOT
الشكل المطور الجديد
لكتابه فائقة النعومة
V BALL GRIP
مجموعة الجبل الجديد
AL-JEEL AL-JADEED GROUP
www.aljeel-aljadeed.com
الإدارة العامة - الجمهورية اليمنية - صنعاء - شارع الرافض تليفون: ٢١٣١٦٤ فاكس: ٢١٣١٦٣ ص.ب: ٤٤٤

Qarnaw
For Oilfield Services
Qarnaw focuses on delivering the best solutions and multi-services to our clients.
Tel: 01 448447/8, Fax: 01 448446, 3rd Floor, Sana'a Trade Center, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
E-M: godwin@qarnaw.com W: www.shaifgroup.com

ROYAL
المهوه والجمال...
مع خاطان رويال...
الذك سعيد...
شركة أرتكس التجارية المحدودة
01-400447 ص.ب. 3803 صنعاء، الجمهورية اليمنية - هاتف: 01-400445/6 فاكس: 01-400447
فرع عدن مجمع عدن التجاري - هاتف: 02-263110/1 فاكس: 02-263112
محللات الحيفي التجارية
ص.ب 374 شارع ٢١ سيمفون - فرع: الجمهورية اليمنية
هاتف: 0174777/٧٧٧ فاكس: 0174777

KONICA MINOLTA **كونيكا مينولتا**
Choose your best MFP Products Lineup
Thabet Son Corporation مؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة
Sana'a: Tel: 278546-8 Fax: 283596, Taz: Tel: 2190537 Fax: 214306, Aden: Tel: 244625
Fax: 246787, Hodeidah: Tel: 204488 Fax: 204490, Mukalla: Tel: 316710 Fax: 316711
E-mail: tes@yemen.net.ye, Website: www.thabetson.com.ye

SAMSUNG mobile
Caution! 1550 users ONLY!
SGH-i550
imagine reaching out, where others cannot!
Al-Kasr Showroom Tel.: 01 494844

شركة صناعات ومطاحن سيلو (ش.م.ي)
Aden Silos & Mills Co. (S.Y.C.)

Yemen Commercial Bank **البنك التجاري اليمني**
Child's Treasure Program
for better future
Toll free 8008000
Phone 01-299988
www.ycb.com.ye

In brief

SANA'A

"Yemen Motors" Automobile magazine now in Yemen

A magazine on the automobile industry in Yemen is out in the market under the name Yemen Motors. The magazine talks about automobile affairs and the situation in the local market. It also has descriptions on the various brands and maintenance tips, especially for local consumers in Yemen.

TAIZ

Yemeni life in England photo exhibition

A photography exhibition was launched this week in Taiz depicting the lives of Yemenis in South Shield in England. The exhibition which is of the English photographer Peter Fraier includes 50 different photo taken over thirty years reflecting the Yemeni community living their traditional life abroad while adopting to the British ways of life.

The exhibition is organized at the Saeed's Foundation for Science and Culture.

Purse thief caught in real time

The thief who mugged a woman's bag containing three thousand US dollars and eight thousand YR, did not enjoy his catch of the day as Taiz police caught him just three hours after the incident. He had snatched the woman's bag while she was exiting a money exchange center and speeded on his motorbike. Luckily the smart victim took down his license number and reported it to the police who had no problem finding the culprit.

ZABID

Fifth poetry festival for youth

Starting from March 26, the fifth Zabid poetry exhibition of youth is going to be launched at the Cultural Literature Forum of the town. The three-day event will include participations of 20 young Yemeni male and female poets from Zabid, Sana'a, Hodaiedah and Hadramout. The festival will honor the late renowned Yemeni poet Hussien Abdullah Al-Hadaya who was from Zabid and had left his prints in Yemeni poetry, especially through his writings about suffering and fighting for freedom. At the conclusion of the festival a book about this poet will be announced.

ADEN

German language classes in Aden University

The college of Arts at Aden University is preparing to commence a German language course at the linguistics department of the college this academic year 2008/2009.

Trade ministry works to improve economic sector, says minister

Minister of Trade and Industry Yahya al-Mutawakel said on Thursday that his ministry is carrying out a set of measures to improve economic sector.

In his speech in a symposium on promotion for Aden and Lahj industrial zones, al-Mutawakel made clear that the project of restructuring the ministry would realize a clear goal to serve private sector and improve its capabilities to compete at local and international levels.

He said that the two industrial zones of Aden and Lahj would be new elements for comprehensive development in the nation as they would create jobs and attract further investments.

LAHJ

Investments in tourism and environment sectors

The governor of Lahj Abdul-Wahab al-Durah affirmed on Saturday local authority's keenness to provide the required environment for investment in the tourism and environment sectors.

During his meeting with chairman of Tourism Committee in the Shura Council Awad Moshba, the governor clarified that the province has an investment map.

The governor highlighted some obstacles which face investment in the domain of tourism and environment and the lack of infrastructure.

UNHCR proposes another refugee camp for Yemen

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANAA, March 16 — A UN official said on Thursday that Yemen will still receive an influx of African immigrants for many years to come, whether or not there is political stability in the horn of Africa.

"I don't want to sound pessimistic, but my feeling is that even if there is a political solution and political progress made in Somalia from where most immigrants are, we will see people leaving Somali shores for many years to come," said Judy Cheng-Hopkins, the Assistant High Commissioner for Operations in the UN refugee agency (UNHCR).

Cheng-Hopkins added that the reason for the predicted influx is a future post-war economy which will still suffer from decades of conflict and instability. Cheng-Hopkins paid a two-day visit

to Yemen to visit the UNHCR-administered refugee camp and reception center on the Yemeni coast. She said that she discussed establishing a new camp in the country with Yemeni officials, but the Yemeni government has not yet formally responded to the agency's proposition.

The high commissioner's visit came only one week after the Dutch Development Cooperation Minister, Bert Koenders, visited Yemen's refugee camp in Lahj governorate.

The camp in Lahj is located in an isolated, arid area with extremely harsh climate conditions, approximately 100 miles west of Yemen's commercial capital, Aden. Koenders suggested moving the camp to another location inside of Yemen, partly due to the region's hot and dry environment, but also because of security problems inside and outside the camp.

Cheng-Hopkins, like the Dutch minister, was received by the camp's residents with angry protests on Wednesday. The refugees complained specifically about the harsh conditions that they suffer inside of the camp.

According to the UNHCR representative in Yemen, Adel Jasmin, the camp went through a difficult time during the last two weeks due to the absence of UNHCR staff, who usually work inside the camp. The staff's absence created fears among the camp's residents, he said. "Yesterday [Saturday the 15th] the staff returned and resumed their activities as usual," said Jasmin, who added that 46 security guards protect the camp at all times. The UNHCR staff received threatening letters and phone calls from local tribesmen in the camp's district, which forced the UNHCR to suspend some of its assistance activities inside the camp for two weeks.

"The villagers around the camp are not in a better position than the refugees, so they are frustrated," said Jasmin. "They see the care and international assistance at the camp, so their frustrations are reflected in different reactions and one of the forms is to threaten us."

The camp is occupied by 9,300 refugees, mostly from Somalia. Unlike the urban refugees, the camp's refugees receive basic services and supplies, including food, medicine, and education from the UNHCR and partner NGOs.

In a recent statement in February, the UNHCR said there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people crossing the Gulf of Aden in illegal, unregistered boats run by smugglers.

The UNHCR said almost 9,000 people, most of them Somalis, arrived at Yemeni coasts in the first two months of

2008. The number is three times as high as during the same period last year, and it may create overcrowding problems inside the camp if the rate of arrival stays the same.

Upon her return, Hopkins said that it is not practical to talk about moving the camp to another location. "We have already been there - we have already invested a lot in this location," she said. "I think it would be irresponsible to close down and move away."

Instead, she recommended keeping the camp at its current size and creating a new camp in Yemen for the newer refugees. However, Cheng-Hopkins said that is difficult to find suitable land for a new camp.

The UNHCR's suggestions are expected to be discussed again at Yemen's regional conference on illegal immigration from Eastern Africa on May 19th.

Information ministry continues plan to close Al-Sabah newspaper

SANAA, March 16 — Yemen's Ministry of Information still plans on closing Al-Sabah weekly newspaper, owned by Saeed Al-Jeraik, who has been also its editor-in-chief for 45 years. The ministry accuses the newspaper of covering sit-ins and protests in the south and some northern governorates in a way that doesn't serve national unity. The ministry says the newspaper tends towards opposition inside and outside the country.

The newspaper's managing editor, Ahmed Al-Haj, accused the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) of being biased against some journalists' issues, considering it a weakness. Al-Haj called for creating a mechanism to express journalists' demands.

In meeting held on March 12 to show solidarity with the newspaper, journalists described the YJS as a "dead" organization, criticizing it for its stance on violations committed against journalists.

Organized by the Women Sister Forum, a local non-governmental



Ahmed Al-Haj, Al-Sabah's managing editor accused the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) of being biased



Saeed Al-Jeraik with friends on a social occasion. Al-Jeraik is the founder and editor in chief of Al-Sabah newspaper for over 45 years.

organization (NGO), the meeting brought together chief editors of several newspapers, lawyers, representatives from the YJS, and civil society organizations.

The participants agreed to start a call pushing for civil society organizations to appeal to international organizations to put pressure on the government. The call includes a suggestion to start a campaign through newspapers and websites to call for canceling the penal court, where journalists are tried.

The participants also agreed to form a committee that includes representatives from the YJS and lawyer's bar, in addition to 4 local NGOs. The committee will be assigned to find a mechanism to defend journalists' issues.

Saeed Thabet, an official at the YJS, said the Ministry of Information stopped

Al-Sabah newspaper from publishing, as the newspaper covered issues in the southern governorates, which bothered the state.

The newspaper's editorial staff said the information ministry's allegations are invalid, adding the newspaper will continue to support people's issues, freedoms, and dignity, whether in the south or north. The newspaper considered the information ministry's action a 'violation of freedom of expression.' "The Ministry of Information seeks to silence dissenting opinions through an organized campaign that targeted a number of newspapers and websites," it said.

The Ministry of Information has recently summoned chief editors of a number of newspapers and warned them against publishing what it considers prohibited issues.

Workshop boosts partnership between local councils and communities

SANAA, March 16 — Local experts and officials discussed on Sunday the partnership between local councils and communities.

The discussion took place at a three-day workshop held in Sana'a by the Supporting Democratic and Civil Orientation Foundation, a local non-government organization known as MADA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Administration.

The workshop discussion brought together secretaries and officials of the capital city's local councils.

The workshop is part of MADA's capacity building program for local councils, which is funded by the National Democracy Fund.

Abdul-Majeed Al-Fad, head of MADA, said the program aims to increase society's participation and local council transparency in 100 districts nationwide. The program includes awareness for locals on the importance of participating with local councils.

During the workshop, deputy local administration minister Jafar Hamed said local governance has become "a heated matter." "We focus on the partnership between local councils and

communities in all sectors," he said.

Hamed added that increasing the local councils' authority is an urgent necessity but the current law did not include evaluating and building local council members, particularly females. "A new law is to be issued and ratified soon and it aims to increase local councils' authority. Local councils presently depend on various resources, like zakat," he said.

The official further said he wants to see more representation of the local authorities in the institutional and executive aspects. "They must have forward plans and must increase developing local resources, especially developing women's participation capacity. We will soon distribute a manual that helps local communities get wide-range information, as a new administrative division for Yemen will be by the end of 2008 (ED: unclear)," he added.

Over the past period, there were many statements claiming that the government would change from a local authority system into local governance. Even the state has talked about such a change, but observers say such statements were just media consumption,

adding that local governance is merely a dream.

Several economists and politicians wonder about local governance which, if instated, would set an example in the region, making Yemen a pioneer in this project, which was praised and supported by the UN.

Last month, local administration minister Abdul-Qader Hilal said his ministry was preparing a national strategy to move from local authority into local governance, and a law to regulate tasks and specializations for the local authorities at the level of districts and governorates. "Such tasks and specializations entrusted to the local councils will only deal with offering services to citizens sufficiently," he said.

A recent report by the Middle East Institute summarized the issue of local governance in Yemen as equality in public employment and services through economic and political decentralization and creating an improved system, law, and administration for the national economy.

"The regime has frequently promised decentralization but didn't execute such promises," the international institute said in its report.

Former Yemeni prisoner describes secret CIA prisons

By: Hamed Thabet

SANAA, March, 15 — After being held for nearly three years in secret CIA prisons, or "black sites," around the world and accusing the United States of torture, a 31-year-old Yemeni prisoner named Khalid Al-Maqtari finally has been released.

Al-Maqtari told Amnesty International that he spent 28 months in isolation without any charges or access to legal representation. Initially, he was a U.S. 'ghost detainee' at Iraq's Abu Ghraib Prison after being arrested there in 2004.

Al-Maqtari described the torture, ill treatment and how he suffered at the hands of U.S. military and the CIA while he was in secret custody. He also was arrested in Yemen and released by Yemeni authorities last May.

He's then believed to have been handed over to U.S. military intelligence on suspicion of being a foreign insurgent, initially being arrested in Iraq in January 2004 when U.S. military raided a suspected arms market in Fallujah.

Afterward, Al-Maqtari was transferred to Abu Ghraib Prison, where he allegedly was subjected to a regimen of beating, sleep deprivation, suspension upside down in painful positions, intimidation by dogs and induced hypothermia.

Following nine days of interrogation at Abu Ghraib, Al-Maqtari claims he was flown to a secret CIA detention facility in Afghanistan and held for three months.

"He [Al-Maqtari] obtained flight records showing that a plane operated by an alleged CIA front company flew from Baghdad to Kabul nine days after his arrest," Amnesty International stated.

According to Al-Maqtari, during this time in Afghanistan, he was subjected to further torture and ill treatment, including prolonged solitary confinement, use of stress positions, sleep deprivation, exposure to hot and cold extremes, sensory deprivation and disruption by



Khalid Al-Maqtari

bright lights and loud music or sound effects. "It wasn't really music, but rather noise to scare you, like from a scary movie," he noted.

"I was scared. There were no dogs, but there was noise there. Whenever I tried to sleep, they would bang on the door loudly and violently," Al-Maqtari added. During lapses in the music and sound effects, he was able to speak to other detainees and deduced that there were about 20 others being held in the cell around him, including Majid Khan, a "high-value" detainee transferred to Guantanamo Bay in September 2006, according to Amnesty International.

In late April 2004, Al-Maqtari and several other detainees were transferred to another CIA black site, possibly in Eastern Europe, and held in isolation for a further 28 months, he noted.

According to Amnesty International, the CIA eventually handed over Al-Maqtari in the summer of 2006 to Yemeni authorities, who continued holding him without charge until May 2007. "Khalid Al-Maqtari's account sheds more light on the United States' unlawful conduct in its 'War on Terror,'" said Anne FitzGerald, senior advisor at Amnesty International.

"He describes being subjected to international crimes such as forced disappearance and torture, yet these allegations have never been investigated," she noted, adding, "The secrecy surrounding this program goes hand-in-hand with a complete absence of accountability."

In July 2007, U.S. President George W. Bush issued an executive order banning "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment" of terror suspects by the CIA, but not its operation of secret facilities. The agency since has declined to say whether it still uses them.

Heads of Mission Spouses Association hosts annual charity luncheon

SANAA, March, 15 — The Heads of the Mission Spouses Association (HOMSA) hosted their annual women-only charity luncheon on Thursday at the Movenpick Hotel in Sana'a, incorporating dancing, singing, a fashion show and culinary treats from countries around the world.

The event was organized by Aluba Jaradat, the wife of the Jordanian Ambassador to Yemen, and the tickets - a steep YR 4,000 per head - were completely sold out. Embassy spouses from fifteen countries supported the event, either by cooking, performing or making charitable donations.

"There are some countries who participate in this event by [donating] food

and by dancing, singing, or participating in the fashion show," said Jaradat. "The entire event is related to HOMSA in Yemen."

The association supports women and children's causes in Yemen, often giving charitable donations to poor families and orphaned youngsters. HOMSA also donates to Yemeni women's associations. "They send us letters and we check on their needs and then send them what they asked us for," said Jaradat.

Associations like HOMSA are active throughout the world, and frequently host events such as this one that benefit charities or help to improve residents' lives in the country where they are posted.

WHAT IT MEANS...

The break-and-patch symphony in Sana'a streets

By: Abdulaziz Qassim Murshid
Yemen Juvenile Care Association
abdulazizqaid@yahoo.com

One can hardly find any Sana'a street that is in good condition, as most suffer the aftermaths of "surgery" in the form of break-and-patch works. While this breaking up and patching of streets represents its own problem, another major problem is the unevenness left behind. One sometimes wonders whether these bumps are the government's sung achievements.

Undoubtedly, every break-and-patch operation is justifiable. For example, the government first digs up the street to lay down pipes for water, which should be fresh, save minor contamination by sewage at certain points. Our government frequently breaks up and patches the streets either to build a sewage network, replace it, connect telephone lines, etc., so it's justifiable!

Planning and coordination

While the government has a certain logic behind digging up our streets, the illogical

aspect of it is the frequent break-and-patch works done in short intervals. For instance, a few weeks after a street is paved, residents are struck with new pits.

The result is that all streets have lost their aesthetic appeal and are neither driver-friendly nor drivable. It's completely irrational to see convexes and concaves in the roads and sewer covers rising above or sinking below street level.

It's unacceptable adopting this break-and-patch approach in metropolitan management. Lack of adequate planning and coordination is the main force driving this vicious cycle of break-and-patch.

Irregular street levels are just a sample proof of the corruption that is rampant in Yemen's governmental departments. Overnight, some unqualified individuals become "contractors," each claiming his share of public contracts. There's no accountability, just more patching and patching.

Another equally dangerous distortion of the capital city is manifested in the concrete blocks fortifying the "castles" of Yemeni officials and it's common to see them in numerous zones around the city. When driving down

the Sheraton street past the U.S. Embassy, expect a row of concrete abruptly blocking the thoroughfare.

There are more than quarter of a million cesspits, each of which is a landmine that could potentially claim a life or swallow a vehicle. I don't intend here to list all of the incidents involving vehicles/pedestrians and these cesspits throughout our capital city because tackling such a task is as exciting as watching a late night thriller.

Intentional manmade road humps are yet another story. Yemen can fairly be called "the country of 20 million road humps," instead of the "country of a million colonels" or, like Algeria, "the country of a million martyrs."

Yemeni fatalities due to mediocre street works, manmade road humps, inadequate lighting and overabundant cesspits may exceed the number of martyrs in both Algeria's and Yemen's wars over the past 50 years.

Within this graphic context, one should remember the intensely dusty air that disturbs the Sana'a atmosphere year round in spring, summer, fall and winter - day and night - thanks to rock breakers, uncovered gravel

trucks and desert winds.

Detrimental effects

These break-and-patch works, dim or no lighting, concrete barriers and random electrical networking in various areas throughout Sana'a cause numerous accidents and bring about death and material losses.

There have been accidents where drivers have rammed into concrete blocks and later awakened to realize that they are in a hospital intensive care unit. Drivers also are susceptible to falling into these cesspits or road pits, of which they are unaware, because only in Sana'a does one learn about construction work or pits only when it's too late!

This break-and-patch symphony has untold effects upon our citizens and our nation. For example, much money is spent on spare auto parts and medical treatment when Yemen is in dire need of money to feed its people and improve their living standards.

Although such improper street works may give some the wrong impression that Yemen is advancing and thriving and that the development pace is encouraging, the reality is that the results of these works are alarming, catch-

ing the attention of both friends and enemies, and giving a bad impression to guests and visitors.

What to do

As soon as Sana'a completed its most recent endeavor to remove both legal and illegal street vendors, things gradually began to get back to "normal," which is attributable to the fact that we address our problems whimsically rather than systematically. We don't search for alternatives.

With such a high unemployment rate, it's absurd to think that rooting out street vendors will stop them from making a living because their simple jobs are the line between being able to feed their families and letting them starve to death.

We must examine our problems in general and then address the issues in totality as one interconnected entity. Just as it's impossible to keep a good apple in with a box of bad ones, similarly, changing Sana'a for the better requires changes elsewhere, including anticorruption activities, law enforcement and refraining from unlawfully awarding contracts based on favoritism.

What it means is an analytical feature of Yemen Times, in which Yemeni topics are discussed and analyzed by Yemeni and international experts. Contributions and comments are welcomed, they could be sent to the feature's coordinator: Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih (drafaqih@yahoo.com).

Their News

Total to invest one billion US dollars in Yemen

Total the French Petroleum Company intends to spend one billion US dollars in gas and oil investments in Yemen during the next three years.

Total's head of exploration and production Yves-Louis Darricarrere, said that the company designed a number of projects to economically make use of the natural gas produced as a by-product in oil exploration. "We intend to establish a gas station to produce electricity power at 50 mega watts," said Darricarrere.

As a response to this, Mujawar Yemen's prime minister welcomed the expansion and hoped the company would invest further in sea oil exploration; especially that Yemen has a huge coastal line. He insisted that such investments are crucial in helping Yemen meet development challenges.

Total and Yemeni discussed the company's plans and investments in Yemen and its oil exploration projects in sector No. 10 in Shabwa governorate. In addition to the progress of the YLNG projects the Total is overseeing.

Amnesty International UK to recognize excellence in human rights reporting

Journalists from around the world have the opportunity to enter the 2008 Amnesty International (United Kingdom) Media Awards, which recognize excellence in human rights reporting and acknowledge journalism's significant contribution to the UK public's awareness and understanding of human rights issues. The deadline for submissions is March 31.

Journalists will be honored in each of the following categories: International TV and radio, new media, television docu-

mentary and docudrama, television news, radio, national newspapers, periodicals, and photojournalism.

Entries must have been published or broadcast for the first time in the UK between March 30, 2007, and March 24, 2008. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in June.

BBC to launch Arabic news channel

British broadcaster the BBC said on Monday it is launching an Arabic television news channel across the Middle East and North Africa to meet a growing demand for current affairs and debate in the Arab world.

The channel, BBC Arabic Television, will go on air at 1000 GMT on March 11 and be freely available to anyone with a satellite or cable connection, distributed via Arabsat, Eutelsat and Nilesat.

The channel will initially broadcast for

12 hours a day, but this will move to 24 hours a day in the summer, the BBC said.

The broadcaster said the channel would complement Arabic radio and online services it already offers.

"BBC Arabic is renowned for broadcasting impartial and accurate news and information which is strong on analysis and expertise," BBC World Service Director Nigel Chapman said in a statement.

"This enhanced multimedia service meets the needs of an audience with a very strong appetite for news and debate. We will be contemporary in style; and independent and incisive in our journalism."

BBC Arabic Television will include news headlines every 15 minutes and a full news summary every 30 minutes.

The channel will also feature news and current affairs programmes such as the twice-daily Newshour, which highlights news, analysis, key interviews and debate on the events from around the region and the rest of the world.

BBC Arabic Television presenters will

include Rania Al Alattar, Fida Bassil, Tony El-Khoury, Dalia Mohamed, Osman Ayfarah, Hasan Muawad, Lina Musharbash and Dina Waqqaf.

Charity night in Geneva for Linkchild Yemen

Linkchild will hold in Geneva on 17 May 2008 in favour of the Mother-Child Hospital "As-Sabeen" in Yemen: a hospital which registers one of the highest mortality rates of the country.

In the aim to help this hospital, to serve the children better, several specialists have accompanied Linkchild over the past few years and have already established a co-operative project, which needs important means.

In an attempt to make the public aware of this catastrophic situation and to allow us to collect a maximum of funds for the hospital, we are organizing a Gala event with the subject 'Arabia Felix' to let people have a better knowledge of Yemen; where several Suisse and Arab personalities will be present.

It's with big hopes that I address you

this letter today in the name of Linkchild, to solicit your help to assist this project to become a success.

We are looking for everybody who has a heart for children and can help and sponsor us, either by honouring the evening with his presence or giving a donation. Linkchild can count on the presence of the Minister of Health his Excellency Dr. Abdulkareem Rasea, the Minister of Culture his Excellency Dr. Mohammed A. El Maflahi and has the support of his Excellency Dr. Ibrahim Al-Doofi, Ambassador of Yemen, his Excellency Mr. Abdullah Al-Dosairi, Ambassador of Qatar, as well as other eminent representatives of the Swiss and Arab world. Yemen TV, the Swiss and Yemeni Press will also be available.

Thanking you in advance to have taken the care and time to read this file, please accept our respect.

Citizens in Yemen can sponsor Linkchild locally: Link Association has an account with CALYON Sana'a under the number: 0719060013006 YER. Thank you for your contribution.

A multinational Oilfield Service Company requires the following staff in their field and Sana'a office:

HSE Coordinators (2) – Field Position

Responsibilities

- Assists Management and Support Functions in:
- Maintaining, implementing QHSE standards and procedures
- Client, third party subcontractors and agencies liaison on HSE front.
- Assist assessing local risks.
- Co-ordinates and actively participate in the screening and training of all personnel, including subcontractors.
- Maintaining HSE documentation at the site.
- Compliance of the local HSE program with all local regulations and company policies.
- Follow up on HSE issues and participate in audits and investigations of major non-conformances and accidents.

Qualification/requirements:

- Yemeni National
- Having an engineering degree
- More than 2 years oil field HSE experience.
- Able to travel to field locations and out of the country if required
- Good command of English both written and spoken.
- Team player
- Having a broad outlook.

Doctor (2) – Field Based

Responsibilities

- Ability to run the field clinic independently
- Maintaining, implementing and improving the medical as required.
- Should be able to
- Implementing and support local health standards and procedures.
- Advise management on corrective action required.

- Health documentation is readily available on the site.
- Compliance of the local health program with all local regulations and company policies.
- Follow up on health issues and participate in audits and investigations of major non-conformances and accidents.

Qualification/Requirements:

- Yemeni National
- Having minimum MBBS Degree
- More than 3 years of work experience.
- Able to travel to field locations and out of the country if required
- Good command of English both written and spoken.
- Having good work attitude and able to work with multinational force

HR Administrator (1) Position in Sana'a

Qualification/Requirements:

- A Yemen national HR/Finance graduate-Female preferred.
- Excellent command over spoken and written English and Arabic.
- Willing to learn & travel abroad for training
- Can handle deadlines & pressure
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Over 2 years experience in HR stream preferably
- Good with numbers and Microsoft office suite.

We provide:

- Good pay package & benefits
- A career, not just a job
- Progressive & good work environment

Pls fax your Resume attention to: The HR Manager
On Fax # 01-429037 or email to:
Ye-Rec@sanaa.oilfield.slb.com



SEEKS EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTORS FOR YEMEN & SUDAN

UNZA, a major ISO 9002 certified MNC with a portfolio of strong brands in the **personal care category**, requires distributors for their complete range of Personal Care brands.



THE COMPANY IS IN THE PROCESS OF IDENTIFYING AND ESTABLISHING A "STRATEGIC ALLIANCE PARTNER" FOR YEMEN & SUDAN FOR OUR WELL KNOWN BRANDS.

Interested companies with professional Marketing, key account management, sound distribution network, good financial background, solid track record in personal care with long term business vision, business relationship and keen to take up challenges, may write to the General Manger, Unza Middle East, to the following contact details, within 7 days of the advertisement.

UNZA MIDDLE EAST, P. O. BOX 51511, Dubai, UAE
E-mail: amsafe@emirates.net.ae, Website: www.unza.com

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.

Mohammed Ahmed Al-Maghout, the Syrian poet with a satiric pen

Prepared by: Eyad N. Al-Samran

Syrian poet, playwright, journalist and scenarist Mohammed Ahmed Al-Maghout was born in 1934 in Salamiyah, a town on the Orontes River in western Syria's Hamah governorate.

Because his father was a farmer, Al-Maghout spent his childhood in miserable and poverty-stricken conditions. After receiving his primary education in Salamiyah, he moved to Damascus at age 14 and enrolled in a boarding school to study agronomy.

Being unable to pursue his studies there, he enrolled in another agricultural school in Al-Ghutah, a suburban area of Damascus. Still unable to continue, he joined the

Syrian Social Nationalist Party, or SSNP, in his early 20s.

Arrested in 1955 during a crackdown by Syrian intelligence on SSNP members, Al-Maghout was imprisoned for nine months in Al-Mazzah Prison in Damascus. While there, he had the opportunity to write poetry for the first time, as well as meet renowned Syrian poet Adonis, who later introduced the novice poet to the public.

Fearing Syrian intelligence during the independent Arab Union Republic, Al-Maghout moved to Beirut in the late 1950s. While in Lebanon, he met poet Saniyah Saleh, who admired his poems, and later married her, continuing to reside in Beirut for a time. He began writing poetry, publishing them in Lebanon's "Shi'ar" (Poetry) magazine, before returning to Syria and

settling in Damascus.

A group of Syrian army officers organized a coup d'état against the Arab Union Republic government in September 1961 and a provisional Syrian national government subsequently was formed. As a SSNP member, Al-Maghout was arrested and again imprisoned for three months during that same year.

Following his release, he concealed himself in small, low-ceilinged rooms for several months in various quarters in Damascus, such as Ayn Al-Karsh and Bab Tuma, before settling down in Damascus for decades of writing and living with his two favorite pleasures – smoking cigarettes and listening to classic Lebanese music.

Al-Maghout's poems, plays, television and movie scripts criticized corruption in

regional governments and their restrictions upon their citizens. Many of his divans and other selected literary works were translated into several other languages. His work combines satire with descriptions of social misery and malaise, illustrating what he viewed as an ethical decline among the region's rulers.

One of his first poems was "The Bitter Wine," published in 1952 in Al-Adaab (The Arts) newspaper when he was 18 years old.

Al-Maghout published his first collection of poems in 1959, entitled, "Huzn fi Daw'a Al-Qamar" (Sadness in the Moonlight). His second divan was 1964's "A Room with Millions of Walls," followed by the 1970 divan, "The Joy is Not My Profession."

His final published divan, "The Red Bedouin," (2006) contained new texts treating numerous national issues.

As a journalist, Al-Maghout helped establish and develop the Syrian government's Tishreen (October) newspaper, to which he contributed to defining that paper's policy and nature by writing a daily column alternately with another writer beginning in 1975. He also penned the column, "Alice in Wonderland," in the Paris-based weekly Lebanese newspaper, Al-Mustaqbal (The Future).

Al-Maghout began writing one-act plays in 1965, shortly thereafter collaborating with Dureid Lahham, Syria's most renowned actor, to produce some of the region's most popular and acclaimed theatrical works.

His 1973 drama, "Tishreen's Village," was performed on stage but never published. It was a political comedy treating various issues, such as Syria's modern history, the inefficiency of Arab leaders, the Palestinian cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The 1975 drama, "Expatriation," dealt with the phenomena of the massive immigration of Arabs to the West in the 1970s.

Al-Maghout's famed 1987 drama,

"K'asak, Ya Watan," (Cheers, My Homeland) portrayed current Arab perplexing and tragic economic, social and political situations, while his 1989 drama, "The Anemones," focused on aspects of corruption, dictatorship and poverty in the Arab world.

Among his other dramatic works were "The Clown" (1974), "The Hunched Bird" (1976) and "Outside the Flock" (1999).

Lahham starred in some of Al-Maghout's most famous screenplays, including the 1984 motion picture, "Al-Hudood," (The Borders) about a man who loses his passport and becomes trapped between countries in a satire of Arab disunity.

Another screenplay was 1987's "Al-

Taqreer" (The Report), while Al-Maghout's television scripts included "The Valley of Musk" and "The Night's Tales."

In 2001, Al-Maghout collected essays that he had penned and published in Al-Wasat magazine between 1998 and 2001 in the book, "Flowers' Slayer." He's also known for his 1987 book, "I Will Betray My Homeland," which is a collection of satirical political essays.

He penned only one autobiographical novel, 1974's "The Swing."

His divan, "Tall Trees' Woodcutters," was selected and published in UNESCO's "Book in a Newspaper" project and subsequently bestowed Syria's 2002 Cultural Medal. Al-Maghout also won the United Arab Emirates' 2005 Al-Awais Cultural Award.

Al-Maghout died on April 3, 2006 at age 72 in Damascus. A true original and a national character, he was a Syrian intellectual who refused all unsatisfactory compromises and an independent voice for liberty and justice in the Arab world. One of his most famous satirical sayings was, "There's only one perfect crime – to be born an Arab."



Please be informed that the logo of the Bank has changed as follows:

OLD LOGO:



NEW LOGO:



C.R. 2744/21 under entry no: 259



Credit Share service from SabaFon

Now prepaid subscribers can transfer units to any other prepaid or postpaid lines.

How to use this service
Call 222 then press 2 and follow the instructions, then press 2 for unit transfer.
After transfer both parties will receive a notification message of the transfer.

Or by using the following command:
123 mobile number * number of units # then press Call

This service costs 2% from any transferred amount.

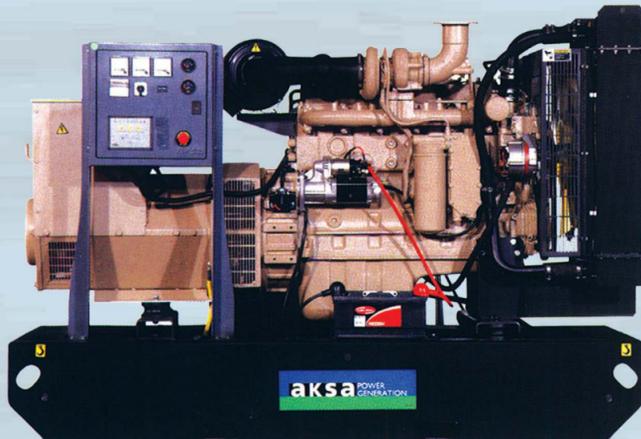


For more info call 711 111 211 or visit www.sabafon.com

aksa POWER GENERATION

THE RELIABLE SOURCE
IN POWER GENERATION

Head office : Sana'a - Haddah St.
Tel : 510372 - Fax : 510373
E-mail : yesyem@y.net.ye
Showroom: Al-Zubairi St. Tel: 465574
Aden : Tel : 345503 - Fax : 345512



POWER YOUR LIFE

Yemen Equipment & Supply



الشركة اليمنية للمعدات والتجهيزات المحدودة

Generating sets in the range of 2.2 KVA to 3000 KVA

Ambassador Edward Gnehm to Yemen Times:

“Culture and religion differences are wonderful aspects of human life”

Edward William Gnehm, Jr., known as Skip, has been to Yemen on several occasions over the last three decades. Skip Gnehm's first appointment at the American embassy in Yemen came only two months after Ali Abdullah Saleh became president in 1978.

Since then, he has kept in touch with Yemen and Yemeni politicians, observing the development closely and from a distance during his posts as a diplomat in the Middle East, or while he worked with the U.S.'s Foreign Service and State Department. Today he is teaching full-time as a Professor of Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Affairs at University of George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf met with Ambassador Gnehm during his short visit to Yemen at the invitation of the president, to see old friends and get re-acquainted with the region and its development. After Yemen, he will be visiting Kuwait and Jordan, where he worked as ambassador in the early 1990s and at the turn of the century respectively.



Edward William Gnehm

You have been to Yemen on several occasions over three decades. What could you say about the country's journey since the early seventies until today?

I came to Yemen for the first time in 1978. At that time there wasn't as much construction and modernization as you see today. Yemen has developed dramatically in many ways.

When I came to Sana'a I could not help but marvel at how the city has expanded. Places that I knew as open fields are all buildings today. The house I lived in was in a residential area where there were no houses more than two stories. Now I went back and the house was like a little dwarf surrounded by tall buildings. Also I have this sense that there are more people and I know that is true from the statistics.

It used to be when you were in the old city or the Tahrir Square that was busy, but now you can drive for twenty or thirty minutes and everywhere is crowded and looks very busy.

The last time I had been to Yemen was in the late nineties almost ten years ago, when I was director general of the State Department and I was traveling in that capacity.

There has been incredible change in Yemen since the seventies and the nineties. When I was posted in Yemen I was with my family: my wife and two children, and we loved Yemen. It was one of those periods of time when we really enjoyed the people we got to meet here and we enjoyed the opportunities that we had in Sana'a. Even as I sit today with my son or daughter and my wife and we talk about places we visited, inevitably stories about Yemen come up.

We often remember the excursions we had. There is a place, not far from here, where there is a huge waterfall that comes down on the way to Hodeidah. We used to go there and the kids used to climb the rocks. There is a picture at the State Department Magazine that shows me and my two children climbing down in the big mountain, and still this day they have it on the walls. We also used to go camping in Khokha, where they loved the sea.

Would you say that Yemen was safer then?

I would say yes, it was safer then in this respect. We didn't have the international aspects of violence. If there was trouble inside of Yemen, it was really local issues between tribes. Occasionally the foreigners would become engaged and perhaps not go to a certain area because there was trouble. But this was not a major concern to us; in fact, even if you ended up being caught in that kind of trouble, usually the people involved were not doing things to us.

Is it because people in Yemen have changed?

I think the world has changed. It has changed because it is more integrated; the communication is more than it ever was before. There has been hyperbole, people made things more dramatic; people have become more emotional because they see pictures of terrible things, which is different from just hearing about it. People today are caught up in all these issues around the world and so you would find people in isolated countries or places who were not aware as they are today. And then there are these movements around the world that spark violence. There were not these kinds of movements thirty years ago.

Are you saying that there is more violence today because people know more?

People tended to be attached to regional issues, and so if you had trouble in Spain it you would not find the trouble spreading out of Spain. Today the world is

becoming smaller and I think that at the same time the emotional side of life is growing more intense and the compassionate side is not growing with it. The humanitarian aspects are less important today. But to be honest I don't really have the explanation or the answer to that.

But from your extensive experience of cultures, how can we make it a better-integrated and compassionate world?

I begin with the belief that with human beings, you are always going to have emotions that are not always positive. That it is in the nature of mankind - to have competition in those who desire power. Fortunately, there is within humanity a large number of people who do in effect believe in human beings, compassion and peace. I think that those who want to drive us towards extremes have in recent years been quite active and have achieved their own objective of trying to drive people apart.

But I feel that is changing. I think that again in the region, and you know it better than I do, but it is my perception, we are seeing the average person - I am talking about Arabs and Muslims - reacting negatively to violence, the deaths to innocent people, for causes that may be legitimate, that may be in long term be towards justice. Everyone wants justice, but I think we are seeing reactions to how you achieve that from the masses. For example, in Saudi Arabia and in Jordan. Certainly the bombings in the weddings in Amman was received with anger by the Jordanians themselves. In Saudi Arabia also, the people killed were all from the region and most of them were Muslims. So the reaction of the people was 'this was senseless.' When the radicals explain, "sometimes you have to kill Muslims to get to your objective," the people reject such logic.

same, running back and forth to let people see this positive side.

How do you evaluate Yemen's progress before and after unity? Do you have concerns?

When I was here in the seventies, there was a war between the north and south, and that was the beginning of our military assistance. There were constant assassinations and danger. I am impressed that those difficult times between the north and the south are largely behind.

I knew then the intense passion of Yemenis for unity. That the colonial division of Yemen, and the British occupation in the south was something people had to accept because of the colonial power. But it was not something that people accepted intellectually, because they saw themselves as one people and one country, and now you have achieved that.

Today you are faced with other problems, but these are internal and domestic. Problems like: how does one bring people of two areas together? This is a very natural problem because even though all Yemenis will share the national view of themselves, the truth is that they were from 1830 until 1990 different. The southern people had a much different experience than the northern [people]. You have to deal with that now. One of the things that is both a great strength and a great weakness is the independence of the Yemeni people.

I've always said when I speak of Yemen in the United States that you have to understand that this is a mountain country. In any mountain country anywhere in the world, the people there don't like outsiders coming to tell them what to do. They have their own internal fights with each other, but if there is a threat from outside they become united against those from outside. They love their inde-



Jordanian women sign condolences at the US Embassy in Amman.

I would say to all cultures not to believe that extreme acts and voices are representative of the people. From the American perception - somehow all Muslim are radical - is totally false. The average woman, when asked in polls what are her major concerns are, she starts with health care, quality of education and probably something about political stability. They are like women anywhere wanting the best of their families.

So that is the first thing, we need to understand that extremism is just that: small groups that because of communications, because of technology, seem to be larger than they are.

Secondly, I would say that both sides need to reach out to positive masses to make certain that the positive aspects are reinforced and not leave the public to the negative. I think my country is trying and many people in this region are trying. Exchanges, communication, the religious groups in my country reaching out to the clergy here, and the Ulama here doing the

pendence and that is true here. I think that is a great strength, because the individuals within themselves have strong views, have a great sense of themselves, and they don't like to be dominated.

The weakness of this is that it is very hard to centralize and control such people. It is very hard to spread lots of things that the government needs to do; health care, education, electricity...etc. It becomes more difficult to deal with the domestic issues with people as independent as they are here.

But we have people living in coastal areas and cities around the country where people are easier to deal with, yet we have problems there too, like in the south.

This is true but this is often the case where it is open and flat. People there are more used to government. I think to me the problems you mention are natural and not something to fear. They should be dealt with - and that is complicated - but

not outrageously bad.

When you try to put two peoples together that have been separate for a long time, naturally both are a bit in competition with the other over the role each plays and what kind of influence they have. Besides, each had a period of time when it was managing its own affairs and now these affairs are a part of a central government. So it is natural that there would be some feelings between the two. I noticed this, for example, in Kuwait after the liberation while I was ambassador there. The differences between those who stayed inside the country and went through that experience, and those who fled the country and had their own experiences. When they all came back together they were all unified as Kuwait and celebrating, but there were little animosities and feelings between the two towards the other for what they had done. It is quite natural, and over time this heals if people work on their differences.

It is always, in my impression, that the president has been very engaged in what goes on in the country. I simply note that the period prior to his becoming president was a period of turmoil at the national and leadership level. We haven't seen that in almost 30 years. I think you have to attribute this to his understanding of the people and his knowledge of Yemen as a Yemeni himself as he has to deal with all of these different aspects of life that we were talking about.

In a certain sense, the power is diffused because of that independence that I have talked about. So he has to be diplomatic, political and practical, sometimes take strong actions and sometimes permit things to be.

Do you feel over the different times you had been here that the tribal system has changed? Does it have to do with Yemen's identity?

I have only been here for short durations, but it seems to me that the tribal system remains quite strong, despite the expansion and the modernization.

There has never been any question in my mind that if you went to any place in Yemen and talked to people they would greatly identify themselves as Yemenis. They are not Saudis, not Egyptians...etc. Even before they would say they are Arabs, they would say they are Yemenis. Then if you go further, they would identify themselves with the tribe and the area where they live. It is a matter of the nation's attributes.

I do think that while there is this independence in the country in spirit, the tribal identification is very strong. There is an integration in the country that is more noticeable now to me than before. Just simply the fact that there are roads that connect places that when I was here were not as connected. It brings the country together and people can move from one place to other, and the telecommunications as well. I think there is a more engaged country in itself than before.

How would you describe the Yemeni people to an outsider?

I would say you are going to find great people. You are going to find that any individual that you talk to is going to be warm and welcoming. They tend to be happy people by nature, interested in you, independent and spirited. I know other countries where there are complaining people, where complaining is like a national pastime. But I would never use this as a description here. You see it at the airports when you come here, people laughing, talking, sitting around.

I am very happy to be here again, and I side with all my life on the optimistic side that even though things seem terrible, and often, such as the Palestinian question seems like it will never be resolved, I don't capitulate to this kind of negativity. Despite all these years, I always look to these potentials that can be used, can be engaged, can be developed to what we really want them to be. I do believe that with passion, individuals can make a difference. That a leader, at a moment in time, can use his or her position and influence to make things better. It can happen here in Sana'a, it can happen in any other place. That is what I try to search for.

Was Qat so prevalent in the seventies as is today?

Yes. It was largely here then.

How did you deal with 9/11, as a U.S. ambassador to Jordan?

It was a really dramatic experience. I had arrived at six in the evening the day before. That meant with the time difference, it was the next afternoon at four o'clock when the first plane hit.

I had earlier invited all my employees

in the embassy; Jordanians and Americans to come to the residence for coffee or tea just to say hello. I heard about this while I was welcoming them through the door. So I stood in front of them five minutes later, and only four or five of the five hundred had heard about it. It was a shock. The king was in a plane off the coast of Canada to the United States, and he called me from the plane, and said "Skip, what should I do?" So I said, "Your Majesty, whatever the ground control tells you to do, just do it because they're scared and hyper." He turned around and went to London, which was good.

We were given warnings from Washington that there might be other groups all over the world ready to move in the same time. This was the fear and we were warned to tighten security. So that night when we closed the embassy, some of our local Jordanian employees said they wanted to stay in the embassy for interpretation or for mediation in case there was trouble. At 5:30 or 6 a.m., just as the sun was coming up, my very alarmed security officer came to my residence inside the embassy, and banged on the door. There was a crowd gathering outside and he of course assumed it threatening. He was so fixated on the danger that he assumed it was trouble.

One of our Jordanian employees said, "I'll go around from the back and find out what is happening," and so he did. He came straight from the front gate through the crowd and said they were there to express their condolences. Over the next four days, by popular demand, I had to open a tent for condolences. Three thousand eight hundred Jordanians came to the embassy in the next four days to express their sadness. They brought flowers, they brought little gifts, they signed the guest book; there were school children, there were Ulama (scholars). I was overwhelmed. In some cases, even in tears, because they were so emotional, basically saying this is a terrible thing to do, to kill innocent people. I was very touched.

I repeat this in my country every time I speak on terrorism to let Americans know that friends of ours in the region reacted sympathetically. Because the impression the media gave to America was that people out here hate us and jumped up dancing in the streets. The only film was from Palestine where that happened, and as I said, Palestine is different. They are under occupation and are living in very different circumstances.

Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah, Kuwait's Finance Minister, described you in 1991 as "unassuming and unflappable...exactly the kind of guy to deal with Arabs like us." How do you comment on this?

I had come to the region in 1974, which is over 34 years ago. I love the people and I understand the culture. Differences don't bother me. Culture and religion differences are wonderful aspects of human life. I have tried all my life to bridge the differences because of the misunderstandings and lack of comprehension in both sides.

When I helped restore Kuwait's stability after the Iraqi invasion, I needed no glory, or to say that I was almost the most important person at that transitional time. I just wanted to make sure actions to help return Kuwait to what it was were done. I think people appreciated that. I was in Ta'if for many months before the liberation. We worked very closely together. The Amir, when he went to Washington, had only one request from the president. It was, "When Kuwait is liberated, will you help me rebuild the country?"

I thought this conveyed two important signals: one is that he accepted America's help to liberate Kuwait without asking. The president knew he was going to liberate Kuwait and the Amir accepted it, so he did not want to ask for it. That was a signal to the president that he trusted him.

The second is the obvious one, because in his mind, it was most important to rebuild. So that began as a joint effort. We worked every second to plan what we [would] do the day we went back. We signed a contract with Turkey that water would be driven down through Syria, Jordan and across Saudi Arabia. We knew there were no water sources in Kuwait. We assumed that Iraq would destroy the reservoirs and we knew we had to truck water in through Saudi Arabia for every-

one.

We worked together, and this is an example how we did not impose. I would like to make this one political observation: that our going to Iraq in 2003, we did none of the planning like what we did in Kuwait. I am very critical of the administration for not planning adequately before we went to Iraq. Some will tell you it is because we didn't think we would stay, we would turn it [over] to the Iraqis, etc.

An article about your diplomacy in Kuwait in TIME Magazine describes you, "Through it all, Gnehm speaks softly and smiles constantly. What he knows is simple: most governments are like most people. An outsider can educate and elucidate — and even kick butt. But in the end, no government can be saved from itself." What do you mean governments are like people?

What I meant by that, at the time, is that it is so easy to treat a government as something impersonal, something institutional without feelings, without a heart. I guess that I tried to convey in those days that governments are made up of people and people do have feelings. Governments, or individuals in governments, are caught today between what they know they need to do for their own countries globally and the passions and intensity of their populations, which can be very different. For example, I think that many people in government today



Ambassador Edward "Skip" Gnehm received the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award from Secretary of State Colin L. Powell in August 2004.

understand the value of good relations with Washington, being a super power. But they also know that their populations are angry with us for our policies in the region. So the leaders are caught. They certainly, as government leaders, want to maintain their popularity, their position in government through elections, but they also don't want to take actions that will hurt their country in the global or the regional sense.

I think this is probably the result of the communication. Government leaders in this region and in Washington have to be sensitive to what their people feel, because they see the news and the news is no longer is effectively controlled in each country. People have satellite dishes and watch all kinds of news on the Internet. All of these are information distributors and so anyone who wants to know what's going on can easily find out.

Have any of your children followed in your footsteps?

My son was asked if he would join the diplomatic service and he said, "no, I am going into business where I can make money!"

My daughter is in the IT area, but they love to travel and they both loved the Middle East.

You were quoted in the George Washington University Alumni newsletter saying, "One thing that always stood out over my years in the Foreign Service was the prominence of the Elliott School in preparing myself and other students for careers in international affairs."

How does it feel to come back after all these years to the same university you graduated from, but this time as a lecturer?

I love it, because the young people are so interested in the Middle East. They are thirsty for understanding. My classes are always overflowing and there are more people who want to take it. Our younger generation, like all the youth around the world, is into globalization, into seeing themselves as part of a big world.

I enjoy sharing my experiences with them, and if I can have my students go into the Foreign Service, as some have, or into business where they understand the region as I have explained it, I would be making a great contribution for my country and also for the relationship with the Middle East.

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-Saqqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times

Strugglers without a project

Frustration and pessimism become prevalent while talking about Yemen's future despite the passage of 46 years since the 26 September Revolution against illiteracy and poverty broke out, as well as the passage of 18 years since the democratic project (unity) was established. This project is deteriorating from time to time, but the current question in the minds of Yemeni people that has different answers is that: "Why does this country progress backward despite the number of its strugglers multiply? Or at least, who are those saying they work for Yemen's sake?"

In fact, I have no suspicion that there are numerous strugglers working hard in order for this country to prosper or develop, but the main problem is that such a struggle is practiced without a clear vision or project. Instead, it is a kind of struggle based on temporary personal ideas and expectations, which are related with particular events, and therefore vanish easily. Even in the documents of government, parties and institutions, nothing implies the presence of clear visions and projects.

The government's documents are merely slogans that appear and disappear, some of them are placed in effect while others are ignored due to the lack of seriousness in abiding by them, as well as their being not representing the values we believe in or in their design based on the country's interest irrespective of personal attitudes toward the government officials or agencies. This explains the sudden and complete change in our positions, writings and issues, and even what regards homeland.

We don't get surprised if we see unworkable solutions, mainly as the national crises and turmoil get more complicated until the extent of making us expect collapse and destructive turnovers in this country. I think that if rulers of this country had been satisfied with a shared project and abided by it, we would have seen results other than the standing ones.



By: Rahma Hugaira

Mr. President and his tenure might have at least led an effective government while Joint Meeting Parties and their supporters have created strong independent opposition institutions, which are more able to resist oppression and corruption. Journalism, on its part, did build huge institutions that may help reduce the increased harassments and violations against public freedoms and human rights. Eventually, all Yemeni people including journalists, rulers and ruled will become strong partners in building an economically and culturally strong country, but on condition the government must lift its restrictions on the press.

As development projects in this country lacks the required qualities and characteristics, any projects established nationwide turned to be merely personal or emotional that appear and disappear according to our feelings. In this regard, I have many examples of the presence of personal projects at the expense of the real ones needed by the homeland.

Had we but observed the projects, which Mr. President calls on opposition parties to hold dialogue on, we would have found out that they are nothing more than announced or secret meetings during which dialoguers exchange viewpoints about how to rescue Yemen from poverty and other calamities. In addition, any dialogue with opposition parties is not based on satisfaction with partnership for the sake of which the opposition has to work. Instead, such a dialogue comes as a new game via which Mr. President wants to display his shrewdness over opposition

parties.

As soon as the dialogue comes to an end, nation leaders reach a consensus that the development project for this country is that of "Mr. President said...and Mr. President rejected" and nothing more. The persisting problem is that when Mr. President approves a joint project, supposed to be in favor of the nation, other people having nothing to do with such a project appear in the scene to deny or confirm any project-related information. Any ideas, reached during the series of meetings between the ruling party and opposition, turns to be aborted as soon as those concerned start applying them in real-life situation.

From the absence of Mr. President's project to the absence of projects of the opposition parties and civil community organizations. I still remember that during preparations for 2006 presidential elections, I met an active personality from the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and told him that I am opposing the Joint Meeting Parties' political reform project for not including a clear vision with regard to women's political participation. He then responded, "We at YPS had a strong and broad vision in this regard, but this vision was rejected by our brothers in the Islah party."

Unlike the glorious history of their party, the YSP leaders have ignored the significance of women's participation and empowerment so that they can practice their suffrage and other legal rights stipulated by the constitution. I don't know why they did so, thereby behaving in a way contradicting the essential objectives of their party.

Rahma Hugaira is co-founder and chairwoman of the Yemeni Female Media Forum, a nongovernmental organization that promotes women's rights and gender equality in the media throughout the Middle East. She is one of Yemen's most respected journalists and a steadfast proponent of women's rights. She could be reached at rahma.hugaira@yahoo.co.uk
Source: Al-Wasat Weekly

SILVER LINING

Challenging press freedom attacks

I do agree with my colleague Ahmed al-Hajj, editor of al-Sabah weekly the situation of press freedom will be worse unless an action is taken by journalists and democracy activists to stop this tremendous backsliding. Access to several websites is blocked and newspapers editors are summoned before the information ministry officials to hear warnings and threats. Al-Ayyam editor is almost under house arrest; al-Sabah newspaper is banned by authorities, Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani and Naif Hassan, editor of al-Shar'e and two of the paper's staffers are standing trial before state security court concerned with terrorism issues. Press hassling seems to escalate further. The environment is growing risky for professional independent press to operate freely.

I think Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights (SAF) did a good job when it called last Wednesday for a meeting to discuss how such intimidation and attacks on journalists could be challenged. Yes, it is a laudable initiative which should have been taken by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS). I do agree with these angry colleagues that the YJS is not doing enough to address these attacks. It should voice concerns and create a big commotion to stop hassling vibrant journalists. Therefore, the SAF meeting recommendation to challenge these attacks is the only way to defend press harassment.

I understand the new YJS office building purchased by the government is good but should not be an excuse to give blind eye to growing violations of freedom of expression and press. We have got accustomed that journalists are jailed and harassed in various forms, but why should they be treated worse than even terrorists? Terrorists are at large and enjoy full care from the authorities while journalists like al-Khaiwani, Hassan, Nabil Subai' and others are tried in this court specialized with terror crimes.

The paradox is that the information ministry claims these newspapers have abused the law and crossed the red lines. However, the defamation of critical journalists and politicians by name by some yellow newspapers is never considered an act against the law. The information ministry only sees reporting the protests and activities in the southern governorate crossing the red lines.

I guess the international community and donors concerned with freedom of media promotion should not keep silent for freedom of press is the only feature of democracy we still can claim to have. Now, this margin of freedom is being narrowed and critical voices are being gagged. The U.S embassy's spokesman Ryan Gliha visit to al-Sabah office last Wednesday is a wonderful gesture to show support for independent media. Mr. Gliha was right when he said independent media reflect "the real face of democracy." I believe if press freedom in Yemen continues to go under attack, the country will lose a lot.

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



By: Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi

OUR
OPINIONTake our tired, our poor
and our huddled masses

During Dutch Development Cooperation Minister Bert Koenders' visit to Kharaz Refugee Camp two weeks ago, female African refugees held up their crossed arms above their heads to signify that they are being held as prisoners at the camp. They complained of harsh conditions in the camp and increasing security problems due to violent tribes in the area.

The refugee issue in Yemen is one of the most enduring problems the nation has suffered, with the most recent number of registered refugees being around 90,000 who have successfully made it to Yemeni shores, while many more died trying.

How much hospitality is expected from a poor host with many problems of its own? The French gift to the Americans, the Statue of Liberty, reads: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me; I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Those words were written by Jewish activist and writer Emma Lazarus who worked with East European immigrants through her association with the Hebrew Emigrant Aid Society. The lines are part of "The New Colossus," which she composed in 1883 as part of a fundraising campaign to erect the Statue of Liberty.

However, Yemen isn't reading from the same song sheet. In fact, if it were up to us, we'd have a national symbol written on it: "Take our tired and poor and give them a life."

Yet, relatively, we seemingly take in even more refugees than the United States or Europe.

We harbor all sorts of refugees, but offer them a life no better than the one they fled - not because we don't want to, but because we can't afford it.

The Netherlands recently pledged \$700,000 (approximately YR 216.6 million) for the Kharaz Camp and because the Dutch are concerned and interested in helping, there's even more support on the way. But while this helps, the original problem remains, as more and more refugees continue arriving to our poor country, which is only getting poorer.

The world is getting smaller and more populated by the second; however, the tragedy is that it's the poor and underdeveloped nations that have the highest population growth rates. Hence, the result is an increasing number of "tired, poor and huddled masses yearning to breathe free" and seeking a better life in the developed world.

However, with this increased demand, the offer becomes scarcer and more selective; for example, not just anyone wishing to obtain a better life in the United States or Europe may do so. As it is, there are negative reactions by members of the developed world community who don't want any more immigrants because they are changing the Western world's identity.

Eventually, our tired, poor and huddled masses will have to stay with us. Or, maybe we simply can circulate them among other poor countries like ourselves, such as what's occurring between the African Horn and Yemen, thereby losing lives in the transaction.

One of the main reasons for Yemen's population explosion is blind ignorant faith and misunderstanding of one's religion. If you ask the average Yemeni man - who earns less than \$200 a month and has a family of eight - "Who's going to feed your family?" he'll point to the sky and say, "Allah is there." True, Allah is there, but He never asked you to throw yourself and your family into disaster.

While I'm unsure if this deep mistaken faith applies to African peoples, they too have a problem of when to say enough children. I don't think our problem really is religious; rather, it's our respect for human life. We are careless about our responsibility as parents. We think it's easy to bring new lives into this world and we don't care what kind of world into which we're bringing them.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The abductees

By: Nabeel Haidar

I have been feeling frustrated for a long period of time, and having stared at other's eyes, I felt the same thing. I remembered what I could not have forgotten since it occurred. It is the incident of abducting construction engineers in a remote area, and the moment at which I remembered the incident is the same moment that caused my frustration.

For two months plus, the three engineers, who were on duty, have been held captive in the confinement of abductors who justified their act to unmet demands, which the abductees have nothing to do with. Ignorance of the kidnappers is responsible for the event, notably as they are exploiting the harsh topography making it impossible for any individual or government authorities to approach them. They are also exploiting fears and concerns over the abductees' lives while the result was that the victims were threatened of murder, thereby leading security agents to maintain a high level of vigilance while communicating with the ignorant kidnappers with the intention of releasing the captives with the minimal cost and effort. Alertness seems to be more powerful that slumbering or sedation (the moments of temporary risks) while on the contrary, mothers, sisters and daughters of those held captive are taken more than once in a state of unconsciousness to any nearby hospitals as a result of

psychological shocks caused by the ordeal of their breadwinners.

All those hearing about the ordeal interact and sympathize with the innocent engineers, held captive for innocent reason. But, as days and nights pass, hopes of releasing the innocent victims vanish. The abductees' relatives seemed to behave abnormally and their fears and concerns reached other families having some of their members working at different construction projects nationwide. As certain incidents usually remind us of similar incidents, fears breed fears.

I then turn to the relevant government agencies and say that their absent efforts or mobilization may be excusable, but such a conception is not supposed to continue any longer, particularly when it comes to the ordeal of individuals who were subjected to an unexpected calamity while performing their duty. All this is an adequate reason for the competent authorities to take a quick action for the sake of releasing the captives and helping them return safely to their families.

I personally understand the integral role played by the social dignitaries and tribal sheikhs and how they intervene to resolve such issues. These dignitaries and sheikhs repeatedly claim service and development projects for their areas and they always cooperate with engineers who designate and plan such projects.

I think that the situation helped establish good relations between

tribal sheikhs and construction engineers over time, but now the relevant government agencies and these tribal leaders are needed to intervene in releasing the innocent captives.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

S
K
E
T
C
H
E
D
O
P
I
N
I
O
N



By: Samer

YEMEN TIMES

www.yementimes.com

First Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

E-mail: yteditor@gmail.com

Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

CEO
Khair Aldin

Managing Editor
Amel Al-Ariqi

Feature Editor
Mohammed Al-Jabiri

Copy Editor

Dana Patterson

Sub-Editor

Sarah Wolff

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

Senior Reporter
Ismail Al-Ghabri

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Mojailli, Almgidat Thabet, Hamed

Offices

Aden Bureau:

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

Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

Subscription rates:

Individuals: YR 7,000
Yemeni companies/corporations: YR 8,000
Foreign companies/organizations: \$ 80

Policies:

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name, mailing address, or email address. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for clarity, style, and length.
- Submissions will not be returned to the writer under any circumstance.
- For information on advertising, contact the advertising department at any of the Yemen Times' offices

Yemen Press Review



Al-Wahdawi Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO)
Tuesday, March 11

Top Stories

- Sa'ada mediation efforts suspended over disputes between government and Houthis
- Government prefers tribal arbitration system to law in settling differences between officials
- Influential persons plunder endowment land plots in Ibb's Ba'adan district
- Al-Mawri reacts to Mr. President's speech by saying, "We will never drink from seawater as you claim"
- General People Congress manipulates voter register in Hodeida in its favor ahead of the coming parliamentary elections
- Ruling party launches an early electoral campaign starting from Hodeida's Husseinia district

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has selected the Fourth Husseinia Festival for Horse and Camel Racing as a platform to deliver his first speech after he returned from Germany where he received medical treatment, thereby causing him to suspend his almost everyday addresses and criticism of protests in South Yemen and rebellion in the northern governorate of Sa'ada, the weekly reported in its front page. According to political analysts, Saleh attended the festival as part of his party's unannounced campaigning for the coming parliamentary elections, scheduled for April 2009.

During the event, organized in the Husseinia district, Saleh gave a short address to the public opinion about his condition and then suddenly moved toward his personal car, made a drive around the gathering miserably fans and greeted them. Media personnel attending the scene considered this as a kind initiative ever made by a leader for his citizens.

Husseinia citizens were expecting that Mr. President would address their miserable conditions and poor living standards or take firm procedures to stop the soaring prices of basic foodstuffs. They also expected that he may admit failure of his government and its poor policies that are responsible for the dire situation in their governorate and other areas. The Husseinia citizens, however, were surprised to see that Mr. President paid no attention to their sufferings and miserable conditions. They were shocked to see Saleh setting wheat price at YR 7 thousand per 50 kg.



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, March 11

Top Stories

- Fatah and Hamas delegates to arrive in Yemen next week
- Mediation committee member: We will discuss the seventh term of the agreement to end Sa'ada rebellion by Saturday
- President Saleh undertakes to continue amending the constitution to expand powers delegated to local councils
- Central Organization for Control

and Audit and National Anti-Corruption Authority launch joint action plan

- President Saleh orders government to take tough procedures against tradesmen playing with prices

President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave directions to the government to take tough and firm procedures against wholesalers, retailers and bakery owners who play with prices of basic foodstuffs and other commodities, adding that the Ministry of Industry and Trade, in cooperation with governors and other executive officials, has affixed prices in all Yemeni governorates. This came as part of his speech given during the Husseinia Festival for Horse and Camel Racing, which Saleh attended before heading for Hajja to review progress of underway projects in the governorate, the army's organ reported.

Saleh also directed the government Wednesday to allocate \$201 million for road projects in Hajjah province linking all districts of the province together. "The allocated sum is available and measures required for carrying out the projects will be completed during 2008-2009," he said, describing road projects as carotids of life. Saleh added "Although some road projects faced obstacles, we achieved very good success in implementing road networks in many governorates, including Hadramout and Shabwa".

The President announced that a republican decree will be issued for establishing a university in Hajjah, adding that he will issue directions for establishing more vocational institutes. During his visit to the province, Saleh briefed citizens on the phenomena of price hikes saying,

"Although these increases are an international phenomenon, we direct the government to take strict measures in order not to allow tradesmen play with prices.



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, March 13

Top Stories

- COCA discloses corruption cases amounting up to YR 118 million
- Textile factory workers protest against salaries delay
- Authority attempts to hit peaceful struggle in Dhale' governorate, says Socialist Party leader
- Yemeni students in Cairo suffer from hard conditions as government delays their financial entitlements
- Tehama elders don't attend Husseinia Fourth Festival

The weekly reported that Tehama sheiks and elders did not attend the Husseinia Festival for Horse and Camel Racing and Falk Activities, organized Saturday in Tehama, Hodaia province, protesting against what they called land plundering, injustice, and confiscation of equal citizenship rights. Teham sheikhs and senior tribal leaders attributed their absence to their rejection of injustice practiced against Tehama citizens, depreating their lands and assets, and marginalization of its population.

Sheikh Yahya Monasar expressed sorrow over president Saleh's speech delivered at the festival in which he strongly slammed the Yemeni opposition. "We hoped that the

president would give back assets and lands taken from Tehama citizens by powerful officials and solve their own troubles; starvation, poverty, injustice and lack of equal citizenship," he added. "The president's addresses ignored Tehama troubles, but kept on slamming opposition parties" said Sheikh Shoaib Al-Fashiq.

"There are voices that do not serve the interest of national unity and social forgiveness and are even unable to solve their own problems. So how can they solve people's problem?" Saleh wondered. "If these (opposition) parties came to the office and the price of wheat is YR 7000 per 50 kg, they will raise it to YR 20,000 because they do not have the required knowledge and political experience to manage the country," he said.



Al-Ahali Independent Political Weekly
Tuesday, March 11

Top Stories

- Government's loans threaten provinces of regular blackout
- Islah Shoura Council Chairman: We support peaceful struggle against corruption and secession
- Government takes security measures to facilitate tasks of secession militias
- President Saleh to people: Those objecting to price hikes can drink from the Red and Arabian seas
- A 70-year-old Ja'ashin peasant appeals to government to liberate him from tyrannous sheikh's oppression

The 70-year-old Asa'ad Qaied Al-Haithami, who is blind and deaf, hopes to taste broth, which he has been deprived of for several years along with his seven sons, after the oppressive Ja'ashin Sheikh Mohammed Ahmad, Mansour, who is President Saleh's poet and Shoura Council member, confiscated the family's four cows and all what they had, the weekly reported in its front page. The aged man further went on to say that Mansour's followers forcibly take away his domestic fowl from among its hens, only one day after the eggs hatched to give the younger hens, adding that "The sheikh's followers ate the chicken while I and my family members were planning to slaughter this chicken one day and taste its broth."

Al-Haithami and other displaced peasants heard that President Saleh refused to receive Sheikh Mansour in Hodeida nor did he accept to listen to the testimony of fifty citizens, whom the powerful sheikh brought with him in order to perjure (give false testimony) in his favor. The aged man sat near a blacklist, containing notorious individuals, whom the influential sheikh use to oppress citizens, confiscate their property and collect ransoms from them.

According to the weekly, the homeless peasants including Al-Haithami, currently assembling at the Yemen Female Media Forum in Sana'a, are the second batch of victims tortured by President Saleh's poet within a year. They evacuated their homes and abandoned their farmlands to escape Mansour's oppression and tyranny, notably those who can not afford paying ransoms to the powerful sheikh in exchange for peaceful living among their women and children.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Social Fund for Development (SFD) was established as per law no. 10/1997, as one of the social security network components in order to reduce the side effects of the governmental reform programs. The developmental objectives of the SFD are represented in improving the poor groups' access to basic social and economic services, providing a model for an efficient establishment to improve method of services, supporting local authority and empowering targeted societies to participate in developing their regions.

The SFD is working towards achieving its objectives through three main programs, which are:

- 1- The Community Development Program to facilitate access to basic needs (education, water, health, rural roads and environment).
- 2- The Capacities Building Program for the SFD local partners such as local gatherings, governmental authorities, NGOs, consultants and contractors.
- 3- The Small and Micro-enterprises Development Program by developing financial and non financial services sector of the small investors.

The SFD aims at achieving its developmental objectives in cooperation with local and foreign partners, and it is willing to attract high efficient and qualified cadres to occupy the following posts:

Job's Title : Education Sector Senior Administration Officer
Job's Location: Headquarter of the SFD, Capital Secretariat

Responsibilities and tasks:

- 1- Developing policies and strategies related to activities of the sector.
- 2- Direct administrative supervision on performance of projects officers.
- 3- Providing assistance and technical support for directors and officers of education projects at the SFD branches.
- 4- Revising and approving projects' studies and proposals submitted by the branches.
- 5- Approving annual work plans concerning the sector after careful review.
- 6- Monitoring progress achieved in the on-going projects and checking the completed ones.
- 7- Coordinating and establishing relationships with SFD partners "Ministries, local authority, civil society organizations, donors, local councils, and societiesetc".

Required qualification:

- 1- University degree in the field of educational planning / educational administration / economics of education / education.
- 2- Minimum of three years experience in running and planning educational services.
- 3- Fluent in English language (Reading & Speaking).
- 4- Computer-literate.
- 5- Having skills in managing time and cost, communicating and reports writing.
- 6- Having good abilities in planning, organizing, following-up, supervising, managing and directing workers in addition to taking decisions.
- 7- Full-time employee as per SFD system.
- 8- Willing to travel and move among governorates.

Interested applicants shall send their application letters along with their CVs to the Social Fund for Development by the following e-mail: education@sfd-yemen.org
Or by mail to the following address:
Social Fund for Development, Headquarter, Faj Attan, P.O.Box. 15485
Deadline for receiving applications is 20/3/2008

Job's Title: Health Sector Senior Administration Officer
Job's Location: Headquarter of the SFD, Capital Secretariat

Responsibilities and tasks:

- 1- Developing policies and strategies related to activities of the sector.
- 2- Direct administrative supervision on performance of projects officers.
- 3- Providing assistance and technical support for directors and officers of health projects at the SFD branches.
- 4- Revising and approving projects' studies and proposals submitted by the branches.
- 5- Approving annual work plans concerning the sector after careful review.
- 6- Monitoring progress achieved in the on-going projects and checking the completed ones.
- 7- Coordinating and establishing relationships with SFD partners "Ministries, local authority, civil society organizations, donors, local councils, and societiesetc".

Required qualification:

- 1- University degree in public health / health administration.
- 2- Minimum of three years experience in running and planning educational services.
- 3- Fluent in English language (Reading & Speaking).
- 4- Computer-literate.
- 5- Having skills in managing time and cost, communicating and reports writing.
- 6- Having good abilities in planning, organizing, following-up, supervising, managing and directing workers in addition to making decisions.
- 7- Full-time employee as per SFD system.
- 8- Willing to travel and move among governorates.

Interested applicants shall send their application letters along with their CVs to the Social Fund for Development by the following e-mail: health@sfd-yemen.org
Or by mail to the following address:
Social Fund for Development, Headquarter, Faj Attan, P.O.Box. 15485
Deadline for receiving applications is 20/3/2008

Job's Title: Programs Officer in the field of primary health care, reproductive health, health education
Job's Location: Headquarter of the SFD, Capital Secretariat

Responsibilities and tasks:

- 1- Studying the requests submitted by societies or authorities and sorting them in office and field.
- 2- Developing projects' proposals and submitting them to sector's officer.
- 3- Managing the projects financially and technically.
- 4- Continuous supervision and follow-up of projects progress.
- 5- Submitting periodical reports for the head of the unit regarding implemented activities.
- 6- Preparing the annual plan concerning activities of the programs assigned to him/her.
- 7- Communicating and contacting concerned parties in all stages of the project.

Required qualification:

- 1- University degree in the following fields: community medicine diploma after the bachelor degree or holding bachelor degree in general medicine / public health / health administration.
- 2- Minimum of two years experience in one of the above mentioned fields.
- 3- Fluent in English language (Reading & Speaking).
- 4- Computer-literate.
- 5- Having skills in managing time and cost, communicating and reports writing.
- 6- Having good abilities in running projects, following-up and supervising, and capability of learning and developing.
- 7- Full-time employee as per SFD system.
- 8- Willing to travel and move among governorates.

Interested applicants shall send their application letters along with their CVs to the Social Fund for Development by the following e-mail: health@sfd-yemen.org
Or by mail to the following address:
Social Fund for Development, Headquarter, Faj Attan, P.O.Box. 15485
Deadline for receiving applications is 20/3/2008

Al-Basateen's residents: We are not afraid any more of HIV test

By: Hamed Thabet

HIV is a problem in Al-Basatin, a neighborhood in Aden governorate where many Somali refugees settle. While controlling the disease's spread becomes more difficult every day due to the thousands of new refugees flooding in, there are also positive developments in the neighborhood's fight against HIV/AIDS.

For example, a year-old awareness campaign promoting awareness and condom usage and a newer drive to provide free blood tests has been successful, according to its organizers.

Last year, Al-Basatin received approximately 12,000 Somali refugee families, each with approximately eight children, and new refugees continue pouring into the neighborhood because family or friends from the existing Somali community already live there.

Already this year, the number of refugees in the area has increased to 15,000 families, according to Nidhal Bahoeireth, head secretary of the Charitable Society for Social Welfare's Aden branch.

Organizations like UNHCR and the Charitable Society for Social Welfare, a private charity, are working together to better help the refugees turn the tide against HIV/AIDS in their community. Last year, the two organizations gave YR 3.8 million to support the awareness campaign.

The Center for Childhood and Motherhood, which provides medical care for children and pregnant mothers, recently debuted a special HIV/AIDS awareness campaign targeting Al-Basatin's 18- to 25-year-old age group. According to Bahoeireth, HIV among Somalis is on the rise and has spread



Thousands of Somalis come to live in Al-Basatin every year.

rapidly throughout the community within the past five years.

According to Dr. Insaaf Al-Qadassi, deputy manager of Aden's Charitable Society for Social Welfare, HIV has increased among Somali refugees because many of them are unaware of the risk and hesitant to take blood tests.

While residents of Al-Basatin are free to decide whether to be tested, the awareness campaign encourages it and reinforces its importance.

Al-Basatin's HIV/AIDS awareness campaign has been going on since last year and the results so far have been promising, Al-Qadassi says. The num-

ber of HIV/AIDS cases in Al-Basatin – and indeed in all of Yemen – is an official secret, with authorities believing that HIV/AIDS patients will face discrimination if the number is revealed.

Likewise, Al-Basatin's health center often hesitates to disclose to patients that they have tested positive.

"At first, we don't tell them they have HIV because they'll run away and not return because they're afraid," explains Mohammed Abdullah Al-Sheginah, source manager at Aden's Charitable Society for Social Welfare.

For those who do know their condition, he stressed that the center reassures them that the disease isn't terribly dangerous and that there's no need to be afraid. "They just need to be careful and not have sex with HIV-negative people and never make blood transfusions."

"We also recommend that unmarried people use condoms when having sex," Al-Sheginah noted, adding, "Although it's forbidden, whether we like it or not, they will have sex, so it's best to direct them in the right way."

HIV-positive Somali refugees aren't relocated elsewhere, such as Al-Kharaz Camp; rather, they remain integrated with the rest of Al-Basatin's population. "Those with HIV aren't neglected or ignored and we don't separate them from others," Al-Qadassi noted, "Instead, we teach them how to live and deal in their community. It has taken time, but many now are living in their community without any problems."

Just last month, six people in Al-Basatin area died of complications from the AIDS virus. While there have been several AIDS-related deaths in the past five years, neither the Charitable Society for Social Welfare, UNHCR nor the Yemeni government will



Somalis get free medical test in Al-Basatin area.

release any figures for fear of creating widespread panic among the general population, including HIV carriers themselves, Bahoeireth explained. However, he estimates the number of HIV/AIDS cases in Al-Basatin at around 1 to 3 percent of the area's population.

The awareness campaign has made Somali refugees in Al-Basatin aware of HIV's risks, but most significantly,

more are coming to the health center for blood tests, Bahoeireth pointed out, as residents previously were hesitant – if not outright afraid – of taking an HIV test.

Besides the HIV/AIDS awareness program, UNHCR also assists the Charitable Society for Social Welfare in providing Al-Basatin's health center with free vaccines and medicine to combat malaria and tuberculosis.

الشكل الجديد وبنفس الطعم

SHARK ENERGY DRINK

الطاقة الحقيقية

MCTCO www.metcotrading.com

بنك اليمن الدولي
INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN

Your Goal is Our Goal

- ATM Service
- VISA Card
- VIP Service
- Car Loan
- Personal Loan
- 0% Interest Loan
- VISA Electron
- American Express Representative in Yemen
- Al-Farasha Branch
- Western Union Agent Authorized
- AlBarq Service
- Phone Banking

Many Options Keep
your life Easy

For more information, Please Contact Free Phone: 800 2222 - Or Tel. No.: 01- 407030

www.ibyemen.com

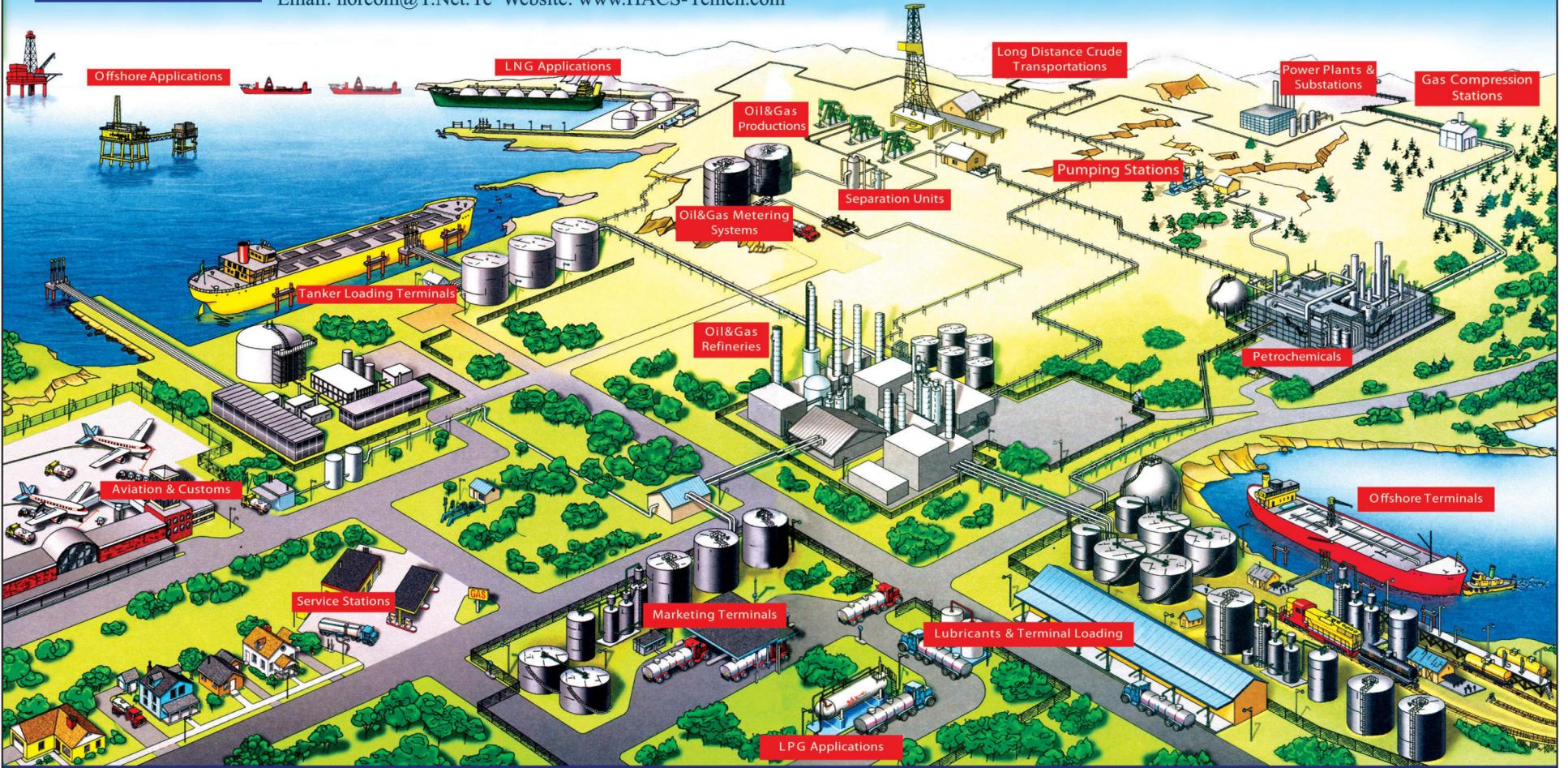


HORIZON AGENCIES & COMMERCIAL SERVICES (HACS)

P.O. Box : 15408 Sana'a , Republic of Yemen
 Tel : + 967 - 1 - 421508 / 421532 Fax : + 967 - 1 - 421514
 Email: horcom@Y.Net.Ye Website: www.HACS-Yemen.com

Served Markets

Typical Market Applications



AGENT FOR:



Miles more miles.

Book online and earn bonus Skywards Miles. Fly Emirates. Keep discovering.

There's a faster way to get to where you want to go. Book your next Emirates ricker online and you'll not only save time, but you'll earn up to 150% bonus Skywards Miles. That should get you flying.



emirates.com/ye

Children's festival: We swear to return to Palestine

By: Nisreen Shadad
For The Yemen Times

Under the slogan, "We swear to return to Palestine," the Palestinian Women's Union in Yemen held its eighth festival for Palestinian children on March 13 under the auspices of Sheikh Sadiq Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar.

At the festival, Palestinian children sang zealous songs conveying a message to the world that they will continue their struggle generation after generation. Their words and their tunes worked together to declare that Israel will never succeed in obtaining from them an admission regarding Israel. "We'll fight with bombs, daggers, stones and even our nails," as one singer expressed.

According to Um Abdulrahman Moneer, head of the Palestinian Women's Union, "We must plant the idea of a return culture, meaning Palestinian refugees have the right to

return to their homeland, in the hearts and minds of our generation." For that reason, the union held the festival with the slogan, "We swear to return."

"However, Israel has declared that returning Palestinians to their homeland means the end of its dream; therefore, they struggle persistently to make our land without a nation and a nation without a land," Moneer added. She continued, "Further, they aim to not allow refugees to return, but Palestinian refugees have the right to return to their land and no one has the right to bargain with that right, which can't be bought or sold."

"Through Israel's separation barrier and international collusion, millions of Palestinian refugees have been prevented from returning to their homes, yet the five million still in Palestine will struggle until their last breath," Moneer declared.

She went on, "The greatness of a nation that is disarmed and deprived of food, water and shelter emerges in its strong will to survive and defend its rights. They sought to burn and annihi-

late us, but they have been surprised because this nation instead has emerged stronger and greater in order to protect its land. This is a nation that has nothing except its faith in Allah and in the right to return to its extorted land. "This right is an issue in the nation's belief and future and no one has the right to dominate it," Moneer added.

While honored guest Jamilah Al-Shamti was unable to attend the festival due to the siege of Gaza, she did participate by phone. Via mobile, she said, "I'm speaking today from Gaza, which is being bombarded by air, sea and land. They may strip us of our homes and cut off our electricity and water, but they can't cut off our faith and our will to survive!"

Continuing her remarks, she said, "Our faith and our will broke the siege and we burned them before they burned us. With bombs made with our own hands, we reached Dimona [meaning the Negev Nuclear Research Center located in the Negev Desert, approximately 8.5 miles from the town of the same name and some 25 miles from the Jordanian border]. When a Palestinian woman's son kills, she requests his gun to continue his fight and continue on the path that her son adopted." Al-Shamti added, "I've felt the pulses of Yemeni hearts beating in my heart and, as you know, we'll be strong and never give up!"

As one of the most vital members in Hamas and Harakat Al-Muqawama Al-Islamiya, or the Islamic Resistance Movement, Al-Shamti is in charge of women's affairs and activities in Hamas. With a bachelor's degree in English language and a master's in educational foundations, she also has been a professor at Gaza's Islamic University.

Deputy Culture Minister Najeeba Hadad stated that while Palestinians have endured 60 years of torture, killing and abuse, they still stand tall against such struggles. She added, "Palestinian women represent a great example for Yemeni women because they live in an entirely different world than ours; not a life of fashion and makeup, but a world of heroes and challenges."

According to Um Ayman, a Palestinian refugee living in Yemen, "Yemenis feel more strongly about the Palestinian cause than other nations. I've visited numerous countries such as Egypt and Jordan, but I've never found people like Yemenis, who share with us both their finances and their sympathies. In other countries, you may find people who are affected and who will give money, but rarely do they shed tears or share our feelings."

Ramzya Al-Eryani, head of the Yemeni Women's Union, questioned the activities of human rights NGOs when Israel is using everything it has in a genocide against Palestinians.

As Sheikh Sadiq Al-Ahmar stated, "May 15, 1948 was a catastrophic day for Islamic nations and the beginning of



Children depicting a scene from the trial of Ahlam Al-Tamimi (inset) where she was sentenced to 16 life imprisonment terms, throughout the ordeal she never stopped smiling.

the Palestinian struggle.

"Palestinian children teach us that no matter who is he or what he does, the oppressor and occupier will be humiliated before the stone because behind such a stone is a strong will and a great faith." He went on, "We all are responsible for Palestine. Words and slogans are important, but they still are nothing. Money to support them is necessary, but that is done out of a sense of duty. True support is to feel that the Palestinian cause is ours. The day of its freedom must be the primary issue we're working toward. The Palestinian cause should deprive us of sleep. If we do this, I promise you that Palestine will be free."

"Salahadin Al-Ayyoubi, who united the Arab forces to recapture Jerusalem from the Christian crusaders in the 12th century, refused to smile until he took it back - and he did," Al-Ahmar noted. "If Palestinian children have given us the best example and taken up the role of defending their land, we must support them in continuing," he added, "Therefore, I ask the Palestinian union to choose a preparatory committee for a new project regarding child custodians of Palestine."

The return camp

In a play entitled, "I Swear to Return," child participants in the festival portrayed Palestinian refugees living in a camp called the return, highlighting the dire circumstances in which such refugees live. They long to live in their homes following 60 years of displacement.

At the end of the play, the children declared that they won't just dream, but they'll follow in the steps of martyrs like Ahmed Yassin, Hassan Al-Banna,

Abdulqader Al-Husseini and Izzadeen Al-Masri. They vowed that they will continue struggling until they reach their aim of taking back their land, further promising that Israel will never again raise its flag in their homeland.

As 9-year-old Palestinian actor Abdulrahman Al-Sayyid stated, "This festival isn't a game or some form of entertainment. Because I can't return to Palestine today, I joined this festival so that my word would go out to all Palestinians. I want to tell them that we are with them; be patient and continue fighting because you may succeed."

With smiles full of confidence and self-esteem, the Palestinian children dream about their future, but that future is linked to the freedom of Palestine. "I dream of becoming a computer specialist and dying for the sake of Allah," 8-year-old Palestinian actor Ahmed Faiz remarked.

In response, Al-Sayyid piped up, "I hope to become an engineer and then use my knowledge to help the mujahideen in Palestine."

Ahlam Al-Tamimi

In the play, one actor played Ahlam Al-Tamimi, the first member of Izzadeen Al-Qassam Brigade, the armed wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement, to inspire Palestinian refugees to continue their struggle.

Born in Jordan, Al-Tamimi returned to her homeland after completing high school to study journalism in an attempt to use the media to convey the pitiful conditions of Palestinians. Due to her distinctive personality, she was chosen to join Izzadeen Al-Qassam Brigade.

Her most significant act was carried out on Aug. 9, 2001, when she asked Izzadeen Al-Masri to carry a booby-trapped guitar into Jerusalem, after which she returned to Ramallah. Sixteen Jews died and hundreds were injured.

A month later, she was caught and subjected to various forms of torture, after which a court sentenced her to 16 life imprisonment terms, or 1,584 years. The young actor said, "I see you angry in this court, the same anger I and other Palestinians carry in my heart, but our anger is much more than yours."

Facing her sentence with a smile, Al-Tamimi stated, "I neither acknowledge the legality of this court, nor its existence. I won't address myself, my age or my dream; rather, I'll address it through my actions, which are well known to you." After several months, Al-Tamimi announced her engagement to her cousin, who also was imprisoned, thereby proving that the one who stole her homeland couldn't steal her smile.



"Right of return is a firm and inalienable right"



In the play, children pray as they liberate Al-Aqsa Mosque and return to their homeland.

CULTURAL SERIES
FACES & TRACES
Faces and traces has moved temporary for this issue to page 4.

YEMEN - AMERICA
YALI
LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
Yemen's Premier Language Institute Since 1975
Positions Available for
TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND/FOREIGN LANGUAGE

YALI, the Yemen-American Language Institute, is seeking qualified and experienced Teachers of English as a Second/Foreign Language for the coming year, with positions available as early as March, 2008. YALI was established by the U.S. Embassy in 1975 and is now managed by AMIDEAST, an international educational non-governmental organization with programs in 12 countries throughout the Middle East. It is now the largest English language institute in Yemen. YALI offers positions with a competitive compensation package and the opportunity to work in a dynamic, international learning environment.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree with certification in Teaching English as a Second/Foreign Language preferred.
- Previous experience teaching ESL/EFL, with minimum two years preferred.
- Fluency in English with a solid background in English language and basic classroom teaching methodology using the Communicative Approach.
- Highly developed communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills, ability to coach students and work cooperatively with colleagues, adaptability, flexibility and creativity a must.
- Yemeni citizenship preferred. Applications from especially well-qualified non-Yemenis will be considered.
- Women are especially encouraged to apply for these and all positions at YALI.

Responsibilities and Duties:

- Teach English as a Second/Foreign Language following established YALI guidelines, using acceptable communicative language teaching strategies and methodologies.
- Prepare lessons, supplemental materials, activities and quizzes as required.
- Assign and correct homework, score quizzes and exams, evaluate student progress and assign end of term grades to each student fairly and objectively.
- Work individually with students as needed and collaborate frequently and routinely with other teachers to ensure state-of-the-art teaching methodology and creative activities.
- Attend staff meetings and workshops as required.

To Apply:
Submit cover letter and CV by hand to the YALI Reception Desk, to the attention of the Academic Coordinator or by email to yali@amideast.org. Email submissions are preferred. Qualified candidates will be contacted to submit detailed applications and interviews.

BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council Yemen wishes to recruit a
Assistant Director/ Projects

The Assistant Director/ Projects is responsible for:

- Strategic focus, policy and planning in close consultation with Director Yemen
- To deliver high quality project outcomes and events
- To lead on monitoring, evaluating and communicating the effectiveness of outcomes and/or events.
- To support the delivery of agreed projects' financial objectives and targets
- To assist in the identification and development of new partnerships and opportunities
- Line management of projects managers
- Training and personal development

Essential competencies and skills:

- Minimum of 3 years experience at similar management level
- Yemeni national status, or the right to work in Yemen
- Excellent communication skills
- Good team-working skills
- Fluent written and oral Arabic and excellent written and oral English
- Computer literacy

How to apply?
You can download a copy of the application form and job description from our website <http://www.britishcouncil.org/me-about-us-working-with-us.htm>. Once you fill in the application form send to recruitment@ye.britishcouncil.org. For any enquiries email us or phone 01 448356.

Closing date for applications will be 29 March 2008

The British Council is an equal opportunities employer.

Creating Opportunity for People Worldwide.
The British Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity. We welcome applications from all sections of the community. We guarantee an interview to disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria.

natco

A unique Job Opportunities with a leading trading Co.

National trading Co. Ltd. - natco seeking senior experts for the following managements:

- Finance & Auditing dep't
- CRM dep't
- HR dep't
- Sales & Marketing dep't
- Executive secretary

Requirements:
Bachelor degree - Minimum of Eight years of experience - Fluency in both written and spoken English and Arabic

Interested candidates can fax CV to 01-441544/5
Or Email: info@natco.com.ye

For more information about natco, please visit our Web site www.natco.com.ye

**CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISEMENTS
PAGE**



كولوب COLOP
self-inking stamps
اختتام ذاتية التحبير

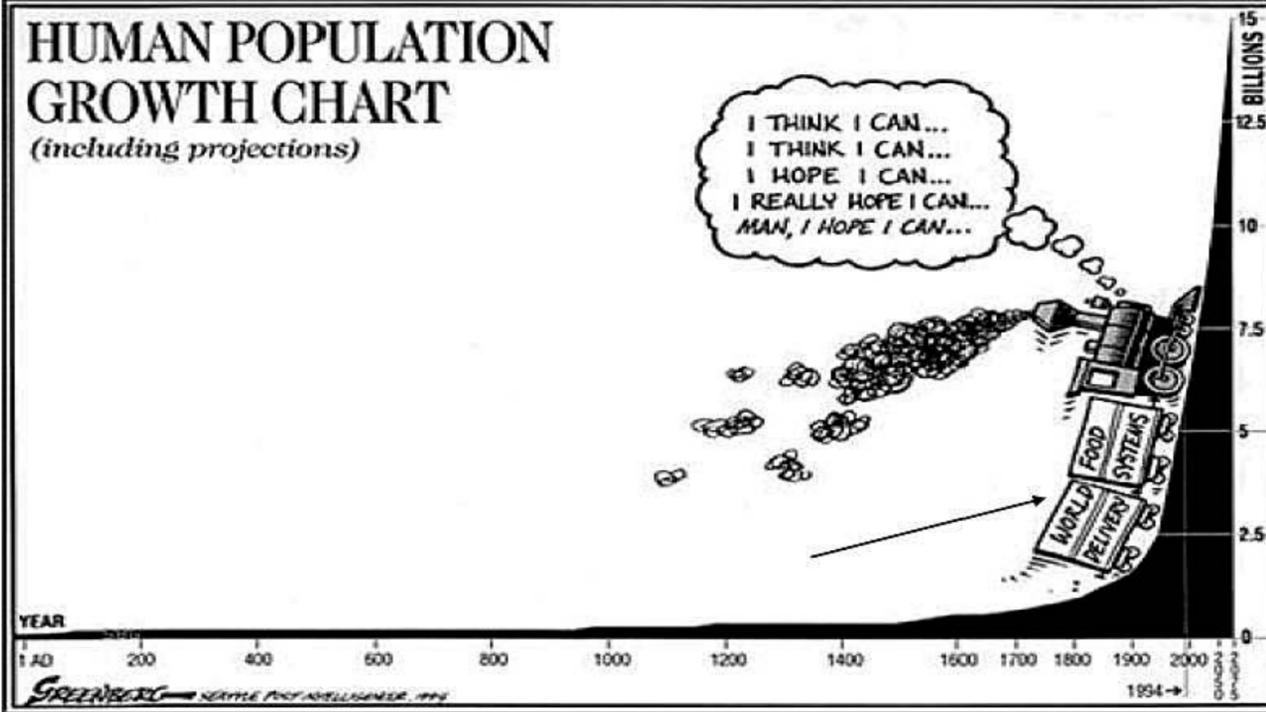
Exclusive Agent :
Thabet Son Corporation مؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة
Showroom Telefax 269924-Sana'a - Mujahed St. - Beside Al-Basha Grocery



ASHIBAMI AGENCIES
For Stationery Supplies

الوكيل الوحيد:
مركز الريفي، صنعاء شارع الزبيدي
2430650 - 630000
كشور: 4290650 - 4290550
E-mail: ashibami@y.net.ye
www.ashibami.com

Population explosion: An eminent danger



Yemen economic train is unable to climb the human development requirements because of the increasing population. Yemen has the highest fertility range in the region. By 2035 at the same growth rate, Yemen is expected to have a population of 60 million, which three times its population today.

Rapid population growth presents a challenge to the Yemeni government: If the population is growing at an annual rate of 3 percent, and the government is targeting a total GDP growth rate of 7 percent, then GDP must grow faster than ten percent per annum. Only China achieves such a GDP growth-rate. The only solution to help Yemen avoid the impending disaster is to prioritize family planning in order to control the population growth.

Yemen has improved its score on the human development index since 1990, but it is still ranked as a low human development country. The gross domestic product per capita is only \$565 and has remained constant over the last seven years. According to the latest available statistics, 42 per cent of households live below the poverty line. Poverty is mainly a rural phenomenon, with 83 per cent of the population living in rural areas.

Yemen has one of the highest total fertility rates in the world (6.5 births per woman). While the population growth rate decreased from 3.7 per cent in 1994 to just over 3.0 per cent in 2004, it continues to be an underlying cause of many of the problems the country faces. The relatively high growth rate has negatively impacted water resources, economic growth, education and primary health care. The population of Yemen, currently esti-

ated at 19.7 million, is expected to double in 23 years, thereby aggravating the poverty situation and hindering prospects for sustainable development. More than half of the population is younger than 18.

Yemen, with 365 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, has one of the highest maternal mortality ratios in the world. Maternal mortality accounts for 42 per cent of all deaths among Yemeni women of childbearing age.

Approximately 75 per cent of maternal deaths are preventable, occurring because of a lack of access to and availability of high-quality reproductive health services. Eighty-four per cent of all births take place at home and only 20 per cent of these births have skilled attendants present. The neonatal mortality rate is 37.3 deaths per 1,000 live births. Neonatal deaths account for nearly half of the infant mortality rate, which is 75 deaths per

1,000 live births. Access to reproductive health care is hampered by a lack of awareness among women, men and communities of reproductive health issues. Cultural taboos also impede access to reproductive health services. The unmet need for family planning is 51 per cent, including 36 per cent for modern methods. The contraceptive prevalence rate for modern methods is estimated to be only 13 per cent.

Source: UNFPA



CCTV

Permeates anything
Observers everything
Doesn't Miss a thing
Panasonic like nothing else

ALFA شركة ألتا المحدودة
الوكيل الوحيد في الجمهورية اليمنية
Panasonic ideas for life



Hans Obdeijn UNFPA country representative, Abdullah Al-Duraibi Program Officer for Population and Development Component at UNFPA, and Nadia Al-Sakkaf Editor in Chief of Yemen Times at the seminar on Yemen's population challenges in Yemen Times last Thursday.



**بثقتكم كبرنا
وبجزم الودائع تفوقنا**

شكراً لثقتكم

CAC BANK
بنك الائحة التعاوني والريفي
Cooperative Agricultural Credit Bank
www.cacbank.com.ye



NOKIA

كما الريشة الملون
Nokia 1325 CDMA

- تصميم نحيف غاية في الاناقة.
- شاشة ملونة، 65,536 لونا.
- استوديو، العاب، مسجل صوت.
- نغمات بوليفونيك MIDI.
- مكبر صوت للتكلم الحر.
- تخزين عناوين اتصال يصل الى 400 اسم.

ريال 15599

777 11 33 55
تسجيل فاس هذا الرقم
لحريته ستراني هاتف نوكيا

الريديزي: 275 106 - القيادة: 56 1700 - مركز صنعاء التجاري: 448504 - حدة: 513900 - عسبر: 289477
عمن: 02 243321 - الحميدية: 03 22 44 42 - تعز: 250817 - 04 - المكلا: 06 302412



FAGOR The best of Spanish products

شركة زبيّن للتجارة والصناعة
Zubayen Trading & Industry Company

Sana'a (441575/571) Fax: 441579, E-mail: zubayen1@y.net.ye
Aden (205060/1/2) Fax: 205063, E-mail: zubayenA@y.net.ye

ZTCO