

Hertz
HERTZ LEASE
 You are in safe hands...
 Universal Rent a Car
 Sana'a Tel: (01) 440309, Aden (02) 245625
 Movenpick Branch (01) 546063

YEMEN TIMES

Europcar
 YOU RENT A LOT MORE THAN A CAR
 Special Offer from europcar Yemen
 Rent 7 days pay 6 days
 Email: europcar@y.net.ye
 Sam City Hotel Al-Qiyadah St.
 P.O. Box: 3072 Sana'a
 T: 01-270711 F: 01-270804
 Airport Office: T: 01-346666 F: 01-346665
 New Branch:
 60th Ring Road - South
 T: 01-448950 F: 01-448951
 E: info@europcar-yemen.com

Thursday, 29 May, 2008 • Issue No. 1159 • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saaqaf • www.yementimes.com

Price 40 Yemeni Riyals

Inside:  **2** Despite obstacles, Iranian hospital offers quality care to Yemenis  **5** Is this the worst place on earth to be a woman? (Part 2/2)  **8** Children leave home and school for their families

More killed in Bani Hushaish fighting between army and Houthis

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, May 28 - According to witnesses, heavy fighting which broke out nearly two weeks ago between Houthi loyalists and army personnel has left dozens of casualties on both sides.

Government troops backed by republican guards and military police clashed with Houthis who infiltrated Bani Hushaish and took over Jamima Mountain, one of the highest mountains surrounding Sana'a.

Yemen's Defense Ministry announced yesterday that military and security forces drove Houthis off the mountain in Bani Hushaish district, which is located in the eastern suburb of the capital city. The mountain overlooks sensitive state installations, most importantly, Sana'a International Airport.

Independent sources noted that the clashes ceased Wednesday morning following the Houthis' withdrawal from Jamima Mountain to other suburbs of Sana'a before sunrise.

Regarding the security situation in northern Sa'ada governorate, local sources confirm that fierce confrontations are taking place between government forces and Houthi supporters, with dozens on both sides reportedly killed or injured.

The same sources add that government troops were forced to abandon Ezzan Mountain, which they took over on Saturday, and move back following bloody clashes with Houthi followers near the mountain.

The sources continued, reporting that other clashes between Yemeni army personnel and Houthis are taking place on Gharaba Mountain and other nearby areas in Sa'ada governorate's Sihar district, leaving dozens of casualties on both sides.

Other local sources from Sa'ada's Haidan district reveal that fierce fighting between Houthis and government forces is taking place in Mirran area, one of the main Houthi strongholds, as well as a starting point of Houthi clashes with the army in June 2004.

The Yemeni army took over Mirran area in September 2004 after it killed the founder of the Faithful Youth Organization, cleric Hussein Badraddin Al-Houthi, brother of current Houthi field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi.

"Military units backed by sophisticated weaponry and ordnance arrived in Sa'ada Monday evening to then be dispatched to army brigades deployed in the restive governorate after government troops there took control of strategic positions near Amran governorate's Harf



Casualties have been reported on both the Houthi and government sides from battles in Harf Sifyan and Bani Hushaish.

Sifyan district," witnesses from Sa'ada reported, adding, "Dozens on both sides were killed or injured in Harf Sifyan clashes a few days ago."

According to the eyewitnesses, the Yemeni army is preparing to launch offensives in Khawlan Bani Amer district near the Saudi Arabian border. The district is comprised of Haidan, Dhahir and Saqain areas.

The Yemeni Socialist Party-affiliated Aleshteraki.net reported last week that army brigades assembled in Saqain area after withdrawing from Haidan, which Houthis claim to have seized. It added that army personnel on Kahlan Mountain overlooking Sa'ada city fired Katyusha rockets at Al-Ali Mountain, where Houthis are believed to be entrenched.

Houthis claim that they stopped army forces advancing toward Al-Ghabir area and destroyed numerous military vehicles and tanks during three hours of fierce confrontations.

Conflicting news re: facts on the ground

The Yemen Times has received conflicting reports from Houthis and pro-government media regarding the casualties and devastation from two weeks of fighting between the army and Houthis in Amran's Harf Sifyan district.

According to pro-government media outlets, the army has taken over the entire area, ensuring the safety of the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway, while Houthis claim that the highway remains blocked, adding that they have foiled all government attempts to unblock it.

However, independent sources maintain that the fighting currently is limited to the northeastern parts of Harf Sifyan district, further noting that the Yemeni army is facing fierce resistance from Houthis, who reported last Thursday that they had seized control of strategic positions in the area.

Regarding the human situation in Sa'ada, local residents disclosed that food supplies and propane gas were allowed to reach affected citizens earlier

this week; however, such supplies later were halted again following renewed blocking of the Sana'a-Sa'ada Highway.

One official said Tuesday that security forces had "dealt with armed tribesmen in Bani Hushaish, which was a pocket of Houthi loyalists led by Abdulmalik Al-Houthi." Sources say the clashes in the eastern Sana'a suburb were triggered by the May 16 ambush of a senior security chief by Houthi loyalists.

"Houthi supporters are risking the collapse of a recent peace deal reached between the Yemeni government and Houthis in the Qatari capital of Doha this past February 1," Tariq Al-Shami, head of the General People's Congress media sector, told Aljazeera satellite channel.

"All mediation efforts have been foiled by Houthi supporters, prompting the government to take decisive action," he pointed out, adding, "We're still receptive to mediation offers because we take mediation initiatives very seriously, but we don't - and will not - tolerate terrorist activities."

Al-Shami went on to say that, "The state must assume its responsibility and protect its citizens," indicating that Houthis are seeking to restore a Zaidi imam in Yemen, which was overthrown by the Sept. 26, 1962 Revolution.

Rights groups show solidarity with the 18 Yemeni migrants burned by Saudi police

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
 For the Yemen Times

SANAA, MAY 28- Local rights groups organized a campaign to show solidarity with 18 Yemeni citizens who were allegedly burnt by Saudi authorities while they were trying to hide themselves from security authorities in Khamis Bani Mushait, a town on the Saudi side of the Yemen-Saudi border.

The campaign was organized on May 26 in Sana'a city with participating rights groups, who said the Yemeni migrants have authorized them to defend their case in court, which will be filed against the responsible Saudi authorities.

Member of Parliament Hashid Saif, who is also the head of Al-Tagheer Legal Organization, said evidence and data are being gathered by a legal team within his organization, and a file copy will be sent to the attorney general and the ministries of the interior and human rights. He said the legal team will contact international organizations to start filing a case against the Saudi authorities sometime in the near future.

During the campaign, the 18 citizens recalled their ordeal.

"We were 25 men in Khamis Bani Mushait area," said Mohammed Yahya Mawdah, one of the 18 burn victims. "At 5 p.m., we entered a big hole, which we dug to hide ourselves from police. The

hole was [located] seven kilometers outside of Khamis Bani Mushait." The young man said four police vehicles carrying a total of 12 policemen chased them. "We thought we had managed to escape them and we remained in the hole. Seven of us ran away and another 18 remained in the hole," Mawdah added. "We didn't expect the policemen would pour diesel into the hole and set it on fire. We left the fiery hole after our bodies were burnt."

Another victim, Ali Hussein Bukari, said the police brought them despite their bad burns to the police station instead of the hospital. "We were crying out for help. But the police questioned us," said Bukari. "They called us dogs - garbage - while we were crying out in pain," he added.

A man identifying himself only as "Darweesh," who was also in the group of burn victims, said he wished to die at that moment. "We were like dogs in front of the Saudi policemen. How cheap a Yemeni citizen is!"

Following the police investigations, the group was moved to a nearby hospital. According to Darweesh, doctors treated them only every four days, which worsened their health conditions. "We



Yemeni illegal migrants to Saudi Arabia, including this man, have claimed that Saudi police set fire to the hole in the ground where they were hiding.

remained in the hospital for nine days and then were brought again to the police. A police officer said to us, 'either you go back to Yemen or stay here until you recover and write waivers,'" he added.

According to him, the young men wrote waivers and then they deported them - in groups - into Al-Twal, another



The men that were burned say that Saudi police did not take them to hospital after they were set on fire; instead, they say they went immediately to the police station for interrogations.

border village. "There we saw Yemeni border soldiers. When we told them we were burnt by Saudi policemen, they replied, 'May Allah help you to recover,'" said Darweesh.

The group returned to their area, Bajel, in the western province of Al-Hodeidah, one of the poorest provinces in Yemen. The men said they were in a very miserable condition when they got there. They received medical assistance in a local hospital at the expense of a local non-

governmental organization (NGO).

Saudi authorities denied such allegations as reported by local media in Yemen.

Brigadier Abdullah Al-Qarni, a senior Saudi security official, said the incident was groundless, adding Yemeni illegal migrants are treated kindly by the authorities. He said a fire broke out in a garbage collection area where the Yemenis were hiding and that the fire was not caused by the police.

Al-Qarni expressed his surprise at the news that the young men said that they were treated badly, adding they were deported to Yemen only after receiving medical care.

A number of Yemeni local organizations condemned the incident and showed solidarity with the burn victims.

Human Rights Watch, an international organization dedicated to eradicating human rights abuses, has asked the Saudi authorities to investigate the policemen who burned the Yemeni migrants. "The allegations that the Saudi police had intentionally set fire to the hole in which the Yemeni migrants hid were horrible and reveal complete undermining of human beings," said Sarah Watson, the executive manager of Human Rights Watch in the Middle East and Northern Africa. "It looks like the Saudi officials are interested in protecting the police officers more than revealing the truth."

Budget
 Car Rental
50
 1958 - 2008
 Budget Car Rental
 Call + 967 1 411727
 Fax + 967 1 411728
 24 hours (Hot Line) 711000052

عبر العالم في الوقت تماماً
The World on Time
FedEx
 Express
 SANA'A Tel: 440228/30 صنعاء

ALSAEED TRADING COMPANY
 A Yemeni Closed Stock Company
Yemen's Major Exporter of FMCG products.
 Yemen, Taiz - P.O. Box 5351
 Tel: +967 (4) 232727 (10 Lines)
 Fax: +967 (4) 223851 / 231642 / 219112
 E-mail: info@alsaeedtrading.com
 Website: www.alsaeedtrading.com

Qarnaw
 For Oilfield Services
 قرنوار
 QARNAW
 (A Member of Al-Shaif Intn'l Group)
 Qarnaw provides highest quality services through the provision of Competent personnel and State of the Art well-maintained equipment.
 Tel: 01 448447/8, Fax: 01 448446, 3rd Floor, Sana'a Trade Center, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
 E-M: godwin@qarnaw.com W: www.shaifgroup.com

Shanghai Restaurant
 مطعم شانغهاي
 上海饭店
 Take Away Service
 Dine-In Service
 Home Catering Service
 Group Service
 Yemen - Sana'a - Al-Wahdah St.
 The Branch of 60 Meter St.
 Tel.: 00967 -1 - 450350
 Mob.: 00967 73485966
 Fax.: 00967 -1 - 444858

RICOH
 Digital Duplicator
 Best in Class for Speed, Quality and Volume
Thabet Son Corporation
 مؤسسة بن ثابت للتجارة
 Sana'a : Tel: 278546-8 Fax: 283596 Taiz: 219057 Fax: 214306 Aden: Tel: 244625 Fax: 246787
 Hodeidah : Tel: 204488 Fax: 204490 Mukalla : Tel: 316710 Fax: 316711
 E-mail: tsc@yemen.net.ye, Website: www.thabetson.com.ye

REAL BEST CHINESE CUISINE IN TOWN
 北京菜馆
 BEIJING CUISINE
 北京烤鴨
 北京烤鴨
 Take Away Home Catering Dine-In Group Service
 On the occasion of our 8th Anniversary
 In this May we invite you to bring this
 Coupon and Enjoy your 10% Discount
 Reservation Tel.: 01-440302 Fax: 01-440303
 Email: beijingcuisine@yemen.net.ye
 Mobile: 777448825

العلم والخبر... نرضى مرضانا
Modern Hospital
 مستشفى الحديث
 صنعاء - فرع عمران - ت - ٤٤٤٤٤٤ - ف - ٤٤٤٤٤٤
 Email: info@hadithalshik.com
 www.hadithalshik.com

Tougher enforcement of public phone and Internet user ID registration

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, May 17 - Users of calling center phone booths and internet service providers must provide personal identification to the service provider before they can make any phone calls or surf the web. This regulation was handed down from the Ministry of the Interior as a security measure beginning in 2002 with endorsement from the Capital Security Office.

"It is a measure taken to control the communication of suspects and keep track of who they are dealing with. We request that all call centers and service providers cooperate with us to ensure that every caller has been identified and registered," said Mohammed Abdullah Al-Qawsi, Deputy Minister of Interior for Security Affairs.

According to Al-Qawsi, there is no technology installed in the telecommunication network that can monitor the phone calls and Internet conversations in Yemen. The ministry started this measure to register callers from public phones in order to identify potential suspects and their accomplices in case of a security breach or attack. This means that the time of the call and ID of person calling must be recorded and regularly reviewed by the ministry's security department.

However, these instructions are far away from being applied in real life, as many phone booth and communication service providers have said they either are not aware of this regulation, or that they know about it but don't apply it.

Telecommunications and Internet center owners complained that their daily income would greatly decrease if they didn't allow any customer who does not carry his or her ID card to make phone calls or use the Internet, as

many of the male customers don't have IDs or carry identification with them all the time. Moreover, they said because of cultural reasons, most women refuse to show their ID cards, which show their faces.

Abdulkawi Al-Sharabi, a telecommunications center owner, complained that his revenues decreased by at least 45 percent since he started implementing the regulation. "I received the instruction from the district police administration and tried to apply it but I couldn't. Most male customers don't have IDs or refuse to give me the information," said Al-Sharabi. "Women refused to show their IDs because of their photos and that affected my income greatly," he said.

Another telecommunication center employee - who asked to remain anonymous for personal reasons - expressed his anger at the decision, complaining that he loses a chunk of his income everyday because of it. "Most of the customers don't take their IDs with them and we are obliged not to allow them to use phones. So we lose a lot of money daily," he said.

Um Ahmed, a worker in a telecommunications center, noted that she has no idea about this regulation and because of that has asked neither women nor men to show their IDs. She said that if she receives the notification from the ministry, she will apply it.

The regulation also includes a provision for selling of mobile phone SIM cards. The four mobile phone providers in Yemen - Sabafon, MTN, Yemen Mobile and Y - must take a copy of the customer's ID along with fingerprints before the customer can purchase the SIM card and receive mobile phone service. This is a requirement that has been implemented since 2002, and is closely

supervised by the companies' administrations.

Since that time, representatives of the Capital Security Office and the Ministry of the Interior have made random field visits to inspect and inform Internet and telecommunications store owners to keep track of customers. They have issued warnings to the service providers requesting they register the number, type, issue, place and date of ID cards, as well as the number called, date and time of call, according to a distributed form given to the communications centers.

The warning, which was signed by directors of the district security authorities in Sana'a, stated that measures would be taken against any violators.

The warning also instructs the centers to report any suspicious behavior to the police immediately.

"The idea is to create a security measure that would help to identify suspects and whom they are working with," said Al-Qawsi. "Citizens should carry their ID cards with them; this is a civilized procedure and a necessity today. Even if the customer does not have an ID card, such as children, they should be identified by someone who does or the telecommunication center owner should recognize the caller and be able to identify him or her."

Ayman Ahmed, a telecommunications center owner, stated that he hasn't had any notification of this procedure at all. "I haven't received it yet but I'm sure that applying this regulation will affect my income," he said. Until the Capital Security Office can enforce this measure throughout the city, telecommunications store owners - and potential security suspects - can breathe a sigh of relief.

Despite obstacles, Iranian hospital offers quality care to Yemenis

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, May 27 - Since its establishment in April 2004, the Iranian Hospital in Sana'a has offered good medical services to those Yemeni residents of limited income. The hospital has gained a reputation in Yemen, thanks to its high quality care, particularly in ophthalmology. It performs 15 corneal transplants per month, despite the fact that large numbers of Iranian citizens living in their own country wait months to receive such cornea surgery.

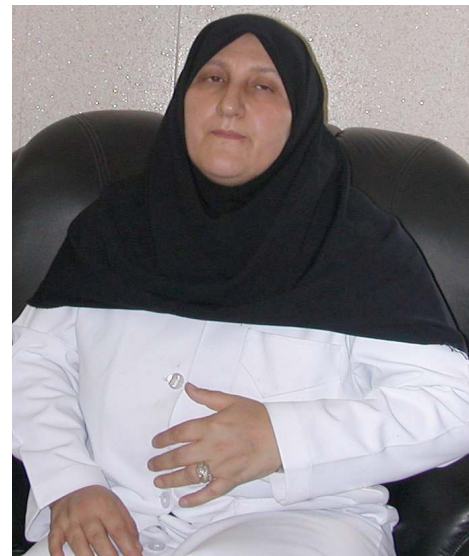
Some Yemenis have alleged that some Ministry of Health officials don't want it to offer distinctive medical services in any specializations other than ophthalmology, so that they may make money via their private clinics, in addition to sending patients abroad for treatment.

However, the Iranian Red Crescent Society is willing to expand the hospital and improve its medical services, as well as continue offering services to those of limited income either for free or at minimal cost.

The Yemen Times met with the hospital's manager, Dr. Dolat Khalilvanal, who briefly described her hospital and its services to patients. Answering questions filed to her, the manager limited her responses to the professionalism of her staff.

According to her, the hospital's ophthalmology clinic offers patients distinctive services such as corneal transplants. She indicated that the Iranian Red Crescent provides the hospital 15 corneas from Iran per month, which are given to Yemeni patients at a very low cost, further pointing out that one of these 15 corneas is reserved for members of Yemen's poorest groups for free.

"Our hospital's clinic is the first in Yemen specializing in corneal transplants. So far, we've transplanted some 1,000 corneas and conducted nearly 8,000 eye surgeries since our opening," Khalilvanal added.



Dr. Dolat Khalilvanal

The Iranian Hospital contains clinics for orthopedics, pediatrics, internal medicine, general surgery, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, in addition to laboratory and X-ray units. All of these units and clinics offer services to Yemeni citizens of limited income at very low costs or for free to the poorest groups.

"Our hospital sees between 600 and 800 patients per day. The other Iranian Medical Center west of Sana'a also has been offering Yemenis good medical services around the clock since its establishment in 1991. It is highly respected and appreciated by Yemenis," said Khalilvanal.

A pathology specialist and professor at Tehran University for Medical Sciences, Khalilvanal confirms that both the Iranian Hospital and Medical Center offer Yemenis medical services based on their faith in the strong relations with Yemenis dating back to pre-Islamic times.

"We plan to bring in Iranian doctors specializing in obstetrics and gynecology, abdominal diseases, anesthesia, intensive care, neurology and general surgery, as well as train nurses

and other staff working at the hospital's various clinics," she said about the hospital's future plans to contribute to treating rare and hard-to-cure diseases.

When asked about obstacles to their work, Khalilvanal said the hospital has difficulty obtaining entry visas for visiting doctors it brings to Yemen to conduct urgent and critical surgeries.

"We hope the relevant Yemeni officials will cooperate with us in this regard because solving such a problem immediately means providing services to Yemeni citizens," she said. "We're concerned about those patients we can't help due to problems beyond our control."

"I'd like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to those Yemeni officials who spare no effort in supporting us and providing all of the necessary facilities in order to overcome any difficulties facing our work," said Khalilvanal.

Yemen's Ministry of Public Health and Population signed a memorandum of understanding with the Iranian Red Crescent Society on April 26, 2004 regarding operating and managing the Iranian Hospital, whose capacity is 60 beds.

Valid for five years from the date of its signing by both parties, the memorandum stipulates that the Iranian Red Crescent will operate the hospital technically, administratively and financially, as well as provide the necessary medical equipment in order for it to offer services to Yemeni patients at its various clinics and units.

Additionally, the Iranian Hospital will offer medical services according to prices in effect at hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Public Health and Population, while the ministry will oversee the hospital's work in coordination with the Iranian Red Crescent Society, providing it with specialized Yemeni staff upon demand.

Fears over increasing suicide cases

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri
For the Yemen Times

SANAA, MAY 28 - A local non-governmental organization has revealed that there were 788 suicide cases in Yemen between 2003 and 2005. The announcement came during a symposium organized by Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC) on May 25 in Sana'a city. Sana'a governate had the most cases of suicide, followed by Taiz, Lahj and Ibb governorates.

During the symposium, WJWC presented a short movie that it prepared along with The International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) entitled, "A Call for Life." The movie contained several testimonies from families whose loved ones had committed suicide.

Rashad Al-Alimi, deputy prime minister for interior affairs, attributed the increasing numbers of suicide cases to the public's lack of religious principles. Suicide is forbidden in Islam, and Al-Alimi said that lack of faith in fate was the main reason behind citizens' suicides, though he offered no medical proof of his

reasoning.

Al-Alimi also added that qat, a mild narcotic plant chewed by the majority of the country, was among the other reasons that caused people to commit suicide.

Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE), a respected non-governmental organization that works to prevent suicide deaths, said that there is a strong link between suicide and mental illness including depression, bipolar disorder, extreme anxiety and schizophrenia. "Ninety percent of the people who die by suicide [have] an existing mental illness or substance abuse problem at the time of their death," according to SAVE's website, www.save.org. "Stigma and lack of understanding are the main reasons depression remains a topic we avoid. People suffering from depression fear others will think they're crazy or weak, or somehow a lesser person."

However, SAVE did note that cultural norms across the globe are slowly changing as people become more aware that suicide results from mental illnesses like depression. The organization said that education and

awareness about this often-taboo topic will "help reduce stigma and save lives."

WJWC chairwoman, Tawakkil Karman, said the short movie tried to explain why a man would kill himself, what the state's responsibilities are towards the problem, as well as the extent to which poverty increases the likelihood of suicide.

"We tried through this movie to tackle suicide incidents and whether they have represented a trend," she said. Karman added that her organization also tried to establish the relationship between suicide and social customs common in Yemen such as possessing firearms and qat chewing. According to her, the movie is regarded the first of its kind, and she said that international experts had commended it. The symposium participants said the number of suicide cases is likely far more than what has been recorded, since many of the cases remain ambiguous or go unreported. The movie explained that third of Yemen's youth, who constitute nearly half of the population, are jobless - a factor that can contribute to a high suicide rate.

Yemeni broadcasters go digital with German help

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, May 25 - Yemen's Media Training Institute recently held a new course on digital production in cooperation with the German government-financed Deutsche Welle (DW) Akademie from May 10 through 21.

Deutsche Welle is a leading media training facility for radio and television professionals in Germany and those countries with German broadcasts. It has trained some 20,000 broadcast specialists from Eastern Europe and developing countries worldwide.

Some 12 male and female participants from Sana'a Broadcasting, Aden's Channel 2 Broadcasting and local broadcasting in Sai'wn and Ibb participated in the course, which demonstrated the basic uses and techniques of digital technology.

The course introduced newer, more

technologically advanced digital recording devices to participants, training them so they can become digital media trainers within their own organizations.

Petra Beiner, a media trainer from the German organization, noted that this is just one of several different future training courses her company has planned in conjunction with Yemen's Information Ministry.

"We're interested in seeing Yemeni women participate in these training courses," Beiner commented, adding, "We've planned to send them to Germany to receive training in media, broadcasting and how to use digital devices." Gerda Meuer, head of DW-Akademie, said her organization's visit to Yemen is designed to improve Yemeni media, particularly television and radio, as well as support training and qualifying mechanisms already in

place here.

According to the agreement between Germany and Yemen regarding the media broadcasting training, Meuer mentioned that there are some scholarships available to members of the Yemeni mass media that will enable them to visit Germany for further studies and training.

Meuer added that while visiting Yemeni television and radio stations, she both noticed and appreciated the role that Yemeni women play in media organizations. She also noted that there are German scholarships available specifically for women participating in this field. By the end of their visit, the German representatives had met with Yemen's information minister, the general manager of the Yemeni TV and Radio Institute and the head of the broadcasting sector to discuss further collaboration in this field.

Yemen ranks low on Global Peace Index

By: Sarah Wolff

The Global Peace Index, which records stability, militarization and conflict throughout the world, was released last week, with Yemen scoring in the bottom third of all ranked countries for the second year in a row. It also dropped one place since last year's survey and now is ranked 106 out of 140 countries in terms of peaceful domestic and foreign relations.

Beginning last year, the index ranked 121 countries based on their military spending, their relations with neighboring countries and their respect for human rights, in addition to 21 other qualitative and quantitative criteria. Now in its second year, the index has expanded to include 140 countries, with Iceland topping the list

as the most peaceful country.

The brainchild of Australian entrepreneur Steve Killelea, the index is part of an initiative created by a global think tank called the Institute for Economics and Peace, which analyzes the links between economics and peace.

At the release of the index results last week, president and CEO of the Global Peace Index, Clyde McConaghy, noted that the index is designed to make governments look critically at their domestic and foreign policies. He further hoped that the top spots on the index will become a gold standard of sorts for peace, for which all countries should aspire.

Regionally, Yemen was 13th out of 18 countries in the greater Middle East and North Africa, less peaceful than

Iran and Syria but more peaceful than Lebanon or Iraq.

Compared to neighboring Saudi Arabia and Oman, Yemen had more homicides, poorer relations with other nations and a higher level of domestic instability. However, Saudi Arabia ranked below Yemen at 108 on the index because of its large military budget and the frequent jailing of its own citizens.

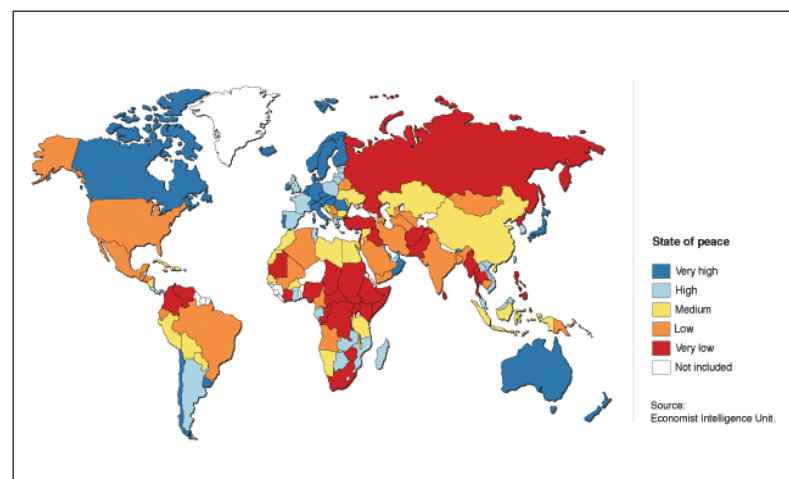
Although Yemen has severe problems providing quality education and secondary school enrollment - both of which factored into the peace index ranking - it spends more money on education than its gross domestic product than either of its neighbors.

"Willingness to fight" was another indicator where Yemen scored poorly, with the index showing that Yemenis

are far more willing to incite conflict than neighboring Saudi Arabia or Oman. The country also has approximately 330 paramilitary soldiers for every 100,000 citizens, which means that one-third of Yemen's population consider themselves paramilitary soldiers.

Yemen's ongoing war in Sa'ada governorate, political unrest in its southern provinces and its tense border relations with Saudi Arabia all contributed to its low ranking on the index.

The lowest ranked five countries - Israel (including the occupied territories), Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, and in last place, Iraq - were all in the Horn of Africa and the greater Middle East, a poor sign for peace prospects in the region at large.



The Global Peace Index map identifies pacifist countries according to their internal and external relations. Yemen ranked in the bottom third for the second year in a row.

Commitment for energy

Imagine an energy partner that brought you
all the expertise at once



As the world's fourth-largest oil and gas major and a world-class chemicals manufacturer, with 96,000 employees in more than 130 countries, Total is at the forefront of the energy industry. One of the largest producers of oil and gas in Africa, the second-largest in the Middle East, with operations in over 40 countries, the leading refiner in Europe, and the operator of a worldwide network of approximately 16,500 service stations, Total will be investing US\$ 19 billion in a range of projects in 2008. So that our energy is your energy. www.total.com

HARRISON & WOLF

من أجلكم، فإن طاقتنا لا تنضب



TOTAL

Is this the worst place on earth to be a woman? (Part 2/2)

In Yemen, women belong to men. Most are illiterate. They are arrested in the street. They die in childbirth. In this special report, Rachel Cooke meets the brave few who are campaigning for midwives and against early marriage.

By: Rachel Cooke

Say'un is a town of 30,000 people in the biggest wadi or watercourse, Wadi Hadhramawt, in the Arabian peninsula. Hadhramawt is extremely inaccessible. To get here, we flew from Sana'a, the capital, to the port of Al-Mukalla, and then drove over the desert and down through the lush wadi - it has surely changed very little since Dame Freya Stark became one of the first western women to see it in the 1930s - for nearly five hours. In Say'un, Oxfam is trying to improve reproductive healthcare, chiefly by funding the training of midwives and traditional birth attendants (TBAs). This is more important work than you may realise. In this part of Yemen - rural, religious, isolated - women are often unwilling to be treated by doctors, for the reason that they are men; it would be shameful for a woman to show her body to a man, even if the alternative meant that she might bleed to death. Getting more women into the healthcare system is therefore vital. 'Our midwives work in the hospital in Say'un,' says Basima Omer, a doctor involved in the programme. 'They save lives. But they also go back to their communities with new information about hygiene, high blood pressure ...' She sips her coffee - in the country that gave the world coffee, everyone drinks Nescafé with condensed milk - behind her veil. So how on earth did she become a doctor? She laughs, quietly. 'Oh, I went on hunger strike for three days until my father agreed.'

In a side room in the hospital, I meet some of these newly qualified midwives - and find proof of something I was told before I came here: that in Yemen there are women who, having taken the veil when they reach puberty, show their faces to no one - not even their own mothers - until they marry. For this reason, though we are in a private room, I am able to see the face of only one of the midwives (she lifts her veil because she is a divorcee). The delivery room, I can't help thinking, must make for a strange sight. The women tell me how useful they have found their training; of the status it gives them in their villages; of how grateful they are for the appreciation - and prayers - of their patients; of how gratifying it is to earn their own money. But still, certain things they cannot change. What if there are complications?

'Some women will see a surgeon, but most won't allow a doctor [ie, a man] to see them,' says Asia Al-Jamah, 22. 'Not even for a check-up or an injection. They just go back home.' Then what? She gives me a wry look. 'We once had a woman who was bleeding. She refused to see the surgeon, even though we told her and her mother what might happen. So, she went home. A while later, I met her mother in the street and I asked her about her daughter. She was fine.' She shrugs. 'So, she was lucky.'

The midwives cannot work in isolation. Many women in rural areas don't make it to hospital in time, so in addition to the 22 midwives Oxfam will have trained by 2011, it also hopes to educate 30 traditional birth attendants: older women, trusted by their communities. An hour's drive from Say'un is the village of Sah. We arrive in its narrow streets in the early afternoon, when most people, even the men, are indoors, though I feel instinctively that our presence has been noted, that there are watchful eyes behind the deep windows of the ancient houses. Sure enough, when our contact, Jamilah, emerges from her home in a veil that covers every last part of her face, she tells us: 'Now everyone will be gossiping about me.' Jamilah helps to run a women's co-op in Sah, and has been active in encouraging women to sign up for

TBA training. This has not made her popular with the imams, though it's hard to know why, given that all they are learning is some basic healthcare. 'We face problems from the religious men,' she says. 'It is difficult for us to do anything. We're really suffering. But we won't surrender.' What she means is that she won't surrender. The trouble is, Basima tells me later, that Jamilah has few allies even among Sah's women.

Yemen's traditional houses are vertiginous towers that somewhat contradict the idea that the concept of high-rise living is both new, and unnatural. But, of course, their confusing passages and steep staircases are also designed to aid segregation. In the diwan (a large room reserved for socialising) of one such house, Jamilah has arranged for me to have tea with Sah women, including some who have trained as TBAs. They lift their veils to reveal their beautiful faces, but drop them at the first sight of my camera. They, too, have nothing but praise for what they have learnt. 'I used to tie the cord just once, then cut it,' says one. 'Now I know to tie it twice. The other thing is cleanliness: the tools, the wounds. We know if a woman has high blood pressure, and which cases should go to hospital.' Jamilah, who is unsure of her age but guesses it to be 42, has 10 children (the minimum in this group of women is eight), and her last baby was delivered after she completed her training. 'I knew better this time,' she says. 'I knew that if I hadn't delivered after 12 hours, I should go to hospital. My mother said: "No, you'll deliver in the road!" I didn't care. I was right. In hospital, I had an operation [a caesarian section].' She has since sent other women to hospital, one after she failed to deliver her placenta; in the past, this would never have happened.

The midwives had told me that they never discuss contraception with their patients. Have these women ever considered limiting their families? No! They round on me, their voices rising when they discover I have no children. 'They're happy about their children,' explains Aminah. 'It's from God.' But what about the expense? Sah is poor; they have already spoken of rising food prices. 'It's not in our hands,' says one. 'It's fine for you to have your work,' says another. 'But who will look after you when you are old?' Another woman tells me that she hopes my husband will give me a child as soon as I get home. A few of them are laughing openly at what they regard as my stupidity and lack of foresight. After I leave, and I'm once again in Sah's narrow, reticent streets, I look up at the high windows of the diwan. A couple of the younger women gaze down at me, their veils inky against the burnished red mud of the house. I wave at them and, after a moment's consideration, they wave back. I know what they're thinking. I'm a fool. A poor misguided English fool.

The next day, we get up at 3.30am, and drive back through the wadi for the flight to Sana'a. From Sana'a, we then drive for another four hours over the western mountains (the road is terrifying, especially since, by the time we leave, it is qat time, and every driver on the road is mildly stoned from chewing his afternoon leaves), until we reach the coast, and Al-Hudaydah. We stop only twice, so our drivers can pray. In Hudaydah, I am accompanied by Suha Bashren and her colleague, Wameedh Shaker. Suha and Wameedh are the only women I meet in Yemen who do not cover their faces in public (though they do cover their hair). 'Yes, we're unusual,' says Wameedh. How unusual? Very. Both women, who are in their thirties, recently got married: Wameedh to a journalist, Suha to an Oxfam colleague. 'The amazement! There were newspaper articles about us: "Oxfam workers get married. Congratulations to these very active



A typical scene in the rural areas outside Sana'a, where women do most of the work while their men get the privilege of being bosses. Photo by Nadia Strakova

women!" We were expected to stay single. It was thought that we were too liberal ever to find men.'

What is it like living in such a society? 'Whenever you do something, anything, you feel it, you're testing the water. All Arab countries suffer from a lack of citizenship rights, violence against women and so on. But in general, they're more advanced in terms of education, social labour and some political rights. They have laws, authorities, that we don't have. It's a mess, and it is marginalised women who bear the burden. Beside them, we feel small. They have much more courage than us.' For women such as Suha and Wameedh, who come from Aden, in the south, the situation is doubly frustrating. When Yemen was two countries, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, in the south, was a Marxist state with the most feminist constitution in the Arab world. But when reunification with the nationalist Yemen Arab Republic took place in 1990 and was followed by a civil war four years later, it was the north that emerged as victor. Unity was strengthened, but sharia became the basis of law-making. The influence of Saudi Arabia's strict Wahhabism is also having its effect, especially close to the border.

Wameedh and Suha take me to Hudaydah prison and, after a long wait on the governor's Seventies leather sofa beneath a creaking ceiling fan, I'm taken to meet women on whose cases Oxfam's volunteer lawyers work in their free time (the prison governor is unaware that I am a journalist). The women's prison is a squat concrete building, its communal cells built around a yard in which washing can be hung in the sun. The place is clean and tidy, the cells, open to the yard, freshly scrubbed by the 52 inmates who inhabit them. But it's shocking how many of the women have babies, and how terribly young some of the prisoners are; when a warder gathers them to ask for volunteers to meet me, it's as though I've walked into a classroom rather than a prison. S (for their own safety, I am unable to identify the women) is 21, A is 22 and M just 14. Their stories are patchy and dreamlike, a quality that perhaps catches the sophistry that led to their arrest.

'I was visiting a friend,' says M. 'We were in a friend's house. We were chewing qat. Suddenly, I was arrested for prostitution. I've been here 11 months.' M, who has been in prison for two months, recounts that she was watching TV in a neighbour's house when she was arrested on suspicion of

having committed an immoral act.

A tells me that a man offered to pay her for sex; when she refused, he took her to an interrogation centre where she was beaten until she admitted 'to everything I had done in the past'. She has been in prison for three months. None of the women has so far faced a trial.

Between them, Wameedh and Aminah unpick their stories for me. The friend whom S was visiting in her friend's house was probably a boyfriend. In the case of M, Wameedh believes that she is probably too ashamed to admit to me that she was having sex with a boy as well as watching television with him, though she later passed a virginity test. A has fallen victim to a local self-appointed religious vigilante, who is making it his business to arrest women on the streets. S begins to cry. 'My family are poor,' she says. 'They cannot do anything.' (Some prisoners are released if their families can pay up - irrespective of the so-called legal process.) The truth drawn out, it would not be an exaggeration to say that I am lost for words.

Some women in this prison were working as prostitutes (prostitution increases in the summer, when tourists from Saudi Arabia visit) and others have committed adultery, both 'crimes' under sharia law. But even by the standards of sharia, these women's 'offences' are slight; nor has any 'evidence' been presented to anything even resembling a court. When, as we leave, Wameedh challenges the governor about the cases of some of the women we have seen today, he acts the hapless victim of the state. Yes, people should get bail, but it never happens. No, children should not be in prison, but what can he do? Oxfam aims to challenge such sluggish and inhumane bureaucracy by raising awareness of women's rights (such as they are) and by providing legal aid to those who find themselves trapped within the Kafkaesque system. Slowly, working with their local partner, the Women's National Committee, they are affecting change. Until recently, a woman who had completed her sentence could not leave the prison until she was collected by a male relative. This rule has since been changed.

It is difficult enough to fight state-endorsed discrimination. But perhaps it's even more of a struggle to change the minds of people who have lived in such a culture all their lives. In a slum suburb of Hudaydah, I'm taken to meet a group of poor city women - many of them the wives and daughters of

Yemeni workers who were expelled from Saudi Arabia following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 (a million Yemenis were expelled as punishment for their country's failure to join the alliance against Iraq, and they now form one of its most deprived communities). These women are going to tell me about their experiences of early marriage, a practice that Oxfam and its partners are campaigning against. Poor families are keen on early marriage; the parents of a daughter will have one less mouth to feed, the parents of a son will receive both a dowry, and another unpaid worker. They also cite the example of the Prophet Mohammed, who consummated his marriage to Aisha when she was just nine years old (some scholars have argued that this was not so, but they remain in the minority). Sunnis believe that Aisha was the great love of the prophet's life, and that what was good enough for him, is good enough for them. They conveniently disregard the fact that Mohammed also took several other wives, all of them much older.

'Our approach to early marriage is not to link it to women's rights,' says Suha. 'No one would accept that. We link it to development. We talk about health, about how 430 women per 100,000 die during childbirth, one of the highest rates in the world. We tell them this number is not falling, and that 50 per cent of these women die before they are 19. So we link early marriage and pregnancy. We explain the effect of long years of fertility on the family economy and the country's resources.'

When she first started working on the issue in 2006, the mosques went mad. 'A mosque can destroy all your work in a day. An imam can wipe you from the surface of the earth. So we went very quiet. We waited. Then we began working again, forming alliances with tribal chiefs, and the people who write marriage contracts.' She and her colleagues will soon lobby parliament yet again in the hope that a law will be passed setting the legal age at which a girl can be married at 18, and she is hopeful. 'Resistance is getting lower.' What about the women? Are they starting to refuse to arrange marriages for their girls? She hesitates. 'We can't measure the impact yet.'

Once we are in the diwan of one of the women's houses, I realise why she hesitated. Most of the women gathered here, all of them married as teenagers, insist that they have been happy in their marriages. Then one, Shueiyah, who suddenly found herself with a husband at 12, before she'd even had

her first period, tells me how horrible it was.

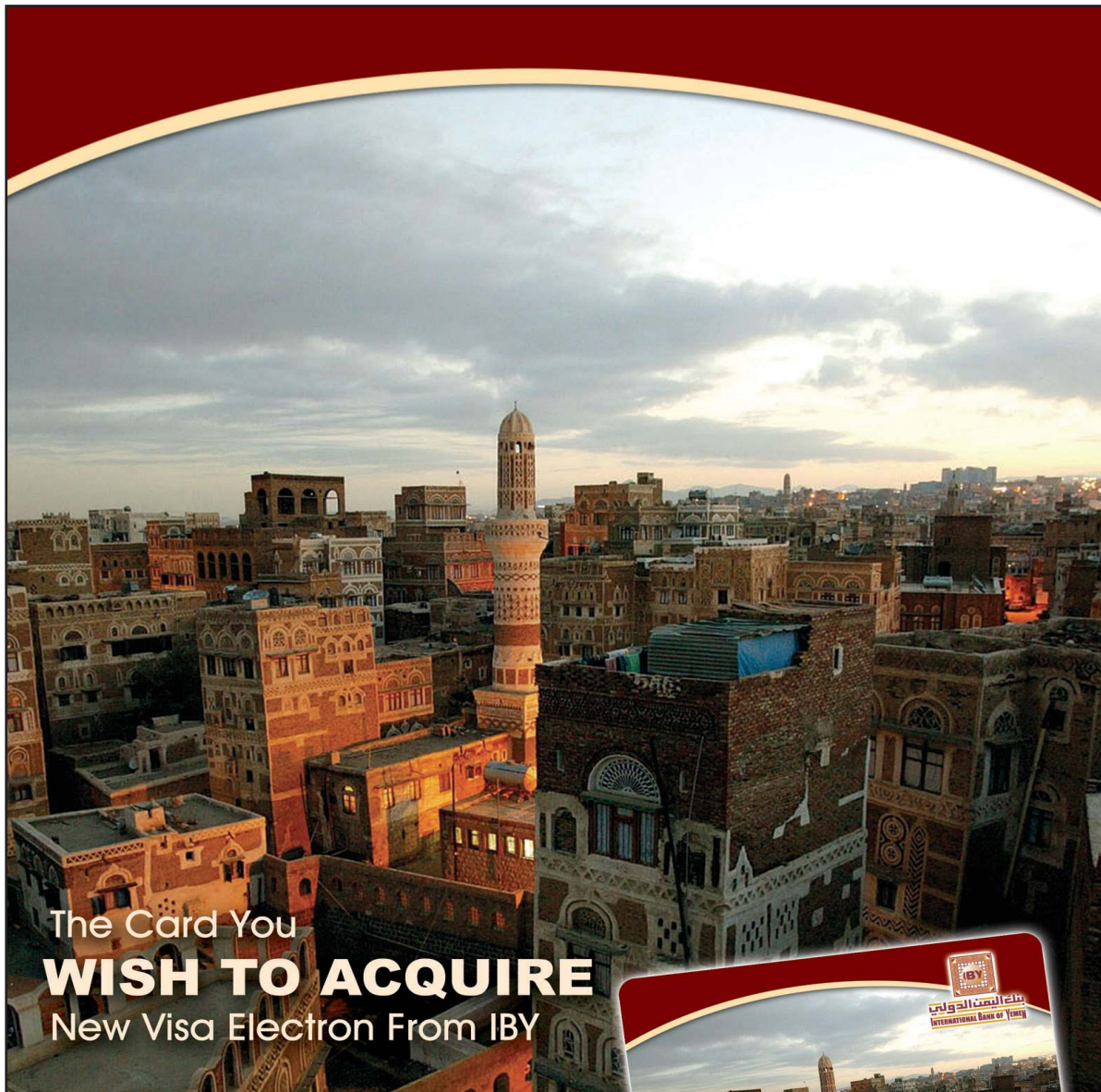
'At first, I was happy. There was singing, I had new shoes. Then I was alone with him in my room. I was afraid. I started to cry. He called his mother. She had to explain: "This is your husband. Don't be afraid. You're grown-up now. Act like a woman." I couldn't say no to my parents, but I didn't know what marriage involved.'

She didn't mind the cooking and cleaning. The only thing she didn't like was the night time. She used to try and find excuses to stay away from him. 'We argued a lot. But I couldn't explain why to his family. I couldn't tell them that it was because of sex. He wanted to have sex every night. No one told me anything about sex.'

She gave birth to a son, but four years later she and her husband divorced. We seize the moment. Was she too young? Would she put a daughter of hers through such a marriage? She laughs. 'I would be happy for my daughter to marry early.' When Suha starts to argue with her, Shueiyah becomes annoyed. It isn't long before she brings up Aisha.


On the journey back to our hotel, Suha lets off steam. She wonders aloud how she can prove to people that refusing to marry off children is not haram. Then she invites me to join her and Wameedh at the house of one of the Oxfam lawyers to chew qat. I do join them, though I don't chew qat; I don't have the taste for it. Our hostess has prepared delicious food, and she lights a water pipe for us. She dabs at our ears with exotic scents as if we were in a harem. No one is veiled; there are no men in the house. We could go on all night. Abdullah, our driver, is happy to wait for us: he is lying with the guard on a divan outside, chewing qat, in the cool of the night. It's a happy evening, our last before we go back to Sana'a. I admire these women more than I can say. So I get out my camera. I'm going to take a picture. But, no. Our hostess - a lawyer who gives up hours of her time fighting the cases of abused and forgotten women - gives me a big smile. 'I'm sorry but you can't take a photograph of me,' she says. 'Not like this.' She points to her unveiled face. 'I must ask my husband's permission, and he is out with his friends.' Like I said, nothing is straightforward here. Suha chews on her qat furiously.


Some names have been changed. For more information on Oxfam's work go to www.oxfam.org.uk guardian.co.uk © Guardian News and Media Limited 2008.



The Card You
WISH TO ACQUIRE
New Visa Electron From IBY

- No Security Deposit No Margix.
- With No Issuing or Annual Charges.
- An Account at IBY is all you Need.



INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN  **بنك اليمن الدولي**

Your Goal is Our Goal

For more information, Please Contact Toll Free: 800 6000 Fixed line and Yemenmobile Or TEL 6000 any G.S.M Network

www.ibyemen.com



Invitation for General Bid NO. (7) 2008 year

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (7) 2008 year for importing, supervising installment, checking, operating, confirming, submitting, and guarantee of ELECTRICITY GENERATOR DYNAMOS WITH ITS STUFF FOR YEMENI TV CHANNEL.

All the interested participants apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:

The TV and Radio General Corporation – Engineering Section – General Administration for Projects - tel: (01/ 230751)

For buying and having the entire bid documents with receipt: (500 \$) non refund. The deadline of selling the documents is: 18/6/2008.

The file should be enveloped and sealed with the red wax and submitted to the secretary of bids and out-bids committee of the corporation. The file should be addressed with name of the authority, the name of the project, the number of the bid, and the name of the applicant, and the file should include all the following documents:

- 1- Submitting unconditional banking warranty with amount 7000 \$ valid for 120 days starting from the day of opening the files.
- 2- Submitting a copy of the taxing card valid 2008: all the foreign bidders, who don't work, submit a copy of the register documents for extra cost taxation from their countries.
- 3- Submitting a copy of the insurance card valid for 2008 year (the insurance cards are only requested from those companies which have assets in Yemen and have the right to utilize from the revenues given from the general corporation for social insurance in Yemen).
- 4- A copy of the alms tax valid for 2008 year.
- 5- The deadline of receiving the documents and opening the files at 11:00 am on Sunday morning 22/6/2008 at the main branch of the corporation.



DFID Department for
International
Development

Department for International Development Management of Yemen Justice and Policing Programme Reference CNTR 200808435

The Department for International Development (DFID) wishes to engage the services of a Managing Consultant for a new justice and policing programme in Yemen. The purpose of the programme is to support the Government of Yemen (GoY) and civil society to develop more effective, accessible and fairer justice and policing services for all Yemenis. It will involve work on capacity building in key institutions, local service delivery and donor/sectoral coordination. The Managing Consultants will be responsible for the effective management and implementation of the programme, including through the establishment of a Programme Management Unit in Sana'a, provision of long-term and short-term advisers for the Government of Yemen on policing and criminal justice, and management of an international non-governmental organisation working on local service delivery. The Managing Consultants will work closely with the GoY and will therefore require strong political analysis skills. The Managing Consultants will also be expected to have strong experience of justice and policing programmes in developing countries (preferably in the Middle East); a proven track record on project management; access to quality personnel with strong technical policing and justice expertise and experience, and Arabic language skills.

Site or location of works, place or delivery of performance is Yemen

Duration of the contract is up to 60 months with the possibility of extension of up to 12 months.

Please refer to the DFID website at www.dfid.gov.uk/procurement/contractopportunities.asp for a copy of the full OJEU notice, draft Terms of Reference and details required for completion of Expressions of Interest (EOIs), including the required Application Form. EOIs will be evaluated against the criteria outlined in the Application Form.

As from April 2001 all UK development assistance has been fully untied, which allows suppliers from anywhere in the world to tender for DFID projects.



IMMEDIATE JOB OPENINGS

SAFER EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION OPERATIONS COMPANY ("SEPOC")

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

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

1. Job Title: Mechanical Technician
2. Job Title: IT Analyst
3. Job Title: Application Project Team Leader

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

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

What do young people think about Yemen's unification?

People all over Yemen celebrated Unification Day on May 22, taking time to reflect on the benefits of unification and the quality of their lives when the country was divided into north and south. So what do young people – who were children or infants in 1990 and have

lived most of their lives in a unified Yemen – think about this unification? Yemeni youths surveyed here – from different parts of the country – overwhelmingly held up unification as an ideal for the nation and for the entire Arab world as well. Below, they describe what Yemeni unification means to them personally.

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly
For The Yemen Times

Fayad Al-Shurmani, 27, accountant, Taiz



Yemeni unification was our forefathers' ambition for centuries. Achieved by the leaders of both North and South Yemen, it was the best achievement we've ever made. We would sacrifice our souls for unity. However, we should be careful of those who interfere in our matters only for their own interests. Unification is better for both southerners and northerners, but especially for northerners, who were living harsh lives before unification.

Nashwan Sa'eed, 22, student and music shop owner, Taiz



May 22 was a great day in our history. We're proud of this unification, wherein the two parts of our nation were combined into one. It was a major achievement because it brought about security and stability for the entire country so that you now feel safe everywhere you go.

Abdulkhalik Al-Nahari, 23, cafeteria employee, Dhamar



Yemeni unification means that all Yemeni hearts are united under one name – "The Republic of Yemen" – and one flag. It's a dream for all other Arab countries.

With unification, the nation's resources became [available] to all Yemenis, so we're now eating from one table instead of two.

Nowadays, you see nations occupied due to separation between their people. I'm proud of our unification, as well as of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who made this unity, may Allah protect him.

Lina Ahmed Abdullah, 25, Aden



It's good for us to be one nation under one leadership taking care of all Yemenis. Unification has brought some useful and successful projects to all of Yemen, but on the other hand, scholarships and employment only go to certain regions rather than others.

For example, some southerners are suffering unemployment. Some have jobs, but many still are without a source of livelihood, particularly new graduates, as well as women, who make up half of society.

Ayman Ameen, 26, German language student, Sana'a



For all Yemenis, Yemeni unification means security. Without such unity, there would be conflicts – ideological, political and religious – between various parts of the country. Accordingly, the nation's resources, especially oil resources, would be divided up and lost and poverty and unemployment would increase.

To those who think separation is a solution to our problems nowadays, I say no, they're wrong. It will lead us to hell.

Lu'ay Al-Shami, 19, student, Ibb



It's not only Yemeni unification, it's the core of Arab unity and it will last forever. I t

strengthens our brotherhood, with no more borders separating Muslims. The removal of borders led to the disappearance of hatred and troubles between Yemenis.

Arabs won't realize true development unless they unite with each other. Why don't we unite Yemen and Saudi Arabia and then the entire Arab world would become one? Only then could we defend our nations against occupation.

Ahmed Al-Absi, student, Al-Dhale'



Unity is power. Unification has joined us – north and south. Islam also calls for unity. Throughout history, people have tended to unite because it implies power. Our nation's unity has joined us firmly together.

If all Arabs united, no one could occupy Palestine or Iraq because separate nations help our enemies invade us easily.

Faris Azzan, 30, engineer, Al-Mahwit



The map of the Arabian Peninsula has been reshaped by Yemen's unification. It was the most

strategic achievement for Yemenis. This unity yielded a large nation – in both area and population – rich in resources such as oil, fish and

agriculture.

There's no doubt that unity is an important element of our life, so we must protect it from enemies. Some mistakes were made in declaring unification in 1990, but Yemenis should correct these mistakes wisely by enforcing law and justice – not the other way around.

Izzaddin Al-Nuwairah, 19, student, Al-Mahwit



Unification was a typical step in the progress of Yemeni life. Achieving unification is a blessing from Allah. In my opinion, no one who loves this country would call for separation because the relationship between the two parts of our nation is an integral one, with each needing the other. Therefore, we should defend our unity like it's our honor.

Ibrahim Al-Awdi, 19, student, Al-Dhale'



Unification has never been just a bout protocols and political agreements; rather, it's in Yemenis' hearts. We are Yemenis and that means one name and one country.

Unification was the national will before it was a leadership decision. Whatever the current situation is, separation is merely an illusion because unity is in our hearts rather than in the land.

Amani Al-Mikhlafi, 19, student, Taiz



Yemeni unity was a meritorious project achieved by our wise leadership. They've made something good for the nation and avoided struggles and conflicts. I think our unification gives us security and that's enough.

What's more important than security and stability? While there are a few problems, we're fine as long as we have our unity. We

need to reform the current situation, but unity still is a great achievement.

Hussam Al-Maqtari, 24, student, Taiz



After a long time of separation, Yemen's cultural heritage was reunited. The human resources, as well as the natural resources from both parts of the country, now can be used jointly for development. If we were separate, we would be weak.

Saber Ba-Matraf, student, Hadramout



It's a religious duty to be united. Unification reformed our history and culture. It's

been 18 years since unification was declared, but that development wasn't enough. I think the recent gubernatorial elections will help with our reform and development. Without unity, conflicts would erupt between various parts of our nation.

Bandar Al-Fahahi, 21, student, Amran



My love for unification is as great as my love for my parents and life. It's a great achievement. We've been in

a bad situation, but thank God, we've started solving our problems. Following unification, our lives have changed for the better as the hatred between northerners and southerners vanished, replaced by love and respect.

Ghamdan Farhan, 19, student, Hajjah



Unification is essential for us because it's both economic and social power. I call on all Yemeni parties and organizations to protect our unity and keep building this nation.

To all of those calling for separation, I say that it's impossible to be separate after we've been united.

Dua'a Al-Kilabi, student, 19, Iraq



I look at Yemeni unification as an example for all Arab nations. When Yemenis achieved unity, they gave all Arabs hope that one day, there might be Arab unity. Only then will it be difficult for our enemies to overcome us because we'd be together. Even the small problems and struggles between Arab brothers would disappear.

Hibah Al-Selwi, 19, student, Taiz



After continual conflicts between various parts of Yemen, unification was declared. It was an immense and wonderful event.

Now, all Yemenis work together for the sake of developing their nation. There's nothing good whatsoever about separation because unity is power. With all due respect to those who oppose unification, I think they're crazy.

Safa'a Salem, 19, student, Sana'a



Unification is solidarity and cooperation. Together, we're able to face all kinds of troubles in our country.

Additionally, Islam commands us to seek unity among Muslims. My comment for those who agree with the idea of separation is, "Unity is strength." Maybe they think they would be free, but then they surely would discover that it was an illusion.

Yousra Al-Maqbali, 22, student, Ibb



Yemen has been a lesson to all Arabs, showing that unity is possible. Before unification, two different

political, educational and economic systems ruled our nation. I want to ask those who support the idea of separation to think [about it].

I'm sure they'll come to the realization that unification isn't the reason for our problems – it's the solution.

Advertisement for Expressions of Interest for Consultant Services for Tender No. 15/2008

The Local Water And Sanitation Corporation Aden Governorate (LWSCA) here by announces it's desire to invite Consulting firms to indicate their interest to participate in providing the following consultative services:

Technical Consultancy Services for the Aden Water and Sanitation Utilities Development Project (AWSUDP) which includes:

- (i) preparation of Detailed Feasibility Study
- (ii) Preparation of Detailed Designs and Tender Documents and
- (iii) Tendering and Construction Supervision of the project works

which will be financed 100% through a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

Interested consultants have to provide evidences for their qualifications to carry out the whole of the above services specially:

- General information and experience of the firm, previous projects they were involved in, work experience in similar conditions, references, etc.. A firm may associate to enhance its qualification.
- Specific experience of the Consultant in the field of the assignment, main task of the consultant and years of experience in the required service (water supply and wastewater studies and designs and construction supervision of water and wastewater projects and related topics)
- Qualifications of key personnel and availability of required skills among staff for both studies and design as well as for construction supervision and management.
- Agency that can be referred to for confirmation.

The expressions of interest will be evaluated using a points system based upon the following:

General qualifications of the Consultant 20 points;
Specific experience of the Consultant in the field of the assignment 40 points
Qualifications and availability of appropriate staff for the assignment 40 points.

To be qualified to receive an invitation to bid Consultants must achieve a minimum points score of 80 points. Preference will be given to consultants if 50% or more of the staff are from Arab consulting firms.

A Consultant will be selected using Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method in accordance with the procedures set out in the Executive By-law of Procurement Law and it's Manual for the Procurement of Consultants Services issued in the year 2007 by the Ministry of Finance and which are explained in the RFP.

The deadline for receiving documents will be on Wednesday June 4th, 2008.

Interested consultants may obtain further information about the assignment between 09:00 a.m. and 13:00 p.m. Saturday to Wednesday at the address shown below.

Three hard copies of the EOI and a digital copy on CD must be delivered to the address below not later than 1:30 pm (Aden Local Time) on Wednesday, June 4th, 2008.

The Project Manager
Local Water and Sanitation Corporation Aden (LWSCA)
Office of the Project Implementation Unit
For attention of Mr. Khamis Ghithan Mobile : 733876033
Crater – Aden , Queen Arwa Road
P.O. Box 4004 Aden
Aden, Republic of Yemen
Tel.(+) 967 2 251269 (Procurement Manager)
Fax.(+) 967 2 266921
e-mail address: water-aden@y.net.ye

VACANCIES

A leading company in the field of automobile operations and having the franchise of the biggest car manufacturers in the world, announces the following vacant posts:

1-General Manager - Automotive Operation

2-Marketing and Sales Manager

Only candidates of solid background and specialization can apply.

Candidates should be university graduates preferably with MBA or Ph.D.

Only qualified candidates can submit applications at e-mail address info@intergroupye.com or Fax no. 425 788 or P.O Box 5656 Sana'a



Vacancy Advertisement

An immediate vacancy exists at the World Bank Office in Sana'a for an **Administrative Assistant**.

The applicant is expected to meet the following requirements:

- Have three-five years of office work experience including administrative and logistical support.
- Have excellent command of verbal and written Arabic and English.
- Have computer aptitude and ability to master new applications including accounting packages. Knowledge of SAP will be an advantage.
- Have excellent interpersonal, communication and organizational skills.
- Be a committed team player able to work in a multi-cultural environment.
- Have flexibility to absorb ad hoc tasks and work under pressure.
- Understanding of accounting work is desirable.

The incumbent will perform the following duties:

- Provide assistance to accounting department, including maintaining files for accounting and administrative procurement documents, preparing materials for audit checks including photocopying and scanning, preparing excel tables for payments, processing insurance for office vehicles, follow-up on invoices with vendors, obtaining quotations and participating in vendor due diligence reviews, distributing checks to vendors.
- Petty cash custodian. Keeping petty cash ledger and processing transactions related to petty cash.
- Asset custodian including annual inventory of the bank property. Custodian of office mobiles, keys, passes.
- Manage office stationery and store supplies, including keeping consumption sheet and requesting replenishment when needed.
- Process visas/permits for Country Office staff including drafting and typing letters in Arabic/English, interact with concerned government authorities, etc.
- Follow-up on customs clearances for office, maintain staff lists for security and medical purposes, follow up on replenishments with the Bank and perform other miscellaneous duties assigned by the supervisor.

For full consideration, please send by e-mail your letter of application accompanied by the CV before June 10, 2008 to WBYemen@worldbank.org or apply on-line: <http://www.worldbank.org/jobs> and choose vacancy # 081142. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Contemplating on Arab-Islamic development obstacles

By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

How a serious examiner of the Arab-Islamic situations is likely to progress amid a spacious forest of darkness and through a path full of risks, which are the result of standing secondary disputes over minor ambitions. How it is possible for such an examiner not to turn sad or not to cry while realizing that situations of this Umma, which is capable to be the best one, is going from bad to worse, and the experiences of its peoples culminate with devastating failure.

The worst thing is that the tribulation of this nation and the reasons for its disputes are clearly traceable back to the very beginning of the Islamic Nation's appearance in the effective human theater and after this nation was armed with the divinely knowledge and spiritual signs that can not be dispensed with under any circumstances.

The just caliph Omar Bin Abdulaziz

determined the prominent reasons behind deterioration of the Arab-Islamic Nation, by saying: "This nation has the same God, the same Prophet and the same Holy Book, but Muslims differ with each other in the dinar and the dirham." This famous saying applies to the situations of the Islamic Umma since the age of the just caliph up until the moment when Muslims found themselves extremely engaged in sharp disputes over the dollar and other currencies.

Undoubtedly, all of them are Muslims, believe in Allah, recite the Holy Book and bear witness that Mohammed (Peace Be Upon Him) is the only messenger of Allah. They have no differences over such great facts, but disputes emerge over the earthly affairs and gains, and this is the primary reason behind the fragmentation of Muslims, who never reach a consensus on their daily issues. The behavior of Muslims makes one bear in mind that they belong to different religions without any uniformed

principle or logic.

No wonder that this conflict, which has terribly proliferated, got sharper and become the key challenge in the lives of Muslims irrespective of their variable lands and systems, is primarily responsible for Muslims' weaknesses. It is this conflict that attracted junior and senior enemies to occupy the Islamic soil and produce the western Zionist entity, which is dominating the holy shrines of Muslims and splitting the Palestinian brothers. Additionally, this conflict is the main reason behind the Zionist dominance over the Aqsa Mosque and excavation of trenches around it, as well as fencing it.

Conflicts over material gains and power between contemporary leaders of sects made one billion and half a billion of Muslims under a direct or indirect foreign occupation in their homelands without an exception.

Frankly speaking, the caliph Omar Bin Abdulaziz said the right thing about the Islamic Umma as Muslims differ

with each other over material gains, but they believe in the same God, the same messenger and the same Book.

Certainly, this will remain the primary concern of Muslims until they manage to discover the real reasons behind their differences and disputes, as well as their fragmentation and internal conflicts. They will also remain ruled and not rulers, importers and not exporters, and followers and not leaders. They will have no foreign forces to lend a hand in helping them overcome their persisting issues because they themselves decline to overcome their indecency, which is caused by the dirham and the dinar.

As evident through any prudence excerpted from studies of the real-life situation and experiences of peoples, all the standing situations will never help change what is inside the human souls, nor may they reduce destructive chaos and excessive engagement in earthly gains.

Turning point in international development:

Issues of Islamic and international development took center stage at the 2002 (UN-sponsored Johannesburg Summit, but the Middle East was virtually ignored in favor of partnerships with Africa and Central Asia. Indeed for the Middle East and other Muslim countries, issues of development and modernization have acquired new urgency in the context of transnational terrorist networks rising in the region.

The current war on terrorism, conducted by the United States in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, does not address the underlying sense of alienation among the Middle East's unemployed youths, who provide support for terrorist networks. Sustainable human development in the region thus represents the ultimate solution to regional instability and to swelling support for terrorism. Policies pursued by the United States under the administrations of US Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush adversely

impacted regional conditions; even if the countries in the region achieve self-sustainable human development, continued US confrontations with Iraq and support for Israel at the expense of the Palestinians will surely aggravate the underlying conditions for terrorism.

The situation in the Middle East can be characterized as a new clash of globalizations that frames the processes of development and modernization in much of what used to be called the Third World. Pressured to undergo extensive political and economic reforms, states in the region are caught between the imperialistic impulses of a neo-conservative Bush administration and other, apparently more benign, multilateral proponents of globalization, such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and United Nations. Meanwhile, some of the more radical Islamist opposition parties stand pitted against any such reform-oriented forces.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily.

Together against potential fifth Sa'ada War

By: Raima Al-Shami

Four destructive wars have taken place in Sa'ada governorate with funds coming from the state's treasury while Yemeni citizens pay the price for their aftermath. Such consecutive wars caused huge human and material losses, destroyed social values and helped chaos become rampant while Yemeni people don't know about their real causes.

Is it not time for us to come together

against a potential war in the restless governorate that may bring to five the number destructive wars plaguing innocent citizens and making their poor living standards worsen.

Life in Sa'ada is miserable, the human situation there is tragic and the negative consequences of ceaseless fighting may continue to threaten human and animal life in the northern governorate. Up to 106 primary and secondary schools have been closed and thousands of children dropped out of schools as a result of endless fighting between the army and Houthis.

Sa'ada children turned to know

nothing more than the language of killing, fighting and bloodshed. They are leading an abnormal life and are denied their right to have easy access to education.

In order to rescue Yemen from becoming like Somalia or Iraq, we must give no chance for such tragic incidents to take place in our homeland. The ordeal suffered by Sa'ada citizens throughout the consecutive wars reflects the real situation of large numbers of Yemeni people sharing the same catastrophes in the different parts of the nation, which is the direct result of a totalitarian regime adopting the

kind of policies that make citizens more famished and ailing.

The series of consecutive wars taking place in Sa'ada have no clear reason to justify why they broke out. The regime then find out that those consecutive wars in the restive province of Sa'ada are symptomatic of its poor policies that contravened the Constitution and effective laws.

Sa'ada citizens, who paid the price for government's poor and unjust policies, provided an evident example for the remaining citizens in the other parts of Yemen to avoid being deceived by such government's policies. The

government is found to have been using all the state's facilities and instigating army members to kill innocent citizens in the four Sa'ada consecutive wars over ethnical and sectarian differences. This is why Sa'ada citizens are predicting an exceptional fifth Sa'ada war.

Inheritance project defeated:

The authority used all the capacities and tools it had during the four past wars in Sa'ada but it could not win the battle. It continued to wage war on Sa'ada citizens, but reaped nothing more than shameful failure, despite its capacity

and long experience in creating crises and inventing domestic wars that proceed in its favor and help it defeat the other side.

The main reason why the government's policies couldn't reach fruitful results in Sa'ada is that its injustice terribly grew and exceeded its reasonable limit and so did the administrative and financial corruption. Such failure is an indicator of defeating the potential inheritance project planned by the current authority that prepares for bequeathing power to relatives.

Source: Marebpress.net

Puzzles and Precious Particularities of Yemen

By: Khaled Fattah

Outside observers of Yemen's social and political life can not avoid noticing many conceptual puzzles and precious particularities. One of the widely known puzzles among researchers with political science background is the surprising fact that although Yemen is the least developed and weakest Arab state that governs a society characterized by fierce tribal traditions and structures, it's a country with a party pluralism system. Precious particularities of Yemen, on the other hand, are numerous. To begin with, there is a coincidence of almost everything- from geographical and topographical destiny to the patterns of habitation and concentration of sects; and from the shades of experienced ideologies and insecurity of economic resources to the peculiar nature of colonialism and regional power interventions. This sharp multifaceted coincidence is not something of the past. Rather, it is being felt in every bone in the political, economic and socio-cultural skeletons of today's fragile Yemen.

Here is an interesting example of such a coincidence: The Shiite Zaydis who comprise approximately 30 to 40% of the Yemeni nation have traditionally been concentrated in the rugged mountainous northern areas and in the drier flatter eastern sections of the country. In such an ecological context, pastoralism rather than farming dominated the socio-economic life. As a result, Zaydis have generally been organized along tribal patterns

rather than sedentary ones. For more than a millennium, tribes in this inhospitable terrain constituted the military backbone for the string of successive despotic imams.

Despite their religiously-based support to the Imams, however, tribes have often resisted any attempt from the Imams to impose their central authority and direct control.

For most of its history, the Zaydi theocratic state was weakly centralized, revolved around the personality of the imam, and were in no position to combat powerful tribal structures. There is, actually, a wide agreement among historians of Yemen that the salient feature of any Yemeni central authority, even long before the Imamate dynasty, has been its limited capacity to penetrate and directly regulate tribes in the mountainous northern areas. The topography of this part of Yemen has prevented any kind of single centralized control. Interestingly, it has also prevented state authoritarianism from flourishing as it did in the rest of the Arab Middle East.

The Sunni Shafis, on the other hand, who constitute the major community in Yemen, dominate the Southern highlands and coastal areas, which receive abundant monsoon rainfall. Such geographical locations made the socio-economic life of the Sunni Shafis characterized by sedentary farming and commercial tradition. Indeed, throughout the history of Yemen most of the trading activities with the outside world were channeled through the largely Shafi cities of Aden and Ta'iz. As a result, Sunni Shafis were more outward-looking, and had a high rate

of emigration than the Shiite Zyadis in former North Yemen. This sectarian and mode of production division has created, over time, two different societies within Yemen.

The second significant particularity is the fact that North Yemen, unlike almost all entities of the developing world, never came under European colonization. This means it did not inherit colonial infrastructure, and had the least contact with the Western world. The third particularity of interest is the one related to concentration of authority and power. Few centuries ago, a Danish botanist made a scientific expedition to Egypt and Yemen and noted the following: "The Arab Yemen is different from the Arab Egypt; here the noble live far from the centers". This observation by a botanist is politically valid in most of Yemen's ancient and modern history. The Yemeni elites have always been widely dispersed and often beyond any central control. Even in today's Yemen, in a sharp contrast to the rest of the region, authority and influence are concentrated much more around houses of powerful tribal Sheikhs than around government buildings.

Bearing in mind that Yemen is an ancient society, which is governed by a newly established modern state system, such ecological,

topographical and socio-psychological divisions continue to feed the tense relationship between tribal, regional and national identities. Each of these identities requires loyalties of its members, each represents alternative institutions of power and social control, and each enables actors to create not only overlapping social meanings but

also multiple vehicles for political and economic demands. The latter usually become louder and more intense at times of national crises, and may pose a serious threat to public order when it takes a non-peaceful form. To remove or at least reduce the friction that is generated by the push-pull forces of sectarian, regional, tribal and national

identities, it is crucial for Yemen's decision makers to adopt, without delay, politics of citizenship and inclusion.

Khaled Fattah
Doctoral Candidate-University of St Andrews
UK



By: Samer

YEMEN TIMES

www.yementimes.com

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

Tel: +967 (1) 268-661

Fax: +967 (1) 268-276

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

E-mail: yteditor@gmail.com

Letters: yteditor@gmail.com

Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

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

CEO
Khaire Aldin

Managing Editor
Amel Al-Ariqi

Feature Editor
Mohammed Al-Jabri

Copy Editor Dana Patterson

Sub-Editor Sarah Wolff

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

Senior Reporter
Ismail Al-Ghabri

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff
Mojalli, Almgidat Thabet, Hamed

Offices

Aden Bureau:

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

Taiz Bureau:

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

Subscription rates:

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

Policies:

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

News Photography a Second-Hand Profession?

News photographers in the Arab world are having a hard time making their living. Vague copyright laws and disrespect for the profession are major obstacles, with their work rarely being considered a fundamental element of journalistic work.

By: Alexandra Sandels
Arab Press Network

Whenever Samer Mohdad, photographer and CEO of the Beirut-based photo archival agency Arab Images Foundation, opens the newspaper and finds his own pictures randomly appearing in the paper without credit, it is no surprise to him. "There have been several times where my work has been featured in Arab publications without my consent," said Mohdad to APN.

He even recalls a few occasions where publications copied and scanned pictures from books containing his photos. All to avoid payment, according to Mohdad.

"Paying photographers for their work should not be optional in any way," John Perkins, a British freelance photographer based in Cairo told APN. He added that he has had his pictures published in several prominent Cairo-based publications but that only one of them has actually paid him for his work so far. The other papers promised to, but in practice never did.

Jean-Lou Bersuder heads the photo department at Lebanon's An-Nahar

daily newspaper. He too says he has experienced similar incidents to that of Mohdad in his work as a photographer. "I once found my photo appearing in a magazine without permission. The publication had copied it from one of my books. When I asked them where they got the picture from, they said they didn't know," Bersuder told APN.

'Second-hand' and 'second-man'? It is not uncommon to hear photographers working in the Arab world complain about their work being violated or at times even 'stolen'. Some photojournalists claim that their profession is considered a 'second-class job' in the region.

"I feel like newspapers in the Arab world often don't appreciate photography. It's as if they think that anyone can do it, like handing a camera to a local doorman, a natuur, asking him to take pictures to avoid paying the photographer," stressed Mohdad.

Ramsi Haydar, a veteran photographer with AFP in Beirut, told APN that photographers often tend to be 'the second man' after the writers, but perhaps more for financial reasons.

"A journalist needs only this," said Haydar while holding up a pen. "Photographers come with a lot of

expensive equipment."

One journalist working at an English-language publication in Cairo further illustrated that claim. She told APN that due to budget constraints the writers are usually responsible for taking their own pictures when they're out reporting.

Photo free-loading

Since Perkins started his career as a photojournalist in 2001 he claims to have had several run-ins with free loaders, mostly bloggers.

"I've had my photos stolen a lot, but mainly by bloggers. It's annoying, but it's hard to chase them down so I don't bother. Sometimes it's actually funny, or nice, or interesting even that they choose to use my photos," he said.

Bloggers set aside; there is evidence that newspapers often take photos off the Web.

Bersuder, head of the photo department at An-Nahar, remains sceptical to that claim, saying that the bad quality of online pictures often makes it hard for print publications to use them.

"The resolution of pictures available on the Internet is often too low for newspapers to use. You can immediately spot a picture that has been taken off the Net," he reassured.

Bersuder puts forth that the majority of newspapers in Lebanon have a photo department with the exception of a few publications. Most, he says, work with one of the large photo agencies such as AFP or Reuters, and several have staff photographers.

"Photographers working at interna-

tional photo agencies rarely have their photos violated. That's, however, not the case for the rest," added Bersuder.

According to Douglas Okasaki, Art Director at Dubai's Gulf News, the copyright problems photographers face are 'not rare occurrences'.

"There is a lack of information about the use of photography in Arab media. Why do we still see pictures appearing in the newspaper without reference to the source or with a byline?"

He also pointed to blurred practices in the design and photo divisions of newspapers in the Arab region, adding that 'it's hard to find standard or professional procedures in the design and picture departments'.

Copyright controversy and technology leaps

One explanation to the issue might be what photographers claim is the 'vague implementation' of copyright laws.

"A robust copyright law exists in Lebanon, but it's hardly ever used," said Bersuder. "The judiciary doesn't seem to know when to apply the law. There has yet to be a court case in Lebanon on this matter". This confusion also discourages photographers to bring a copyright case to court.

Mohdad of the Arab Images Foundation echoed Bersuder's argument, saying that in his work with European and Arab media, he has only had problems with Arab publications, an issue he attributes to ambiguous laws.

"It's completely different working with Europe. No European publication has used my work without permission. There are stricter copyright laws in Europe and they actually use them over there," said Mohdad.

Perkins, who mainly works with European media, puts forth that general obstacles surrounding photography are not limited to the Arab world. Photographers everywhere have to deal with low salaries and high equipment costs.

"Day rates for magazine assignments haven't increased in Europe since I started in 2001. And the cost of living, not to mention digital equipment, has gone up. Now I'm expected to do what previously was the job of photo labs, for no extra pay," argued Perkins.

The development in camera technology has also complicated the work of photographers, adding fierce competition from all corners. Cheap digital cameras and mobile phones with built-in cameras now enable almost anyone to engage in photojournalism on their own initiative.

"With an adequate lens you can take good quality pictures even from a mobile phone. I remember how we for example used a fantastic picture from a man who had taken it with his cellular phone," said Bersuder.

The 'photography culture'

Obscure copyright laws and advances in technology left aside, photographers point to the need for change in what they call the 'photography culture' of

the Arab region.

"It's like they think that it's 'normal' to pay for pictures in Europe because that's the practice there. In Lebanon for example, you have the notion that you can 'do anything'. No one will take you in the ear and pull you over to court for not paying for a picture," said Bersuder.

Haydar highlighted Lebanon's complicated political situation, saying that 'there is no time to deal with copyright laws when the country is without President'.

In terms of future prospects for photography in the Arab world, Bersuder emphasizes that while the implementation of copyright laws is important, photographers need also to look to themselves.

"Many photographers who are working for news publications are selling their pictures on the side here and there. This practice both hurts their reputation and drives down the market price of the pictures," he stressed.

Most importantly though, he said, photographers 'must remember to be skilled journalists above all'.

"A good news photographer is first and foremost a journalist. Just because you buy an expensive camera it doesn't mean that you are a good photographer like some think".

Perkins offered rather sceptical thoughts on the future, asserting that his profession has become a 'cheap industry' that he doesn't want to be part of.

"I'm considering calling myself an artist from now on," he concluded.

Should Palestinians forgive Israel?

By: Samir El-Youssef

In the first chapter of Amos Oz's novel *My Michael*, the protagonist Hannah recalls her childhood friends, Khalil and Aziz, two Palestinians who in 1948 disappeared along with 800,000 of their people. In the last chapter she imagines her two friends coming back to blow everything up. By then Hannah has descended into madness.

Hannah, like Oz and his generation of Israelis, knows that before the war of 1948 there was another, older and larger society than her own, and that that society was destroyed and its traces erased; the population was forced to leave, villages were razed to the ground and cities, neighbourhoods and streets were renamed. She must also know that the destruction of the Palestinian society was necessary for the creation of Israel. Unlike her generation, however, Hannah is willing to admit what she knows; but that's only because she is mad.

Israelis know that, within the ongoing conflict, making this acknowledgement could, as the novel concludes, be an act of madness and a call for self-destruction. For such an acknowledgement endorses the basic and uncompromising Palestinian claims. Practically every single Palestinian believes that before the Nakba — or "catastrophe" — there was a Palestinian society similar to Arab societies in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt; that if it hadn't been for Jewish migration to Palestine, with the intention and means of creating a Jewish state, Palestine would have progressed into a sovereign Palestinian state.

Were the Israelis to endorse such claims they would have to admit that the creation of the State of Israel has blocked the natural birth of the Palestinian state; they would, therefore, risk facing the call to stand up to their responsibilities and correct the wrong they have done. But how could they do that without undoing their own nation and agreeing to become citizens of the long delayed Palestinian state? Could the Israelis — as a nation whose ancestors suffered a long history of discrimination, prosecution and genocide — take such a risk without being absolutely mad?

Madness, however, doesn't always lead to the risk of self-destruction. Indeed, some of it could be so benign as to be the only hope. Let's imagine a Palestinian protagonist, a Palestinian Hannah who could understand the position of the Israelis — that they have no choice but to evade or postpone admitting the embarrassing facts of pre-1948; that at best they

could try to skip these facts by supporting a half-baked solution, such as the so-called two-state solution, by which Palestinians are offered a compensatory miniature state. A Palestinian Hannah would also acknowledge that the damage has been done and attempts to undo Israel could only lead to further damage—and that Palestinians must forgive Israelis. Forgiveness is good, and a decent society must do the good thing; it might also be the only hope to save present and future Palestinian generations from the curse of a damaged past. But surely one can't expect a stateless people, who for the past 60 years have been condemned to the life of refugees or, at best, second-rate citizens, to forgive? It would be a pure submission to eternal misfortune.

Well, Palestinian forgiveness would be a risk, one that would require the courage of the mad, hence Hannah. For Israelis could see this as an act of surrender, an incentive not for peace but for more seizure of Palestinian land

and total suffocation of Palestinian life. If Israelis were to misuse Palestinian forgiveness then the act of forgiveness would be nullified. Forgiveness addresses past injustices only. By forgiving Israelis, Palestinians would exempt them from past responsibility, but not give them license to commit further injustice. On the other hand, Israelis might appreciate what they are offered; forgiveness would mean an end to violence motivated by past grievance, and if this didn't bring about a peaceful solution it would probably lead to a state of calm, in which Israeli restrictive measures would be removed and Palestinians could resume normal daily life.

For the Palestinians who are prepared to forgive the hope is that the majority of Israelis, out of decency or out of sheer desire for a quiet life, don't want any more war. Realising that Palestinian forgiveness meant that their national existence was no longer threatened, Israelis would want their government to seize the chance, not to

confiscate more Palestinian land, but to consolidate the state of quiet and calmness, and do their best to rescue Palestinians from military occupation and second-rate citizenship.

This is probably a mad dream; a Palestinian Hannah might not exist, not in the near future, and if she existed she

might be failed by the Israelis. The alternative, however, is the greater madness of a conflict that would go on for the next 60 years.

Samir El-Youssef is a Palestinian writer and critic. This article is distributed by the Common Ground

News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at

www.commongroundnews.org.

Source: The Guardian - Comment is Free, 14 May 2008,

http://commentisfree.guardian.co.uk.

Copyright permission is granted for publication.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



Kindly note that the deadline for applications for the vacancy announcement of the below mentioned positions that was published in Yemen Times on Monday, 26 May 2008 edition No. 1158 is **9 JUNE 2008** and not 31 May 2008.

- 1- Local Communication Officer
- 2- Mobile Team Participatory System and Gender Adviser (PSGA)
- 3- Mobile Team Programme Assistant (MTPA)
- 4- Translator
- 5- Mobile Team Public Expenditure Management/Planning Adviser

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

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

The deadline for receiving applications is Thursday, 09 June 2008

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

unicef

Unite for Children

External Vacancy Announcement 014/2008

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites application from qualified candidates for Temporary Fixed Term (TFT) position of two drivers at GS2 level based in Sana'a. The Driver shall perform the following main responsibilities in support of the UNICEF Program and Operations:

Responsibilities:

1. Drive UNICEF vehicle on official business, including field visits, ensuring that UNICEF rules, regulations and procedures relating to driving and transport are strictly adhered to.
2. Maintain the assigned vehicle always in clean condition and ensure that the vehicle is properly and securely parked after working hours.
3. Carry out minor and routine maintenance on assigned vehicle and ensure that the vehicle is always in sound condition.
4. Assist in following-up visa requests and receive/drop visitors at the airport.
5. Collect and deliver mail from and to the post office, government offices, UN agencies etc.
6. Perform other duties assigned by the Supervisor

Qualifications and Skills required:

- Completion of High school is desirable.
- 6 years of experience as a driver. Out of which at least one year with International NGO's and diplomatic missions.
- Proven experience in vehicle maintenance.
- Good knowledge of local traffic regulations and road.
- **Fluent in Arabic and good skills in English.**

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with the curriculum vitae and copies of the performance evaluation report to the Operations officer, UNICEF Sana'a, P.O.Box 725, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen or - yemenhr@unicef.org. Applications received after 7 June 2008 will not be considered.

"UNICEF is a non-smoking environment".

د. إلمار كولينز
و كافة موظفي شركه أو إم في يمن يتقدمون بخالص
التهاني القلبية الأخ؛

معالي الأستاذ / أمير سالم العيدروس

بمناسبة تعيينه وزيراً للنفط والمعادن.
نتمنى من الله العلي القدير أن يوفقه في مهام عمله الجديد بما
فيه خدمة الوطن والمواطن اليمني.



Dr. Elmar Colins
& all OMV (Yemen) staff

Express their best wishes to

H. E. Mr. Ameer Salem Al-Aidarous

Upon his appointment as Minister of Oil and Minerals
We wish him success in his new duties for Serving Yemen
and all Yemenis.



YEMEN TIMES

مبروك الثقة

يسر

صحيفة يمن تايمز

ان تتقدم باطيب التهاني وأصدق التبريكات للأستاذ /

عبدالواسع هائل سعيد انعم

رئيس مجلس أمناء المؤسسة

بمناسبة تعيينه القنصل العام لمملكة النرويج في اليمن

متمنين له التوفيق والنجاح في مهامه الجديدة

فألف مبروك

المهنتون؛

أ / خير الدين محمد النصور

المدير العام التنفيذي

أ / نادية عبدالعزيز السقاف

رئيس التحرير / الناشر

وكافة موظفي صحيفة يمن تايمز



JOB VACANCIES

Nexen is a Canadian-based, global energy company growing value responsibly. We are strategically positioned in some of the world's most exciting regions: the North Sea, deep-water Gulf of Mexico, Middle East, offshore West Africa and the Canadian Athabasca oil sands. Nexen has attractive compensation package with a great focus on individual training and other benefits including medical coverage for the employee and his Family including parents. Nexen has job opportunities at two projects in YEMEN. Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen - Masila (BLK14) & Canadian Petroleum Yemen East Al-Hajr (BLK51).

Customs Coordinator Position # 0182/ 98129

Basic Function

- Makes arrangements for customs clearing of CNPY/CNPE imports & exports ensuring import documentation & exemptions are accurate and following up with the Freight Forwarders & Custom Agents to ensure that these documents are received in accordance with government regulations.
- Meets with Custom Agents and Government Officials at relevant import/export locations to ensure all materials are cleared and exemptions processed in a timely manner. Answers any inquiries from customs authority regarding errors or missing shipping documents and coordinates corrections with freight forwarder when required.
- Makes arrangements for customs clearing of Nexen imports & exports for CNPY/CNPE, ensuring import documentation is accurate and following up with the Custom Agents and Government Officials to ensure exemptions are received & processed in a timely manner in accordance with government regulations.
- Reviews and coordinates all aspects of Nexen Contractor import exemptions including approval of initial exemptions, review and maintenance of Lotus Notes tracking of exemptions, follow up with contractors for outstanding exemptions, and audits of temporary Contractor imports.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of grade 12
- 5 years experience in customs clearance, similar or related experience.
- SAP experience preferred.
- PC literate with strong skills in MS Word, Excel and Lotus Notes.
- International Oil and Gas experienced preferred.
- Fluent in Arabic and English.
- Ability to work effectively in multi-cultural environment

❖ To Apply for this Job and for further information on the Job duties and responsibilities you can visit our website www.nexeninc.com/careers/yemen

❖ Applications should be submitted NO later than June 5th, 2008. Faxed applications will not be considered.

The benefits and burdens of dual-nationality citizens

By: Alia Ishaq and Khalid Al-Hilaly

Having dual citizenship is a growing phenomenon in Yemen, as Yemenis are marrying those of other nationalities more frequently than ever before.

Recent government statistics indicate a significant increase in the number of dual-nationality marriages registered between 2005 and 2006 and the Yemeni government expects there to be even more such marriages in coming years.

According to 2007 statistics from the Ministries of Justice and Interior Affairs, 38 percent of Yemeni-foreigner marriages are between Yemenis and Saudis, while marriages to Emiratis were the second most frequent at 9 percent, followed by marriages to Americans at 7 percent.

The remainder of Yemeni-foreigner

marriages was made up of small percentages from a number of different countries, including the United Kingdom, Bahrain, Qatar, Egypt and Ethiopia.

Dual nationality is recognized under Yemeni law and children of Yemeni fathers automatically acquire Yemeni citizenship. However, those children born to Yemeni mothers and foreign fathers cannot acquire automatic Yemeni citizenship, as both the father and the child must be born in Yemen. Even if the father was born in Yemen, but to non-Yemeni parents, he still isn't considered Yemeni. Only a child born of a Yemeni father is automatically considered Yemeni.

If these conditions aren't fulfilled, a child may only receive Yemeni citizenship as an adult and only after spending 10 years in Yemen without leaving.

Another condition for Yemeni citi-

zenship involves the case of a Yemeni mother who divorces her children's foreign father while maintaining custody of the children. Yemeni citizenship also may be granted in the case of a foreign father's death or absence for more than a year, proving that the child is living with his or her mother and fully supported by her.

Sharia law states that in cases involving divorce, a Muslim mother has custody of the child until he or she reaches adolescence, which is age 9 for boys and age 12 for girls. Afterward, a Muslim father has the right to take custody of the child away from the Muslim mother; however, if the mother isn't Muslim, she has no custody rights at all.

Custody orders and judgments by foreign courts aren't enforceable in Yemen if they potentially contradict or violate local laws and practices.

Dual-nationality children: Caught

between a cultural divide?

Seife Zewdu is the 20-year-old son of a Yemeni Muslim mother and an Ethiopian father. After Zewdu's father died, he decided to emigrate to Yemen from Ethiopia and now resides here permanently.

In order to be granted residency, Zewdu says the immigration authority told him to provide documents proving his parents' marriage and his birth certificate, in addition to proving that his mother truly is Yemeni. They told him that if he provided all of this information, he would be granted citizenship after four years.

Zewdu recalled his first days in Yemen when he had a hard time fitting in. "I had no idea about the traditions here," he said. "The first time I got on a bus, I sat next to a lady and suddenly, everyone started shouting at me - I was really surprised!"

Like his mother, Zewdu is a practicing Muslim, but he says people still ask him if he prays. "I usually answer them by telling them that Bilal Al-Habashi [an Ethiopian companion of the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh)] was the first caller to prayer."

Nadine Habib is an 18-year-old half-Yemeni, half-Scottish resident. "I strongly believe that it's an advantage," she says. "I get the best of both worlds: I get the education and the ability to become an independent individual from my Western side, as well as the culture and religion from my Arab side."

However, she says she did have some difficulties getting along in Yemeni society, where people always label her as a foreigner.

"People in Yemen are more judgmental than people in Scotland. They tend to label me an 'ajnabiyya' (foreigner), assuming that I've strayed from Yemeni traditions and that I don't

know what's right or wrong in our culture," Habib explains, "when in fact, I'm no different from them at all."

She says Scots are more open-minded and very accepting when it comes to those from other countries. "It's all about being who you are in Scotland, which is what I love about it," she adds.

Although her parents now are divorced, Habib is the daughter of a Yemeni father and a Scottish mother, with whom she lives in Scotland. While she only visits Yemen occasionally, when asked which nationality she would choose if she had to, she quickly responds that she would choose her Yemeni passport over her Scottish one.

She says she relates to Yemeni culture more and that she doesn't see herself as a Westerner; rather, "I see myself as a Yemeni individual who has the luxury of benefiting from her Western side."

Youth confusion about fatwas

Fatwa (an Islamic religious ruling or scholarly opinion on a matter of Islamic law) has great importance in Muslim lives. Those who pronounce such rulings should be knowledgeable and righteous, basing their rulings on knowledge and wisdom. They also must supply evidence for their opinions from Islamic sources (the

Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet Mohammed). It's common for such scholars to come to differing conclusions regarding the same issue. Most youths agree that religious edicts arising out of one's personal whims, vanity or desires obscure the truth and confuse Muslims around the world.

By: Nisreen Shadad
For The Yemen Times

Shihab Al-Ariqi, a preacher on the Yemeni satellite channel, says the main reason for such confusion among youths is attributable to unrighteous and unknowledgeable religious scholars.

Varying fatwas about the same issue have both a positive and a negative dimension. The positive aspect is that having different rules and principles gives Islam the flexibility and universality to fit people's situations and solve their problems no matter where they live. The negative aspect is allowing the opportunity for one to choose to follow the easiest fatwa or fatwas in exceptional cases, according to Al-Ariqi.

According to Huda Al-Dubai, a supervisor at Al-Boniani School, two things create confusion among youths about fatwas: the first is their ignorance about the basis of Islamic studies and the second is following their lusts

rather than searching the evidence upon which a scholar bases his or her fatwa.

Further, many scholars are insufficiently qualified to proclaim a fatwa because nowadays, they get their knowledge only through books and cassettes or from unrighteous scholars.

As a youth myself, I must bear in mind two questions in order to accept a fatwa from a religious scholar: the first is how he or she obtained this knowledge and the second is from whom. A scholar is similar to a doctor.

These two questions assist me in trusting the knowledge of the scholar or doctor and his or her morality. As Al-Dubai noted, a corrupt student will choose a corrupt teacher and vice versa.

She continued, "Some scholars also aren't brave enough to say 'I don't know,' and that's very dangerous. How can a righteous scholar dare pronounce a ruling that isn't issued in Islam or prohibit something that Allah allows?"

Mohammed Al-Shami, the Life Makers Foundation member (Life Makers Foundation was established in March 2005 following a trend begun by

a program on Iqra Channel conducted by famed preacher Amr Khalid, which aims to empower youth and provide them the means to enhance society), believes that different rulings regarding the same issue is a positive thing, but that a large number of different fatwas about the same issue creates confusion.

Because of this, he says, "We begin to doubt the authenticity of these fatwas and the righteousness of the scholars. As for me, I try to follow the fatwa that fits my situation and personality."

However, Naseem Al-Mulaiki, deputy manager of the Olympic Union in Sana'a, doesn't think fatwas create any confusion because she doesn't believe that Muslims still adhere to Islamic principles, so whether something is legal or not makes no difference in their lives.

"In the past, the one proclaiming a fatwa would be very knowledgeable and righteous, but today's scholars lack these two qualities," she says, adding, "In Islam, one with a background in Islamic studies can easily differentiate between right and wrong without any confusion." However, Al-Shami doesn't think the main problem is the different fatwas, but rather people themselves, who are unable to accept a different fatwa. "If we study Islam in depth, we'll see that the four leaders of the *mathahib* (schools of *fiqh*, or Islamic jurisprudence) of the Sunnah (Hanbali, Shafi, Hanafi, Maliki) respect each other. For example, Al-Shafi, one of the great scholars, says my opinion is right, but it's possible that it is wrong, while the opinion of the others who are seemingly wrong have the

possibility of being right."

He continues, "But today, many people suppose that they are the only ones who are right, looking only at the differences between their viewpoints and others' and then working only to prove that they are right. They aren't ready to listen to the others or live with him or her. This is surely the main problem creating a gap among youths."

"We need to learn that there is a good fatwa and then there's the best, while there's also a bad fatwa and then the worst. If one is in a position to choose between a good and the best fatwa, a wise person will choose the best, but if he must choose between a bad and the best, he'll choose a bad fatwa," Al-Shami explains.

According to him, there's no place for right or wrong, but there is a place for the best and worst.

Different rulings are due to numerous reasons, most importantly, the level of a scholar's knowledge. Al-Ariqi points out that there are scholars who are unaware about their reality, as well as those who are unqualified or insufficiently knowledgeable to proclaim a fatwa.

Al-Dubai says fatwas differ for two reasons: the *fiqh* of reality and the apparent meaning of the Hadith.

A *faqih* (one who proclaims a fatwa) is the one capable of knowing the best of the best and the worst of the worst. Religious scholars sometimes prohibit many important things in life, according to the principles of *fiqh*, but forget the need for these tools or means in reality. Thus, such scholars lack the *fiqh* of reality.

Al-Ariqi notes that youths sometimes feel that religious scholars don't live or understand their lives, so they neglect their fatwas because they don't relate to their specific situations and conditions.

"A *faqih* must have utmost knowledge about three things: the *fiqh* of Hadith texts and Qur'anic verses, the *fiqh* of reality and the *fiqh* to relate the text to reality," Al-Ariqi explains.

For example, two men once went to Imam Abu Hanifa (the leader of *mathab* Al-Hanafi) to ask about the possibility and the conditions for a killer to repent. Certainly, the door of repentance is open to all who are sincere about repenting and changing their lives, Al-Ariqi notes.

Imam Abu Hanifa told the first man "No," but replied "Yes" when the other asked him the same question. Asked about his two different answers, he explained that the first man had come with the gleaming eyes of a killer (one wanting to kill), but the second came with tears of repentance, Al-Ariqi recounted. He continued, explaining, "A fatwa sometimes fits one man, but not another, the same way a fatwa sometimes fits one society, but not another. *Fiqh* principles are flexible enough to change from time to time and from one society to another, according to its traditions, culture and way of life."

Another example involves Umar Ibn Al-Khattab, who didn't apply one of the most important Islamic rules for an entire year, which was the punishment for theft (cutting off the hand). The reason was due to the reality of the

situation at that time.

That year, which became known as *Am Al-Ramada* (Year of the Famine) due to a famine throughout Arabia, Al-Khattab decreed that no severe punishment would be meted out because no one could determine for certain if those who stole did so because of need or greed and he couldn't review every single case.

Nowadays, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy proclaims general fatwas for major problems such as the relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims. However, the details befitting the daily lives of a particular society and excluding others, such as qat in Yemen, are left to scholars in Yemen, who know very well the realities of Yemeni society, according to Al-Ariqi.

The importance of fatwa in Muslim lives resides in the fact that Islam seeks to live in complete harmony with the spirit of such rulings and laws, which can be realized only by shaping and molding the lives of that religion's adherents after the perfect model of its system, Al-Dubai says. She goes on to point out that the sayings and actions of the Prophet Mohammed not only complement the Qur'an, but as the authentic record of his life, they lead us to the source of revelation and provide us access to the inner, spiritual dimension of his teachings.

According to her, a complete society, a perfect life and a collective design in which beliefs and actions, moral virtues and emotions, aptitudes and inclinations cannot come into existence apart from another life because life springs from life.

أحمد التعماني وأطوب
التبريكات نرفعا للأخ
محمد محمد عايض الطري
بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب
الزفاف
قالت ألف مبروك
المعنونون:
حميد محمد الستاف - عبد الجبار الحوشي
أحمد حميد الستاف - عصام حميد الستاف -
مصطفى حميد الستاف - مجدي أبو بكر الستاف

CHRYSLER
ENGINEERED BEAUTIFULLY

300 C

345-حصاناً * محرك هومي V8 بعة 5.7 لتر *
نظام الإزاحة المتعدد MDS * نظام السلامة فئة خمس نجوم
نظام تكيف ثنائي المناطق .

Chrysler is a registered trademark of Chrysler LLC

صنع في - اليابان - شارع المستن الجنوبي - هاتف: 01-448920 - فاكس: 01-448919 - ص.ب: 15797
صنع في - شارع العلاء - جوار صوامع ومطاحن صنع - هاتف: 00-222791

الرويشان موتورز والهيكل
Al Rowaishan Motors

Children leave home and school for their families

By: Saddam Al-Shamourri
For the Yemen Times

Children from five to 15 years old – both male and female – can be found throughout the country trying to procure money through hawking, peddling and begging to support their families and to stave off extreme poverty. Because of recent price hikes, more children have left their homes and schools to support their families, taking on an adult's share of responsibility and burdens.

"In the morning, I leave home to move and walk through the streets, markets, and the neighborhoods for the sake

of seek food and come back at night. My life is hard and I am committed to my work. If I am absent, I will die of hunger with my four sisters," said 11-year-old Hiyam Al-Harazi, who begs for money in the streets of Sana'a all day.

Hiyam's father was a builder's assistant, but he injured his back when he fell from a high building and was forced to stay on bed rest indefinitely. After the accident, Hiyam dropped out of my school, and because she was the eldest child in her family, she was designated to take over her father's position as the provider for the household.

She pointed out that the begging does not always provide enough money because she has to compete for money with a number other beggars working in

the same territory and people don't know which of them are the worthy or unworthy of their charity. Hiyam's face grew red when she said she endured two years of this work in spite of her hatred for it because there is no substitute.

"Even though I face verbal harassment, I am patient since I am my family's provider and give them between YR 1,000 to YR 1,500 a day," she added.

There are many others, such as 7 year-old Ibtesam Al-Riami, who sells cookies and chewing gum from a box hung from her neck in a park. Her father died two years ago because of heart attack while he was working as plumber. "Everyday, I collect YR 500 to YR 800," said Ibtesam. "I wish I could play like the other children or go to school. I hope to be a teacher."

Ibtesam prefers to peddle her wares in the parks rather than in neighborhoods. She said that there are some children who steal her goods from her, though it doesn't happen very often. "I sell, but if anyone wants to give me money without taking gum, it is ok for me," she said. "We are all [children] of the same habit."

Abdullah Al-Jobari, a 13-year-old shopkeeper's assistant said he's been working in the store for three years since his father became too old to work. He added that his mother sold the family's furniture to buy him a shop.

"I work only in the afternoons because of school," said Abdullah. "I work to pay off my school debts; I also work for the sake of saving my children from the same situation in the future."



Many of Al-Mu'almeen's population of approximately 6,000, including children, collect cans and other metal odds and ends as their main source of income.



Official figures estimate the number of child laborers in Yemen to be over 400,000. In 1999, the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimated that 19.2 percent of children aged 10-14 were working in Yemen.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor established the Anti Child Labor Unit in 2001, which works in cooperation with the International Labor Organization (ILO). According to the Anti Child Labor Unit's report, the organization targeted a large awareness campaign aimed at child laborers, families, civil society organizations, school students along with government and local authorities.

A recent Anti Child Labor Unit project gave families that depended on child labor YR 100,000 each. It then gave family members vocational training in blacksmithing, plumbing and electronic

repair and encouraged older family members to open up small businesses, thereby allowing children to go back to school.

In addition to this, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs has been improving its capacity to face this problem through an information gathering survey, which they will use to amend some of the country's child labor laws and to include child laborers into governmental policies.

Despite the work undertaken by international and local organizations to eliminate this problem, there are still children begging in the streets.

Business in brief

Wheat production increases by 46 percent in 2007 in Yemen, minister

Yemen's production of wheat increased during 2007 to 218 thousand tones, the state-run 26sep.net has said.

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Mansour al-Houshabi said the increase was by 46% compared to the prior year.

Opening a training course on the role of prevention in boosting crops production in Yemen particularly in the current changes of dehydration and decreasing underground waters in the region, al-Houshabi stressed the importance of raising awareness among farmers to enhance the production.

He urged the concerned authorities to manage agricultural affairs well and fight insects that may destroy crops.

He also stressed the necessity for benefiting from training courses to raise awareness among farmers to develop agriculture in the country. Al-Houshabi touched on the ministry efforts to encourage farmers to increase crops production specifically wheat, that come within the framework of the government moves to provide food security.

Yemen to seek Australian food cooperation

A Yemeni delegation led by minister of Industry and Trade Yahya al-Mutawaki is due to head for Australia next June, the state-run 26sep.net has said.

The delegation, which will include a number of Yemeni businessmen, will discuss with Australian officials mechanisms to allocate wheat amounts to be imported by Yemen annually.

The move comes within the government effort to diversify imported wheat and foodstuffs resources. The delegation will also discuss with the Australian officials means to forge cooperation between Yemen and the Australian Wheat Council and concerned bodies about crops and foodstuffs trade. Furthermore, cooperation agreements are expected to be clinched.

Symposium on prices soaring effects in Yemen to be held on Sunday

Organized by Ministry of Industry and Trade, a symposium on prices soaring and their effects on Yemen will be commenced on Sunday with participation of a number of academics, economists, officials and representatives of donors and civil society organizations.

Entitled "Facing Price Increases is a Joint Responsibility", the two-day long symposium discusses 20 work papers distributed on four main topics, international economic developments and their effects on developing countries namely Yemen, current and expected dimensions of international food crisis, grain and food prices increase in Yemen and exerted efforts and economic solutions suggested for solving prices soaring especially of food.

Speaking to Saba, Minister of Industry and Trade Yahya al-Mutawakel affirmed importance of the symposium in studying prices soaring and suggesting solutions for curing this problem. He clarified that the symposium comes within a number of measures taken by the government for solving food prices soaring and encouraging local production of realizing food security.

Worth mentioning that the most prominent work paper would discuss current oil prices changes and their reflections on different countries, especially developing ones, biological fuel, international and regional differences, climate and changes of coin prices and their effects on food prices in addition to discussing international food gap and their effects on Yemen as developing country.

Despite complications Yemeni government takes positive steps to improve Yemen's economy

Summary of the Yemen Economic Update Spring 2008

By the World Bank Group
Sana'a Office

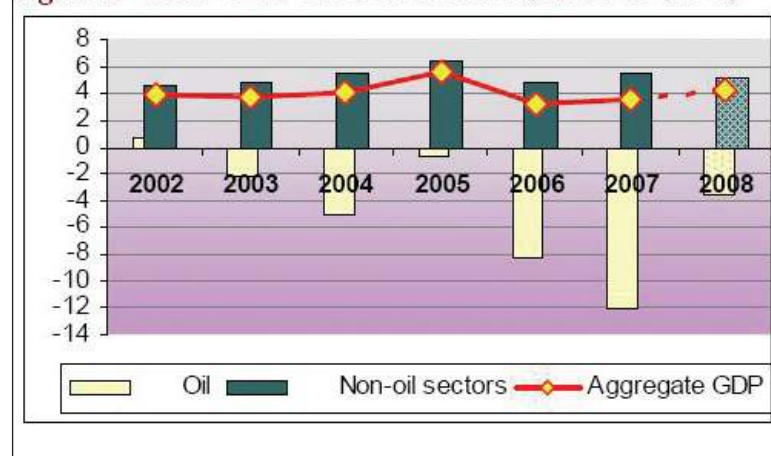
The government is taking additional measures to strengthen public support. Following the summer riots over rising food prices; the government adopted a number of measures to help ease tensions. In latest move, the government announced in March a new round of increase in wages, pensions and social welfare benefits intended to mitigate the effect of rising inflation. The President also introduced a new proposal for broad political reforms expected to bring further decentralization and increased regional autonomy.

However, security uncertainties continue to cloud the outlook. Early in the year, the government signed a new peace deal with the radical Houthi group in the Sa'ada governorate. A number of reconciliation efforts have been attempted in the past, but with little success. The latest peace initiative, sponsored by Qatar, continues to show promising signs, despite occasional snags. Fundamentalist groups are increasingly becoming a source of threat, particularly to western tourists and workers.

The government has been responding to these threats with controlled measures designed to avoid broad confrontations. Finally, sporadic demonstrations across various parts of the country continued in 2008, since starting in summer 2007 over stagnant economic conditions.

Structural reform efforts continued during the past quarter. In civil services, the government continued to imple-

Figure 2 - Real GDP Growth in Yemen, 2002-08 (in %)



ment the biometric identification project and the second stage of the wage strategy, initiated in the latter part of 2007. Also, efforts continued to improve the investment climate, including legislative amendments in the areas of foreign investment, mining, and income tax, while steps were also taken to simplify the procedures for licensing and registration as well as filing income and sales taxes.

Macroeconomic performance was mixed in 2007. The performance largely reflects the falling crude oil output (by more than 12 percent) which has negatively affected overall growth, fiscal outturn, and balance of payments. Overall growth for 2007 is estimated at 3.6 percent, compared to 3.2 percent in the previous year. The non-oil output remained relatively unchanged from the previous year at about 5 percent supported by current public spending and private investment. In the

fiscal area, the higher than budgeted tax revenue and earlier savings in spending have helped offset the impact of the supplementary budget approved in the third quarter. This brought the fiscal deficit to about 5.5 percent of GDP. The external sector showed deterioration with the current account balance reverting to a deficit of about 4 percent of GDP.

A reduction in the inflation rate was the main positive outcome in 2007, though inflationary pressures started to build in the second half of the year. Tighter public spending in the early part of the year and good seasonal rains helped maintain average inflation during the first half of the year at a negative rate. However, during the second half, rising food prices led by imported wheat and increased public spending on wages and salaries fueled inflationary pressures again. As result, the average inflation rate for

2007 came to about 12.5 percent, a significant drop from 18.5 percent in 2006.

The government announced a new round of increase in wages, pensions, and social welfare benefits intended to mitigate the effect of rising inflation. The new measure, introduced in March 2008, covers three categories. It increases wages for all civil service and military personnel by YR3000 per month. Second, it increases the monthly pension benefits for all retirees by YR1500. Third, it doubles the cash transfers under the

Social Welfare Fund (SWF). Notwithstanding the effect of rising number of beneficiaries, the estimated total annual cost of the new package is about YR74 billion. The new measure is expected to widen the fiscal deficit and fuel inflation.

The outlook for 2008 is expected to improve on the strength of oil production and record international high oil prices. Yemen's overall growth rate in 2008 is likely to improve to 4.2 percent due to the slower decline in oil production (about 3.3 percent compared to about 12 percent in the previous year) and continued good performance in the non-oil sector at about 5 percent. The improvement in the oil sector in Yemen is expected to reflect positively on the fiscal and external sectors. The government fiscal balance is projected to witness a slight improvement due to higher oil revenue and improved tax collection. In the external sector, the current account deficit is expected to shrink to about 1 percent of GDP, compared to 4 percent in 2007. Inflation is estimated to reach 16 percent, edging up from its 2007 level, but remaining below the highs of 2006. Meanwhile, the government is expected to maintain the informal peg of the rial to the dollar at its current level of about 200 YR/\$, in response to rising food prices and falling dollar value.

Outlook

With expectations of firming oil prices and a slower decline in crude output, the economic outlook in 2008 calls for some improvement. Yemen's overall growth rate in 2008 is likely to improve by less than one percentage point to 4.2 percent, reflecting the continued good performance in the non-oil sector of about 5 percent and the slowdown in oil production decline to about 3.3 percent (compared to 12.6 percent in the previous year). The non-oil sector should benefit from reforms taken in the previous two years and the higher flows of foreign capital, particularly from the Gulf. Improved outlook in the oil sector in Yemen is expected to reflect positively on the fiscal and external sectors.

The government fiscal revenue should see modest improvement owing to higher oil revenue and continued progress in tax collection efforts. In the external sector, the current account deficit is expected to shrink to about 1 percent of GDP as compared to 4 per-

cent in 2007. Owing to higher oil revenue, prices, and stronger domestic demand, the inflation rate in Yemen is projected to climb to about 16 percent.

Reforms are expected to maintain momentum in 2008. MOPIC is already preparing a midterm plan to evaluate the performance of DPPR during the first two years and to function as an interim or revised planning document for the remaining period (i.e. until 2010).

The midterm plan will consider the changing circumstances that have emerged since the inception of the DPPR (such as the persistence of poverty incidence, the outlook of oil production, and the continued rise of world commodity prices) and revise its scope accordingly. The Plan objectives are expected to place special emphasis on economic diversification, growth, and fiscal sustainability. Efforts will focus on strengthening the financial sector development including increasing the number of microfinance banks, modernizing the local commercial courts, reducing red tape, updating foreign investment regulation and strengthening decentralization.

Medium-term outlook continues to be clouded. Though the macroeconomic outcome in 2008 is expected to show some improvement, the medium-term outlook continues to face the same serious challenges, particularly in view of the fast decline in oil production, rapid population growth, and slow, uneven progress in reducing poverty. Rising global prices for food products, coupled with domestic supply bottlenecks in food production and distribution will continue to keep inflation high. These results reinforce the need to tackle the structural weaknesses of the economy, particularly fostering non-oil growth that needs to be led by the private sector.

It also calls for more efforts to enhance fiscal sustainability through increased reliance on non-oil revenue, as well as lower and better targeting of expenditures, which is currently burdened by inefficient fuel subsidies (about 11 percent of GDP) and a large wage bill.

Yemen Economic Update is a quarterly report that covers political, social, macroeconomic, structural developments in Yemen as well as issues relating to the donor community and World Bank operations in Yemen.

Table 2 - Annual Inflation Rate in Yemen 2001-2007

	Weight	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
All-items	10000	11.7	12.5	10.8	12.5	11.4	18.4	12.6
Food and Non-Alcoholic	4381	13.2	7.5	16.7	19.0	18.9	28.6	23.2
Alcohol, Tobacco and	1484	17.0	43.2	6.3	15.3	0.3	8.7	-4.8
Clothing and Footwear	872	3.8	7.9	3.3	2.6	2.5	-1.6	2.1
Housing and Related Items	1327	7.7	8.5	10.8	2.2	5.5	5.2	2.7
Household Furnishings and	405	2.9	3.0	4.8	1.5	4.3	5.1	2.2
Health	267	12.5	5.9	4.1	7.2	7.2	6.8	2.3
Transport	426	16.2	3.3	3.1	1.9	12.8	20.4	0.7
Communications	19	5.9	7.7	1.1	2.4	0.1	-1.7	-2.2
Recreation and Culture	84	2.1	1.5	5.2	5.5	2.7	-1.0	-0.6
Education	52	11.8	16.2	0.1	-0.3	7.7	11.0	-0.1
Restaurants and Hotels	283	16.2	3.0	9.4	7.2	19.6	10.3	2.0
Miscellaneous Goods and	399	3.4	4.4	3.6	3.4	8.6	18.4	6.1

Source: CSO

Yemen LNG Company



الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال

Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquefied natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden which will export 6.7 million tons of LNG per annum. The project offices are based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

Job Title: Sr. Telecoms Engineer - Ref No. 193
Reports to: Head of Information Systems & Telecoms (Operations Dept)
Work Location: Balhaf - On the Gulf of Aden in the Republic of Yemen
Work System: Balhaf (On Site): 12 hours per day on shift (including meal breaks) on a rotation of 4 weeks on site followed by 4 weeks of rest period. Additional days on site for hand-over purpose are required for some positions.

Duties & Responsibilities:

The job holder reports to the Head of IST and responsible to maintain the reliable Telecommunications Services including Leased lines, VSAT, PABX, Radio, Hotline Telephone, Radar, General Alarm and Entertainment Systems at Balhaf LNG Plant.

The principle responsibilities of the role will be to -

- Participate in the commissioning of IST facilities in liaison with Project team and accept responsibility for these systems from EPC Contractor at the agreed handover point.
- Provide technical support in the maintenance of the equipments listed above.
- Prepare all necessary Telecoms standard operating procedures for the reliable operation of all facilities.
- Prepare network monitoring systems for Telecoms links, Local and wide area networks firewall devices, Servers and other critical elements of the network. This network management system to interface with IST Sana'a network management systems.
- Liaise continually with principal service users and Telecoms Contractors to ensure that required levels of services are established and maintained.
- Represent the company locally in relations with Telecoms contractors and suppliers and occasionally with other national and industrial representatives.
- Manage in liaison with Sana'a IST Dept local external contracts for additional Telecoms services.
- Lead and develop Telecoms Engineer.

Qualifications Required:

- Bachelor or Masters degree in Telecommunications or Electronic Engineering
- Engineer with a minimum of 10 years experience in the support of Telecommunications systems. 5 Years of this experience must have been gained in the Oil & Gas Industry.
- Well developed communication skills.
- Adaptability and capacity for teamwork; strong interpersonal relations and experience of working in a multicultural context
- Very good written and spoken Arabic and English

Job Title: Network Engineer - Ref No. 194
Reports to: Head of Information Systems & Telecoms (Finance Dept)
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

The job holder reports to the Head of IST and responsible for backing up the servers on a daily basis and storing the back up tapes in a designated safe place

The principle responsibilities of the role will be to -

- Develop a tape tracking system to ensure that data can be recovered quickly when required
- Manage Network accounts, distribute authorized software via GPO's and ensure accurate inventories of such software and Exchange 2003 mail accounts
- Administrate SQL, DNS, WINS & DHCP servers, Web IIS Servers
- Create and maintain images of all Network servers and the different hardware configurations of PC's using the RIS server
- Review, test and distribute all Operating System updates to Network computers using MS WSUS
- Monitor disc space usage and establish quotas for the most efficient use of network server disc space Distribute anti virus software updates to all network servers and computers.
- Monitor services on a continuous basis to ensure rapid restoration in the event of a failure of services using MS Operations Manager
- Document Network systems configurations and ensure that any changes are reflected immediately in the records.
- Document Network administration procedures and review / amend as necessary

Qualifications Required:

- Bachelor or Masters degree in Computer Science or Information Technology
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience on Windows NT System Administration
- Excellent knowledge of MS Windows 2003 Server including Active Directory, MS Exchange 2003 Mail server, MS SQL Server 2000, MS Windows Server Update Services (WSUS), Veritas Backup Exec 10 for Windows servers and Linear Tape Open (LTO) devices, Microsoft Operations Manager (MOM), Symantec Anti Virus Enterprise edition and ISA Server 2004
- Excellent interpersonal skills with an ability to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problem
- Very good written and spoken English

Job Title: IST Security and Planning Engineer - Ref No. 195
Reports to: Head of Information Systems & Telecoms (Finance Dept)
Work Location: Sana'a

Duties & Responsibilities:

The job holder reports to the Head of IST and responsible for the security and planning of all IST operated facilities and company Information Systems Network including Telecoms Main bearer links, Multiplexers, routers switches, hubs & PBX, IS Network inc Windows 2003 File Servers, SQL Servers, Exchange 2003 Servers, Personal Computers, peripheral devices.

The principle responsibilities of the role will be to -

- Establish and maintain IS Security Procedures including Information Systems Security Policy, Contingency plan (Disaster Recovery Plan) and periodic testing of plan, Review and audit of Network administrators privileges and Firewall Policies, Review of NTFS file access permissions, Audit of Operating Systems and Anti Virus updates

- Review the performance and quality of IST infrastructure facilities and propose upgrade or evolution options
- Establish an effective change control procedure for IST Infrastructure and audit changes with reference to this procedure
- Establish project management methodology for IST project and to act as Quality Control on such projects.
- Ensure that all IST equipment rooms are installed and maintained with the following security requirements (Physical Access Control, Uninterruptible Power supplies (UPS), Air-Conditioning, Fire Protection)

Qualifications:

- Bachelor or Masters degree in Electronics Engineering, Computer Science or Telecommunications
- Minimum of 5 years' experience in Data Communications (Inc Firewalls) or MS Windows Server administration
- Specialized qualifications from a recognized Information Systems Security Authority
- Comprehensive understanding of IS Security issues and solutions with detailed knowledge and experience of IST project management
- Good knowledge of Telecoms bearer links, wide area network (WAN), PABX, Local area networks (LAN), MS Windows servers, Veritas backup systems, MS Operations Manager, Symantec Anti Virus Enterprise edition, ISA Server 2004
- Ability to communicate, influence and negotiate in order to achieve optimum and practical technical solutions
- Very good written and spoken Arabic and English

Job Title: Logistics Engineer - Ref No. 196
Reports to: Deputy Project Manager
Contract: Fixed term contract ending on 31/12/2009
Work Location: Sana'a

The job holder reports to the Deputy Project Manager and is responsible for the coordination and liaison between YLNG, YGC, Customs Authority and the Contractors and all other related entities located in Yemen for all materials under temporary import required to be destroyed or scrapped and act as focal point for the logistics matters between the Project and Logistic Dept. for all Logistic matters except Upstream

The principal responsibilities of the role will be to -

- Follow up of the re-exportation of all the temporary equipment and materials by Contractors
- Ensure efficient coordination and liaison between YLNG, YGC, Customs Authority and the Contractors for all matters related to the re-exportation of all the temporary equipment and materials of Contractors
- Maintain effective tracking system and data base and up to date filing all the complete exemption and custom clearance and declaration files
- Ensure that the Contractors are properly managing and controlling that all the equipments and materials exempted are used for the Project activities only
- Audit contractors' activities at regular intervals. Specifically spare parts tracking
- Analyze the Contractors materials control status reports and advise project Management of the status
- Assist with other activities related to plant and pipeline project logistics within Yemen

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in Engineering discipline
- Minimum of 3-5 years' experience in Industrial Logistics (knowledge of material audit and preparation of procedures, Customs clearance activities and import/export procedures)
- Well organized and autonomous with good interpersonal skills
- Knowledge of standard computer software, familiar with or willingness to learn other related systems
- Very good written and spoken Arabic and English

Job Title: Program Coordinators - Ref No. 197
Reports to: Head of Sustainable Development Programs (HSSE Dept)
Work Location: Sana'a, regular visits to Balhaf and Pipeline Right of Way
Contract Status: Fixed Term Contract of 1 year

Duties & Responsibilities:

The job holder is responsible for the management and implementation of individually assigned program in Education, Health/Gender Equality, Agriculture (Livestock & Farming) and Aquaculture sectors, including budget planning and monitoring and project evaluation.

The principle responsibilities of the role will be to -

- Set up the planning and implementation objectives to measure planned versus actual realization of the programs through monthly reporting
- Supervise and monitor project proposals with detailed costs
- Guide stakeholders to focus their activities within company sustainable development framework and implement reporting guidelines
- Conduct regular field visits to ensure appropriate implementation and delivery as planned and on time
- Manage 'Request for Tender' process of the implementing partners, receive, review and comment on the initial proposals, and assist with the preparation of relevant contractual agreements
- Prepare presentations and report with supporting documents to get approved by prospective partners, produce monthly, quarterly and annual reports as required

Qualifications Required:

- Bachelor degree education with strong community development and investment project management background
- Minimum 3 years' experience at the supervisory level in the field of Education, Health/Gender Equality, Agriculture (Livestock & Farming) and Aquaculture sectors, project management ideally gained in Yemen
- Excellent knowledge of sustainable development issues regarding the implementation of community projects, Yemeni cultural and social background
- Very good communication skills to related well with a wide range of local stakeholders and NGOs
- Good Computer skills and knowledge of standard applications
- Autonomous with good organization and planning skills to meet targets
- Very good written and spoken English and Arabic

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Visit Yemen LNG's website at (WWW.YEMENLNG.COM).
- Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
- Register your personal and professional data in order to log in and apply, mentioning the title and the reference number of the position you are applying for.

- Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

Closing Date: 15 June 2008

WWW.YEMENLNG.COM

When creating titles becomes distressful

By: Mohammed Ahmed Sa'eed Al-Kaladi
radaagreen@yahoo.com

The titles of books and publications play nearly – but not exactly – the same role as names for newborn babies because an individual requires a name to be known by and which becomes an integral part of his identity throughout his life.

Books also require specific titles that gain the power of science, status and regularity. Entitling books and written works is more difficult than naming people because in the case of humans, names don't necessarily denote personality traits and they aren't maps of one's core or the reason for his or her identity. Thus, human names are nothing more than symbols distinguishing people from each other.

To the contrary, book titles not only are significant, they also are concise guidelines providing access and a description of the book's content.

Furthermore, entitling a poem or any

literary work is more difficult than entitling scientific books and research. It's a simple matter to entitle a book of history, geography, philosophy or physics according to the book's topic and its speciality, whereas it's rather difficult to find a title summarizing a musical piece, a portrait or a collection of poems.

In ancient Arabic literature, the distress of choosing titles was solved by simply relating the poem to the poet, such as the "Diwan Al-Mutanabi," or relating the theme of the poem to the poet, like "Hamasat Abi Tammam" (The Enthusiasm of Abi Tammam).

The style of the poems also can be related to the poet, as in "Luzomiyat Abi Al-Alaa Al-Ma'arri." This is a simple way to do this because all of the poems are very similar in theme, idea and style.

However, such method of giving titles has become near impossible as poets began publishing their works in anthologies where their poems often don't carry a single idea or a specific topic. It's easier selecting an appropriate title for a single poem focusing on a

single idea, whereas a poet has difficulty finding one title encompassing a collection of poems, which are different in their themes and sense, because they can't be absorbed into a single phrase.

In English literature, the titles of some literary works have been changed even after the author's death. For instance, Jane Austen's masterpiece, "Pride and Prejudice," previously was entitled, "First Impression."

Thus, the saying, "You can tell a book by its cover (title)," isn't always correct. For example, some writers couldn't find titles reflecting the beauty and wonder of their works, whereas other books, which could be considered less valuable, receive beautiful and interesting titles. Such titles – which likely come about by chance – can smooth the way to fame for these books.

To sum up, writers shouldn't become distressed about the titles they choose for their works because readers eventually will become familiar with their titles, just as they previously became familiarized with the names of the authors.

Saving food is everyone's agenda

By: Rajendra K. Aneja
rajuaneja@hotmail.com

The world isn't obsessed with George W. Bush, Osama Bin Laden, Robert Mugabe, Iran or Iraq, but rather with its own belly, naturally. In one year, rice prices have escalated 74 percent, wheat 130 percent, soybeans 87 percent and dairy products 70 percent. We are desperately short of food.

With food rioting in several nations, it's time to look at our food stocks rather than our stockpiles of weapons. Here's a 10-point plan to save food:

1. Skip one meal a week: Decades ago, Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri implored Indians to skip dinner every Tuesday and it worked. If two billion people worldwide skipped one meal a week, we could feed two billion hungry people. If we go to sleep hungry, we understand how two billion people feel when they go to sleep hungry every day. Nowadays, I skip one meal per week.

2. Cut out 50 percent of parties: While it's chic for individuals and companies to throw parties at the drop of a hat, in either homes or five-star hotels, much food is wasted. If we reduced such parties by 50 percent, we could save a lot of food for those who need it.

Celebrities like Tom Cruise, Matt Damon, Scarlett Johansson, Abhishek Bachhan and Aishwarya Rai, Jackie Chan, Shakira should skip parties for a year. Likewise, George W. Bush and

Vladimir Putin should follow.

3. Store leftovers: There's always some dinner left over and normally thrown away. At least 10 percent of a family's food is wasted daily. Refrigerators and freezers give us the option to store foods for days, if not weeks.

4. Order less at restaurants: We tend to over-order at restaurants because hosts don't want to appear stingy. However, if you run out of a dish, you can always order more because restaurants replenish within minutes. This will help avoid waste. There's no shame in packing up leftover food that can be consumed later.

5. Avoid overstocking: When the international media warns of food shortages, people have a tendency to overstock basic foods in order to neutralize inflation. I too plead guilty on this one, as I've stocked up on rice, oil and wheat.

However, I reflected that if six billion people did this, we'd have chaos and the world's grain supplies would be exhausted in two months. Thus, we should avoid panic buying like I did because it creates artificial shortages.

6. Start dieting: Many of us are overweight and we dream of being thin and lean. Doctors have charts recommending weight according to our age and height, so now is the time to sack those calories.

7. Explore alternate foods: We're habituated to our national cuisines. For example, South Indians and Filipinos can't do without rice, but maybe once a week, they could try bread. Likewise,

Pakistanis can't do without biryani, but maybe they could eat pasta once a week. This would help lower prices.

8. Improve storage conditions: Approximately 15 to 20 percent of food grains rot due to poor transportation and storage where insects and rats destroy food. In the U.K., 30 to 40 percent of all food is never eaten. Over the past decade, the U.K. has thrown out 15 percent of its food, with each citizen annually throwing away £400 worth! This crisis should trigger improvements in logistics and storage.

9. Restaurant leftovers: Every day, many restaurants throw away good food that can't be stored, but which could be given to orphanages.

10. Grow vegetables: Many people have space around their homes where they could grow tomatoes, cauliflower, green peas, etc., which could be consumed at home. This too would reduce food pressures.

The current food crisis has been created by politicians who are obsessed with war and busily canvass Nobel prizes rather than increasing the productivity of rice per hectare. They've forgotten that we must eat, aiming for the stars while the ground slips from under our feet.

These 10 simple actions won't solve the world's food crisis, nor will they provide food to all who are hungry. They are sheer common sense, but we must implement them now because they could prevent rioting and save lives. Above everything, we will make some type of difference – small, but sure.

On the sunset

By: Adnan Hassan Al-Halmi
Adnanalhalmi@yahoo.com

Overcast sky, foggy minds, and the day is cloudy

Time is up, knowledge is gained
Happiness left, agony came

Farewell fellows, gratefully to our teachers we are,

Strangely, to each other whence we came

But brotherly united by knowledge we

became
Both boys and girls
So difficult to say bye though time for everyone

To follow his own destination and ways

Thus, I know that pains and sorrows dwell at your Heart

Your sad eyes filled with tears
Let me wipe with caring stares

And we'll look on the sunset together
Silently, politely, softly she is leaving

without saying
Goodbye But a sense of beauty silence is

At the top of my heart still be
Our love neither ends up nor dies

A source of beauty, inspiration, and purity she is

So, let's celebrate the carnival of our love's fourth Anniversary

Don't go further don't go alone
Don't leave me with the moon

Qat and U.S. research

By: Fathyeh Hailan
fhailan@hotmail.com

As 90 percent of Yemenis use qat and in light of the latest U.S. laws and regulations regarding qat, I was amused to read this result from research the United States did on qat (which means they have no reason to speak against it): Khat Plant May Enhance Male Fertility <http://www.wbmd.com/infertility-and-reproduction/news/20040629/khat-plant-may-enhance-male-fertility>.

Even with such a large population, as compared to others in our region, Yemen is a low user of any other drugs such as heroin or alcohol.

Yemen is suffering from a lack of water, most of which is used to water qat, which simply entertains the population, rather than watering fruit and vegetables to feed its 20 million citizens.

Yemen imports most of its food from outside, but because most qat is consumed locally, there are no statistics regarding how much qat Yemen exports.

There's no government assistance for those farmers who don't grow qat and therefore, are forced to accept lower incomes from their crops, which they struggle to sell, while at the same time, those farmers who grow qat make triple the income and aren't taxed for their abusive use of water to grow qat crops. Marketing qat also is extremely easy. Finally, if we fight qat, it should be for our own reasons, such as being self-supporting in providing food for our 20 million compatriots.

Through The Mind's Eye

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



Water Crisis, a call for all!

The shortage of water firstly appeared as a problem in some cities. Gradually, it has become a crisis that threatens not only cities but also villages. No body knows what would be later in the future. And no body finds a real practical solution though a lot of money is spent for seminars and researches to solve it radically.

It is the beginning of summer season nowadays. Rains fall heavily sometimes every day. Water runs fast in the streets to finally reach into drains or to the seas. Meanwhile, the authorities, people, and local and international organizations cry for the shortage of water.

At the time of rain, people enjoy standing by windows to see the view, saying "Masha'a Allah" for the currents that run through streets and roads. They say "Masha'a Allah" as a religious duty.

Suddenly they start curse the authorities or the people concerned like the Ministry of Sanctions and Water because there is a shortage of water to be for daily use. They sometimes abuse. But finally they surrender and go to buy water, or bring it from other sources.

Many times this happens. Many times it rains. But the situation remains the same. Neither the people take it as something vital for their lives, nor does the government try to find other permanent solutions or at least to direct the people to save the water of rains for

home use.

The government is wrong. It knows well that it is wrong. It consists of a group of people who also cry for the shortage of water. It is true that some of them do not care because they have their own sources of water for their daily use, but they can do nothing for children and generations to come who may not have any source of water in the future.

Keeping this in mind wakes up every one of us to think about a solution tomorrow and days after. We, as individuals, can not construct water stations. However, we can do something, but actually many things to keep ourselves away from such a crisis.

Exploiting the water of rains can offer us a lot. It will not prevent us from the beautiful scenes as people may think. It, on the other hand, can offer us somehow sufficient water for our daily use.

In the villages, dams can be built to save water. The rains of summer can fill such dams which will provide water not only for the summer, but also for the whole year. The dams are also used as a means to feed wells. The rain currents do nothing for such wells because they run into improper places. So, dams can provide water for the daily use and as feeding sources for wells in general.

Some people may laugh at this idea on the claim that the cost of such dams is higher than the cost of buying water from the available

sources. They are right. I confess. The dams require many things to be built. But they would ensure a better tomorrow for the people's lives.

People can not build dams in the cities. They, however, can exploit the water of rains by specializing tanks into which pipes can be connected from the roofs. Keeping the roof clean will make the rains fall into the tanks and it can be used if not for drinking, for many other daily uses.

Through such dams and tanks, people will save a lot of water. They will not need to buy any more. They, moreover, will not keep worrying about this problem which threatens the whole country with dryness.

A more practical solution is also to economize in using water. Our prophet Mohammed (PBUH) says to us: "don't overuse water even if you are on banks of a current river". Saving water, thus, is a religious duty that all of us must respect in all the ways.

Keeping these points in mind will widen our awareness to think more and more about useful and practical solutions. The only thing required from people as well as responsible authorities is to take the matter seriously in a way that promises a better tomorrow for us and generations to come.

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.

Choosing to Learn

By: Per Unckel

The Nordic countries' economies are performing well, and a part of the reason is that they are gradually reforming their isocial model, adapting it to new realities in ways that respond to people's demands. But there is nothing uniquely iNordic about this change. On the contrary, it is one that others can emulate.

Obviously, such a policy requires significant investment in research and development. Sweden, for example, invests more than any other European country in this area – well above the EU target of 3% of GDP. Many countries invest less, and even Sweden's 4% of GDP might not be enough, given higher spending on R&D in China, India, and the United States.

Moreover, large investments in R&D may be of limited use if knowledge can't be transformed into successful businesses. That requires adopting policies that cover everything from kindergarten training to collaboration between universities and companies, as well as an overall business climate in which success is rewarded and failure is not treated as a human catastrophe. America's success is to a great extent based on this kind of thinking.

Unfortunately, most European educational systems are based on outdated practices and theories. Although educational possibilities and structures have gradually been diversified, the major shortcoming of most European educational systems remains: students have too few choices, and teachers, if they want to remain in their profession,

must adhere to a severely compartmentalized pedagogy.

As with corporate monopolies, the consumers (students) are often seen as a homogeneous mass, where all students can be educated according to the same pedagogical approach. But schools must be able to meet the needs and abilities of individual children in a way that makes learning a stimulating adventure.

Other countries might find Sweden's system worth studying. Its schools are financed by local communities and work within the framework of a national curriculum designed by the parliament and government. But, while everyone must follow these rules, individual schools are run in a competitive manner. Anyone – parents, teachers, or even companies – can apply for a license to operate a school. The National School Board is, in principle, instructed to approve an application if the proposed school is likely to fulfill the national goals and has a solid financial base.

Moreover, private schools are not seen as mere supplements to public schools, but as fully-fledged alternatives, so they need not offer something different. A community where a private school offers its services must support it with the same amount of money, or vouchers, per student that it provides to public schools. The amount of financing per student is the same, and schools that receive vouchers cannot charge additional fees.

After this system was adopted in the 1990s, many non-public schools were established. The pioneers were often parents' or teachers' cooperatives, usually with a special pedagogical philo-

osophy. Companies operating chains of schools later came to play an important role as well.

As a result, the variety of schools has increased throughout Sweden. The voucher system means that all students, irrespective of family income, can attend the school of their choice. Even in rural areas, there is now a wide choice of schools, and it seems that competition has improved the overall quality of Swedish schools, as non-public schools' very existence has created a demand for reform of public schools. If there is any difference, it seems that non-public schools often are better than public schools in dealing with children with learning problems.

There are, of course many alternatives to what Sweden has done to revitalize education. But three features of Sweden's reform seem particularly important: it was based on a combination of public and market systems; it was general in form, without demanding that non-public schools be special in order to be licensed; and it covered all students.

Sweden's voucher educational system is probably the most ambitious of its kind in the world. This is all the more remarkable insofar as the principle of competition on which it relies has taken root in a country where competition within the area of public services has not generally been accepted.

Per Unckel is a former Swedish Minister of Education and Science. Copyright: Project Syndicate/Europets World, 2008. www.project-syndicate.org www.europesworld.org

Syrian Cultural Week: Presenting Syria to Yemen

Alongside the Supreme Yemeni Syrian Committee meetings that took place earlier this month, Syrian Cultural Week was held from May 11 – 16, corresponding with the official inauguration of the Syrian Cultural Center in Sana'a.

By: Yemen Times Staff
Photos curtsy of 26 September Establishment, by Hamdi Al-Saeedi

During the second week of May, many Syrian officials and artists came to Yemen to organize the Syrian Cultural Week as a part of promoting Damascus as the 2008 Arab cultural capital.

During the week, Yemeni citizens were introduced to Syrian culture, which included music, art, dances, history and even the media. Simultaneously, Syrian officials met with their Yemeni counterparts and agreed on a number of future cooperation activities and projects. According to ambassador Abdul Ghafour Sabouni, Syria gives more educational scholarships to Yemenis than any other country, with over 180 scholarships in various fields every year. On the same occasion, an agreement on youth and cultural activities was signed between Yemeni and Syrian officials in order to encourage cultural and educational exchange between the two countries.

Dance, music and a fashion show

Forty dancers of the artistic group "Anana" participated in the Syrian Culture Week and delighted the audience with their dances and performances. "Starry Night" was the title of the night show performed by Anana, also known as the Syrian Art Ambassador.

This dance performance depicted the Damascus Sword Story with the heroism of Mohammed Emairi and Reem Abd Shahata as well as showing the traditional folk dances of Damascus, in addition to sketches on the known "Cafe", "Karakoz" and "Al-Souffiyah" legends.



Anana was established in 1990 and includes 70 professional female and male dancers as well as 50 amateurs. The word "Anana" refers to the ancient Syrian god of love, fertility, culture, art, and literature. The band takes its inspiration from Arab history and culture, especially in the Levant area. They try to fuse reality and myth and tradition as well as modernization.

The group also played in Aden and Hadramout during the culture week.

Also in the cultural week, were many singing sessions where the Syrian traditional music was played. Melodies mixed technical art and western instruments with traditional ones.

Musical Group "Shiookh Salateen Al-Tarab" performed a number of songs and melodies based on the *halabia* school of music during the festival. The group tries to revive neglected songs and traditional music in an attempt to keep the culture alive. The artists have levels according to their talent, as one who is very good is at the top of the ladder and is called a "sheikh", while a "sultan" is a good performer but not as good as the sheikh.

There was also a fashion show that displayed Syrian traditional and modern costumes and the bright colors and Syrian embroidery famous around the world. The show dedicated different styles of dress based on the region and

orientation, such as cities and suburbs of different towns.

Exhibitions

There were 31 different paintings on display in a showroom designed for the Syrian artists, with each painting reflecting their talents and experiences. The paintings ranged from historical and natural scenes to modern art.

There was also an exhibition for Arabic calligraphy, which is famous in Syria. The exhibition contained 25 outstanding showpieces of handwriting by Syrian calligraphers.

Simultaneously, there was a book fair organized by the Syrian Ministry of Culture, with more than 400 titles from different fields. Many were Arabic titles, while others were translated from foreign languages into Arabic.

There was also an exhibition for handicrafts and traditional ceramic and brass utensils, in addition to samples of world-renowned Syrian carpets.

The cultural week also included a photo exhibition, in which professional pictures reflecting natural and modern Syrian landscapes as well as traditional handicraft markets and historical cities. Most Syrian cities were present in the photography display, such as Damascus, Halab and Homah, bringing Yemeni audiences one step closer to Syria.

Lectures and movies

While entertainment was the major part of the cultural week, some intellectual events and presentations also took place at the Yemeni Cultural House and the Syrian Cultural center among other places.

Lectures on Syrian heritage and links between Yemeni and Syrian cultures took place. Ali Al-Gaiym, the Syrian culture minister's assistant, explained that there are more than 800 archeological and historical locations in



Gajah presented a lecture titled "Andalusian pioneers of Yemeni origins" at the Sana'a University Faculty of Education.

A number of various Syrian movies were on display such as "Under the Ceiling", directed by Nedhal Al-Dabes, "The Spirit's Breeze", directed by Abdullateef Abdullhameed, "Strangers' Traces", directed by Sameer Dhakra, and "Dreamful Perspectives", directed by Waha Al-Raheb and produced by the General Institution for Cinema in Syria.

At the Sana'a Cultural Center, a lecture about the Arabic cultural situation in Syria was presented by Syrian Minister of Culture Riyadh Nassan Agha. He narrated the different stages the Arab nation has gone through up to the present day, concluding with the choosing of Syria as the capital of Arabic culture this year.

He emphasized on the important Islamic principles of co-existence and accepting others, reminding the audience that Islam originated from the Arabian Peninsula, while Christianity originated from the Levant especially Syria.

Another lecture entitled "Syria as the Foundation of Civilizations" was presented by Basam Jamos, General Manager of Syrian Archeology and Museums.

Damascus Street (Hadda) Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel: 00967 - 1 - 418545/67/8
P.O.Box: 16183
Fax: 00967 - 1 - 418549 - 418564
Website: www.shammrhotel.com
E-mail: info@shammrhotel.com
shammrhotel@hotmail.com

فندق وأجنحة شمر
Shammer Hotel & Suites

شركة أمان للتأمين
AMAN INSURANCE CO.

AMAN INSURANCE COMPANY

Marine insurance
Automobile Insurance
Life Insurance
Engineering Insurance
Liability Insurance
Medical Insurance
Power Insurance
Travel Insurance
Property Insurance
Others

تأمين نقل بضائع
تأمين السيارات
تأمين الحياة الجماعي والفردى
تأمين اصابتة عمل
التأمين الهندسي
تأمين النقل
تأمين المطاوعة
تأمين السفر
تأمين العمالة
تأمينات أخرى

Head Office: Zubairi St. Yemen Kuwait Bank Building
Tel. + 967 1 469721/2/3/4, Fax. + 967 1 217251, 209452
Branches: Sana'a: Taiz Street, Tel. + 967 1 624971, Fax. + 967 1 625714
Hodeidah: Tel. + 967 3 201110, Fax. + 967 3 201107, Taiz: Tel. + 967 4 251454, Fax. + 967 4 250832
Aden: Tel. + 967 2 244295, Fax. + 967 2 246237, Mukalla: Tel. + 967 5 350997, Fax. + 967 5 350629,

بثقتكم كبرنا
وبحجم الودائع تفوقنا

شكراً لثقتكم

CAC BANK
بنك التمويل التعاوني والزراعي
Cooperative & Agricultural Credit Bank
www.cacbank.com.ye

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

FMC Technologies Smith meters/LACT metering Systems
The world leader in flow measurement and control of petroleum products since 1926

UPSTREAM DOWNSTREAM
Oil and Gas Production Oil and Gas Transportation Refined Products Transportation Marketing Terminals Industrial Distribution

AGENT FOR:

FMC Technologies Smith Meters / LACT Metering Systems
Solar Turbines A Caterpillar Company
FMC Technologies Fluid Control / Pump / Invalco / Manifolds
DRESSER Masoneilan Control Valves
MURPHY FW Murphy
Euro Contrôle Project Project Management & Consulting Company
Enraf Complete Tank Gauging Inventory System
Score Group plc Intelligent Valve and Gas Turbine Solutions
DRESSER Consolidated Safety valves & Pressure Relief valves
KOBOLD Flow Products Pressure Products Level Products Temperature Products
Turbine Overhauling
FMC Technologies WECCO / Chiksan/ Dynator products

With the lowest Charges

You get your money at your bank account in India, with very good INR Rates.

TRANSFER YOUR MONEY THROUGH
YEMEN GULF BANK
01-260823 EXT 140

بنك اليمن والخليج
Yemen Gulf Bank