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 A young future ruined by others' dispute

As government approves Socotra plants as national symbols Water & Environment Ministry allows transportation of rare plants to Saudi Arabia

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 30 — The Yemeni Cabinet recently approved natural elements in Yemen as slogans to signify protection of plant and animal life in the country that are threatened by extinction. It also approved the 'Dragon's Blood Tree,' exclusively available on Socotra Island, as a national tree that must receive adequate protection from potential threats.

During his visit to Socotra in the company of European ambassadors to Yemen over a week ago, Minister of Water and the Environment Abdurrahman Fadhel Al-Iryani told an environmental activist that President Ali Abdullah Saleh ordered the government to give Saudi Arabian King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz a gift including more than one hundred saplings taken from the rarest tree species in the Arabian Peninsula, such as the Dragon's Blood, gum, Socotran Cucumber and Karthab trees, in order to be grown in the Royal Garden, based in the Saudi capital city of Riyadh.

Al-Iryani said to the same source that many of such plantlets, transported by a special Saudi plane, were subjected to extinction while being transported from

their original environment.

Regarding the transport of non-native plant life to the island, Al-Iryani explained, "More than 15 strange tree types were discovered by Yemeni researchers on Socotra, while other tree species are still undiscovered. The General Environment Protection Authority (GEPA) worked hard to launch several field campaigns with the aim of eliminating such odd trees, believed to harm other local useful trees by consuming their water and nutrition."

Other sources were quoted as saying that Yemeni investment agencies transported palm saplings and other plantlets from the United Arab Emirates over the past few months in exchange for transplanting some of the rarest trees on Socotra to the Gulf state, but the Socotra Airport authorities did not allow those concerned to transport the saplings via a Yemeni plane.

Socotra Island enjoys great international care due to its unique biodiversity. The clearest evidence of this is that the island's archipelago is included in the Global Network for Biosphere Protectorates, which was approved by Man And the Biosphere (MAB), affiliated with UNESCO.

Scientists and environmentalists from various countries have been interested in Socotra, with foreign delegates usually visiting the island to conduct studies on the various tree species and unique animal life.

They urge Yemeni authorities to conserve biodiversity on the island, which represents an integrated environmental system and may be harmed in event one of its elements disappears. They stressed the necessity of studying the geological history of the island and identifying its geological age, reviewing the specific historical stages which the island underwent without any external interaction.

Socotra is one of the two most important protected areas in Yemen. The first is the Utma Area of Dhamar governorate, announced as a protected area on June 5, 1999, while Socotra Island was officially announced as a protected area on September 27, 2000.

In addition, four other Yemeni areas have been nominated as protected areas in the near future: Hawf in Mahra, Bara'a in Hodeida, Sharma in Hadramout and Belhaf in Shabwa.

Despite the biodiversity enjoyed by some Yemeni districts announced or nominated to be announced as protected areas, the Socotra Archipelago, made up

of four islands and other uninhabitable rock outcrops, is considered the most beautiful and richest worldwide, thanks to its biodiversity.

Socotra is the largest and most important of the four islands comprising the Socotra Archipelago. These islands are: Socotra, Abd al Kuri, Samhah, and Darsah. The archipelago is located at the point where the Indian Ocean, Arab Sea and Horn of Africa meet, its islands running parallel to Yemen's Southwest coastline between the Mahra and Hadramout governorates. The archipelago's total area is estimated at 2,650 square kilometers while Socotra Island is 125 kilometers long and 33 kilometers wide.

The Socotra Archipelago has unique biodiversity. According to relevant studies, Socotra Island includes up to 850 tree species, of which 293 are unique species found only on the island.

The most salient trees available on the island are the Dragon's Blood Tree, Euphorbia Arbuscula and Jatropha Uncinata, in addition to other unique tree species, famous for their thick timber and leaves. Incense trees are also available on the Island.

Socotra is home to various species of birds, insects, reptiles and other animals.



Members of the French diplomatic mission that conducted a scientific study on the island's creatures revealed that there are six bird species on the island which don't exist in other parts of the world. The Socotra Archipelago also has ten bird species, including the Golden Winged Bird, South Arabian Wheatear, Arabian Partridge and Arabian Woodpecker, that are hardly available in

other parts of the world. The French diplomatic mission members also mentioned that the Socotra Archipelago is home to many unique insect species and daytime butterflies, 15 of which are settled species. There are also 60 species of night butterflies, plus 100 species of flying insects, 80 of which exist only on Socotra.

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Only 20 safety supervisors for more than 10 million laborers in Yemen

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, May 1 — Yemen is marking International Labor Day, also called May Day, by celebrating the occasion in its capital city of Sana'a today.

Mohammed Al-Jidri, head of the General Union for Yemeni Laborers, told the Yemen Times that more than 100 workers selected from all governorates will be awarded at the celebration at the Cultural Center.

He noted that each governorate will celebrate the occasion by rewarding several distinguished workers, adding, "Even companies will celebrate the day, with 4,000 workers being rewarded."

According to him, Yemen has more than 10 million laborers between the ages of 15 and 64 working in the private, public and agricultural sectors. Yemen's estimated population is 21 million, 45.9 percent of whom are under age 15.

Al-Jidri noted that the Yemeni Laborers Union plays a large role in spreading awareness among workers about work risks. "We conduct awareness courses about safety and work risks, in addition to preparing trainers who visit the work field to spread awareness among employees," he explained, adding that the labor union also distributes brochures and posters

about work safety and work environment risks.

Work risks are on the rise

An April 28 report by the General Department for Safety at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor reported 1,258 diseases among Yemeni laborers. Additionally, it reported nine workers killed and another 1,092 injured while on duty. Among the injured, 43 were partially disabled and five were completely disabled.

The report was disclosed at a celebration in Sana'a marking the International Labor Organization's April 28 World Day for Safety and Health at Work, which Yemen celebrated for the first time this year.

On that day, the organization noted that 2.2 million people worldwide die annually due to work-related accidents and diseases, further indicating that such work-related deaths appear to be on the rise.

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Work-related incidents have increased due to the spread of industrial facilities coupled with lack of awareness by work facility owners.

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Religious leaders support banning early marriage in Yemen

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, April 30 — The issue of approving a law defining the marriage age for Yemeni youths prompted lengthy discussions and debates among human rights activists and religious leaders at an April 29 conference held by Siyaj Organization, a new Yemeni NGO focusing on underage marriage and children's rights.

According to Member of Parliament Abdulbari Dughaihs, also a member of Parliament's Public Health and Population committee, "This is in an extremely dangerous situation in Yemen, so we must find a solution to early marriage. Four years ago, [the committee] proposed that Parliament change the law regarding the marriage age and motherhood, increasing it to 18, but unfortunately, that was ignored."

Suha Bashren, policy and campaign officer for Oxfam in Yemen, criticized those MPs who refused to issue this law setting the marriage age at 18, pointing out that, "In order to have a Yemeni driving license, an individual must be 18 years old, so why doesn't Parliament want to increase the marriage age to 18 instead of 15?"

Religious leader Sheikh Hassan Al-Ahdal affirmed that Islam stresses the importance of youths attaining maturity, wherein a girl is able to make a reasonable choice of marriage partner.

"According to medical studies, girls at age 15 aren't mentally or physically

mature enough to enter a marriage relationship," Al-Ahdal noted, affirming the Islamic teaching that no individual or parent has the authority to force a daughter to marry.

"In some cases where a girl has no shelter or she's poor, she may marry, but her husband can't have sexual relations with her until she reaches maturity; however, it should be noted that this is possible only with her permission," he added.

Al-Ahdal gave an example from the time of the Prophet Mohammed where a young slave girl came to him, saying, "My father forced me to marry a man I don't like and I want to leave him," so he requested the man divorce her.

According to a 2006 estimate by UNICEF, 60 million marriages occurred worldwide before the age of 18, while in the Middle East, which includes Yemen, there were 3.3 million marriages before age 18, said Naseem Al-Rahman, chief of communications and advocacy for UNICEF-Yemen.

He further noted that in Yemen, 365 out of 100,000 women annually die in childbirth, often because their bodies are too young and immature to endure labor.

"Parents believe that the earlier and sooner they marry off their daughters, the better off they'll be and hence, they are rid of the responsibility, so this is forcing young girls to marry while they're still immature and not ready to become mothers," Al-Rahman added.

Regarding early marriage in Yemen, general health expert Dr. Abdullah Al-Kamil says some studies assure and focus that nearly 25 percent of girls under age 15 marry in Yemen, while the other 25 percent marry between ages 11 and 15, 70 percent of whom live in rural areas.

Ten percent of Yemeni men prefer marrying 10-year-old girls, while 65 percent prefer girls between ages 15 and 19. Only 27 percent prefer girls over age 18. This percentage decreases to 12 percent in rural areas and 4 percent in cities.

Additionally, approximately 30 percent of young women aged between 15 and 19 have at least one or two children. Thus, as Al-Kamil noted, "The problem here isn't only early marriage, but also early pregnancy — and in most cases, early death as well."

Girls who marry before age 18 are twice as likely to die during pregnancy, Al-Rahman pointed out.

Yemeni customs traditionally are Bedouin, belonging to the pre-Islamic era. "It's forbidden and unacceptable to force a young girl into marriage and destroy her life; thus, whoever does so must be assured that he or she is doing wrong and committing a sin," said religious leader, Sheikh Al-Mortadha Zaid Al-Mahdhouri.

Attorney Ali Al-'Asemi stresses that the Yemeni legislature must increase the marriage age to 18, as well as punish those parents and guardians who force their young daughters to marry.

Hilal: Elections will change 80 percent of governors

By: Mahmood Assamiee

SANA'A, April 28 — Minister of Local Administration Abdul-Qader Hilal expected that governors' elections, to be held on May 17, will result in changing 70-80 percent of governors, announcing that his ministry has completed all measures and documents needed for holding the elections. He added that a media center has been set up in the ministry for providing journalists with all available information and data, in compliance with the ministry's obligation to keep the elections transparent.

Hilal, who heads the Supreme Supervisory Committee for Electing Governors, said that the elections will enhance the economic role and provide investment environments in local authorities across the country. "The most prominent reflections of these elections will be transforming authorities from the central government to govern and transferring YR 42 billion from the national budget to governorates for carrying out their projects directly," he added.

"The governor is considered head of a smaller government and has economic, social and political obligations and must know every thing about his governorate," added Hilal in the First Conference on Governors' Elections held in Sana'a on Monday.

He confirmed that the elections are a national issue and basic step in the democratic process for wider local governance and a historical event in electing governors after 40 years of the routine process of appointing them. The minister fixed six days for receiving nomination applications and 48 hours for contestations, setting Saturday, May 17 as the election day.

Responding to a question that the elections are a hasty step in this hard economic time, Hilal said that this process is a constitutional obligation and that his ministry was ready to present amendments of local authority law. "The timing of these elections is linked to a political decision issued early this month by President Ali Abdullah Saleh," he said.

Concerning an elections boycott announced by some opposition parties, he noted that the active boycott of any elections must be at least 40 percent of voters and that boycotting parties represent only 10 percent of civil society, which means the vast majority of society will participate.

Responding to the question of whether the election are conducted under public pressure, Hilal said that the decision to hold the elections at this time is not because of pressure for this demand, but that the country should understand what is happening on the streets and consider people's

demands. "If the people dislike the performance of some officials (governors), they have the chance to elect the right ones."

Hilal called on all political parties to participate in establishing this democratic process, which he considered the first in the Arab World, saying that these elections will be conducted under judicial and international supervision, welcoming any local and international organization which wants to participate.

He said every Yemeni man or woman above the age of 40 has the right to run for the elections and that any official, whether Parliament member or minister, must first resign from his/her post to apply for nominating himself in the elections.

For his part, Deputy Minister of Local Administration Umer al-Okburi said that the number of staff who will elect the governors are 7,482 persons, composed of heads and members of local councils across the country. He added that the elections would strengthen governorate centers.

Deputy Minister of Local Administration Khadija Radman confirmed that the woman's quota in these elections is not yet agreed upon between parties, indicating that there is a woman who has applied to the ministry for nomination as Lahj governor.

As mediation committee awaits directives to go to Sa'ada

Eleven killed, others injured in surprise army attack on Houthis

SA'ADA, April 30 — Military trucks loaded with troops intentionally approached Houthi strategic positions on Tuesday, launching surprise attacks against them, which left five Houthis dead and another three injured, tribal sources told the Yemeni Times, adding that six of the attacking soldiers were killed and 10 others injured, some seriously.

Reacting to the incident, Houthi representative Sheikh Saleh Habra reported that Houthi field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi released a statement Tuesday evening denouncing repeated army attacks upon his supporters in Haidan district and other areas in the restive governorate.

According to Al-Houthi, such surprise attacks targeting his supporters only serve to escalate the unrest in the war-ravaged governorate, noting that the situation in various Sa'ada areas may worsen if the Yemeni army con-

tinues behaving this way.

Regarding efforts by the joint Yemeni-Qatari mediation committee, Habra noted that the committee still is in Sana'a awaiting President Ali Abdullah Saleh's orders to commence its travel to Sa'ada with the aim of reconciling government troops and Houthi supporters.

The president recently created a new mediation committee to oversee how both sides are abiding by the Doha-brokered ceasefire agreement. The new committee is comprised of Member of Parliament Mohammed Sabbar Al-Jumaei, Al-Jawf Governor Mansour Ahmad Saif and Shoura Council members Ali Al-Qafish and Yahya Abdullah Qahtan, who represent the government, while Habra, Saleh Ahmad Sharma and the three-member Qatari mediation team represent Houthis.

The Qatari team returned to Sana'a following deliberations between

Qatar's government and Yemeni Foreign Affairs Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi in Doha, where Al-Qirbi delivered a letter from President Saleh to the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

The letter stressed the necessity of continuing Qatari mediation efforts, while the Yemeni government pledged to make effective peace initiatives and overcome any obstacles to the ceasefire agreement by military and security commanders.

President Saleh on Thursday issued a directive excluding the previous presidential mediation committee chaired by Mohammed Saleh Qara'a from current mediation efforts because, according to him, it had failed to negotiate with Houthis. Meanwhile, a senior government official reported that the new committee will be comprised of four members, with two representatives from each side.

Soaring food prices force more people below poverty line - WFP

SANAA, 29 April (IRIN) — The UN World Food Programme (WFP) office in Yemen has said food price hikes have increased the number of people living below a US\$2-a-day poverty line, and hampered achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mohammed el-Kouhene, a WFP representative in Yemen, told IRIN that over the past three months an estimated 6 percent of Yemenis had dropped below the poverty line as a result of price hikes and drought.

"It is very difficult to give an up-to-date figure. The situation is certainly worse than what was mentioned three months ago, not only because of food price rises but also drought... especially in rural areas. We need to have assessments done to find out what the real situation is on the ground," he said.

El-Kouhene said the price hikes resulted in a gap of US\$28 million for his programmes in Yemen, while WFP has a gap of US\$756 million worldwide.

"When we prepared our 2008 programme, we based our projections on 2005 food prices. Based on that, the value of our programme was set at \$48 million. Now, with \$48 million, we cannot buy commodities for the people we planned to feed. The total cost of the project has now increased to \$76 million. So there is a gap of \$28 million," he said.

According to him, if WFP does not receive funds to fill the gap, it will either have to cut rations or the number of beneficiaries.

"Either way, according to our calculations, 320,000 people will be deprived of the food aid provided by our programme," he said.

El-Kouhene said about 30 countries had been identified by WFP as those most affected by price hikes worldwide, and Yemen is one of them. "The crisis is very serious. There are no magic solutions to this problem," he said.

Malnutrition

El-Kouhene said the rise in prices of food staples had had an adverse impact on malnutrition - 40 percent of the population was malnourished, he said.

"The problem is not the availability of food but how many people have access to food. A family's whole budget no longer enables them to meet their food requirements. I am talking about a big proportion of the population who live on less than \$2 a day," he said.

Yemen is one of the world's poorest countries, ranking 153rd out of 177 countries on the UN Development Programme's [UNDP's] 2007-08 Human Development Index. According to the UNDP office in Yemen, 15.7 percent of the population lives on less than \$1 a day; and 45.2 percent live on less than \$2 a day.

El-Kouhene said the price hikes had set Yemen back seven years in terms of achieving its MDGs.

"In the short term, we have identified some initiatives, some possibilities, such as encouraging more imports by the private sector, to help stabilise the market. Another solution is to import red wheat or mixed wheat which is

cheaper and has a higher nutritional value," he said.

Drought

Ismael Muharram, head of the Agricultural Research Authority (ARA) at the Ministry of Agriculture, told IRIN that over 65 percent of cultivated land in Yemen is reliant on rainfall, whereas 30-35 percent is irrigated using ground water. Much of the water and land is used for the cultivation of 'khat', the mild narcotic, described by some as the bane of Yemen's development.

With only about two weeks of the rainy season left, there was still no rain, he said. The second rainy season begins in late July and lasts till December. "The first rainy season is the actual time for cultivating grain. But the rains have not started... Farmers have been without rain for eight months now," Muharram said.

Yemen imports about 75 percent of its food needs, including 2.1 million tonnes of cereals each year.

"Last year's cereal harvest was 900,000 tonnes, but the country is not self-sufficient. It has no grain stocks," he said.

The cereals Yemen produces include corn, wheat, millet, and barely. Yemen used to be self-sufficient in cereals in the 1970s. "The pattern of food consumption has changed: People in the highlands did not eat rice, preferring millet, corn and barley to prepare bread. Now soft wheat is preferred, instead," Muharram said, adding that if no long-term solutions are found "there will be a big catastrophe as hunger will spread."

Continued from page 1

Water & Environment Ministry allows transportation of rare plants to Saudi Arabia

Other animals on the island include thousands of Socotran goats spread throughout the island's mountains and valleys, the Zabad animal from which citizens extract Zabad, a substance used by perfume labs in Europe. A distinctive feature of the Socotra Archipelago is that it is free of beasts that may, if available, threaten the survival of useful animals.

There are many rare reptiles of various size on the island, in addition to serpents and scorpions, some of which are poisonous.

Another striking feature is that lobsters and other living beings that normally exist in salt water live in fresh water on the island. Numerous fish species and other sea animals, including sharks and shrimp, are also available.

Other sea animals include 60 kinds of sponges, as well as other precious creatures which play a vital role in the process of environmental balance. Other kinds of sponges have biological characteristics that enable them to kill harmful bacteria, which

implies that they can be exploited for the drug industry. There are also 15 kinds of parasites, 6 of which are poisonous. In the Socotra Archipelago, the sea floor is rich with precious red corals, which, according to researchers, are still conserving their pure natural characteristics.

Only 20 safety supervisors for more than 10 million laborers in Yemen

The organization added that each year, an estimated 270 million people suffer non-fatal, work-related accidents resulting in at least three days' absence from work and an additional 160 million others suffer some work-related illness.

According to Al-Jidri, in 2006, the rate of such incidents at work in Yemen was 19 percent but increased to 22 percent in 2007. "Work-related incidents have increased due to the spread of industrial facilities coupled with lack of awareness by work facility owners," he said.

He further noted that while there are more than 44,000 such facilities (companies, industrial facilities, hospitals, etc.) throughout Yemen,

"There are only 20 health and safety supervisors, who can't supervise all of these facilities, as it would require five to seven years to check them all."

Al-Jidri pointed out that there are no safety or health doctors in Yemen. "It must be stressed that some diseases among workers appear only after five or 10 years, so there must be doctors to treat them," he concluded.

Difficulties

One difficulty the Yemeni Labor Union faces is lack of understanding by some employers regarding its role. "Some leaders within private and government institutions view our work as an intervention; however, we consider ourselves their partners. Not understanding the union's role is a hurdle in itself," Al-Jidri explained.

He added that increasing unemployment, price hikes and deteriorating living standards are other problems. "Every year, approximately 188,000 students graduate from university, with only 16,000 jobs for them, so what will be the fate for another 172,000 qualified graduates?" he wondered.

Rights activist: Quota will bring cultural and social changes to the country

By: Wojoud Mujali
For The Yemen Times

SANA'A, April 27 — Empowering Yemeni women to be able to run in the 2009 Parliament elections was the dominant theme in a seminar held on Sunday in the Progress and Advancement Forum in Sana'a.

The seminar, which was attended by various non-governmental organizations, forum members and local and international mass media, was run without any representatives or heads of Yemeni political parties.

"Yemen is going through a lot of challenges, one of which is politics, and women have a significant role that can help to face such challenges. This seminar aims to help women understand their political rights and support the presidential statement about enforcing the quota to reserve 15 per-

cent of Parliament seats for women in the coming elections," said Yehiya Mohammed Saleh, head of the Progress and Advancement Forum.

In the last Parliament elections in 2003, only one woman won, compared to 300 men. Last year, only 38 women won in local council elections, in contrast to 4,000 men. Such feeble representation has forced women's organizations to demand that political parties carry out election law amendments in a way defining the quota percentage and compelling the political parties that apply to take part in elections to adopt it.

Rauofaa Hasan, a member of the executive office in the forum, noted, "I think implementing the quota would really help and achieve a lot."

She stressed the importance of the seminar, saying that it has joined governmental and non-governmental sides to implement a mechanism that

would be able to help in the coming Parliament election and "make the elections better and easier."

Afrah Ba-dowilan, a female judge in the juvenile court, said that enforcing the quota "will really be a significant event in the country ...if Yemen applies the quota, then about 45 women will be able to occupy seats in the legislature authority (Parliament), and this would definitely bring cultural and social changes to the country."

Political analyst Mohamed Al-Mekhlafie undervalued the discussions. "How can they want to reach a specific mechanism when the political parties weren't invited?" he wondered.

"Another important thing is that there is no way to reach any kind of agreement unless the constitution is modified and changed to protect this law and mechanism they are trying to implement," he added.

In Brief

Around the Nation

Syrian cultural week to be held in Yemen next May

Culture Minister Mohammed al-Maflahi reviewed here on Saturday with the Syrian ambassador to Yemen Abdul Ghafor Sabouni current arrangements for holding the Syrian cultural week in Yemen.

Sabouni briefed the minister on the program of the Syrian cultural week that is to be held in Sana'a and some other governorates during the period of May 10 - 16.

He made clear that the week includes setting up an exhibition for the Syrian book and an exhibition for plastic arts in addition to showing five Syrian-produced movies and some TV series.

Two musical bands would take part in the week, the Syrian diplomat said, adding that a number of Syrian writers and authors would also participate in the week's activities.

For his part, al-Maflahi welcomed holding the week, voicing the ministry's readiness to cooperate to make the week's activities succeeded.

Yemeni officials launch awareness campaign of smoking

Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi and Mayor of the capital Sana'a Yahya al-Shuaybi launched in Sana'a an awareness campaign of the harmful effects of smoking.

The campaign, carried out by the al-

Resalah Centre for Studies and Democratic Development in collaboration with the National Association of Combating Smoking (NACS), would include the capital Sana'a and the two provinces of Ibb and Taiz.

Head of the NACS Abu Bakr al-Qirbi affirmed the importance of the campaign's success to create awareness of the harmful effects of smoking that "causes serious diseases and health damage to smokers, particularly among young people and school students".

At least 38 people killed in traffic accidents last week

Official statistics showed on Saturday that at least 38 people were killed and 245 wounded, including 165 seriously injured in traffic accidents took place last week in Yemen.

The weekly statistics of the General Traffic Service pointed that the number of the traffic accidents were 241 accidents.

The Traffic Service said that the accident's causes were different, affirming that the exceeding speed of vehicles and technical defects were the main causes.

SANA'A

Cuba wills to establish specialized hospital in Yemen

Chairman of the Arab-Cuban Friendship Association voiced on Sunday his country's desire to establish

a specialized hospital in Yemen.

During his meeting with deputy parliament speaker Hemiar al-Ahmar, the Cuban official highlighted the great bilateral relations between Yemen and Cuba, affirming the Cuba's keenness on expanding mutual ties with Yemen.

Al-Ahmar affirmed the Yemeni-Cuban strong relations, valuing attitudes of the Cuban leadership supporting Arab fair issues.

He pinned his hopes that the Cuban delegation's visit to Yemen would contribute to enhance the distinctive relations between the two countries, particularly in the public health field, praising the high-level capabilities of the Cuban medical cadres working in the country.

The meeting also discussed reinforcing mutual cooperation relations in the parliamentary field.

30 preachers trained on dangers of child labor

Anti-Child Labor Unit in the ministry of social and labor affairs, in cooperation with International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC), organized on Monday a training workshop for more than 30 mosque preachers on dangers of child labor and the worst forms of child labor of children aged between 5-18.

Opening the workshop, Minister of Social and Labor Affairs Amat al-Razaq Hummed talked about role of mosque preachers in enlightening

different social sects on dangers of child labor in general and on worst of its forms in particular. She noted that child labor is cultural heritage in Yemen and that the aim of the workshop is eliminating worst forms of child labor.

She categorized child dangerous works to more than 30 kinds such as night works, agricultural works making them vulnerable to dangers of pesticides. She clarified that poverty, school infiltration, difficult social conditions and death of family supporters are the most causes pushing children to labor market.

The minister clarified that there are three centers working in this field (child labor) distributed in Sana'a, Aden and Syoon and that the ministry intends to open centers for taking care of working children in five governorates.

Yemen to host coming conference for Gulf health ministers

Yemen will host the coming conference of the Gulf health ministers next February, 2009, Director of Executive Office for Gulf Health Ministers Council Tawfiq bin Ahmed Khojah said on Sunday.

In remarks to Saba, Khojah said that the Yemeni health minister presented a motto of the conference and its agenda, which will be focused on basic health care and family health.

He added that the agenda of the coming conference would be bases for

enhancing health system in the countries of the region, pointing out that the conference would also discuss heart disease and efforts of combating malaria in the Arab Peninsula.

LAHJ

Woman to run for governor of Lahj: says Hilal

Minister of Local Administration Abdul-Qader Hilal said in a press conference held on Monday that a woman announced her willingness to enter electoral contest for post of governor of Lahj governorate.

He affirmed during a statement to al-motamar.net that there are no legal restrictions on women to be a governor in accordance with the Yemeni law.

Hilal confirmed that one of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP)'s leaders will run for the governor for al-Dhale governorate in the elections which would be held on May 17.

TAIZ

SG of Taiz LC to participate in Arab Forum for local research development

Secretary General of Taiz province Local Council Saeed Al-Haj would participate in Arab Forum for development of local researches which is to be organized by Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO) in coordination with German organization for local studies in Amman of Jordan.

Upon his departure, he said that he will present a work paper including summary of Yemeni local experiences and interim developments.

SA'ADA

New Saada committee to launch functions within three days

An official source said on Monday that the newly formed Saada committee, overseeing the implementation of the Qatari-brokered agreement to end the four-year long armed rebellion in Saada, is currently preparing a program to start its functions within next three days.

The source affirmed that the committee would be in neutrality to monitor the implementation of the agreement signed between the government and the rebellion leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi.

The source pointed out the committee's intention to inform the public of any obstacles that may hinder the application of the agreement.

The committee was composed of the government representatives: the parliamentary Mohammed Sabbar al-Joma'ay, Jawf province Ahmed Mansour and two members of the Shuora Council Ali al-Kufish and Yahya Abdullah Qahtan and the al-Houthi representatives Saleh Habrah and Saleh Ahmed Sharma as well as three members of the Qatari government in addition to the committee's chairman Ali Abdullah Abu Hulaigah.

Their News

British Embassy Introduces Online Visa Application



The British Embassy Visa Application Centre in the Aramex Building, Hadda Street, Sana'a will close on 26 April 2008 until further notice. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause our visa customers.

Persons with outstanding applications submitted to Aramex will be contacted by the British Embassy.

In order to continue to provide a full visa service in Yemen, we are introducing our award-winning online application service Visa4UK. From 26 all applications must be made online at www.visa4uk.fco.gov.uk. Once you have made your online application you will need to make an appointment online to attend the British Embassy to enrol your biometric data (electronic fingerscans and a digital photograph). For further details of the new arrangements please visit the Embassy website at www.britishembassy.gov.uk/yemen

OIC secretary-general rejoices at release of professor Misuari

The Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, has welcomed the decision of the Philippines authorities to release on bail Professor Nur Misuari, Chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), after many years of detention and house arrest.

On this occasion, the Secretary-General calls on the two parties to proceed ahead with the implementation of the 1996 Peace Agreement and to fulfill the commitments and obligations of this historic agreement. He also hopes that the third Trilateral Meeting to be held in Manila from 26 to 29 May 2008 between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) would be successful, with a view to restoring peace, security and stability in Mindanao in southern Philippines.

The Secretary-General avails himself of this opportunity to reaffirm the importance of solidarity, burying dif-

ferences and rallying ranks inside the MNLF so as to reinstate the peace process and push on with progress, on a path free from obstacles so as to reach the desired just and durable peace based on the full implementation of the final Peace Agreement concluded in 1996.

TI calls on leading oil and gas companies to increase revenue transparency. New report shows companies should provide greater accountability.

A majority of leading oil and gas companies are far from transparent when it comes to the payments they make to resource-rich countries, leaving the door open to corruption and hampering efforts to fight poverty, according to a report published today by Transparency International (TI).

"The tragic paradox, that many resource-rich countries remain poor, stems from a lack of data on oil and gas revenues and how they are managed. Companies must do more to increase transparency," said Huguette Labelle, Chair of TI.

Revenue transparency report findings

The 2008 Report on Revenue Transparency of Oil and Gas Companies evaluates 42 leading international and national oil and gas companies operating in 21 countries, based on the transparency of their reporting, particularly on payments made to governments for resource extraction rights.

The report, based on data made publicly available by companies, categorises companies into high, middle and low performers. Only a third of companies evaluated in the report are considered high performers. (See attached table for full results)

Oil and gas transparency fights poverty

Today, sixty percent of the world's poorest people live in resource-rich countries. Most constitutions grant citizens ultimate ownership of their country's natural resources. Yet much of the data on what companies pay for the right to exploit these resources and how this money is spent by host governments remains unpublished and beyond public scrutiny.

When companies and governments are fully transparent, citizens, journalists, civil society, researchers and investigators can track revenue flows, holding public officials to account and discouraging corruption. With oil prices at record highs and industry revenues in OPEC countries alone expected to reach nearly US \$1 trillion in 2008, the question of transparency has never been more critical.

"Oil and gas wealth, if properly managed, should support better services and infrastructure. It should lead to a better quality of life for all citizens. It is the duty of civil society to work with companies and governments to unlock this potential," said Labelle.

A call to companies

Companies need to act quickly to introduce proactive reporting, rather than wait for legislation. In identifying high-performers, TI's report shows that revenue reporting on a country-by-country basis, which is identified as best practice, is possible. As the companies with best results show, transparency and profitability are not mutually exclusive. To the contrary, greater transparency can enhance confidence in the financial markets and with stakeholders. "Revenue transparency is a win-win equation," said Cobus de Swardt, Managing Director of TI. "The benefits to all, especially the world's poorest, can be enormous."

Companies: just one piece of the puzzle

"We hope that this report helps motivate companies to improve their revenue transparency and that they understand that civil society stands ready as a constructive partner in this process," added de Swardt. "And when we update the report data we look forward to seeing not only improved scores, but greater company engagement in our work. This is an issue that can only be tackled collaboratively."

Analysing company performance is just one piece of the puzzle. Although the private sector must increase revenue transparency, governments of host countries are ultimately accountable for the management of their resources. They must therefore lead the drive for a more equitable exploitation of oil and gas wealth, by enacting, promoting and enforcing regulation.

Future reports by Transparency International will look at the role of resource-rich country governments as well as those governments home to major extractive companies.

Report recommendations

The 2008 Report on Revenue Transparency of Oil and Gas Companies makes four key recommendations:

- § Companies should proactively report revenues paid to governments on a country-by-country basis;
- § Governments, stock exchanges and regulatory agencies should urgent-

ly consider mandatory reporting for companies operating in-country and abroad;

- § Governments from oil and gas producing countries should introduce legislation mandating revenue transparency by all companies operating in their territories;
- § Regulatory agencies and companies should agree to publish information in a uniform and accessible format, one that facilitates both comprehension and comparability.

British Council - Extremely Short Story Competition



Yemen, 22nd April - 22nd May 2008: The British Council in Sana'a is running an Extremely Short Story Competition (ESSC) - Our Memories, Dreams and Futures, in conjunction with other British Council centres in the GCC and Zayed University in the UAE.

The aim of the ESSC is for students to enjoy writing in English with the chance to win a prize, get published and contribute to research. Students can write fact or fiction; poetry or prose, but they must write exactly 50 words on the theme of 'Our memories, dreams and futures' relating to their own lives and experiences. The submissions will be proof-read and edited before publication. Students can submit as many stories as they like up until the deadline.

The competition is open to any Yemeni or GCC national, studying at a secondary (high) school or tertiary (university/college) institution in Yemen. The institution must register in order for students to submit their stories.

For further information please see the website: <http://50words.org> or contact the British Council office on (01) 448356.

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We operate in 233 towns and cities in 110 countries and territories worldwide. We build relationships and understanding between people in the UK and other countries and increase appreciation of the UK's ideas and achievements overseas. The areas we focus on are creativity, education and civil society. We are a non-political organization which operates at arm's length from government.

IATA Signs Global Declaration on Aviation and Climate Change



The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has signed a historic commitment to tackle climate change. IATA Director General and CEO Giovanni Bisignani was joined by the industry's other top leaders in a signing ceremony at the 3rd Aviation and Environment Summit in Geneva, Switzerland. "This declaration is a great step," said Bisignani. "IATA's four-pillar strategy on climate change is now an industry commitment."

This commitment will drive us forward—first to our 25% fuel efficiency improvement target, and more importantly towards our vision of carbon neutral growth leading to a carbon

emission free industry."

"Environmental responsibility is a core promise of the aviation industry, alongside safety and security.

We have taken this responsibility seriously long before Kyoto with impressive results - a 70% improvement in fuel efficiency over the last four decades.

All the industry partners have a common goal - to keep aviation as a benchmark of environmental responsibility for others to follow," said Bisignani. "Today's commitment is unique. What other industry is so united in its approach to environment?"

"But governments must play their part if we are truly to succeed. They must invest more effectively in environmental technologies - from alternative fuels to radical dynamics. And they need to match our efforts at efficiency - such as implementing next generation traffic management systems globally. A Single European Sky could save 12 million tonnes of CO2 at a stroke," said Bisignani.

Marie Stopes celebrates its 10th anniversary



Marie Stopes International - Yemen (MSI-Y) celebrated on last Sunday (20th of April 2008) in Movenpick Sana'a Hotel, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary of starting up its Clinical Program on Reproductive Health and Family Planning Services in Yemen.

The celebration was attended by Mr. Tim Turlot, the British Ambassador in Yemen, Mr. Dana Hovig Marie Stopes International Chief Executive, Dr. Ahmed Borajee- General Secretary of the National Council of Population, Mrs. Rashida Al-Hamdani : The Chief National Women Committee, and Ms. Fran Roots Marie Stopes International Yemen Country Representative, in addition of numbers of delegates of foreign embassies and International NGOs.

Mrs. Rashida Al-Hamdani expressed for the media, her appreciation on the continuous efforts of MSI-Y in provid-

ing the high quality of Family planning and Reproductive Health Services to the community in Yemen since 10 years of its establishment along with all other national and international NGOs.

At the beginning of the celebration, Mr. Dana Hovig, the CE of MSI, said that he is grateful for the Ministry of Public Health & Population for their unlimited support of MSIY for its activities and growth since its establishment. He added that "he is proud of the achievement of MSI Yemen staff and grateful to their hard work on rendering high quality of Reproductive Health Service for the Yemeni Society within the 4governorates; Sana'a, Aden, Taiz & Hadramout".

He also mentioned that the forthcoming 10 years plan is targeting to reach the whole Yemeni women in the rural and remote areas in all governorates, and cover all marginal communities.

Total E&P Yemen is **HIRING**

Total E&P Yemen, subsidiary of Total, world's fifth Oil and Gas Company is looking for:



Legal Officer (position based in Sana'a)

Job Duties:

- Handle the local legal workload of TEPY to ensure the provision of high quality / high value legal advice is given to all departments
- Provide detailed advice and guidance to TEPY's management in all legal issues
- Obtain, when necessary, external local legal advice and monitor the cost thereof

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in law
- Minimum experience of at least 3 years in local law, gained in private or industry practice
- Ability to handle large workload, good communication and interpersonal skills

Site HSE Officer (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Ensure the application of Total Yemen & Total HSE Policy (directives, rules, specifications, procedures)
- Assist the RSES in all HSE related matters such as providing advice on rules, procedures, reference documents, adapted equipment and best practices
- Ensure that all safety materials (including emergency ones) are identified, registered and that preventive maintenance is performed as per either manufacturer instructions or specific Site instruction

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in an engineering field preferably in Petroleum or Chemical engineering
- Minimum of 3 years experience in oil and gas operations (knowledge of HSE risks, materials and process-related risks)

Waste Management Controller (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Organize collection and reception of wastes and ensure proper segregation as per Company's rules
- Supervise all activities at Waste storage locations
- Ensure that all waste management equipment such as crushers and incinerators are identified, registered and that preventive maintenance is performed as per manufacturer's instructions or Site specific instructions

Job Qualifications:

- Technical degree preferably in Environmental sciences
- Minimum of 2 years experience in the field of waste management in the oil and gas industry
- Able to train and to pass on information and guidelines to Contractors etc

Head of General Services (position based in Sana'a)

Job Duties:

- Supervise maintenance contractors for maintenance work in all company's buildings and rented houses
- Supervise the process of providing suitable houses to all TEPY expatriates, which includes finding, negotiating and leasing, preparing and maintaining the houses
- Ensure that all offices' facilities are in order, (electricity, plumbing, water network)

Job Qualifications:

- Technical degree or significant experience on technical and maintenance fields
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in logistics and maintenance operations within a company of 100-200 employees
- Good negotiation and planning skills as well as good knowledge of local contractors

Recruitment & Development Officer (position based in Sana'a)

Job Duties:

- Assist in all the HR development and training activities
- Contribute to the overall process of recruitment that includes, but not limited to advertising, screening, short listing, testing, interviewing and selecting
- Complete all the necessary recruitment logistical actions as well as prepare all the required reports

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in administration or human resources
- Minimum of 2 years in human resources preferably in recruitment and development
- Good organization, interpersonal and teamwork skills

Site Security Liaison Officer (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Coordinate the site security activities with the Yemeni forces in charge of the site protection
- Control all guard posts on a daily basis
- Organize and supervise convoys and escorts as required

Job Qualifications:

- Minimum of 3 years of experience in security related positions
- Ability to implement and enforce security regulations
- Good background in staff and assets protection

Civil Works Supervisor (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Supervise the works undertaken by Contractors on site regarding rig platform construction, road access construction and repair, civil works modification and ensure quality and on-time delivery
- Review the daily work permits and ensure that they are issued as necessary
- Check materials availability beforehand and issue material requisitions for daily works

Job Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering
- Minimum experience of 4 years in the oil and gas industry
- Good knowledge of construction and inspection in mechanical and piping fields

Site Carpool Supervisor (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Supervise the site carpool activities and ensure that it is run well and smoothly
- Organize the general maintenance of vehicle fleet (routine, periodical, repair, accidents etc.)
- Follow up on work performance, whether it is done in conformity with agreed specifications or not

Job Qualifications:

- Good knowledge and understanding of vehicles running and maintenance
- Good organization and interpersonal skills, knowledge of PC software
- Good communication and reporting skills

Site Security Officer (position based in Site)

Job Duties:

- Conduct security assessments before any meetings or any social activities
- In liaison with the Site Security Advisor, develops strong relationships with the local community in relation to security issues
- Ensure the compliance of the security procedures of the site

Job Qualifications:

- Minimum of 5 years of experience in security related positions
- Ability to implement and enforce security regulations
- Good background in staff and assets protection

Learn more about the above positions at www.careers.total.com

All applicants for these positions must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English are essential.

To Apply: Please send your application only to www.careers.total.com no later than 10th May 2008. Faxed or handed-in applications are not considered.



Our energy is your energy **TOTAL**

If qat were banned, how would it change your life?

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly
For the Yemen Times

Ali Al-Mansoub, lab technician



Banning qat would mean eliminating diseases. Many qat chewers suffer diseases caused by using qat, such as mouth or lung cancer, and they spend large amounts of money on treatment.

Sleeplessness, tooth decay and poisoning from pesticides also are related to qat use and these would decrease if we stopped chewing qat. When I don't chew qat, I can concentrate and I spend my time usefully.

Ali Al-Faqih, qat farmer and salesman



Millions of Yemenis depend on qat for their living - growing, harvesting, packaging, transporting and selling it;

therefore, banning it would be a real disaster for them, as well as for the entire country.

Because qat is a highly profitable income source, I don't think it would be easy for me to find a replacement. Additionally, social relationships and friendships would weaken if qat didn't exist.

Rashid Al-Sam'ee, 20, security guard



Without qat, we would look our true age; pale and angry faces would look younger and happier. We'd sleep at night

instead of staying up late chewing qat.

I know a man in his 80s who looks younger than me because he doesn't chew qat, but I do.

We would return to reality if we abandoned the qat habit, which causes us to live in a non-existent world where everything is ok.

Kawkab Al-Quladhi, teacher



If qat were banned, there would be fewer family conflicts, more attention for children and men would be

more understanding. Those men who usually ask their wives for money for their qat, as well as those women who ask their husbands for qat, would stop disputing about qat and pay attention to their children.

Instead of qat, parents would buy meat and fruit. Additionally, they'd have time to sit with their children and help them understand their lessons and do their homework.

Safa'a Al-Samadi, 19, student



Instead of qat, fertile lands would be used to grow crops, which may lead to exporting or reducing the need for imported

food. We would become economically independent and there would be stability in family budgets.

However, in contrast, new negative habits that are even worse than qat then would spread throughout our country.

Yasmine Al-Wafi, 27, student



Without qat, many aspects of our lives would improve. We'd eradicate some habits accompanying qat usage, one of which is preparing the qat and its accessories.

For example, it takes a long time to prepare for qat sessions, from outfitting the qat room with cushions to burning incense and washing the qat.

Qat chewing rooms must be ready all the time.

Approximately 12 hours of every day are spent with no results.

Banning qat also would improve individuals' health, giving them healthier bodies and teeth.

Hisham Sanhoub, 26, student



Since qat is one of the main reasons for our backwardness, eradicating it would change our lives for the better.

We spend between five and six hours a day chewing qat and chatting uselessly.

This time could be utilized in more useful ways, such as working, studying or exercising.

Hanan Al-Haimi, student



Qat is essential for my family; however, it wastes much of our time, money and energy. Without qat, our situation would

improve. For example, we could save money and then I'd be able to achieve my goals and study at university.

Mutual understanding between family members would improve because a man who spends most of his time at qat sessions would pay more attention to his family.

Ibrahim Farhan, 32, doctor



Needless to say, qat is one of the key causes of our country's falling behind. If we managed to eradicate qat, we'd overcome

poverty, develop our education and eliminate all of the risky diseases related to qat use.

Doing so also would lead to improved work performance - no more sluggishness and sleepiness. Our mornings and working hours would be filled with productivity.

Our economy would develop and then we'd be ready to join the Gulf Cooperation Council, which definitely would accept us.

Ahmed Shamsan, 42, teacher



I think it would be hard going without any other recreation or parks in which to spend our leisure time and even those gatherings would be short-lived and boring.

From an economic standpoint, my financial position would improve. I spend YR 12,000-15,000 (\$60-75) per month on qat and that's a considerable amount of money compared to my salary. I'd make good use of that sum to buy wheat and other essentials for my family.

Zaid Al-Faqih, writer



The country would witness a cultural revival. People would leave these hot, stuffy and noisy rooms filled with cloudy and



Amani Al-Fayadhi, 19, employee



Life would be so nice without qat and understanding would prevail between family members.

I wouldn't be forced to sell my jewelry to finance my father's or my brother's qat habit; instead, I could save up and buy myself clothing or gold.

Fathi Al-Shurmani, accountant



Qat helps me work and concentrate. If I didn't chew qat, my physical and mental work performance would decrease,

so the hours I spend chewing qat are considered productive time.

Chewing qat is a social activity that gathers people and friends together - employee with employer and officer with citizen, side by side.

Social relations would break down if qat were banned. Moreover, people would wander the streets and use drugs or alcohol.

Sahar Al-Ansi, 21, student



The status of the Yemeni family would develop. In my family, my father and three brothers, all of whom are qat consumers, spend

more than 50 percent of the family budget on qat. If we got rid of qat, we could afford luxuries.

At the national level, we could save our water resources from vanishing, since qat consumes huge amounts of water thereby leading us to an imminent water crisis.

Faheem Al-Hurabi, 26, optical technician



The time we devote to qat sessions would be available for visiting relatives and friends, which would strengthen our social relations. We would have time to go on trips, have picnics or visit parks and zoos.

The money spent on qat sessions could be used to provide the home with basic requirements.

Furthermore, we would escape the health effects of qat, which lead to adverse economic conditions.

Ali Al-Mutarib, 19, student



I think banning qat would have positive and negative effects upon our society. While it may be correct that our living standards would improve, the social ties between families and friends would break up.

Unless qat chewers were given better alternatives such as sports clubs, parks or libraries, they would shift to other undesirable behaviors to spend their time.

14 OCTOBER CORPORATION FOR PRESS, PRINTING AND PUBLISHING

Announcement of Extending Bids opening of the Tender no. (3) of 2008 for supplying a web-fed offset printing machine

14 October Corporation for Press, Printing and Publishing announces to bidders that the period of opening the Tender no. (3/2008) for supplying a web-fed offset printing machine has extended, and the opening tenders date will be at Saturday 17 / May / 2008 instead of Wednesday 30 / april / 2008 .

This extending is according to the willing of the participated compnies and their representatives who have submitted to the tender, and according to the exuctive law of high Tender board which has approved by the government in the year 2007.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dove Energy Ltd. is an independent UK company, formed to manage worldwide oil exploration and production acreage. Dove discovered the Sharyoof Oil Field within its primary asset, Block 53 East Sarr.

Dove Energy Limited invites Yemeni Nationals only to apply for the position of Construction Supervisor. Responsible for the day-to-day construction activities associated with the Sharyoof wells and facilities.

Position Title : Sharyoof Field Construction Supervisor
Location : Sharyoof (Field)
Deadline Date : 14th May 2008

Responsibilities:

- Follow up progress ongoing projects and make sure the completion in safe manner.
- Responsible for acceptance of the construction tasks / projects, assigns work to contractors.
- Ensure all projects are planned and executed in a safe, cost effected and in a timely manner.
- QA/QC to check and approve third party inspections.

Qualifications and Experience Preferred

- Should be Yemeni Nationality.
- Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent diploma degree.
- 5 + years Site work experience in Oil & Gas field.
- Site experience in piping & Pipeline projects.
- Good oral and written skills in both English & Arabic languages.
- Multi-disciplinary team work.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Good IT skills including Microsoft applications.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: hr@doveyemen.com. (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V



Yemen's Premier Language Institute Since 1975

POSITION OPENING

IT TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST

YALI, Yemen's premier English language institute, has an immediate opening for an Information Technology (IT) Technical Support Specialist. The position is an opportunity to work in a fast-paced, international learning environment and offers a competitive salary with benefits package.

The IT Technical Support Specialist will join two other YALI IT team members in managing YALI's IT resources, including 100 computers, ten printers, five servers and numerous network accessories in two computer labs and individual PCs.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide first level support to end users, documenting user problems, complaints and their resolution
- Install, test, troubleshoot and maintain hardware, software and desktop applications and configurations
- Maintain inventory and maintenance records, check-lists and operating standards/systems

REQUIREMENTS

- Diploma in information technology or related field required; degree preferred
- Minimum 2 years' work experience as IT specialist, including hardware and software trouble-shooting
- Yemeni citizenship desired; work permit, if non-Yemeni, required
- Ability to pay attention to detail; ability to work well with others in team, and to be client-oriented.
- Proficiency in English (equivalent to YALI Level 4) required

TO APPLY:

- Submit cover letter, CV including salary history and references no later than May 2, 2008 via email to yali@amideast.org. Qualified candidates will be contacted for interviews. Women are especially encouraged to apply for this and all positions at YALI.



شركة صافر لعمليات الاستكشاف والإنتاج

تقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى

فخامة الأئمة / **علي عبد الله صالح** حفظه الله

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

وإلى كافة عمال الشركة وكافة عمال اليمن

بمناسبة عيد العمال العالمي في الأول من مايو

كل عام وأنتم بخير

المدير التنفيذي ونائبه وكافة منتسبي

شركة صافر لعمليات الاستكشاف والإنتاج

Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company (SEPOC)

Extend their best wishes to

H.E. President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

And the people of Yemen
on the occasion of the Labor

Day, May 1st

Many Happy Returns

**Executive Manager, Deputy Executive Manager and all staff of
Safer Exploration & Production Operations Company**

SAFER

شركة صافر لعمليات الاستكشاف والإنتاج
Safer Exploration and Production
Operations Company (SEPOC)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Aden Refinery Company (ARC) invites local contractors classified in Grade (1), and foreign contracting companies who can demonstrate that they are suitably qualified and experienced in turn-key projects as a prime contractor to submit bids for.

Construction of Aden Refinery Administration Building

- Intending bidders may obtain the Tender Documents in English Language from the Project Department at (ARC) headquarter, Aden, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **US\$1,500**
- Bidders should submit their sealed offers, one original and two copies, to the following address:
Aden Refinery Company
Refinery Manager, Chairman of Tender Board
Little Aden, Aden
Tel: + 967 2 376258 Fax + 967 2 376600
Email: aden.refinery@y.net.ye
- Bids must reach the headquarter of (ARC) before 11:00 hours on **Sunday 22nd June, 2008** late bids will be rejected.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders representatives who chose to attend at 11:00 hours on Sunday 22nd June, 2008
- Bids will be preliminary qualified to comply with the Instructions to Tenderers. Bidders shall accompany their bids the following:
 - Bid Security in the sum of 2.5 % of the tender value valid for 120 days from the date of this announcement obtained from a locally registered bank or in the form of a certified check.
 - Details of similar projects carried out within the past five years as prime contractor, details of the clients for whom the work was undertaken.
- The local bidder shall accompany by his bid the following:
 - Certificate of Grade (1) contractor.
 - Valid tax card.
 - Valid insurance card.
 - Valid commercial registry certificate.
- Foreign bidder shall accompany by his bid the following:
 - A valid company Registration Certificate.
 - A valid Certificate of Insurance.
- The successful bidder will be obliged to pay a city services fees in the sun of **1% of the bid value. Any taxes, duties, levies related to the works shall be paid by the successful contractor** to laws of the Republic of Yemen.
- ARC will facilitate a site visit for eligible bidders upon their request. Intending bidders may obtain further information from the following contact address (Sat - Wed 7:00 - 4:00)

Aden Refinery Company
Manager Projects/Deputy Manager Projects
Tel: + 967 2 376231 fax + 967 2 376600/601
Email: aden.refinery@y.net.ye

VACANCY NOTICE

Title: NPO for Child and Adolescent Health

Date: 01May 2008

Contract type: NPO

Deadline for application: 21/05/2008

Duration: Two Years

Duty station: Sanaa

Unit: Office of the representative
WHO-Sanaa

Description of duties:

- Provide technical support to MOH in the area of child health in general and IMCI in particular.
- Planning for IMCI expansion and acceleration of IMCI scaling up in the country.
- Assisting in mobilizing the required resources for universal coverage of all IMCI components
- Coordination with partners to ensure full support to IMCI as the primary child health care strategy.
- Ensuring the quality of training and implementation of IMCI in the field through supervision the quality of training and implementation
- Close follow-up of implementation of IMCI plan of action
- Assisting in the introduction of new packages under the umbrella of IMCI
- Building the capacity of the national team in areas of planning, training, supervision, monitoring and evaluation
- Coordination with the Regional Office to introduce the new guidelines and tools
- Ensuring quality of reporting and data recording
- Ensuring regular and timely reporting on the national data to the Regional Office.
- Contributing to the regional work through sharing experience in the developmental work and participation in the regional events.
- Reporting regularly to WR and CAH/EMRO

Qualifications:

- Experience in different IMCI aspects (training, planning, implementation, supervision and follow up and pre-service education) for at least 3 years,
- Post graduate in Pediatrics or public health certificate
- Experience in management of IMCI programme at country level (minimum for 2 years)
- Experience in other child health related programmes such as EPI, nutrition etc
- Experience in collaboration with partners and resource mobilization.

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Only candidates under serious considerations will be contacted for interview and test



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وكافة عمال وموظفي شركة النفط اليمنية



When will we begin making changes?

By: Mohammed Naji Ahmad

Countries of the Arabian Peninsula surrounding us are experiencing great changes in the various areas of education, culture, science and economy, while we have been seeing the vulnerable conditions unchanged since Yemen was born at the very beginning of the 20th Century. Political instability in Yemen has not provided a good chance for making radical changes and transformations.

And, due to tribal pressures in the north and escalating outrage in the south, Yemen has entered a phase of political unrest, thereby complicating the task of its patriotic natives to make changes. The one, who observes how things goes on in the neighboring Gulf states, will surely understand the political will of each of these states to overcome the social, cultural,

traditional and economic redlines for the sake of making useful and positive changes.

Frankly speaking, the political wills adopted by the Gulf States make us understand that their enlightening changes are progressing at a slow rhythm but these countries develop and prosper. In Yemen, we realize that there is neither notable progress nor enlightening achievements. One can only see that things progress backward until they reach the 'zero point', or as the famous writer Mohamoud Yasin described as "a return to the first alphabetical letter".

I think that forces and individuals, having no desire to make enlightening changes, but create obstacles to development, are not necessarily official, as they exist within the political extremist current that finds its identity only when returning to the 'zero point'. Changes will appear with a new identity and be liberated

from the arbitrary domination practiced by influential persons.

From the viewpoint of these influential persons, enlightening is considered as a contrivance opposing their interests and investments that began from the zero point. As society got rid of the traditional schools or the so-called Mealamas that spread nationwide under the rule of Imamate, this would rather mean that the history of old traditions ended while the history of new public interest began.

The Yemeni authority needs to change its current moves that worsen on worsening the notable economic recession, mainly as the nation and people are in an urgent need of stability. This authority is also required to enhance affection and stability among opposition leaders and allocate a considerable portion of the public spending for the enlightening projects. Then,

coalitions will go changed on a cognitive ground. A politician will not be a tyrant since he/she is expected to be more concerned about making new identities and assessing new needs.

Such new identities and needs may collide with what is old, but they will eventually produce a modern Yemen, based on public freedoms and comprehensive development in the various areas. As far as I am concerned, living a constant state of conflict between tribalism and regionalism over narrow interests may take the country to an unprecedented catastrophe. Then, the superficial historical selectivity that makes a distinction between the northern and southern identities will be futile and useless. This selectivity may work in France, Italy or Britain, but not in an underdeveloped country like Yemen.

Source: Al-Nedaa Weekly.

COMMON SENSE

No great expectations So what if our governors are elected?

It is really hard to believe that the regime is still adamant on playing this phony game of "electing officials" to office. Is it not enough that the election process has proven to be no more than another leaky hole from which state funds are siphoned off to placate those who go along with this farce and mockery of democratic government.

So now the people of Yemen are being led to believe that with the election of the governors and the Mayor of Sana'a City, the regime has once again shown its commitment to democratic rule, a commitment that has yet to find the right language by which to have it translated into real life. This is because the game of democracy played in Yemen is simply incomprehensible to anyone who has truly seen democratic rule or truly enjoyed a democratic environment. It is time for the Government to face it and realize that Yemen has really never been further from being a democracy than the country is now. Notwithstanding all the elections we have had since our brothers from South Yemen insisted on democracy and political pluralism to be the underlying theme for governance, in order for the unification agreement to be signed in November 30, 1989, the truth of the matter is that the then and current leaders have never wanted to really have any democracy, or for that matter instill any idea of a peaceful transfer of authority, which is really what democracy is all about. For 18 years now we have had elections that were the epitome of ridicule for the voting process, with the ruling party and their allies playing as they like with the sacred votes of their people to come up with the results that would never put a dent on their absolute totalitarian stranglehold on government.

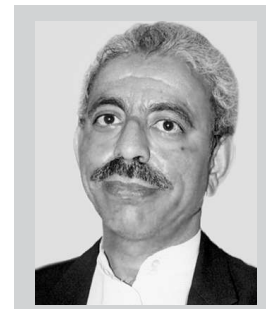
How many times have we elected the President, members of local councils and members of Parliament? Yet the latter do not even have the power to bring a Minister to the halls of Parliament and ask him why his Ministry was unable to clean up the horrendous corruption that fills the halls and alleyways of his ministry's headquarters and all its branch offices in the governorates and districts. Time and again the people are to present proof of any corrupt officials. All one has to do is just look at the fancy mansions of most of the senior echelons of Government (from Director General upwards), especially if they are cozy with the President and the other senior big wheels in the regime. In fact the new trend now is when a senior government official builds a "home", one is amazed how the home now becomes a large complex of at least three fancy mansions, not to mention a compound wall that rises ten meters or so (probably electrocuted as well) and the fancy entrances and external trimmings (including stones most Yemenis never even knew existed in Yemen). In fact since we had democracy, we have seen more plush residences of Government officials go up than all the time since the last Imam was blasted out of his relatively very modest residence, when compared to the plush home of a third level functionary in the Prime Ministry!

So what will this new amendment to the Constitution to elect the Governors give the people of Yemen? If the background experience is any guidance, we will see the overwhelming number of governors coming from the ruling party, the General People's Congress (GPC) with maybe a couple from the Islah Party *Yemen Congregation for Reform) or even one or two from some of the other parties, just so we can assure the donors that there is some inkling of political pluralism.

But let us be honest with ourselves and for once with the people of Yemen. Even if all the Governors who become elected were not from the GPC, what could they do? The fact of the matter is that they can do very little if anything at all. With the Central Government still having control of 99% of public revenues and resources, most likely the "elected" governors will still be parading around the halls of the Ministry of Finance here in Sana'a seeking the release of their allocations for stationery in their already approved budget! The fact of the matter is that our centralized government will not release any authority sufficient enough to give these elected governors some maneuverability in carrying out their duties.

On another note, what difference does electing any senior officials make really if these officials are not subject to stringent accountability both for the performance of their responsibilities (and their exaggerated pledges at election time) and for the immaculate management of public assets and funds? This time the game has simply gone too far into making fools of the electorate and of the world at large, for anyone to really believe that the effort has any real genuine advantages in terms of good governance and clean and immaculate administrative reforms. It is more likely that this would only be used again by the never ceasing gnawing rats of corruption that have eaten away at the coffers of the treasury with every phony attempt to project democratic rule as Yemen sinks further into more repression, tighter leash on free expression and an ongoing unforgivable waste of resources. It is safe to assume that this mockery of democratic government is just another channel for the already over bloated officials, who were responsible for the horrendous waste of government funds in the past elections, to sweep up more government funds for the "election process". One should not forget that there was once a fervent hope that those elections should have paved the way for getting rid of these political parasites once and for all, had those elections been really free and genuine. Let us ask this final question before going any further: How many corrupt officials or grossly incompetent officials - elected or appointed - have been really brought to account or to justice as the case maybe. The fact that we see the state of the country deteriorate day after day in almost all spheres of social dynamics, and as we see an actual increase in the mismanagement of rapidly dwindling resources economic and otherwise, one is convinced that there is no real hope from the regime, as it continues to drag the country from useless political game to the next, with or without elections. A word of advice to our leaders would be just carry on without having to make fools of the Yemeni people by having them give you a stamp of approval for the worst model of governance that Yemen has ever been under since anyone can remember, especially when every Yemeni knows well that the elections are rigged beyond belief.

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Does Yemen have great men?

By: Dr Mohammed Al-Dhulai

I used to listen to a live radio program while commuting to office almost everyday. One day, the program focused on China and its fastest growing economy that shocked the entire world, as it steadily grows by 10 percent per year. China is due to become the strongest and uncontested power in the world within the coming 15 years, a fact acknowledged by the United States itself. Who believed that the world first Marxist country will turn into a capitalist state?

I still remember that buying any Chinese product over those past few years was by all means accompanied by the connotation of poor quality. Nowadays, the situation has become totally different as markets around the United States are flooded with Chinese super quality products. It is not an exaggeration when one says that the American citizen lives on the Chinese products since he/she awakes up in the early morning until he/she returns home in the evening. "Air" is the only thing that can not be manufactured in China, however, polluted air filters available in the American markets were made in China.

Now the Chinese are snatching many nicknames from the U.S without any wrestling or conflicts, however, the latter retained those nicknames for several decades. Today's biggest bank in the world is Chinese and not American, and so is the biggest insurance company, as well as the biggest petroleum exploration & production firm in world. The most important thing is that China has the largest number of billionaires worldwide. The list of Chinese billionaires is very long and there is no enough space here to put it.

The world's most populous country is planning to have the first spaceman within the coming 20 years to be the second state in the world after the U.S. in the respect of technological development, thereby outperforming Russia, once the world's space pioneer. In the military field, China has increased its spending on defense for this year by 17 percent, thus amounting up to \$ 45 billion.

World's superpower admits Chinese superiority:

The U.S. has felt or seen the fastest rhythm of China's economic growth. It also has felt the risk size, which is why it started to have its natives learn the Chinese Language. Although the

Chinese Language Teaching Program is only launched in nearly ten of the primary schools around the North American Continent, it reflects the future plans regarding the way of dealing with the Asian giant, that has waken up suddenly after sleeping for a long time. The U.S. authorities added the Chinese Language Program to school curriculum with the aim of preparing its generations for competing with their Chinese counterparts in the different economic and technological areas.

The World Bank recently announced that the Chinese and Indian economies are 40% smaller than previously estimated. Since these are the fastest-growing large economies, the Bank's revision has clipped half a percentage point off world growth over the last five years, according to the IMF.

The new numbers set off a firestorm of debate, and have brought conspiracy theorists out in force. But when the dust settles, the new data may be less revolutionary than some people believe. They may also have the unintended benefit of shifting a key policy debate in a more productive direction.

The new data are based on improved estimates of purchasing power parity (PPP). The basic idea is

that, when comparing incomes across countries, variations in purchasing power should be taken into account. Market exchange rates are not a good indicator of these differences, because they can fluctuate for other reasons.

China has opened its cities, villages, sea outlets and airspaces for investment without any restrictions. There is also a notably continuing health development for the middleclass in China, due to constitute the greatest group of the Chinese population that exceeds one billion souls.

But, let us contemplate deeply on the matter. "Has such an economic boom been achieved overnight?" Surely, the answer will be 'No'.

In short, the story is traceable back to 1978 when party leaders and statesmen at the different levels, backed by peoples' representatives, unanimously decided that it is time to move toward comprehensive political and economic reforms. All those involved parties reached a consensus on the 'four elements of updating' as a basis for civilized development. The four elements, science, agriculture, industry and defense, constitute the basis of China's incomparable economic development.

In 1964, these elements were suggested by Zhou Elina, however, the man did not complete his university studies after he was sent by his family to study in Japan in 1917. Before Japan invaded China in 1937, relations between both countries were growing tense, but during his studies, Elina was a brave spokesman criticizing the Japanese policies toward his homeland.

Enlai's classmates narrated that the prominent scholar asked them, "How can we rescue our country?" Their sole response was: "To study and become skilled in the different areas of science and professions."

China was in need for qualified staff of physicians, engineers and teachers, but "Why?" Elina asked his companions. "If China is about to disappear, I think it is futile to continue our studies."

Today's China is the product of a great leader and great men. So, in order for Yemen to advance and prosper, it must have great men like those of China.

Source: Nabanews.net



By: Samer

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Democracy – Egyptian Style

By: The Media Line Staff

Hopes for political reform and increased participation in Egypt faded with the events that marked the 2008 local council elections, which have cast a gloomy shadow over the future of democracy, rights and freedoms.

The Muslim Brotherhood and some other opposition party candidates were prevented from obtaining the necessary documents or submitting them in order to participate in the ballot. They said they had aimed to nominate 10,000 candidates, 20 percent of the total local council seats.

Only 4,000 potential candidates managed to obtain official documents necessary for nomination. Only 485 managed to reach the relevant offices to submit their papers due to various obstacles, including a security blockade and unending lines made up of thugs and unemployed persons. Those who managed to get through were arrested or assaulted.

Muslim Brotherhood lawyer Mukhtar Al-Ashry said the 2008 elections decree stipulates that a single court order is enough to stop elections. Accordingly, governors were not entitled to announce any election results.

"We obtained 940 court orders to stop the elections, in addition to another 4,000 orders to enable candidates to be registered, and a further 3,900 to enable them to participate. All were disregarded," he added.

Ninety-one court orders were obtained in the Manoufiya

governorate, where the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) was announced the winner for lack of competing candidates. The same happened in many other governorates, including Gharbiya, Kafr A-Sheikh and others.

Muslim Brotherhood parliament representative for Ashmoun, Manoufiya, Ashraf Badr A-Din, said that 1,100 group members had been arrested since the Muslim Brotherhood announced its intention in early March to participate in the local council elections.

"It wasn't only directed against Muslim Brotherhood members. NDP members not selected by the party, who wished to run, were prevented from doing so and eight were arrested," according to Badr A-Din.

NDP Policies committee member and political science professor, 'Ali A-Din Hilal, said the party held primary elections to select the candidates to best address the new tasks of local councils.

"The NDP is moving towards decentralization. The local councils will be getting more responsibilities," he explained.

He added that the NDP decided to nominate 70 percent of its candidates, while appointing the remaining representatives to guarantee women and Copts were represented on the councils.

Badr A-Din said that in Manoufiya alone an administrative campaign targeted commercial establishments of Brotherhood candidates, relatives and supporters, resulting in the closure of more than 450 enterprises. More than 1,000 families lost their livelihoods as

a result.

"The NDP did not win due to the lack of competition, but because the Muslim Brotherhood and some other opposition candidates were prevented from participating," he said.

This view was shared by the newly established Democratic Front Party. In a statement about the elections the party said it sought to participate in the elections but that "unfortunately the regime and the NDP insisted on using the same methods to stall any real political reform... thus rendering the elections a farce."

The Democratic Front statement warned against the "grim" consequences of such practices that "led the Egyptian people, losing faith in the elections, to turn their backs on them."

Hussein 'Abd A-Raziq, a Tagammu' Party leader, said the party only nominated 600 candidates due to the lack of funding, and because the possibility that the elections will be rigged was high. He added that only 237 were able to submit their papers due to the obstacles placed by the government. This number increased to 400 through court challenges and contacts.

Lawyer Ahmad 'Amr said that in his village of Beni-Suef candidates managed to escape arrest and take the registration documents to the committee office where they were told they had to be taken to the home of NDP Shoura Council representative Ahmad Hafiz in the village of Beni Ali.

Entries and exits to the village were surrounded by security forces preventing anyone entering or leaving

the village. The same thing occurred in a village in the upper Egyptian governorate of Minya. When only 21 candidate names were found to be on the list, the Muslim Brotherhood decided to boycott the elections.

"Continuing to participate in this farce gives it legitimacy so we decided to boycott the elections," said Hussein Ibrahim, deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood parliament members.

Hilal said there was no legal political organization called the Muslim Brotherhood. He further explained that, "any Egyptian has the right to run for elections but not in the name of an illegal political group."

Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies expert Nabil 'Abd Al-Fattah said the ruling party would not allow any other groups to control the local councils because, as the link with the people, they were the backbone of political life in Egypt.

'Abd Al-Fattah added he believed the Muslim Brotherhood wanted to send a message that it was capable of reaching large numbers of people if given the opportunity.

However, Badr A-Din countered that the group would not make all the sacrifices – including detentions and loss of income – just to prove it was strong.

"Our objective is to deal with the public, present our project on the ground and achieve change through peaceful means," he said.

He pointed out, however, that official coverage of the elections was far from balanced, as government newspapers seemed to depend for their coverage on statements received from official authorities, completely

ignoring news about the numerous incidents where opposition candidates were prevented from participation, or about orders from official courts that they should be registered.

A-Dustour journalist Khalid A-Sirgany believes that official newspapers sided with the NDP. He noted that most official news publications focused on covering visits by party leaders Gamal Mubarak, Safwat A-Sherif and Ahmed 'Ezz in support of NDP candidates in various governorates, while private and independent newspapers showed the other side of the story.

Local council elections are not over for the Muslim Brotherhood. It intends to challenge the results using the court order they have obtained.

"We will file lawsuits against all the officials who ignored court orders in our favor. This is a crime punishable by imprisonment and dismissal," said Badr A-Din.

He added: "We are committed to a peaceful and legal struggle for our rights based on the constitution and the law."

Sidebar:

'Umar' Afifi, author of a book advising people on how to deal with the police, escaped Egypt on Saturday to the U.S. after receiving warnings from friends.

The book, called To Avoid Being Humiliated, provides advice in simple language and in question and answer form about different legal situations.

Lawyer and former Interior Ministry official 'Umar' Afifi said that he left Egypt after his house was searched and he found out he was being hunted. "I learned that the Interior Minister

wants to punish me," he said.

He added that the book tells people their rights and obligations toward the police in all circumstances. It explains the procedural, traffic and civil status laws in a simple way.

'Afifi believes the Interior Ministry is trying to pressure him to abandon plans to publish this and other books.

A number of bookstores confirmed that state security personnel had visited them and confiscated all copies of the book "politely."

One salesman, who preferred to stay anonymous, said the book contained nothing against the police, the law or the regime.

"I found it to be reasonable and moderate. All this has increased the already existing demand for the book," he said.

Accountant Ahmad 'Eid said that he didn't understand why the book was confiscated since the writer quoted articles from Egyptian law and the constitution.

"For example, in answer to the question: 'What should I do when asked to show my ID,' the writer tells people they are entitled to know who is speaking to them and to see a card that proves he is with the police. Had he violated any law he would be on trial now."

'Afifi, who served in the Interior Ministry for 20 years, expressed willingness to return and be tried before a relevant, not a state security, court. He also suggested that the book be examined by a legal committee to judge whether it contained any violations.

The book contained no incitement or insults against the police, he said.

John McCain, human nature and Gaza strip

By: Imran Khan

United States republican presidential candidate, John McCain on 20th March visited Sderot, an Israeli town hit frequently by Palestinian rockets from nearby Gaza Strip. His visit was a part of a fact-finding mission to the Middle East. He said

"The fact is I come from a border state and if people were rocketing my state, I think that the citizens from my state would advocate a very vigorous response."

100 % true words, there is absolutely no doubt about it. But one can change his words little bit. He said, if people were rocketing his state, what about if people occupy his state and citizens are forced out from their homeland? Perhaps his words would

have been like this.....

The fact is that our state have been occupied by other people with brutal force, killed many innocent citizens and compelled us out from our land, so it is natural to get back our land through a very vigorous response.

And if a portion of their land was given back to them but while all the controls remained in the hands of occupiers, then his words would have been like this

The fact is that a small portion of our state has been given back to us, virtually without any rights. But because citizens of our state wants their full rights and land back, so occupiers have made our lives miserable by not providing our basic necessities of life and using them as a tool for collective punishment. Surely it sparks a very vigorous response.

The last paragraph perhaps best

describe the situation in Gaza. Gaza Strip, where 1.5 million people lives in a territory of 25 miles long and six miles wide, making it one of the most densely populated area in the world. Where unemployment is 80 per cent even thousands more lost jobs since last June. 80 per cent of the population dependent on food aid, at least 130000 Palestinians are estimated to be food insecure.

About 79% of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are living in poverty. The situation there is not new but people are suffering from over 40 years. Israel pulled troops and settlers out of the Gaza Strip in 2005, 38 years after capturing the territory in the 1967 Middle East war. It still controls the Gaza Strip's borders, airspace, coastal waters, and completely fenced making it the world's largest prison.

Hamas won 2006 elections and

seized control of the territory from Fatah faction in fighting last June. Since then, Israel tightened its blockade of the Gaza Strip, worsening the situation there and creating a humanitarian crisis.

What Mr. McCain has said is just a simple human nature that if someone tries to attack us, we defend ourselves. Simply pressing the humans is not the answer to get anything. Everyone knows it but why people can twist the words for their favor and forget others? So Mr. McCain & others in US administration believe that it is the right of Israel to take revenge against rocket attacks on its towns. Let's suppose there judgment is right.

On February 27th, one Israeli person was killed due to rockets attack on Sderot town. It was actually the first of its kind in nine months. Israel immediately launched a military

offensive in Gaza, killing 120 Palestinians mostly civilians, including women and children. From last 40 years thousands of Palestinians have been killed by Israel. Since 2000 more than 2600- mostly civilians- have lost their lives due to Israeli aggressions. Millions are forced out from their land, living in refugee camps in various countries.

So who are the victims? If attack is the base for revenge then who should take revenge?

There have been many efforts to bring peace in the area but no real gains were ever made. The basic reason for all the failures of the peace talks between Palestine and Israel is that peace makers (mainly United States) feel the pain of those who have actually given more pain to the other side.

There is an unofficial ceasefire

between Hamas and Israel these days and Egypt trying to break a peace deal between the two. While USA, European Union and Middle East countries also interested in a long term peace deal between Palestinians and Israelis.

But peace comes with justice. As Israelis have the right to live peacefully, the same is the right for poor Palestinians also. With force Israel or anyone else can not achieve any kind of peace. That's our human-nature, John McCain knows it well and others also..... but they just needs to think it from Palestinian perspective also.

Imran Khan has Master of Commerce (M.Com) and working as Assistant Director at National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), Islamabad, Pakistan.

Yesterday and tomorrow: The wrong debate on Iraq

By Amir Taheri

Earlier this year, when the American presidential election campaign got under way many believed it would provide a serious debate on Iraq which experts saw the hottest issue if not of the epoch, at least of the season.

So far, however, the debate has not happened. Now, US media are full of reports about how Iraq is fading as an issue altogether.

But why?

Cynics might suggest that both opponents and supporters of the war have an interest in letting it slide into oblivion. Unable to deny that things are better now than a year ago, opponents of the war fear that this might persuade voters that President George W Bush might have been right after all.

For five years, opponents of the war have periodically sounded the tocsins about the supposedly coming civil war in Iraq. (Some even suggested on a dozen occasions that Iraq was already in civil war.) They have predicted "the end of Iraq", including its division into mini-states, or, at least, its de facto partition into sectarian cantons.

However, none of those jeremiads came to pass; Iraq defied all predictions, good or bad. Supporters of the war, on the other hand, are not sure

that the recent easing of the situation in Iraq, known as the Petraeus touch, after the American general who commands the US-led coalition forces, might not last until polling day.

There is one other reason why opponents of the war might not want the Iraq issue to dominate the campaign. Any close examination of the situation today might lend credence to Bush's analysis that the Islamic Republic in Iran has emerged as the principal troublemaker there.

That, in turn, could lead only to one conclusion: the need to take action against Tehran. Supporters of the war share the concern, albeit for an entirely different reason. Unable to build a consensus on dealing with the Iranian threat, they would rather let Iraq, good news from there notwithstanding, fade from the debate.

For many opponents of the war, the decision to topple Saddam Hussein was something akin to Original Sin in Christian dogma. The war in Iraq must be lost so that the guilt of its perpetrators is attenuated, at least in part. Americans don't even have to wait until the outcome of the struggle becomes clear. Harry Reid, leader of the Democrat majority in the Senate, decided that the war was "lost" almost a year ago.

But, how to avoid a serious discussion of Iraq now?

Opponents of the war have an easy

answer. They claim that the war was illegal, presumably because Jacques Chirac didn't specifically approve it and Kofi Annan, moaned about it mildly two years after it had taken place.

They would also cite pseudo-studies that claim hundreds of thousands of Iraqi deaths as a result of Saddam's demise. The fact that these studies, including a scandalous one published by the Lancet, have been examined and found to be bogus, is conveniently forgotten.

Then of course, one could always recall the scandals of Abu-Ghuraib, the allegations against profiteering by big American companies, and, last but not least, the fact that no weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq. For those still sore about Saddam's demise the best policy is to constantly focus on the ugly parts of the past five years.

As L.P. Hartley observed, the past is another country; there they do things differently. If opponents of the war always shift the focus back to the past, supporters of the war respond by flashing their torchlight on events of a putative future.

They counter the jeremiads of their opponents by some of their own. The catalogue of catastrophes they foresee runs something like this: If the US abandons Iraq now, genocide would follow; al Qaeda would revive; Iran would benefit enormously; the

Middle East would become destabilised; America's word would be devalued; and so on.

All of that, of course, may or may not happen.

We simply don't know. Like the past in Hartley's dictum, the future, too, is another country. There, things are not done until after they have happened. For my part, I don't think that the American departure from Iraq would lead to genocide. The Iraqis are not Hutts and Tuttsis or Serbs and Craots. The sectarian war we witnessed there a couple of years ago, was a war of the sectarians, not a conflict that set neighbour against neighbour as in Rwanda or former Yugoslavia. Nor do I think that Al Qaeda would be revived.

Even if the Americans leave before new Iraq is consolidated, Al Qaeda in Iraq has had its back broken. Having lost the popular base it once had in parts of Sunni Iraq, it is unlikely to regain the prospect of winning power anywhere in Mesopotamia. I don't think that Iran would benefit either.

On the contrary, it might find itself bearing some of the burden that the US is bearing in Iraq. And that, for a fundamentally weak and fragile state like the Islamic Republic, increasingly facing major challenges at home, does not look like beneficial.

Would the Middle East become more destabilised if the Americans left prematurely?

Again, we don't know.

The US has helped keep some tensions under control. Its departure could release them, leading to regional wars. But we know that even a major war, like the one that Khomeini and Saddam fought in the 1980s, would not necessarily affect the broader balance of power. In any case, why should Americans bother if the nations of the middle East wished to squander their human and financial resources on imitating the immature nations of 19th and 20th century Europe?

Even the argument that a premature US withdrawal could devalue "America's word" is not as strong as it appears. Most people know how the US system works, and nobody in his right mind would build an entire strategy on the assumption of unwavering support from Washington.

People in the Middle East and elsewhere know that American administrations change through elections and that the priority of both Democrat and Republican parties is to win power not to comfort actual or putative allies.

The US abandoned its allies in South Vietnam to massacre, life in concentration camps, and boat people ordeal. The US shut its doors to the Shah, a lifelong ally, and after admitting him for medical reasons, quickly expelled him in the most humiliating manner. And, yet,

elsewhere, America's word was not devalued. Even the current massive devaluation of the US dollar does not seem to have reduced demand for it across the globe.

The reason for this apparent paradox is not hard to fathom.

The US is estimated in relation with its economic, military and cultural power, likely to remain unsurpassed in for the foreseeable future.

More importantly, perhaps, when all is said and done, the US has often behaved better than other major powers in history. All big powers betray, if only because they have no permanent friends but permanent interests. The US has betrayed less than most, and less brazenly.

The only useful debate about Iraq would focus on what is happening now, not what happened five years ago or what might happen five years from now. It is what is happening now that makes new Iraq worth fighting for, not only for the Americans but also for all those who dream of a free, pluralist and prosperous Middle East. That, however, should be treated in another column.

Amir Taheri Amir Taheri was born in Iran and educated in Tehran, London and Paris. Between 1980 and 1984 he was Middle East editor for the London Sunday Times.

Source : *asharq alawast*

Deputy Minister for International Cooperation Hisham Sharaf:

"Terrorism Attacks on Yemen did not negatively impact Yemen's relations with the donor community"

In a recent interview with state-owned Al-Seyasya newspaper, deputy minister of international cooperation Hisham Saraf Abdullah stated that significant improvements have taken place in the bilateral relations between Yemen and Asian countries, adding that the on-going tour of the deputy prime minister for economic affairs and minister for international cooperation Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi to Japan falls within a government direction towards opening more towards Asian economies.

In the exclusive interview with Al-Seyasya, Sharaf downplayed the negative impact of the recent terrorism attacks witnessed recently, on the mechanism of international cooperation with the donor community, adding that donors understand the terrorism challenge Yemen is facing, as illustrated by the increased development support given to Yemen from Spain following the terrorism attacks which killed seven Spanish tourists in Yemen last July in Marib.



Hisham Sharaf

Firstly, let's stop at the visit by the deputy prime minister for economic affairs to Japan, what is expected from this visit?

This visit is a part of a government policy of increased opening with powerful Asian economies, and Japan is one of the most important Asian economies in this regard, and we hope that this visit will strengthen bilateral relations further, especially given that Japan is the third largest donor to Yemen.

What results can you anticipate as a result of Al-Arhabi's visit to Tokyo?

There are joint efforts between Yemen and Japan to strengthening the bilateral relationship, especially since Yemen's prime minister used to be the director of the Yemeni-Japanese friendship association. The deputy prime minister through his consultations with top Japanese officials will attempt to revive some of the older Japanese assistance programs including the unclassified assistance projects with government agencies such as the elections committee or non-governmental organizations and financing small scale activities. Another scheme we hope to revive is the rural development programs such as water management in several locations including northern and southern governorates to establish water services to

the areas. We are also working in the development of a vocational training program, and in the agricultural sector through working with farmers, in education through the construction of schools, the provision of 20 - 30 scholarships in various fields. There is also cooperation in civil defense and anti-terrorism.

You mentioned a Yemeni policy for more openness with Asian countries, How is this coming along?

Yes indeed, there is strong progress in this regard, in terms of increasing the representation of these countries in Yemen and cooperation, for example Korea has increased its pledges to Yemen from US\$ 55 million during the London donors conference in 2006 to US\$ 100 million, and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency has inaugurated its own offices here in Yemen, and several Asian countries will follow suit, as well as several gulf-based development agencies.

There are indications that Yemen's openness with the east will happen on the expense of its relations with the west. How do you comment on this?

These indications are baseless, as Yemen's interests are given the highest priorities in the openness strategy, without having to point a direction towards the

east or the west. So Yemen's relations with the east or the west depend on mutual interests.

On the mention of Gulf countries, what is the progress done towards the implementation of the recommendations of the London donors conference and Yemen's accession to the Gulf Cooperative Council?

The countries of the gulf cooperative council are one of Yemen's most important partners in development and the implementation of the third five-year plan for Yemen and the investment schedule, and we look forward to allocating the remainder of the obligations promised by GCC countries during the London donors conference in order to successfully complete the implementation of the plan.

Can we assume that Yemen will join the GCC before the 2015 timeline given the improved relations with the GCC countries?

We are optimistic on the chances of an accelerated accession in the GCC, there are indicators and clear political directions towards that, and we believe that the entry point would be allocating a percentage to Yemeni labor in the employment opportunities within GCC countries,

which is understandable by GCC countries.

Yemen has seen a significant appearance of terrorism threats in Yemen, which targeted foreign interests in the country. Are there negative consequences of the recent incidents as reflected in several local and international media?

Not at all, in fact we've received words of solidarity and compassion with Yemen against terrorism threats, this was reflected in the initiatives proposed by these countries, for example the Spanish government's stance following the attack on the Spanish tourists which pushed the Spanish government to increase its development assistance to Yemen, and soon they will open an office for their development agency in Yemen.

And these stances are - in my opinion - represent solidarity of the international community against the threat of terrorism.

Business in Brief

Cabinet approves consumer protection act

The cabinet has recently approved the consumer protection act, which consists of 47 articles in ten chapters. The draft law was developed in conjunction with the consumer protection organization, and covers a wide range of issues from public health to criminal clauses against violators.

Domestic migration causes housing crisis

A recent report by the ministry of public works stated that the domestic migration from rural area to urban centers is the prime cause of housing crisis in urban areas. The report also stated that there is an immediate need for over 214 thousand new homes in urban areas to mitigate the housing crisis.

Yemen calls on Arab countries to invest in agriculture

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Al-Hawshabi has called on Arab countries to invest in the agricultural sector in order to increase food production and decrease dependency on the international markets in buying foodstuff, towards ensuring food security for Arab countries.

YEC imports 600 thousand tons of wheat in 2007

The Yemen Economic Corporation has stated that it has imported over 600 thousand tons of wheat during

2007, as a part of its efforts to maintain the supply of wheat to the domestic market and control the impact of inflation on the local population.

Drought causes high inflation in vegetable prices

The recent drought across Yemen's midlands has caused a decline in agricultural production, specifically the production of vegetables for the consumption of the local market, in turn causing the prices of vegetables to increase between 40% - 150% on average.

Chinese company expands operations in Yemen

China's state-owned chemical trader Sinochem Corporation has expanded its activities in Yemen through purchasing UK-based Soco International Plc's unit in Yemen for US\$ 465 million, to further expand into upstream oil exploration business. The Yemen unit represents 16.79 percent in indirect interests in the East Shabwa Development Area in Block 10, Shabwa governorate.

Yemen's FM holds talks with Russian business delegation

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abu Bakr al-Qirbi held talks on Tuesday with Russian president advisor and Chairman of Arab-Russian Chamber of Commerce Yevgeny Primakov horizons of boosting and improving economic, trade and investment cooperation relations between the two countries.

Guns, drugs, and financial markets

The sub-prime mortgage crisis has demonstrated once again how hard it is to tame finance, an industry that is both the lifeline of modern economies and their gravest threat. While this is not news to emerging markets, which have experienced many financial crises in the last quarter-century, a half-century of financial stability lulled advanced economies into complacency.

That stability reflected a simple quid pro quo: regulation in exchange for freedom to operate. Governments brought commercial banks under prudential regulation in exchange for public provision of deposit insurance and lender-of-last-resort functions. Equity markets were subjected to disclosure and transparency requirements.

But financial deregulation in the 1980s ushered us into uncharted territory. Deregulation promised to spawn financial innovations that would enhance access to credit, enable greater portfolio diversification, and allocate risk to those most able to bear it. Supervision and regulation would stand in the way, liberalizers argued, and governments could not possibly keep up with the changes.

What a difference today's crisis has made. We now realize even the most sophisticated market players were clueless about the new financial instruments that emerged, and no one now doubts that the financial industry needs an overhaul.

But what, exactly, needs to be done? Economists who focus on such issues tend to fall into three groups.

First are the libertarians, for whom anything that comes between two consenting adults is akin to a crime. If you are selling a piece of paper that I want to buy, it is my responsibility to know what I am buying and be aware of any possible adverse consequences. If my purchase harms me, I have nobody to blame but myself. I cannot plead for a government bailout.

Non-libertarians recognize the fatal flaw in this argument: financial blow-ups entail what economists call a systemic risk: if everyone pays a price. As the rescue of Bear Stearns shows, the government may need to bail out private institutions to prevent a panic that would lead to worse consequences elsewhere. Thus, many financial institutions, especially the largest, operate with an implicit government guarantee.



By: Dani Rodrik

This justifies government regulation of lending and investment practices.

For this reason, economists in both the second and third groups call them finance enthusiasts and finance skeptics: they are more interventionist. But the extent of intervention they condone differs, reflecting their different views concerning how dysfunctional the prevailing approach to supervision and prudential regulation is.

Finance enthusiasts tend to view every crisis as a learning opportunity. While prudential regulation and supervision can never be perfect, extending such oversight to hedge funds and other unregulated institutions can still moderate the downsides. If things get too complicated for regulators, the job can always be turned over to the private sector, by relying on rating agencies and financial firms' own risk models. The gains from financial innovation are too large for more heavy-handed intervention.

Finance skeptics disagree. They are less convinced that recent financial innovation has created large gains (except for the finance industry itself), and they doubt that prudential regulation can ever be sufficiently effective. True prudence requires that regulators avail themselves of a broader set of policy instruments, including quantitative ceilings, transaction taxes, restrictions on securitization, prohibitions, or other direct inhibitions on financial transactions: all of which are anathema to most financial market participants.

To grasp the rationale for a more broad-based approach to financial regulation, consider three other regulated industries: drugs, tobacco, and firearms. In each, we attempt to bal-

ance personal benefits and individuals' freedom to do as they please against the risks generated for society and themselves.

One strategy is to target the behavior that causes the problems and to rely on self-policing. In essence, this is the approach advocated by finance enthusiasts: set the behavioral parameters and let financial intermediaries operate freely otherwise.

But our regulations go considerably further in all three areas. We restrict access to most drugs, impose heavy taxes and marketing constraints on tobacco, and control gun circulation and ownership. There is a simple prudential principle at work here: because our ability to monitor and regulate behavior is necessarily imperfect, we need to rely on a broader set of interventions.

In effect, finance enthusiasts are like America's gun advocates who argue that guns don't kill people; people kill people. The implication is clear: punish only people who use guns to commit crimes, but do not penalize others as well by restricting their access to guns. But, because we cannot be certain that the threat of punishment deters all crime, or that all criminals are caught, our ability to induce gun owners to behave responsibly is limited.

As a result, most advanced societies impose direct controls on gun ownership. Likewise, finance skeptics believe that our ability to prevent excessive risk-taking in financial markets is equally limited.

Whether one agrees with the enthusiasts or the skeptics depends on one's views about the net benefits of financial innovation. Returning to the example of drugs, the question is whether one believes that financial innovation is like aspirin, which generates huge benefits at low risk, or methamphetamine, which stimulates euphoria, followed by a dangerous crash.

Dani Rodrik, Professor of Political Economy at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, is the first recipient of the Social Science Research Council's Albert O. Hirschman Prize. His latest book is *One Economics, Many Recipes: Globalization, Institutions, and Economic Growth*. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2008. www.project-syndicate.org



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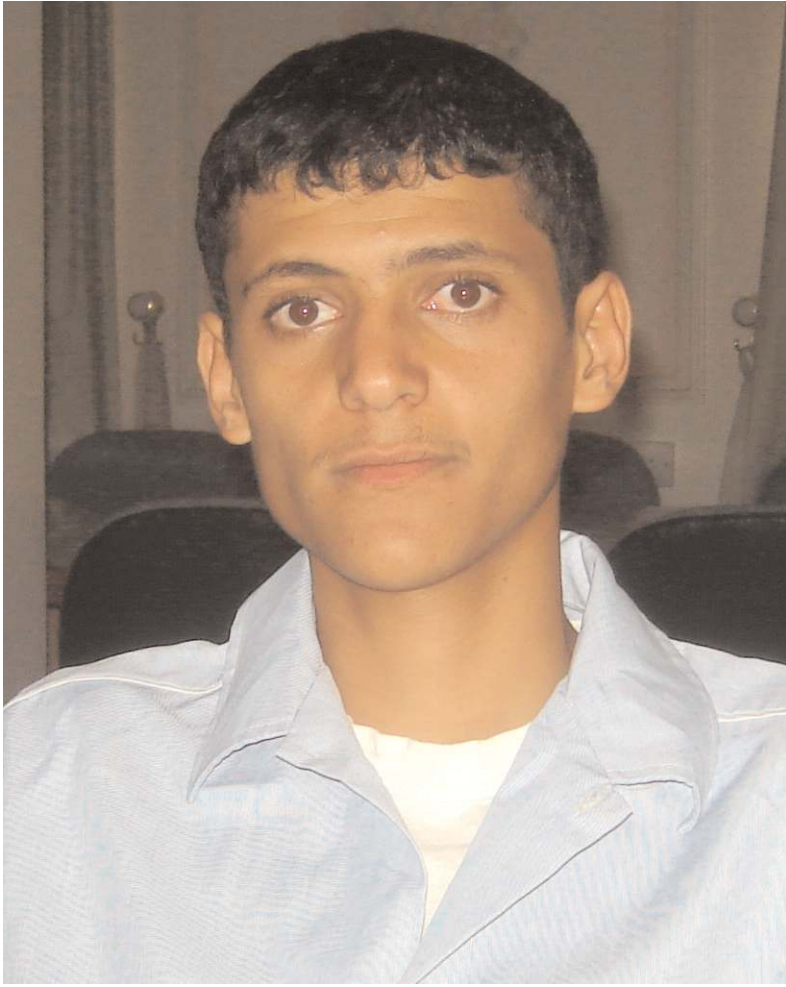


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A young future ruined by others' dispute



Abdullah Ali Al-Kumaim

By: Almidad Mojalli
almigdads8@yahoo.com

Having missed two years of school, 19-year-old Abdullah Ali Al-Kumaim has decided not to return to his studies due to being filled with fear and pain after being kidnapped last year.

Three Bani Dhabyan tribesmen seized Abdullah and another youth, Mohammed Al-Kumaim, for almost nine months, also kidnapping five engineers this past January, in a land

dispute between Bani Dhabyan sheikhs and a businessman from Al-Kumaim village.

Although the perpetrators knew the hostages were unrelated to their dispute with businessman Abdullah Ahmed Al-Kumaim – who shares the same surname with the youths – they insisted on a ransom and two weeks ago, the hostages were released for a YR 85 million ransom paid by the Yemeni government.

Kidnapped three days before his final school examinations, Abdullah lived a completely different existence

during his nine-month captivity, suffering much. "I lived in constant terror, from the very first moment until my release. Because I was kidnapped three days before the beginning of final examinations, I lost an entire school year," he lamented.

In captivity, the youth lived a primitive life in a hut, washing out in the open and eating very simple and basic foods. "When I arrived at the kidnappers' village, they put me in a mud and stone hut where I lived with three men serving as guards," Abdullah narrated.

"I ate essentially the same meals throughout those nine months. For breakfast, they gave me beans, olive oil with *matet* (a popular meal of boiled milk with flour and spices), coffee, tea, hot milk and bread.

"For lunch, I had rice, *aseed* (a popular meal of flour paste usually eaten with some type of broth), soup and cow's milk. Additionally, they would slaughter at least one lamb per week," he explained. "After lunch, we'd have qat brought to us from a very distant place. Dinner consisted of only bread covered with olive oil and milk tea."

Water was another problem for Abdullah, who was forced to drink extremely polluted water from a stream. If he wanted to bathe or use the toilet, he had to go in an open area where he could have a quick bath, answer the call of nature and wash his clothes.

"I didn't dare look at that water when I drank it. No one in the village had a toilet in the home, so everybody had to answer the call of nature in the open. I used to drink, bathe, answer the call of nature and wash my clothes in the same place," he noted.

During his captivity, Abdullah wasn't allowed contact with anyone except his three guards and the farthest he could wander was one and a half kilometers.

Abdullah's daily life involved the same routine with little change, but then the change was for the worse.

"In the beginning, I stayed with one kidnapper named Al-Abhash, but then one day, Sheikh Abdurabu Alttam came with one of his employees to take me with them. Al-Abhash refused to hand me over to them, so they began fighting.

"During the fight, one of them killed Sheikh Alttam's companion. It was the first time to see a man killed before my eyes," Abdullah recalled.

Throughout those nine months, the youth lived in huts, tents and moun-

tain caves, braving snakes while bathing and foxes at night. Many times, people fought in front of him and killed each other, so all of these incidents and circumstances have caused him numerous psychological problems.

Although released two weeks ago, his release comes at the end of the school year, so he now has lost two years and must spend another two making up for them. Additionally, he also lost the money he was going to

use to travel to work in Saudi Arabia.

Having returned to his family, Abdullah now is experiencing "fear and confusion," as he says. He's frustrated and doesn't know where to restart his life.

"I actually don't know what to do. Although I lost all of my money, I still want to travel to Saudi Arabia," he says. "I don't think I'll return to school. Because I've lost two years, it's difficult to see my classmates who now have preceded me."

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- Ensures equipment requirements are met by reviewing or developing equipment specifications and monitors (as necessary based upon equipment complexity) negotiating with Vendors on all project related materials and equipment.
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The glories of old Sana'a

By: Ghaleb Hassan Al-Ahlasi
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ghalebalahlasi@hotmail.com

If you love delving deeply into history or have ever wished to live during the periods of the last 3,000 years, then visit Sana'a, the city of history, beauty and magic.

From the first moment, even before entering the city, as you stand before its obsolete door known as Bab Al-Yemen, you'll find yourself standing where the first cannonball of freedom was fired on the morning of Sept. 26, 1962 and you can relive the moments when real men witnessed the dawn after the long night before.

Upon passing through that massive door, you'll breathe in history and afford your eyes unlimited pleasures. Then, automatically, your eyes will move among its side alleys and buildings with the greatest surprise at their beauty and magic and you'll behold the most perfected architecture on the planet.

You'll see the most beautiful and well-made perfection you've ever seen – these hundreds of year old buildings, which usually are from three to seven

floors. The first two or three are built of black stone known as *habash* and then comes red limestone, called *yagoor*.

Between these floors are beautifully engineered belts of a very attractive form drawn by a career artist.

Over these charming belts are the most wonderful windows you've seen or ever will see, but these windows aren't like any made of glass because two things make them special.

First, these windows have small wooden doors for many reasons such as moderating the weather, although Sana'a's weather is warm and great year round. Second, the amazingly engineered forms made of colored glass and placed precisely atop the windows are known as *qamariyyas* and mirror light into the room.

Additionally, on the rooftop of every home is a single room with a large window, furnished with a carpet and some cushions and pillows usually different in colors. This room is for receiving guests and for sessions and meetings between friends. These beautiful rooms are called *majraj* or *mandhir* in Sana'a and there isn't a single building without one.

Another unique aspect about these buildings is their doors, which are like a

Picasso drawing – and maybe even more beautiful. You may not believe it, but when you see how fantastic the sculptures on them are, you'll say they are even greater than that.

Then, impulsively, you'll move deeper into the Old City only to find yourself in the world's oldest organized market named for the goods sold there. For example, there's the spice market fragrant with the great smile of its spices.

The gold market includes all types of jewelry and many very professional jewelers. There's also the silver market – or the market of "the new old" – containing antique *jambiyyas*, necklaces and everything crafted by the most perfect silver-smiths – some of whom are just teenagers.

Other markets for copper, *jambiyyas*, iron and others share just one thing in common – their organization.

Then, if you're lucky, you'll be in the area at prayer time when you'll be thrilled by the tender, soul-stirring call from the more than 50 mosques all around the Old City, which gives a spiritual feeling and transports you to heaven, even if you can't speak Arabic.

If you should visit one of these mosques, you'll discover a perfection of

architecture, one striking aspect of which is the large and clean open space with pillars and a beautiful dome adorned with Qur'anic verses and written in ancient Arabic script.

Another amazing thing is the bathrooms in these mosques. Upon entering, you'll find a stone floor and a higher stone upon which to sit. Just sit there if you desire to do ablutions or simply to wash. If you wish to shower, just in front of your head you'll find a large wooden nail where you may hang your clothes after removing them. No wondering at all, as they'll remain dry and just under your eye.

Sana'ani people are very kind, gentle and friendly, which you can see from their smiles and how they deal with foreigners. You'll never feel like you're a visitor far from your homeland.

So this is Sana'a, the city of history, art and beauty. The poet was absolutely right when he said, "Sana'a contains the entirety of art and beauty." It's no wonder because it's more than 3,000 years old and many civilizations have stood there. In nearly every location, a war happened or there stood a history maker. It's no wonder that it's the star's sister and the meteor's neighbor!

Through The Mind's Eye

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



On the Labor Day

First of all, I am sorry to delay Part 2 of my article entitled "to love before or after marriage: a contrast" because today is the International Labor Day and it is good to comment on a topic related to such an occasion. I hope, it will be published next week, expecting some readers' responses to the two articles

It is really good to specialize at least one day per year for laborers. As a reward of their continual work through a year, laborers celebrate this day as an international day.

On this day, laborers must be honored. Of course, it is difficult to honor all the laborers on this day by high ranking institutions. As a result, many companies and institutions annually select an ideal employee or laborer to be honored in public. This is really good. But, many laborers wonder about the standards according to which the selection of such an ideal employee takes place.

Selecting an ideal employee in each company or institution encourages others to work harder so that they compete with each other to be selected as ideals in years to come. But, what is the criterion of selecting the best employee in any company.

There might be different ways, but which one is fair and which one is not. Is it according to the work done or to the attendance-record, or the personal relations?

If it is only by personal relations or mediation, there would be no fair at all. In such a case, the real ideal laborers no longer think of work quality, since work quality or hard working does not offer them anything. They start to think about any mediation to get such an honor even if they take work only as a matter of fun.

The attendance record can be considered as a means of evaluating to mark those who are regular from those who are not. It is sometimes taken as a standard for selecting the ideal employee of the year. This is, I think, unfair to take it alone since it is not everything.

The achievements of work are really a good evaluating standard to select the ideal employee of the year. Good morals, following the regulations and respecting others are also important in the selection of the best employee.

When mediation or personal relations are taken as an evaluating standard, it reflects the corruption of workplace. In such a case, while other laborers work hard, while the others are to get the honor. The rights of such hard working

people are wrongly passed to those who take job as entertainment and wasting time. When such hard working people realize this, they get discouraged and finally no new progress in the field of work. It negatively affects the personal moral of such people. It, moreover, affects the work itself and, subsequently, the institution of work as a whole.

The attendance record, or any device of attending-time check, is an official procedure which is supposed to be followed in all companies and institutions. It obliges workers or employees to respect work time, and to be punctual. It is, however, useless to count minutes and seconds for evaluating. Actually that will be a good standard when a person is indifferent about the work duties. It may awake him up to respect responsibilities. The case may be different when the attendance device is used to determine the present and the future of someone whose actions and achievements speak louder than words and signatures.

Leave emotions aside, and hard restrictions too. Deeds do always prove the seriousness of any employee. If circumstances prevent him/her to come on time or even not to come, it does not mean that he/she is careless and indifferent. Hard times or bad circumstances are imposed upon all. This must be taken into account when evaluating any working staff especially when it is taken as a determining standard in the personal lives of such people. All people will be regular and punctual. But they may do nothing or at least, they will not take it serious. In such a case, if they are evaluated as good and excellent employees, it is of course, a vanity. Work must be superior, and any additional criterion comes latter. The other rights can be changed and make them accustomed to, but achieving better work is supposed to be more important. Some institutions and companies are successful for following such a way of evaluation because they take the matter through the mind's eye.

Labor Day is briefly an international day for to celebrate and refresh their minds. Institutions and companies must work together to honor its best employees who must be selected fairly so that laborers get encouraged by such an advice.

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

Who is jeopardizing national unity: the citizens or the rulers?

By: Hashim Ahmad Al-Sha'abi
Hasheemahmad@yahoo.com

At the beginning, the southerners and the northerners were happy (both the rulers and the citizens) that unity was brought about by our leaders, especially President Ali Abdullah Saleh. These measures were highly welcome and appreciated by the people of the united republic of Yemen. Our leaders achieved this through dedication, sacrifice and zeal to move the nation forward. The question today though is "have those leaders changes their minds?"

What makes me write this are the president's words at Hodeidah: "Do you want to be like Somalia or Iraq?" The question is when our leaders had thought of unity, had they sought the opinion of the citizens then? To my knowledge, the answer is no. So, then why now ask the citizens their opinion about how they "want to be"? Is this a kind of trick? It pains me, as I voted for the president in the last election, that his words don't sound like they came from a president elected by the people, as they are harsh. If he had used the same language during the last election, people would have voted for an alternative.

We hear accusations from the ruling party accusing its citizens of threatening unity, stability and the security of the nation whenever people try to express their problems through peaceful demonstrations or writings, which the authorities ignores. I am not in support of demonstrations that destroy private and public properties or those that call for separation. However, I believe those groups calling for separation are not speaking from the heart, but out of frustration. Whenever citizens want to express their disdain for certain policies or make known their suffering, they end up being beaten by security agents or being arrested. If peaceful demonstrations and writing are not the right ways, then please let us know what way will be effective. Ten years ago or so, there were few demonstrations, if there were demonstrations at all, so what causes these demonstrations now? This is what the authorities should seek to find out, instead of forcing its citizens to be quiet out of fear of being beaten, arrested or - in the case of the media outlets - out of fear having their licenses canceled, like Al-Wasat newspaper.

What am trying to say is that whatever is happening in our nation today is caused by our officials, for they know they will not be held accountable for what they do. For instance, the resent problems in Al-Dhale', Habeelen and

Tourolbaha were caused by certain military personnel that agitated the youth, who came out to show their feelings using the language they felt was right. Supposing the ruling party questioned those officers in a reasonable amount of time and they were punished for their deeds, would there be any riots in those areas? If all officials know that they will be held responsible for all their deeds and sayings, do you think we would be in our present situation?

Or take another instance, like price hikes in the country. The government allowed importers to set prices and the citizens are crying on daily basis. Instead of the authorities approaching the issue with sincerity, they help the minority of businessmen versus the majority of consumers by saying that these price hikes are international. Yes, there are international hikes in price, but not from 20 percent of our current prices, or in extreme cases, 300 percent as in some commodities. The government's solution was to increase the salary by about YR 3,000 for government workers and around YR 1,500 for pensioners. In Yemen, there are around 22 million people. What number of these 22 million are government workers or pensioners? The answer is that only 10 percent of the population works in the government or related jobs. What then is the fate of the rest of the 90 per-

cent of the population? Is this the right solution?

An increase in price of the oil derivatives, an issue raised by the Prime Minister in Parliament, was - according to him - the means to discourage diesel smuggling to neighboring countries. But this implies that security is weak or that the government can't stop the smugglers. Is smuggling the cause of price increases, or merely a result of pressure by IMF and the World Bank? Was this solution correct?

Let our leaders pursue justice. Misinformation given by some ministries, negligence in judicial cases and countless other problems are threatening the stability of our nation. Our leaders must face reality, if they want to keep their credibility they achieved by uniting the nation. If they can't control the situation, then they should take the wise and brave solution of stepping down and creating a temporary government that will organize a new election. That way, people can vote for the candidates they think can handle the situation in the country, in a fashion similar to the one in Nigeria, instead of maintaining positions and failing in their responsibilities.

I hope for a change in the government's attitude, or for a real solution from Abu Ahmad, father of the nation and its unity.

Objections!

By: Hanan Ishaq

In searching for my true identity, I find my reflection in the Yemeni mirror unsatisfactory. The girl I see there is an embodiment of all girls and with a head bent down, an unsure gaze and a heart filled with mere dreams, she gives me these words. Is that all there is to a Yemeni female? Locked up and defeated? Or is it simply all that she's allowed?

Among numerous clichés such as "protecting honor," I find most of my fellow females automatically degraded below "male" standards and disrespected to an appalling extent, but most importantly, raised to consent to this so willingly that they've accommodated these beliefs into their mindset and accept them as true.

Yemeni women have played their part in this dilemma since they've become part of an engraved and preordained thought pattern that has evolved over time to create the steel framework of a stiff, unyielding tradition of convictions. It's an eternal chain of ignorance preventing change from being even remotely possible.

In my opinion, the civilization of a society parallels how much respect and

rights women are given within that society, as well as the awareness that women are a vital half of humanity, the philanthropists of life – mothers, sisters, wives, companions and helpers.

Unfortunately, common views about women become part of the social mentality as a family's heritage of poison trickles down from one generation to another. This detoxification lies in the hands of the fresh, young generation, which also is being fed this poison.

How can males be expected to have the least bit of respect for women – which they don't – if their own families' view of them is distorted and belittled? Personally, I don't expect change, although I truly wish, hope and pray for it daily – every day that our individual sanctity as women is violated and every day that we're being talked down to, cursed and encroached upon for no good reason. Every day, my hometown offers me more and more reasons to be ill at ease and to lose my spark and zest for life.

Objection 2

We make our destined journey through life, not having much to lead us along the way. Because our disorientation regarding many issues in our lives leaves us frustrated, we instinctively

search for that place of inner comfort through various means.

As our minds take the steering wheel, it seems difficult to figure out how it essentially operates. Those anonymous feelings that come to light on different occasions intimidate us because we don't know how to control them.

Meanwhile, our search for inner security remains constant. Some of us find it in acceptance, love, ethics, work, faith, etc., while others never seem to be able to find it at all.

Realizing that I'm being drawn to another thought, I witness the mutual condemnation between people every day and I wonder how it's possible that we can take the liberty of judging others when we can't manage ourselves to begin with? It doesn't add up.

Maybe it's the age-old orthodoxy established years ago that has created our biased mentality necessitating that everyone match or preferably surpass its specified rules and regulations and thereby chaining our potential.

Beyond what they've established, there's insufficient room to oppose, deliberate or believe otherwise – and this isn't even related to our religion. These traditions have created a book of their own trends that have become just as holy and sacred as religion, which is

confusing and unethical because these traditions have proven to be contradictory to our Islamic faith at many levels and junctures.

This being said, and supposing that I would adjust to my nation's unfortunate reality, I'd expect some type of compensation; for instance, a first-rate education, a topnotch hospital that wouldn't kill me before figuring out what it had done wrong or at least a giant amusement park for a fun day out with my family and friends.

Of course, none of this is even remotely possible because such development is far-fetched. I see potential in Yemenis' intelligence, personality, motivation and spirit, but these are wasted to a point of no return.

Lack of opportunities for the youthful generation is a huge impediment to improving and nourishing our human competencies. My nation's youth starve for the chances they deserve in order to pride themselves on their accomplishments, build an improved future and provide a better life.

It troubles me deeply to see broken dreams scattered on the ground throughout my hometown of Sana'a and to see youths taking whatever is provided there, regardless of the fact that it's mere clutter.

In response to Maged Al-Kholidy's article, "To love before or after marriage?" I'd like to offer my opinion

By: Hanan A.
hanan.pw@gmail.com

Humans have different needs because they are of diverse mental and emotional makeup; therefore, generalization is a tricky thing when it comes to us Homo sapiens. Each of us requires solutions tailored for our unique and distinct conditions. Your topic deals with a social issue and our society has a very intricate social system.

It's a lot easier for you men to decide whether you'll have a relationship with the one you intend to marry because you have that luxury. However, women are restricted in this area, fearing many things including their reputation, society's cruel assessment and protecting their family's name. Regardless of my opinion about this, I'm simply illustrating the general situation.

Come rain or shine, I believe it's only fair that we women have the option to enter or end a relationship prior to marriage before exposing ourselves to potential damage. Although it isn't entirely acceptable yet in our society for men and women to have a relationship before marriage, many consider the engagement period a premarital relationship.

The problem is that engagement tends to create a preordained

framework for the relationship, with much fabricated behavior only rarely reflecting an individual's true colors. This period also involuntarily urges each side to accept or overlook issues, especially if the relationship began romantically.

More conventional environments such as work are more genuine and spontaneous because it's there that we can decide whether a particular person is more appropriate than another for our particular needs and beliefs.

Marriage is a delicate and difficult association to begin with, so imagine getting ourselves into such an association for all the wrong reasons and with all the wrong customs. It's a virtual disaster.

I'm not judging those who choose to find out all of this after marriage. If they're willing to take the risk, then that's their call. However, there's a great deal at stake in marriage: children – who aren't lab rats, by the way – feelings and most importantly, the makeup of the family, so it's not a simple tryout that we should leave to decide later.

Our age-old orthodoxy has accustomed us to turn a blind eye to those traditions, which are more destructive than they are the least bit helpful, and go along with them, even if we don't see eye to eye. In addition, this also intimidates those who favor change, intimidating them via prejudice and unmerciful disapproval.



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للتواصل: ٧٣٤٦٦٠٢٢٤

• للبيع: سيارة هونداي - بترو -

موديل ٢٠٠١ - اللون بني - نظيفة

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٣٩٩٢٧-

٧١٣٠٣٠٥٩٩

سيارات

• للبيع: سيارة هايلاكس غماتين مع

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السكرتارية والعلاقات العامة

للتواصل: ٧٧١٤٦٧٠٩٠

• بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب (تقنية معلومات) - جامعة صنعا - يجيد التعامل مع لغات C.net , visual basic.net

- يجيد صيانة الكمبيوتر

للتواصل: ٧٣٤٥٧٧٤٣٦

• ثانوية مهنية صناعية - دورات في الكمبيوتر - دورات في الإنترنت - دورة مكثفة في صيانة الكمبيوتر - دورة في المحاسبة - دورة تطبيقية في مجال الاتصالات السلكية واللاسلكية - شهادة خبرة كمساعد إداري - شهادة خبرة وخبرة (Times Keeper) - يرغب في العمل في أي مجال

للتواصل: ٧١٢٢٦٧٥٨٣

• بك محاسبة - خبرة في برامج الكمبيوتر والإنترنت - ٤ سنوات خبرة في مجال المحاسبة - يبحث عن عمل في الفترة المسائية في أي مجال (يفضل الحسابات)

للتواصل: ٧١١٠٣٢١٢

• عبدالرحيم محمد - بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية (جامعة حضرموت) - دبلوم برامج تطبيقات الحاسب الآلي - خبرة ٩ شهور في الإستقبال وإدخال البيانات - لديه رخصة قيادة - يبحث عن وظيفة.

للتواصل: ٧١١٦٦٠٧٣٠

عقارات

• للإيجار: فيلا جوار مصنع حده للمياه وشركة واي للإتصالات - دورين مع حوش دائري واسع

للتواصل: ٧١١٩٣١٧٢٣

• للإيجار: فلة متميزة في صنعا - الموقع ممتاز - مكونة من ٣ أدوار ويدرورم

للتواصل: ٧١١٩٣١٧٢٣

• أحمد فؤاد الريفي - ثانوية عامة (قسم أدبي) ثلاث دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية - دورة تدريب مبيعات من شركة الجدول (شركة كندية لبنانية - يرغب في العمل في أي محافظة

للتواصل: ٠٤/٤٠٦٩٧٧

• مستوي ثالث - كلية التجارة محاسبة + دبلوم كمبيوتر - دورات إنجليزي وانترنت - دورة في النظام المحاسبي يمن سوفت - خبرة في مجال الحسابات - خبرة في مجال

للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢٠

• محمد عبد الرحمن - دبلوم محاسبة - تقدير جيد - دورات في الكمبيوتر - دورة في مجال التسويق - حاصل على رخصة قيادة - لبق ويجيد إقناع العملاء

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٢٤١١٥

• محمد صادق - دبلوم محاسبة - تقدير جيد - دورات في الكمبيوتر - دورة في مجال التسويق - حاصل على رخصة قيادة - لبق ويجيد إقناع العملاء

للتواصل: ٧٧٧٠٧٠١١

• محمد أحمد - بكالوريوس محاسبة - خبرة خمس سنوات - برامج يمن سوفت - المحاسبية - يبحث عن العمل في الفترة المسائية.

للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢٠

• أحمد فؤاد الريفي - ثانوية عامة (قسم أدبي) ثلاث دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية - دورة تدريب مبيعات من شركة الجدول (شركة كندية لبنانية - يرغب في العمل في أي محافظة

للتواصل: ٠٤/٤٠٦٩٧٧

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للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢٠

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للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٢٤١١٥

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للتواصل: ٧٧٧٠٧٠١١

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للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢٠

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للتواصل: ٠٤/٤٠٦٩٧٧

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للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢٠

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للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٢٤١١٥

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للتواصل: ٧٧٧٠٧٠١١

• محمد أحمد - بكالوريوس محاسبة - خبرة خمس سنوات - برامج يمن سوفت - المحاسبية - يبحث عن العمل في الفترة المسائية.

للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢٠

• أحمد فؤاد الريفي - ثانوية عامة (قسم أدبي) ثلاث دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية - دورة تدريب مبيعات من شركة الجدول (شركة كندية لبنانية - يرغب في العمل في أي محافظة

للتواصل: ٠٤/٤٠٦٩٧٧

• مستوي ثالث - كلية التجارة محاسبة + دبلوم كمبيوتر - دورات إنجليزي وانترنت - دورة في النظام المحاسبي يمن سوفت - خبرة في مجال الحسابات - خبرة في مجال

للتواصل: ٧٧١٨١٨٤٢٠

مكتب أحمد محسن المرسي للخدمات العقارية

حده - الحي السياسي ٢٨٥٥ - ٧٣٣٨٠٢٨٥٥
الأصمحي - بيت بوس - مكتب ٦٧٩١٦٦ - سيار ٧٣٣٤٧٢٩٨٤

* للإيجار في الحي السياسي يرجى الإتصال ٧١١٧٠٢٦٤٢

١- شقة ٣ غرف ، حمامين ومطبخ . الإيجار الشهري ٢٥٠ دولار
٢- شقة ٤ غرف حمامين ومطبخ . الإيجار الشهري ٣٥٠ دولار
٣- شقة جديدة، تشطيب لوكرس ، ٤ غرف، ٣ حمامات، مطبخ ٥٠٠ دولار
٤- شقة مفروشة ٣ غرف، حمامين، مطبخ . الإيجار ٤٠٠ دولار
٥- فيلا دور واحد ، ٤ غرف ، حمامين، مطبخ وحوش للسيارات ٨٠٠ دولار
٦- فيلا دورين ، ٩ غرف ، ٤ حمامات، مطبخ وحوش للسيارات . ١٢٠٠ دولار

للإيجار في فرع بيت بوس يرجى الإتصال مع ٧٣٣٤٧٢٩٨٤
للإيجار في فرع حده، المدينة السكنية. يرجى الإتصال مع ٧١١١١٠٨٢٣

للبيع أو الشراء ، لدينا العديد من الفلل فته دور واحد جديد في منطقة بيت بوس ، المثلث الذهبي ، الإسكان المهندسين ، الشباب والرياضة . وكذلك فته دور ويدرورم ودورين ودورين ويدرورم . يرجى الإتصال مع ٧٣٣٨٠٢٨٥٥

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Yemeni publisher wins International Young Publishing Entrepreneur award

By: Almigdad Mojalli
almigdads8@yahoo.com

At a ceremony in London last week, Yemeni finalist Nashwan Al-Maghafi was named the winner of this year's International Young Publishing Entrepreneur award.

The award comes under the International Young Creative Entrepreneur awards scheme devised by the British Council to celebrate the achievements and develop the potential of young creative entrepreneurs worldwide in various creative sectors and industries.

A panel of five judges chaired by John Makinson, chairman of Penguin Group, chose the winner from a short-list of finalists, among whom were young publishers representing small-to medium-sized publishing firms from Argentina, Egypt, India, Lebanon, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The finalists gathered in the U.K. for a two-week tour during which they were introduced to fellow entrepreneurs and publishing initiatives in an effort to give them an overview of Britain's creative sector.

The award ceremony was held during the London Book Fair, at which the Arab World was this year's guest of honor.

"Starting from scratch at age 19, Al-Maghafi built a formidable business within a truly challenging market. We all were inspired by the skill with which Nashwan learned and applied the highest international standards in a country without a developed book publishing culture. Bright and ambitious, Nashwan is a real entrepreneur,"



Nashwan Al-Maghafi receives his award.

Makinson said.

Al-Maghafi was awarded prizes, including significant funding for new publishing initiatives and a free display area at the 2009 London Book Fair. The award was presented by Cherie Blair, wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and a longstanding supporter of the awards program.

The award ceremony was attended by both British and international publishing figures, in addition to several ambassadors and cultural attachés from the finalists' participating countries, including Yemeni Ambassador Mohammed Taha Mustafa and Dr. Fares Al-Saqqa, chairman of Yemen

General Book Authority.

Al-Maghafi established the Yemen Bookshop in 1995 when he was just 19, aspiring to provide books of world-class standards to Yemeni students at all levels in their education system. The company now is the sole agent and distributor for several international publishers around the country.

"Since I opened my first bookshop, I wanted to introduce the English language to the people of Yemen, but I didn't expect there to be so much interest in English books of all subjects. This award is such a recognition for all that hard work," Al-Maghafi said.

He added, "I've had an amazing two weeks in the U.K. on the IYPE program and have met so many individuals from the U.K. publishing industry. I look forward to sharing all that I've learned with my friends and colleagues back in Yemen."

Al-Maghafi noted that it was the first time he has participated in the competition. "This competition is annual and has run for four years, so from my very first participation, I won the prize!" he remarked.

He further indicated that the Yemen Bookshop is in need of marketing and distribution abroad. He intends to translate many Yemeni works into

English and then distribute and market them abroad.

"I'll participate in next year's London Book Fair in the name of Yemen and the Yemen Bookshop. We'll display the creations of Yemeni people to the world because in this way, we spread Yemeni culture," Al-Maghafi noted.

British Council Director in Yemen Elizabeth White commented, "I congratulate Nashwan Al-Maghafi! While I'm very pleased at this good news, I'm not surprised because I've been in Yemen long enough to know that this country has so much potential in its young people. All they need is the right opportunity for them to showcase their talents and creativity - opportunities

like this award."

She continued, "I hope this is only the beginning. The British Council has other awards that are open to young creative entrepreneurs from various creative sectors. Nashwan Al-Maghafi has shown the world what Yemen has to offer, so I hope we can look forward to further successes."

In a partnership between the British Council and the London Book Fair, the International Young Publishing Entrepreneur of the Year award was launched five years ago to champion and celebrate entrepreneurial leadership in young people between ages 25 and 35 who are looking to develop the publishing sector in emerging economies.

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Crown Agents Britain And JK Trading Yemen Introduce their Partnership

Moneer Al-Homaidi

Sana'a, April 14 — Held at Sheba Hotel, Crown Agents and JK Trading introduce their partnership in front of the British Ambassador and very important foreign and local traders.

In the beginning of the session, Mr. Jamal Al-Kershi, The General Manager of JK Trading, started the session by welcoming warmly all the attendants and introduced in brief the two companies and the mutual relationship between them in a gentle manner. In addition to that, he introduced the Business Development Manager of the Crown Agents Company, Middle East Mr. Steve Brady in order to explain in depth to all attendants the key role of their company and the partnership of the two companies.

Mr. Brady mentioned that the Crown Agents Company has been an international development company providing direct assistance, consultancy and training for public sector modernization, particularly in financial management, banking, and procurement and logistics for 176



years of experience. He added that, for long time, Crown Agents was a British public corporation; but today, it is owned by the Crown Agents Foundation. The members of the foundation are organized with a keen interest in their activities including firms, non governmental organization and international bodies.

Furthermore, one of the most important things is that Crown Agents helps countries and pub-

lic and private sector entities so as to grow. He said, "To achieve that is to work in partnership with our clients to transfer the skills, ideas, and material resources each needs at every stage of their development. Then, our client will be able to identify the best solution to their particular problems".

Not only that, but also, Mr. Brady stated that there are many training courses provided by Crown Agents in order that it can develop the partnership with its clients. Moreover, Crown Agents has now established a permanent office located adjacent to JK Trading. The Yemen Country Manager, Mr. Mark Pegler, is currently administrator for three governmental development projects and Crown Agents will continue to grow their business in Yemen through 2008/2009.

On the other hand, by the end of the presentation, all attendants were obviously impressed with the two companies and the successful partnership between them. Then the session ended with delicious dining banquet mixed with long conversation on every table.



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