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Qat planting leads Yemen to a food crisis

By: Hamed Thabet

SANA'A, June 18 — Yemen is at the threshold of starvation and could probably face a significant food crisis within the next five years unless farmers stop growing qat and adopt modern agricultural techniques, says Ismail Muharam, director of the General Authority for Agricultural Research.

The Yemeni government, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, is aware that the most efficient way to save and protect the nation from hunger is to promote a renaissance in its own agricultural industry by growing fruit, vegetables and other crops instead of qat, Muharam adds.

It's currently impossible to dispense with outside wheat and grain donations. According to Muharam, "We're trying to be self-sufficient, but this will take at least 10 years and will only happen if — and only if — we get rid of qat and use efficient methods of agriculture."

Noting that the current global food shortage is affecting many world nations, Khalid Sa'eed, director of the World Bank at the Ministry of Planning, explains that Yemen's increasing dependence on outside food supplies has been exacerbated by climate change, population growth and traditional irrigation methods.

During the past two years, there was a 75 to 92 percent gap between consumption (needs) and production of wheat. Muharam points out that Yemen could produce a hundred-fold more than what it is now — but only if there's a proper system in place and the country stops growing qat.

Yemen's wheat imports have doubled since 2004, while domestic grain production is providing local markets with approximately 8 percent of the total market demand for grains, Muharam explains.

He adds that qat is taking up 141,000 hectares out of 1.5 million hectares of fertile land, whereas wheat takes up only



A significant amount of water is wasted because of using traditional irrigation methods in most Yemeni farms. If irrigation water is used carefully, and Qat plantation stops, there is hope for Yemen to sustain its agricultural industry.

100,000 to 140,000 hectares.

Grain production in the past two years was between 600,000 and 800,000 tons, while vegetables were 865,000 tons per year, fruit was 900,000 tons and coffee was 18,000 tons. If food prices continue rising, Yemenis won't have anything to eat in the next five years.

"We're late in solving the food crisis, but it's not too late. There must be a practical law to stop poor irrigation and limit the growing of qat," Muharam says, adding, "The Agriculture Ministry is responsible for this and must start working to find something."

Poor farming techniques

There are many reasons for this current food crisis. For instance, many Yemeni farmers use traditional agricultural methods, particularly regarding irrigation, in addition to the fact that the quality of their products isn't good. Only a few farmers use new methods of irrigation and agriculture. Another problem is that each Yemeni annually consumes between 120 and 150 cubic meters of water, Muharam adds.

On the other hand, measures have been enacted to help improve grain production, including using genetically modified crops, improving irrigation, providing farmers harvesting and extension services and cultivating new lands for agricultural purposes. However, the pri-

mary risk facing domestic grain production regards the availability of water resources and rainfall, Sa'eed adds.

The Yemeni government must provide new agricultural materials that can be used to preserve water, as well as its quality. While these are available on the market, only a few can obtain them because they're expensive, Muharam says.

The other main problem in Yemen is lack of water and fertile soil for agriculture, as most farmers prefer growing qat instead of other crops, which would bring in greater income.

Yet another problem is that homes are being built on agricultural land and destroying it. It should be kept in mind that not all lands are fit for agriculture and those that are must be preserved, Muharam stresses.

The debate on qat cultivation and its role in supplanting food crops recently has resurfaced and fueled resistance from a society that views the controversial narcotic as a traditional necessity.

Because they fear for the future, farmers' production of fruits, vegetables and coffee has increased; however, wheat and grains remain the same — and are even decreasing — whereas qat is increasing.

The current drought is raising concerns among Yemeni farmers for this summer's agricultural season, in which rainfall usually is expected at the beginning of April in order to start planting, but this year's

lack of rainfall will affect their production.

Grains constitute 50 percent of Yemen's agricultural production, with Hodeidah, Dhamar and Hajjah governorates leading the way, depending on rainfall to play a prime factor in determining the quantity of output, Muharam notes.

World Bank support to Yemen The World Bank and the Ministry of Planning have completed negotiations, with additional financing grant documents being submitted to executive directors within the Yemeni government, and the funds for improving agriculture will be delivered to Yemen in a week.

According to World Bank Senior Communications Officer Samra Shaibani, the World Bank's project development seeks to improve the range of services and economic opportunities available to the poorer segments of Yemen's population through conducting community development, microfinance and capacity-building programs.

The additional World Bank financing will scale up activities in components 1 and 3 of the Social Fund for Development's project, with these activities being implemented under two new components, 4 and 5, as described below, Shaibani explained.

Component 4 involves community-based labor-intensive work. This compo-

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Al-Khaiwani given Human Rights Media Award

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 18 — Amnesty International granted its human rights media award to leading Yemeni journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani just days after his imprisonment by Yemeni authorities.

The award — Amnesty's Special Award for Human Rights Journalism Under Threat presented by BBC journalist Alan Johnston at an emotional awards ceremony in London Tuesday night — was given to the 42-year-old former editor of Al-Shoura weekly newspaper.

Jim Boumelha, president of the International Federation of Journalists, accepted the award. In an acceptance statement read at the awards ceremony on the imprisoned journalist's behalf, Al-Khaiwani extended his "thanks and gratitude to Amnesty International, as well as to all of those attending this



Al-Khaiwani

event," adding that while he is suffering a prolonged "ordeal," he has "never been alone, thanks to the solidarity of my colleagues and support from the fledgling Yemeni human rights movement."

On June 9, Al-Khaiwani was jailed for six years, a move criticized by Amnesty, which says he should "never have been on trial in the first place"

and that "his imprisonment looks like a clear case of the authorities putting an independent-minded journalist behind bars for his criticism of government policies."

Speaking shortly before he was imprisoned, Al-Khaiwani said, "The authorities in Yemen are trying to silence me and they even appear to be prepared to lock me up to keep me quiet. I definitely don't want to go to prison again just for doing my job as a journalist, but at the same time I'm not prepared to censor myself for an easy life."

Public support

Dozens of journalists, members of Parliament, human rights activists and civil society organizations in Yemen staged a sit-in Sunday in front of the public prosecutor, demanding the immediate release of Al-Khaiwani, who was transferred from the state

criminal court's facilities to the Sana'a Central Prison on June 9 following his sentencing of six years' imprisonment there.

According to Yemen's penal code, while no judgment made by the criminal court may be appealed, first verdicts in any court case can be appealed; thus, because this is only Al-Khaiwani's first verdict, he still may appeal his sentence.

Yemeni Journalists Syndicate Secretary-General Amin Dammaj noted that the syndicate has sent an official letter demanding Al-Khaiwani's release to the public prosecutor, who already has promised to release him, since his sentence won't be implemented immediately.

Human rights activist and Member of Parliament Ahmed Saif Hashed believes Al-Khaiwani's trial was a breach of justice used to avenge a political vendetta, commenting, "It's amaz-

ing that some influential people in justice use their power against journalists and journalism."

He added, "What happened today was power versus justice and the assassination of the law, so I call on all civil society organizations to protest for the sake of revealing these illegal violations. "Together with the general public, human rights organizations and donor nations, we all must stand together against such illegal violations to preserve the law and ensure the objectivity of justice," Dammaj concluded.

Families of USS Cole bombing victims call for Al-Khaiwani's release

The American Islamic Congress announced Tuesday that it is joining with the families of sailors killed in the USS Cole bombing to demand Yemen take responsible action against terrorists and protect the basic freedoms of

journalists.

"We are a coalition of civil rights activists, the families of USS Cole sailors murdered in the Al-Qaeda attack on the USS Cole and Americans of conscience. We are concerned that the Yemeni regime has targeted several leading independent journalists, including Al-Khaiwani, who was just sentenced to six years in prison with hard labor." The group continued, "We note with concern that the U.S. administration has proposed doubling its foreign aid to Yemen, despite a regression in the Yemeni government's action on terrorism and civil rights."

They demand that Al-Khaiwani be freed — either exonerated of all trumped-up charges or pardoned by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh — further stressing that Yemeni journalists must be free to practice their profession without government repression.

97% of Yemeni lands suffer desertification, says agriculture ministry

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, June 18 — The Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry's Forestation and Desertification Control Department, or FDCD, says desertification in Yemen is increasing and negatively impacting its desert, coastal and mountainous environments.

In this year's annual report, the department states that northeastern areas such as Hadramout, Al-Mahrah and Marib are affected by desertification, with sand dunes exceeding 100 meters high. These areas also have suffered erosion of water, particularly in 1996 when such erosion spread across the Empty Quarter.

According to the FDCD report, Yemen's southern coastline from Al-Mahrah in the east to Bab Al-Mandab Strait in the west and its western coastline between Bab Al-Mandab Strait and Hodeidah along the Red Sea, constantly are exposed to active sand movement, noting that such sands are even affecting homes, industrial complexes, farmlands, public highways and water sources.

The report confirmed that Yemen's coastline is being subjected to devastation due to water erosion, pointing out that even excessive pumping of water to grow agricultural crops negatively affects the coastline.

Desertification in Yemen has multiple types represented by the deterioration of its natural elements, negative impacts on rainforests, farmland production, surface and groundwater and animal life.

The FDCD report clarified that water and wind erosion are the two primary reasons for desertification, adding that the total area affected by both factors in the northern gover-

norates is estimated at 3.63 million hectares.

Other areas estimated at 3.83 million hectares suffer effects caused by salty water.

According to official figures, nearly 97 percent of Yemeni lands suffer desertification, with the threat level varying from one area to another.

Nowadays, Yemen's environment is worsening more than in the past, particularly as the country's current population stands at 21.7 million, according to the 2004 general census. Such rapid population growth has increased human activities and maximized the usage of natural resources, thereby disturbing the balance between humans and the environment. Such discrepancies negatively impact water, soil, rainforests and farmlands. They've also led to slow development, mainly in rural areas, and helped desertification expand due to unwise exploitation of rainforests and grasslands, coupled with mismanagement of farmlands, according to the FDCD's report.

Convention to combat desertification

Yemen ratified the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification on Dec. 31, 1996, which aims to alleviate desertification and drought in various countries. The agreement stipulates that those countries suffering this phenomenon must take integrated and well-organized measures to contribute to sustainable development in desertification-affected areas.

FDCD Director General Saleh Al-Dhamiri says, "There are many activities to combat desertification in various Yemeni governorates, including planting windbreaks and shelterbelts."

He continued, "Our department has

an international plan to combat desertification. This plan, whose implementation will take up to 15 years, was developed in 2000 in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization."

Al-Dhamiri points out that current efforts to combat desertification depend on the local budget, while no efforts have been made in those areas needing international financial assistance, adding that implementing the entire plan may cost as much as \$24 million.

According to Al-Dhamiri, more than 250 million people in more than 100 countries suffer due to desertification. They are considered below the poverty line and among the poorest on earth. However, approximately 100 countries have signed a United Nations agreement to battle this problem.

Yemen depends on rainwater for agriculture

Yemen, which depends on rainwater for agriculture and where most agricultural areas experience only 250 millimeters of rainfall annually, is one of those countries establishing a national plan in 2004 to prevent desertification.

The Yemeni government and its international partners, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the FDCD, with the help of the U.N. desertification program, have inserted the concept of fighting desertification into numerous strategies, including Yemeni agricultural strategies, the national population strategy, the anti-poverty strategy and the national strategy.

However, looking at the number of agreements the Yemeni government and its partners have made and accomplished, a large portion have never



A village in Joal Madram district in Abyan. Trees that grow naturally help fight the desertification that is quickly taking over the village.

been executed, according to a previous FDCD report listing the main reasons as being the non-implementation of policies intended to fight desertification, failure to assign duties to each

government agency responsible, poor government performance and inability to communicate with regional and international programs concerned with desertification.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following positions in the **Joint Initiative on the Response to HIV/AIDS in the Arab Region (HARPAS/ OFID)**

1-Post Title: Project Management Officer
Duration: 11 months

Responsibilities:

- Facilitating/supporting the implementation of the HIV UNDP programme on Country level
- Coordinating UNDP HIV activities with all relevant partners and ensuring its synergy with the regional programme overall work plan.
- Making sure that the OPEC International Development Fund (OFID), implementation and reporting requirements are met
- Facilitating the Development of an HIV aware and committed community of action formed by UNDP partners from different constituencies (Arts & Media, CSO leaders, Religious, Legislation, Private sector and other leaders) to achieve this the PA should:
- Provide programmatic support to all HIV activities carried out by the country office and regional/sub-regional activities carried out by the regional HIV programme in the country, to achieve this the PA should
- Ensure the identification of stakeholders participating in different events and facilitate the communications with them
- Ensure that the necessary power points presentations and training material for all activities are in place and logistic support provided
- Supervising and ensuring smooth finance and administrative procedure for the HIV relevant activities
- Organise and follow-up media watches, information compilation and research projects on relevant issues as per request of country office or the regional programme

Qualification:

- Masters degree in a relevant discipline
- Have at least one years of national and/or international experience, particularly related to HIV/AIDS.
- Fluency in English and Arabic required, French is an asset
- Substantive experience as a specialist or activist in the area of HIV/AIDS.
- Fully proficient computer skills and use of relevant software and other applications, e.g. word processing, spreadsheets, Internet, etc.

2-Post Title: Finance Officer
Duration: 12 months

Responsibilities:

- Based on the annual work plans the Finance Officer prepares updates and monitors the finance plans of the assigned projects, in coordination with the project implementing units.
- Advise the project implementing units in finance strategies for the procurement of goods, works and services to ensure best response to the objectives raised in procurement and the work plans.
- Ensures the preparation and proper use of standard documentation in line with the particular finance and contracting processes in accordance with the approved finance plans and work plans.
- Assist in the development of new frameworks of finance procedures including for the Global Fund, and in the development of practical tool-kit of best practices.
- Ensures that all finance process files are complete and kept updated prior to the issuance of respective contracts. Elaborates or supervises the issuance of contract for goods, works or services in the corresponding formats by financing source.
- Represents the finance section in negotiations, meetings and review of the finance and contracting processes.
- Supports in the different activities that are assigned to him by the Program Manager, within the framework from his or her experience and competence.

Qualification:

- Masters degree in Administration, Economy, Finance or equivalent disciplines
- Minimum 3 years of relevant international experience in Project management.
- Excellent knowledge of tools, procedures and international standards for the purchase of goods and services within the context of developmental support programs.
- Knowledge of the UNDP administrative and financial management procedures is highly desirable.
- Familiarity with UNDP program execution modalities, rules and regulations is an asset;
- Significant previous background in institutional environment of development cooperation (NGO's, UN system, multilateral cooperation, etc.)
- Computer literate especially, in calculus sheets, excel, access, ATLAS, and ERP (people soft) is highly desirable prerequisite.
- Proficiency in English and Arabic.

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 Monday, 30 June 2008

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

1-Post Title: 2 National Technical Associates.

Duration: one year- renewable based on performance and project duration.
Duty Station: The National Technical Associates will be located in the PFM project offices at the Ministry of Finance.

Responsibilities:

- Assist in conducting studies on the current PFM business processes in the GOY in order to diagnose gaps that need improvement.
- Work with international consultants on several components of the PFM reforms such as commitment control systems, Cash Planning, Budgeting, and Accounting.
- Work with the PFM Expert in providing technical support to the Technical Committees in the Ministry of Finance.
- Assist in providing training to the Public Finance staff on the key areas of reform.
- Assist in preparation of reports as requested by PFM Expert
- Assist in other tasks related to the project technical and administrative tasks as assigned by supervisor.
- Translate technical materials when requested.

Qualification:

- Hold a university degree in accounting, finance, business administration or economics from a recognized university
- Have at least three years experience in public financial management, covering budget preparation, execution, controls and financial accountability, procurement and capacity building
- Possession of any of the internationally recognized professional accountancy qualification will be an asset
- Proficiency in MS office applications, and any computerized accounting manual
- Fluency in both English and Arabic languages
- Experience of working with Government is an asset

2-Post Title: Translator.

Duration: one year- renewable based on performance and project duration.

Duty Station: The Translator will be located in the PFM project offices at the Ministry of Finance.

Responsibilities:

- Undertake simultaneous interpretations during meetings and workshops
- Translate written documents, such as reports, budgets, laws etc.
- Accompany consultants to meetings in the Ministries
- Assist in preparation of reports as requested by PFM Expert
- Assist in other tasks related to project administration as assigned by supervisor

Qualification:

- Hold a bachelors degree in English language or any other relevant degree from a recognized university with at least 3 years experience of translation of Public Financial Management related work.
- Proficiency in MS office applications is mandatory
- Fluency in both English and Arabic languages
- Experience of working with Government is an asset

3- Post Title: Admin and Finance Assistant

Duration: 12 months

Location: Ministry of Finance

Responsibilities:

- Arrange in consultation with PFM Expert and UNDP procurement of project equipment;
- Maintain all project files and records;
- Arrange for typing of all major (bulk) documents in Arabic & English and reports;
- Assist in the procurement of goods and services for the project as required and in accordance with the project work plan;
- Maintain update project inventory records;
- Prepare request for direct payment, quarterly financial reports, and maintain updated expenditure control and managing the financial bookkeeping and filing;
- Organize meetings for the project management and participate in organizing in-country workshop and other related training activities (including study tours and workshops abroad); and
- Perform other tasks related to the project assignment by project management.

Qualification:

- Possession of BA degree in Commerce with at least not less than three years of experience is a minimum requirement.
- Knowledge of UNDP rules and procedures in finance, procurement and personnel related matters.
- Good communication skills
- Ability to use word processing and excel
- Good command of English and Arabic (Oral and Written)
- Accounting skills

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.

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Yemen may decline hosting Khaliji 20 Championship

By: Almgidat Mojalli

SANA'A, May 18 — The head of the Football General Union and manager of Khaliji 20 Championship, Ahmed Al-Eysi, warned of the possibility of canceling Yemen's role as the host of the championship, scheduled to be held in Aden by the beginning of 2011. The cancellation comes as a result of the city's lack of adequate infrastructure and capacity to accommodate delegations expected to arrive to Aden for the football championship.

"The obstacle of accommodation and hosting guest delegations hasn't been solved yet, which is a main barrier to holding the championship in Aden," said Al-Eysi.

He added that construction work for hosting the championship has been deficient, saying that the necessary stadiums and the training playgrounds in both Aden and Abyan governorates haven't been determined yet.

Al-Eysi hinted at the possibility of hosting the championship in Sana'a. He renewed his confirmation that Sana'a would be a better city to host the event, considering its more advanced infrastructure and capacity.

Sports media agent Mansour Al-Jaradi stated that there would be official delega-

tions and media agents coming from the six Gulf countries and Iraq which may exceed 2,800 people.

"During Khaliji 18, held in 2006 in the United Arab Emirates, there were 1,600 sports and media agents and about 70 administrators, in addition to the official delegations from the Gulf countries," said Al-Jaradi. He added that the Football General Union would need to provide at least 2,500 cars for the delegations, teams and media agents.

Al-Jaradi added that the guest delegations and media agents would also need five-star hotel accommodation, which even Sana'a cannot provide on such a scale.

Al-Eysi pointed to the possibility of enlisting foreign experts in terms of management and some issues that the local expertise lack experience in, affirming that there is no need for Gulf support regarding finances. Al-Jaradi mentioned that it is normal to enlist a foreign company to handle administration and marketing.

Al-Eysi also criticized the performance of the referees during local competitions, saying that "the experience of the referees is low and doesn't meet the [championship's] standards." He laid the responsibility of poor Yemeni football club performance on referees and coaches.

Their News

TEKLINE launches
Nortel services in Yemen

NORTEL

TEKLINE held a celebration to officially launch Nortel International Company. Nortel is a recognized leader in delivering communications capabilities that enhance the human experience, ignite and power global commerce. A number of officials and local and international figures attended the celebration.

Moreover, a number of seminars and introduction sessions on the services and equipments and all electrical gadgets of the company were held on the occasion. The sessions were presented by a number of specialized personnel in the Information Technology sector and communication field in both the business and the services fields in private and public sectors.

Worth mentioning that Nortel Company is a recognized leader in delivering communication capacities that enhance experience, ignite and power global commerce, and secure and protect the world's most critical information.

German Ambassador meets Alumni
Associations



On June 15, representatives of the 7 German Alumni Associations in Yemen met

with German Ambassador Michael Klor-Berchtold, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German House Sanaa-Aden to discuss ways to intensify their cooperation in the fields of culture and education.

The more than 3000 German Alumni and their Associations in Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Abyan and Mukalla play an important role as promoters of German culture. Due to their broad qualifications acquired in Germany they are also key to the development of Yemen and an important interface of mutual exchange.

Once a year, the German Embassy and the DAAD organize a network meeting to inform the 7 German Alumni Associations about the latest developments in the

German-Yemeni cultural cooperation, about offers for alumni and to discuss joint future projects.

Japan extends a non project grant aid of about 4 million USD to help ease Yemen's economic difficulties

Today at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Sana'a, H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Al-Arhabi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and Mr. Masakazu Toshikage, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Yemen, signed and exchanged Notes for the provision of a Japanese non-project grant aid to Yemen in the amount of 400,000,000 Japanese Yen, approximately equivalent to 4 million US dollars.

The said non-project grant aid will be extended to Yemen for the first time in 6 years to help Yemen in easing its economic difficulties, particularly in support of the Yemen's efforts to implement its structural adjustment policy and to improve the country's fiscal sustainability. The amount of the grant will be utilized by Yemen to boost its economic and social development in line with its current Development Policy and Poverty Reduction Program.

Following the official visit of H.E. Mr. Abdul-Karim Al-Arhabi to Japan in April this year, an agreement on another grant aid of 7.2 million US dollars for the construction of basic education schools in Yemen was also

signed in May at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. Furthermore, as part of an energy/food aid package announced last month by Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda at the World Food Summit in Rome, an additional assistance to boost agricultural production in Yemen will be considered.

Less than three weeks left for amal festival submissions deadline

AMAL08

FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE CINE EURO ARABE
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Next June 30 is the deadline for those filmmakers who would like to participate in next VI edition of International Euro Arab Film Festival AMAL. So far, and since the Open Call launched last February, the festival has already received many submissions of documentaries, featured films and short films to participate in the next edition of the festival that will be held from the 25 to the 31 of October in Santiago de Compostela (Spain).

It is outstanding the greater quality of the received films with respect to previous editions.

This is mainly a result of the greater diffusion efforts done this year and the fact of visiting different international film festivals of Arabic cinema like the Gulf Film festival of Dubai (UAE) and Al Jazeera International Documentary Film Festival (Qatar), in which AMAL was present last month of May, or the South Cinemas Film Festival held last week in Granada. The visits to such festivals and the meetings held with directors, producers and other people involved in the cinematographic industry in many different countries, have made AMAL Festival well known in international cinema circuits and in the same time makes us discover new very promising filmmakers and attract a greater amount and quality in the presented works.

Al-Jeel Al- Jadeed Group rewards its agents with prizes, mass wedding celebration



In association with Al-Rahwanji International Cards, Al-Jeel Al- Jadeed Group held a ceremony to reward all its agents with a random prize drawing, including the grand prize, a Toyota Yaris, awarded to Al-Yemen Al-Saeed Print.

In recognition of the companies' one-year partnership, Mohammed Al-Anesi, the General Manager of Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Group, welcomed the owner and General Manager of Al-Rahwanji International Cards as well as the present business executives, agents, and journalists. He praised the company's agents, saying "we celebrate and honor all our agents, because in one year we succeeded in distributing Al-Rahwanji International Cards throughout Yemen." He went on to say, "In spite of the hard compe-



tition in the Yemeni market, we managed to meet all customers' needs. Additionally, we plan to open new branches in different governorates."

The owner and the general manager of Al-Rahwanji International Cards, Emad Al- Rahwanji, explained all the stages of the company's improvement as well as all the goals they achieved in many Arabic and foreign countries.

By the end of the celebration, 25 agents from Sana'a and other governorates were awarded many prizes, which included a one-week trip to Syria and a Toyota Yaris.

In the evening of the same day, Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Group arranged and funded a mass wedding for 14 of its employees, in order to help them meet the rising living costs in Yemen.



On the 18th anniversary of Yemeni Unity:

New section in Kuwait University Hospital – Sana'a inaugurated

H.E. the prime minister Dr Ali M. Mojawar inaugurated recently a number of newly established medical center which will participate in enhancement of the medical services in the country.

The Cardiac Center is one of them which represents a striking example as it is prepared with eight CCU beds along with its other modern attachments and the Cath lab machine, the first of its kind in the country as it is biplane and is equipped to catheterize the cardiac vessels "coronary" in addition to that of the brain and the peripheries. During the ceremony H.E. the prime minister promised to provide the financial support to establish a center for open heart and lung surgery, which is expected to see the light during the next year 2009.

A new modern laboratory is also



Dr. Hamed Al-Kaff
Manager of hospital

opened to perform all the routine and sophisticated examination.

Ear, Nose and Throat end surgical center is also opened which is the first one in the country that its facilities are

able to deal with all ENT diseases by endoscopies means.

In addition, it is equipped for the diagnosis and treatment by the vocal cord disturbances "voice changes" especially for those whose jobs, are related to their voice like singers, announcersetc . Moreover this center is equipped with a new equilibrium apparatus which studies the quit disbalance.

The fourth center is the modern dentistry center, which is will provide a representable and ideal medical service.

Dr. Hamed Alkaff, G. director of Kuwait University Hospital said that the cost of establishment of the recently opened medical services is 618 million YR.

Wives of the ambassadors' association in Yemen and Dr. Abubaker



AlQerbi- minister of foreign affairs supported the children's emergency unit. This unit consists of ten beds and all the other required medical equip-

ment rendering it to be ready to deal with all the children's emergency cases.

Dr. Alkaff mentioned also that the hospital has recently inaugurated a new medical service which is the Air Ambulance in cooperation with experienced and dedicated air ambulance" aircraft company" specialized for domestic and international medical evacuation "MEDEVAC". The role of our hospital is to assist with its highly trained medical team in intensive care, and the well-equipped ambulance car.

The hospital's facilities together with the air ambulance are set on alert (day / night medivac) for domestic and world wide medical evacuation i.e. transport to hospital of choice including Kuwait University Hospital in Sana'a.



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Domestic workers in Yemen

By: Alia Ishaq

Decades ago, most extended Yemeni families lived together, with domestic tasks typically divided among the many female relatives living in the same house. However, due to urbanization, the structure of the Yemeni family has changed. Rarely do large clans live together anymore, so domestic tasks fall on the shoulders of one or two women in the home.

This has led to the rise of paid domestic help working in the home.

Another reason for the increased demand for domestic workers is that more girls in urban areas are receiving education, which means that daughters aren't automatically available to help with chores around the home.

Upper and middle class families in Yemen now are bridging this gap by employing domestic workers, according to a 2005 study by the International Labor Organization, or ILO, assisted by the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

Although Yemen has relatively smaller numbers of domestic workers as compared to other Arab countries, over the past decade, the number of

domestic workers in Yemen has increased dramatically. What was once only common among the upper class is now somewhat widespread in urban areas, which poses new challenges for Yemeni immigration authorities.

Where do they come from?

According to the ILO study, most domestic workers aren't Yemenis, with the large majority coming from the Horn of Africa. Most are from Ethiopia and Somalia, with a few coming from Asian countries like the Philippines, Indonesia and India.

The study estimates that there are roughly 8,000 Ethiopian domestic workers in Yemen. Reliable figures are unavailable since most of these immigrant workers aren't registered with their embassies or with the Yemeni authorities.

Domestic workers in Yemen vary in their nationalities, type of employment arrangements (live-in or independent), contract workers or freelancers, the way in which they arrived in Yemen, their legal status and their religious background.

Live-in domestic workers usually are contracted, meaning that they come to Yemen via private employment agencies, an individual employer or an

embassy. This group is typically the most vulnerable to mistreatment since they are dependent upon their employers for nearly everything and don't have much freedom.

Contract workers often work seven days a week with little free time. On the other hand, outside or freelance domestic workers have more control over their lives, as they are responsible for their own residence and work permits. They also may quit their jobs whenever they wish since they retain their passports and aren't dependent upon their employers.

There also are clear differences when it comes to salaries, as live-in domestic workers are paid more than those coming from outside. Also, Asian workers, who are usually hired by the higher classes of society, are paid more than African workers, although these still are more fortunate than Yemeni domestics, who are paid the least, according to the ILO study, and rarely live in the home of their employers.

Abuse and human rights violations

"Almost without exception, the domestic workers interviewed by Human Rights Watch around the world suffered some form of psychological or verbal abuse involving harsh insults, threats and belittlement," the 2006 human rights watch report states.

According to information provided by embassies in Singapore, at least 147 domestic workers have fallen to their deaths from tall buildings since 1998 due to hazardous workplace conditions or suicide.

Shams Mohammed, a 23-year-old freelance domestic worker in Sana'a, recounted the story of her cousin Aynalem, who worked nearly four years for a family that treated her badly. Even though her contract was for two years, she was forced to stay with them for four with no permission to visit her family.

At some point, Aynalem became ill, supposedly because of the amount of

work she had to do. "She got really sick to the point that we believed she might be paralyzed," Mohammed recalled.

Aynalem called her cousin and other friends to help her get to the hospital since the family she was working for wouldn't permit her to go. "At the hospital, the doctor asked that she remain on bed rest, but her employer wouldn't accept that," Mohammed continued.

She claims that her cousin's employer didn't pay for her medication, nor did they give her a salary while she was sick. Once Aynalem was better, her boss told her to gather up her belongings. Without telling her that she was being deported and only two hours before her flight, her employer gave her a ticket and her passport and told her to go home.

According to the ILO, the treatment of domestic workers in Yemen is better than in other Arab countries. However, female domestics still complain of strenuous workloads, low or delayed payment of salaries, isolation, lack of legal rights, physical and mental abuse and even trafficking by illegal agents.

Typical threats against domestic workers include withholding pay, physical violence, reporting the worker to labor agents or reporting them to police and immigration officials, the ILO noted. Another common threat against migrant women is that they will be sent back home, a terrifying prospect for those with massive debts or who fear reprisals from their labor agents.

Child domestic workers

The term child domestic worker refers to those under age 18 who perform domestic tasks in the home of a third party or an employer in a context within which they are exploited. Among the world's 200 million working children, a substantial percentage are domestic workers.

The ILO estimates some 10 million child domestic workers worldwide and



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In a close coordination with American Institutes for Research (AIR) management staff, the Child to Child Pilot Steering Committee and counterparts in the field, the consultant is expected to carry out the tasks below aiming to ensure the high standards of quality and reliability when implementing all data collection activities, as well as all quality assurance procedures.

1. Instrument Development

(1) Desk Review

- Conduct a desk review of the draft evaluation instruments from AIR (Child Assessment and Parent Interview, Scoring Sheets and other associated materials etc) to examine their relevance and validity as evaluation tools for Yemen and provide feedback to AIR.

(2) Instrument Pilot

- Translate and adapt the final draft instruments from AIR for the use in the Yemeni socio-cultural context.
- Organize and train small team according to TOR from AIR
- Conduct a small scale Instrument Pilot with children and parents in the field
- Manage data entry process (using Microsoft Excel/Access) including implementation of quality assurance procedures according to the standard of AIR and submit the data.

2. Management of Local Evaluation Team

(1) Recruitment of the Evaluation Team

- According to the AIR standards, recruit, hire and supervise the Local Evaluation Team members, who will be engaged in the data collection activities in the project sites (Haifan, Mawza, and Al-Mocha Districts, Taiz).

(2) Training and Follow-up

- Arrange the participation of the team in the data collection training session (1-2 days) organized by AIR.
- Take necessary follow-up activities using the "Operation Manual" and other associated instructional materials by AIR to ensure that the Team is fully prepared for the data collection procedures in the field.

3. Implementation of the Data Collection and Entry

- Plan and mobilize the Local Evaluation Team for: (i) **Baseline Survey** (August 2008); and (ii) **Impact Assessment Survey** (September 2009).
- Visiting Treatment / Control Schools and homes of children, the Local Evaluation Team will be engaged in the data collection using the developed Evaluation Instruments for Child Assessment and Parents Interview.
- In addition to the activities of Local Evaluation Team above, Evaluation Coordinators conduct (i) Process Evaluation (through interviews with adults and children involved in the project); and (ii) Impact Evaluation on Teachers and Schools (through interviews with headmasters and teachers and project record review) in line with Process Monitoring Tool (to be provided by AIR) at three time-points: pre-intervention; mid-point of implementation; and post-intervention.
- Manage data entry process (using Microsoft Excel/Access) including implementation of quality assurance procedures according to the standard of AIR and submit the data.

Interested and qualified individuals should send their application along with the curriculum vitae and copies of the performance evaluation report (most recent two reports) to - yemenhr@unicef.org. Applications received after 25 July 2008 will not be considered.

"UNICEF encourages qualified women candidates to apply. UNICEF is a non-smoking environment."

When further legislations intended to protect corruption

By: Yasser Al-Arami

Nothing is worse than the kind of regimes and governments that enact their laws and legislations as temporary reactions to what they momentarily face without undertaking relevant studies in advance. And, the worst thing is devoting any enacted laws and legislations to encourage oppression and totalitarianism.

Unlike the Yemeni government, the kind of governments that respect their people resort to enacting temporary legislations having realized that certain things seem to threaten security and stability of their citizens, or harm their dignity and deny their rights to live in peace.

What a judicious citizen may not accept is seeing that the Yemeni government resorting to confront its citizens' demands by issuing further legislations and laws, thereby posing real threats to basic human rights and dignity. Even worse, the Yemeni government believes that enacting further legislations is the only workable solution to pressing problems and at the same time doesn't care about identify the real causes of these problems.

Many Yemeni governorates are experiencing escalating popular congestions and protests over worsening living stan-

dards, which protestors attribute to the government's failed policies. These protestors understand well that the authority lacks the workable solutions to pressing problems on the ground. They also understand that the authority escapes these problems by issuing further legislations via which it attempts to harbor and protect corrupt statesmen at the expense of citizens who have turned to pay the price for rampant corruption.

It is not strange for the authority to make legal amendments and issue dangerous legislations criminalizing peaceful struggle and protests, preventing people to voice their concerns and issues, and restricting the freedom of expression. This is the conduct of a failed government that only depends on confused and failed policies.

Seemingly, the recent draft law concerning protection of the national unity and social peace, which was approved by the majority of Parliament members in July last year, is not enough to protect unity and enhance national peace in the eye of the authority. As a result, various political activists, journalists and critics have become subjected to questioning, criminalization and punishment, which is why the opposition then described it as 'an unannounced emergency law'.

In one of its issues, the Al-Sahwa weekly published the cabinet's approval to amend the effective Criminal and Penal Law in a dangerous

manner. This provides clear evidence that the authority wants to restrict public freedoms and crack down on peaceful protests under the cover of the law amid escalating popular rage and congestions as a result of dire situations nationwide.

The cabinet intended to amend the above-mentioned law under the pretext of what it said 'some crimes and actions were not contained in this law' and therefore the law must stipulate firm penalties to prevent such excluded crimes and harmful actions.

The cabinet further claimed that amending the law is intended to prevent crimes that may harm the national principles or instigate violence and vandalistic acts in the nation.

Legal amendments help bring justifications:

According to political observers, this legal amendment is meant to bring the kind of legal justifications for the authorities to prevent any peaceful protests and demonstrations, as well as crack down on protesters by all available means under the guise of placing the relevant law in effect.

In addition, the authority turned to slam active party leaders and journalists, accusing them of treason and being criminals. It imposed certain penalties on party activists and journalists under the pretext of protecting national princi-

ples. More than one time, the government gave the green light to security personnel to use force against any popular actions protesting against corruption and corrupt officials.

Other political observers and lawmakers hold the view that these legal amendments come as part of the government's oppressive procedures against peaceful actions. They described these procedures as 'a catastrophic setback' on the government's part since they, according to them, violate human rights and public freedoms and never agree with the democratic experience, which is based on pluralism and peaceful transfer of power.

These observers and lawmakers emphasize that such legal amendments are made with the purpose of imposing new political penalties on activists.

The legal amendments in question coincided with massive arrest campaigns by security personnel against journalists and opinion writers. The cabinet never hesitated to violate a constitution it had enacted and put into force with the intention of maintaining corruption rampant in the various state's institutions and protecting corrupt officials who only care about illegal earning of wealth but never feel concerned about worsening situations nationwide.

Source: Al-Sahwa Weekly

COMMON SENSE

Existence on a culture of hate 2/2

After 60 years, Bush reminds us of the "White Man's Burden"

There is nothing to fear, but fear itself!" This is said after reading some of the obviously disdainful "feedback" one is getting in

response to last month's and the many weeks before articles by this observer in defense of the rights of the Palestinians, which the world seems to have forgotten as also being God given. But in the Zionist hate filled culture the world has been engrained with over the last hundred years, God is only kind to the "nation of Israel" and God is willing to go out of His way to allowing injustice and suffering for the sake of "Israel" to have it its way. What a farce and God would certainly admonish anyone for twisting the sense of justice He truly envisions for the world. The quote of Franklin Delano Roosevelt is also being stated here to remind Mr. George W. Bush that his bellicose threats and remarks, while enjoying the hospitality of the very people he is insulting beyond belief are not at all taken very graciously in the Middle East in particular and in the entire Moslem World at large. loads

This attitude of Mr. Bush (and the of needless to say organized and systematic "feedback") is rather a strong reflection of the culture of hatred upon which the International Zionist culture has grown to thrive on and to perpetuate as part of "western" culture and the attitude of the "free world". What free world is it that if anyone so much as criticizes the wrongdoings of the Zionist hooligans administering the "occupied territories" (one would be chastised if they said "Palestinian territories"), they would be labeled the worst kind of names and their employers would be the target of the "anti-Semitism" booby that hovers over the western world like the cyclone that hovered over Burma (Myanmar) over a month ago. Needless to say that even that euphemism has been also used as a gross misrepresentation of the intended victims, who are truly facing the real "anti-Semitism" that is being witnessed in the world, namely the systematic, psychological and physical annihilation of the Palestinians being unleashed by the IZE and the rhetoric of hatred, chauvinistic arrogance belled out by Mr. Bush in the Israeli Knesset (built on stolen Arab Land, mind you) last month and under the hospitable yet scornful embrace of the Egyptian people (if not the regime) in Sharm Al-Sheikh.

If anybody is in doubt about the plight of the Palestinians in Gaza and elsewhere in the world, just read all the testimony given by people like Jennifer Lowenstein, former US President James Carter, to whom the Zionists should actually be thankful for having removed Egypt completely from the Arab-Israeli conflict (at least for a while), Patrick Seale and even Uri Avnery (who once wrote "Israel Without Zionism") and the many others who have cited the horrors of living under the worst "occupation" regime of all times past and present (see Common Sense, Yemen Times Issue 1155).

Mr. Bush last month came to this region, apparently to campaign for his "heir apparent" and to insult the candidates that may be having different attitudes than that conveyed by the hate mongering right wing of the United States represented by the likes of Radio commentators, such as Bill Cunningham (who insists that America should be aware of Barak Obama's middle name of "Hussein"). Mr. Bush should be reminded that common courtesy would dictate that he should keep his rhetoric of hatred for his redneck friends, who may have descended from a similar culture of hatred that did away with tens of Indian nations and tribes well over a century ago. If anyone cares to remember, the "Red" Indians which were considered the indigenous population of a beautiful continent that had the best relationship with nature before the "white man's burden" unleashed its culture of destruction, waste and pilferage as well as reckless consumption, which brought havoc to the US and the world and destroyed all sense of ecological equilibrium, which God has endowed this planet with for thousands of millennia.

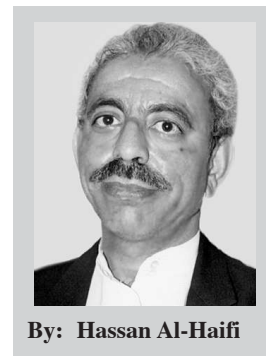
Needless to say, Mr. Bush was then insisting that the America he was projecting to his guests in the Arab World was the America for all times to come and any illusions for "change" are simply that - mirages in the distance. That is how the IZE sees it and that is how the American right wing intends to deliver it. The people in this part of the world are not surprised by the hatred unleashed by the IZE and its various hate dissemination mechanisms, including the "feedback" senders (in their Western and Arab names). But certainly they expected better manners from Mr. Bush, at least while he was their guest.

Divided We Fall

On the occasion of the 18th anniversary of Yemeni unity last May, the regime is to be reminded that it is time to start translating Yemen's unity into the sense of brotherhood and affinity that the spirit of unification once rejuvenated in the hearts of all the Yemeni people, although regrettably short-lived! Stop the madness in Sa'ada, and which is now spreading elsewhere in the land, with the security and military organs having the time of their day against the helpless citizens of the "Unified" Republic of Yemen, Sunni and Zeidi. The inability of these organs to decisively achieve a military solution has clearly been tested beyond reasonable doubt. Give peace a real chance to restore some semblance of stability in the lives of the citizens of Yemen, whose endurance has been over tested beyond reasonable logic.

Originally written for the YT Issue of 22 May 2008, with minor changes added.

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



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Mr. President says the truth: Journalism is deceived

By: Faisal Al-Sofi

Journalism has become a fourth authority, thus exercising real powers along with the legislature, executive and judiciary, pondered upon as the three essentially available authorities in any state. As a fourth authority, journalism has turned to be a must, as well as widely recognized by government officials in countries that are not included in the list of emerging democracy states.

Consequently, no need to worry about the situation of press freedom in the states of mature or emerging democracies, or even in states that don't recognize democracy. Any viola-

tions or restrictions practiced by government officials or social dignitaries on press freedom in any state have become assessable and modifiable while journalism is more able to assert itself and limit any restrictions and violations targeting the journalistic career if journalists resist any illegal practices targeting them, abide by the relevant laws and remain committed to ethics of their career.

The difficult test is that "How should journalistic and political writers, and newspaper owners develop their career, which is targeted by irresponsible individuals?" Here, I mean those who deceive the journalistic career, as they never abide by its principles, ethics and responsibilities.

These individuals are responsible for harming reputation of journalism as a noble career. They are the source or cause of the currently recorded violations against expression of opinion and press freedom in Yemen.

Wool Street Journal is an American newspaper that publishes around 30 errata, responses or corrections, while in Yemen a weekly or daily is found to publish up to ten corrections per issue, and this includes errata, responses, notices and apologies for mistakes and deceptive acts made in a previous issue.

Anyway, these corrections, errata, responses and apologies published by private and opposition newspapers - and sometimes state-run and ruling party-affiliated papers - protect these papers from being exposed to criminal accountability and questioning. Otherwise, the number of victims against who lawsuits are filed to the relevant prosecutions and courts may be many times larger than the current number of the same kind of victims.

I reiterate that a professional journalist, a writer with a noble message in his community, and a disciplined newspaper, constitute the strongest coalition to win support of society members and convince them appreciate the noble message of journalism, as well as get influenced by it and back it by all means available or possible.

As long as journalists, writers, reporters and newspapers are committed to the illegal practice of the fourth authority, never accept cheating their career-related responsibility, confront those who try to cheat the journalistic responsibility or exploit the journalistic career for personal, domestic, partisan or fanatic purposes, their career and its reputation will survive unhurt for decades to come.

Mr. President has a say:

In one of his addresses, President Ali Abdullah Saleh clarified that there are various types of behavior attempting to cheat the journalistic responsibility and harm the career reputation for personal and partisan purposes.

According to Mr. President, journalists' irresponsible behavior and continual treason of their profession for a long time period helped at least generate the kind of experience among the readership with regard to how to differentiate between 'what is personal' and 'what is public', as well as between 'what is professional' and 'what is an exploitation of the profession'.

Journalists and writers should not be transcendent. They should avoid being deceived by their shrewdness and tricks or ignoring the witty readership that has become more able to distinguish between what is good and what is bad, and evaluate what the newspapers publish.

A reader may not trust a newspaper slamming a minister or a government official after he/she learns from another source that the minister or official in question refused to pay the newspaper for publishing unnecessary or unapproved congratulations in his name.

Another form of cheating the journalistic responsibility is that a newspaper publishes stories saying that products of a company are contaminated or don't meet the required specifications because the company doesn't advertise in its pages. Later on, the same newspaper publishes a story saying the same company's products are good and satisfy the required specifications after it received advertisements from the company. The purpose of this is to extort the company.

In addition, another example is that of a writer who praises and speaks well of a company, saying it is the best ever in the nation because he wants to get a job opportunity in that company. These examples top the list of primary reasons why some newspapers, if not most of them, stopped publishing critical and important stories. Such newspapers don't care about real facts and critical stories. They lost their sense of objectivity because their heroes are either political foes or commercial rivals.

Source: Al-Thawra Daily.

SKETCHED OPINION



By: Samer

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Turkey: Beyond the veil

The secular and the pious march towards a new collision, with unforeseeable consequences for democracy and Turkey's chances in Europe

When Adnan Menderes, a right-wing politician who spoke up for pious Anatolians, swept to power as prime minister after Turkey's first free parliamentary election 58 years ago, a group of officers began plotting a military coup within weeks. Ten years later, with the support of the secular intelligentsia and politicians, they overthrew the government, by then in its third term. A year later, in September 1961, Menderes was hanged.

Yildiray Ogur, a young activist, sees worrying parallels between the 1960 coup and today's campaign, spearheaded by Turkey's generals and judges, to overthrow Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the prime minister, and his Justice and Development Party (AKP). Turkey has been in upheaval ever since the constitutional court began considering a case brought by the chief prosecutor to ban the AKP and to bar 71 named individuals, including Mr Erdogan and President Abdullah Gul, from politics, on thinly documented charges that they are seeking to impose *sharia* law.

The stakes were raised on June 5th, when the court overturned a law passed by a big majority in parliament to let young women wear the Islamic-style headscarf at universities. By voting 9-2 to quash the law the court sent a clear signal that it would vote to shut down the AKP. A verdict is expected by the autumn.

To many the case is like a judicial coup: a last-ditch attempt to cling to power by an elite that refuses to share wealth and social space with a rising class of pious Turks, symbolised by the AKP. It may also further discredit the constitutional court. Above all, says Mr Ogur, the case reveals "an army that believes it should have the final say, not elected politicians."

A defiant Mr Erdogan vows to fight

back. In a fiery speech in parliament this week, he declared that the court had exceeded its jurisdiction and would "need to explain itself to the people." There is talk of changing the rules for appointing judges and limiting their ability to ban political parties. Some AKP officials dream of unleashing millions of supporters on to the streets. But they know that doing so would risk provoking a real military coup. "We are like lambs being taken to slaughter, we are resigned to our fate," sighs one AKP deputy.

A few hardy souls pin their hopes on Western support. The European Union has hinted that it would suspend membership talks if the AKP were banned. But thanks to the growing opposition to Turkish accession in countries such as France and Austria, few Turks believe they will ever get in anyway. "With no carrots left to offer, the EU has no stick to wield," opines Cengiz Aktar, who follows EU affairs.

The biggest deterrent to overthrowing the AKP may be Turkey's wobbly economy. After six years of steady growth the economy is slowing down, inflation has crept back to double digits and this year's current-account deficit is expected to rise to 7% of GDP. Faik Oztrak, a former treasury under-secretary and opposition parliamentarian, reckons that Turkey will need at least \$135 billion in foreign inflows to plug the gap. As he asks pointedly, "where will it come from?"

Investor confidence has been rattled by the government's indecision over extending an IMF deal that expired in May. "With financial markets remaining jittery, Turkey is walking on a tightrope, making policy errors potentially costly. In particular, new initiatives that jeopardise the achievement of the announced fiscal targets, such as the planned reform of municipal finances, could tilt the balance of policies and should be avoided,"



Lorenzo Giorgianni, the IMF's mission chief for Turkey, says. He is referring to the government's plans to boost local spending.

Yet in Istanbul many financiers seem unfazed. They see no reason for alarm, even if the AKP is banned. A chastened, wiser AKP would simply regroup under a different name and it will be business as usual, the argument goes. Certainly, when a party is banned (they tend to be either pro-Kurdish or pro-Islamic) its members usually come together under a new banner. But Islamic parties often come back even stronger. The AKP itself is an offshoot of Virtue, a party that was banned in 2001. It romped to power in 2002 and won a second term last year with a bigger share of the vote.

Even if it were disbanded, the AKP's

surviving parliamentarians would remain as independents in sufficient numbers to be able to force another snap election. Indeed, the million-dollar question, as one European diplomat puts it, is "whether those who are perpetrating this strategy against the AKP will let them come back even stronger. They are stuck between a coup and a hard place."

Not everyone thinks that the AKP will emerge unscathed. Even his allies agree that Mr Erdogan made a strategic blunder by passing the headscarf law instead of blending it into a package of broader reforms embodied in a new constitution. Instead of appeasing secular fears, some AKP members crowed that the headscarf would soon be allowed in government offices as well. Many say the void left by Mr Gul, who moved up from for-

eign minister to become president last August, is partly to blame for Mr Erdogan's mistakes. As number two in the AKP, Mr Gul had often curbed Mr Erdogan's rasher instincts.

Meanwhile, support in the Kurdish south-east, where the AKP made big gains last year, has been waning ever since Mr Erdogan yielded to army pressure and authorised cross-border attacks on PKK terrorists in northern Iraq. He also snubbed members of the pro-Kurdish Democratic People's Party (DTP) in parliament. Police brutality and mass arrests during a May 1st demonstration in Istanbul have not helped his image.

Yet, for all his and the party's failings, recent opinion polls suggest that the AKP retains a big lead over its rivals.

"You may criticise us for going slow on reforms, but the truth is that we made more changes than Turkey was able to absorb," says Abdurrahman Kurt, an AKP member from Diyarbakir. By giving pious Turks a political voice, the AKP has also bolstered their faith in democracy.

By overturning the headscarf law, says Mazhar Bagli, a sociologist at Diyarbakir's Dicle university, the court is running the risk that "radical groups will now seek their rights through illegal means." In other words, the threat of radical Islam in Turkey may have increased thanks to the secularists' attack on the AKP.

Source: From The Economist print edition

Section I. Invitation for Bids Tender Advertisement no. (2) of 2008 (One Envelope System - Technical + Financial)

The Tax Authority here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (2 /2008) for the printing and supply of two billion banderol stamps on locally produced cigarettes which will be financed from the following sources:

a) 100% government Funding

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to Tax Authority Headquarter to receive Bidding Documents for an amount YR 100,000 non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at:

Tax Authority – General department of Financial Affairs / Procurement Department
Southern Safiah – Besides the Ministry of Finance – P.O. Box 11366-5746

The deadline for selling BDs will be on Sunday 06.07.2008.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Tax Authority mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder procurement department. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

1. A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum 10,000,000 of (YR or Convertible currency.) Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than 150 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a payable cheque.
2. Valid tax card (foreign bidders not conducting any business in Yemen have to submit VAT registration documents in their countries).
3. Insurance card (insurance card is required for companies having business in Yemen and eligible for benefits of the General Social Security Corporation in Yemen).
4. Registration and classification certificate. (in case contract is awarded and the winning bidder has no registration documents, relevant registration documents will be requested as a condition for contract implementation).
5. GST registration certificate.

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.

The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be 11:00AM on Wednesday 09.07.2008. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened..

Bid Opening will take place at Tax Authority Headquarters, Office of the Deputy Chairman and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period of 27 days starting from advertisement.

إعلان المناقصة رقم (٢) لسنة ٢٠٠٨ م

تعلن / مصلحة الضرائب / عن رغبتها في إنزال المناقصة العامة رقم (٢) لعام ٢٠٠٨ م لطباعة وتوريد اثنين مليار طابع بندرول على السجائر المنتجة محلياً والتي سيتم تمويلها من مصدر حكومي ١٠٠٪ على الراغبين المشاركة في هذه المناقصة التقدم بطلباتهم الخطية خلال أوقات الدوام الرسمي إلى العنوان التالي:

**مصلحة الضرائب - الإدارة العامة للشئون المالية / إدارة المشتريات
الصافية الجنوبية - جوار وزارة المالية - ص ٠ ب (٥٧٤٦.١١٣٣٦)**

لشراء واستلام وثائق المناقصة نظير مبلغ وقدره (١٠٠.٠٠٠) مائة ألف ريال لا يرد .

- وآخر موعد لبيع الوثائق هو تاريخ ٦ / ٧ / ٢٠٠٨ م

يقدم العطاء في مظروف مغلق ومختوم بالشمع الأحمر إلى عنوان مصلحة الضرائب ومكتوب عليه اسم (المصلحة) والمشروع ورقم المناقصة، واسم مقدم العطاء، وفي طيه الوثائق التالية:

- ١- ضمان بنكي غير مشروط بمبلغ مقطوع قدره (١٠٠.٠٠٠.٠٠٠) عشرة مليون ريال، صالح لمدة (١٥٠) يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف، أو شيك مقبول الدفع.
- ٢- بطاقة ضريبية سارية المفعول (على المتناقصين الأجانب الذين لا يقومون بأي أعمال في اليمن عليهم تقديم نسخة من وثائق التسجيل لضريبة القيمة المضافة في بلدانهم) .
- ٣- بطاقة تأمينية، سارية المفعول (تطلب بطائق التأمين فقط من الشركات التي لديها عمال في اليمن والتي يحق لها الاستفادة من العوائد المقدمة من المؤسسة العامة للضمان الاجتماعي في اليمن)
- ٤- شهادة تسجيل وتصنيف سارية المفعول (في حالة إرساء العقد وإذا لم تكن الشركة التي فازت بالمناقصة مسجلة حينها سيطلب منها تقديم إثبات تسجيلها في الجهات ذات العلاقة في اليمن وذلك كمطلب لتنفيذ العقد).
- ٥- شهادة التسجيل لأغراض الضريبة العامة على المبيعات.

- آخر موعد لاستلام العطاءات وفتح المظاريف هو الساعة (الحادية عشرة) من يوم (الأربعاء) الموافق ٩ / ٧ / ٢٠٠٨ م ولن تقبل العطاءات التي ترد بعد هذا الموعد ويتم إعادتها مغلقة.

- سيتم فتح المظاريف بمكتب وكيل المصلحة بحضور أصحاب العطاءات أو من يمثلهم بتفويض رسمي موقع ومختوم.

- يمكن للراغبين في المشاركة في هذه المناقصة الاطلاع على وثائق المناقصة قبل شرائها وذلك خلال الدوام الرسمي لفترة ٢٧ يوم من فترة الإعلان.

Small Business: The way to the future

By: YemenTimes Staff

Small businesses play an integral part in the development of any capitalist economy, especially in the 21st century where economic growth is no longer driven by traditional manufacturing industries, but is driven by the innovative and creative enterprises that are able to adjust to the changing market dynamics and this globalizing world.

And Yemen is no exception, in fact, Yemen has the advantage of being somewhat a medieval economy with large number of subsectors still unexplored. The Yemeni economy is still dependent on agriculture as the prime source of employment and livelihood for 50 percent of the labor force and 70 percent of the population respectively, while another 22 percent is dependent on the government, which is, in turn, dependent on oil returns, leaving 8 percent of the population making a living from non-agricultural private sector opportunities.

In Yemen, there is a total of 33,000 tiny businesses, employing an average of 2.2 persons each. 75 % of these tiny businesses are concentrated in eight subsectors of the economy, and most of these are service-oriented, with a capital ranging between US\$ 500 – 2000. Evidently, from looking at Yemen's socio-economic realities, each one of the people employed within such a tiny business is supporting a family, which indicates that growth within this sector is bound to provide more employment opportunities and income for many families.

Helping Small Businesses Grow

In 1998, the law of supporting small business enterprises was enacted and put into effect. The law aimed at removing all obstacles hindering the growth of small businesses, including limiting any taxation or fees paid by



Small businesses are concentrated in several subsectors of the economy.

these businesses, while creating government agencies such as the Social Fund for Development, aiming at providing access to credit and technical assistance. The Social Fund for Development mainly aims at helping the growth of small business and the creation of new ones.

The Government of Yemen is very well aware of the importance of small business for the economic growth of the country, with emphasis on this sector mentioned in every 5-year poverty reduction plan and economic development strategy. However, many small business owners complain that the government is the prime reason they are unable to expand and operate more profitably.

Voice of the Small Business

Mohammed Al-Shamiri, a barber, said that in spite of population growth and more life coming to the neighborhood he works in, he sees that people are having their hair cut less often, costs of

rent, power, and other expenses are increasing, while, for the first time in six years, he is forced to pay taxes to the government of 25,000 Riyals per month as sales tax, in addition to another 10,000 for the municipality. "Its one month's income," he says, "now the government is a partner with me in my very small barber shop, I work hard and pay the bills and they come to take my money, this is a rip-off."

Abdulhamid Al-Marari, a carpenter, says that he provides employment opportunities for three persons in his shop, and he has to pay their salaries every month even if business is less, he says he can't fire them because he knows that each one of them supports a family, and it is not right to fire any of them because he needs them if business picks up. He said: "Ramadhan is only two months away and I am very concerned because things slow down and I don't have money to pay their salaries and their Ramadhan bounce, I



Several program to promote diversification as in place, through agencies such as the Social Fund for Development.

am seriously considering shutting down shop because I will go bankrupt in three months time like this," he added: "people are not buying wood furniture, they buy plastic and metal, even doors!"

Musen Al-Sabri, who owns a small cafeteria, states that there is a growing number of customers and that his catering business has been growing on as there are more customers every day, in spite of the increasing competition, he stated that although the majority of his customers barely have enough money to survive, the increasing number of customers make it feasible for his business to continue growing.

Basim Amen, owner of a photocopy station, said that surviving as a small business is very hard, mainly because it takes so much effort and pain on a good day to make a decent profit, while there are far many bad days per every good day, he said: "every day I open this shop with a prayer for a good day, some days it works, some days it doesn't, some days the photocopy machine breaks down so I'm out of business for a few days... all I can say is that this is all about fate... no matter what you do whatever is destined to be yours will be yours at the end of the day..."

Developing the Small Business

Concerned parties believe that there is very little being done in order to take by the hand of small business and help it prosper, activities such as facilitating small credit, management training, and technical assistance schemes are not available for small business owners, in turn business owners have to suffer the ups and downs of the market and the business cycle due to their inability to

explore and harvest business opportunities. Parliament member Ahmed Al-Khawlan believes that the source of the growth problems small businesses face is due to the lack of credit, adding that the interest rate of 18 percent is simply too much and cannot be born by small businesses, which, in most cases, do not have any plan of being able to pay back that interest and the principle borrowed.

Similarly, NGO activist Abdulwahab Salim indicated that there is a need for an overall sectorial strategy that works towards providing technical assistance to small businesses and youth empowerment, towards creating sustainable employment opportunities across the board.

Several business consultants stated that the main problem in the limited growth of small businesses in Yemen is due to the mentality of the owners and managers of these businesses, they expect that business growth is the normal result of engaging in any business activity, not understanding the odds of profit and loss, and how to maximize the profits through making the right investment, marketing, and management decisions. Furthermore, the behavior of businesses is a copy cat approach where they fear the risk of engaging in a new or unique business activity, and end up providing a service or a product which already has a saturated market. The small business sector needs the guidance required to introduce new subsectors of the economy which are promising, have good growth potential, and thereafter train the new business owners on the right management strategies to result in sustainability.

Business In Brief

Oil revenues increase by 85 percent

Official statistics indicated that government oil revenues has increased from US\$ 789 million during the first four months in 2007 to US\$ 1.46 billion for the same period in 2008. Furthermore, for the first time in the last few years, the government share of oil exports has increased by 7.8 percent for the same period, to reach 14.52 million barrels, compared to 13.46 million barrels for the same period in 2007.

WB gives Yemen US\$ 10 million for food security

The World Bank has allotted US\$ 10 million to Yemen in order to help the country improve the productivity of the agricultural sector and increasing the total amount of domestic agricultural produce to improve food security in Yemen.

Wheat and Grain Production triples in pilot farms

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has stated that the production of wheat and grains from selected areas has – on average – tripled, while in some areas, production per hectare has increased from 1.3 tones in the 2006 winter season to 5 tones in the 2008 winter season. The reasons for the increase is due to using improved seeds and quality extension and irrigation services.

China Donates US\$ 12 million to Yemen

Prior to the arrival of the Chinese deputy premier, China has announced that it will give the government of Yemen a financial grant of 80 million Yuan, which is the equivalent of US\$ 12 million.

CBY applauds commercial bank risk management

The governor of the central bank of Yemen Al-Samawi has stated that the central bank has noticed a significant improvement in the risk management strategies of commercial banks, and the new tailored mechanism to evaluate the risks involved in giving out loans.

GIA licenses new projects worth 3.4 billion Riyals

The General Investment Authority has licensed nine new projects in Hodieda governorate worth 3.4 billion Riyals. The projects range across industrial, tourism, health, and other services, and includes a boat production, steel welds, and hospitality facilities.

Yemen LNG secures financing, sales contracts

Yemen LNG has obtained \$2.8 billion in financing for construction of its LNG liquefaction plant on the Gulf of Aden at Belhaf, including \$1.1 billion from Total SA and \$1.7 billion from export agencies in France and South Korea. Altogether, eight banks—BNP Paribas, Societe Generale, Calyon, ING Bank, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, SumitomoMitsui Banking Corp, Royal Bank of Scotland, and Citigroup—acted as mandated lead arrangers for the \$1.1 billion part of the package, and Coface of France, Kexim of South Korea, and various export agencies guaranteed the remaining \$1.7 billion.

Czech businessmen keen to invest in Yemen

A Czech delegation has arrived in Sana'a to get acquire with investment opportunities available in Yemen as well as requirements of developing industrial fields, such as the establishment of hospitals, agricultural equipments and water purification. Upon his arriving, head of the Czech international relation committee that the visit aims at boosting trade cooperation between the two countries and get acquired with more investments in industrial fields, praising the Yemeni-Czech relations.

Job Vacancy

IT Network & System Administrator

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- Create and maintain logical, physical and networking maps, and backups all equipment configurations, parameters, and network documentation standards and procedures
- Monitor disaster recovery systems
- Monitor network and windows servers to ensure data availability
- Perform system backups and recovery
- Administer and maintain end-user accounts, permissions, access rights, and email accounts
- Perform equipment, hardware and software upgrades
- Implement security solutions, including firewall, anti-virus, and intrusion detections systems
- Perform server and security audits
- Perform installation, configuration, maintenance, and troubleshooting of end-user workstation hardware, software, and peripheral devices.

Academic Qualification Requirements

- AB or BS in Computer information Systems or related area preferred
- CCNA, MCSA or MCSE 2003 preferred

Professional Requirements

- 4+ relevant work experience with Network Administration and System Administration
- Excellent communication and writing skills in both English and Arabic

Applications with complete CV's and cover letters should be submitted **before June 30th 2008** to the following Email address: koolnsr62@yahoo.com or zulaal@y.net.ye

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with its "Dispensary"

Position: Nurse
Duration: One year

Responsibilities:

- Attend the United Nations Dispensary on a full- time basis.
- Be on call during outside office hours when necessary.
- Maintain the United Nations Dispensary in good order and keeps the inventory of medical supplies and equipment up-to- date.
- In consultation with the United Nations Dispensary Physician maintain a 24-hour roster of available specialists for referral and treatment.
- Coordinate the work of the rest of the United Nations Dispensary personnel.
- Give first- aid and advice to the staff and their recognized dependents.
- Administer minor " outpatient" treatment and immunization requirements.
- Assist the United Nations Dispensary Physician when official medical examinations are undertaken at the United Nations Dispensary.
- Assist in maintaining records of all visits and treatment as well as records of all medical supplies in the United Nations Dispensary or facilities established outside of the United Nations Dispensary.
- Assist the United Nations Dispensary Physician to perform his duties.
- Maintain strict confidentiality regarding patients' medical records.
- Perform any other duties as required.

Qualification

- Diploma in Nursing with 1 year experience.
- Knowledge in computer in both English and Arabic.
- Basic Knowledge in English and Arabic.

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 Monday, 30 June 2008
UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.**



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تقلل نسبة إستهلاك الديزل بما قدره ٧٥٪



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نظام إدارة البيئة أيسو ١٤٠٠١

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الحديدة تلفون / ٧٩ / ٢١٩٥٧٨

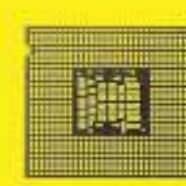
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By: Mohammed Hejash
hejash2004@yahoo.com

The night was cold, as the stars were gone somewhere, but there was a lot of unnatural light coming from the street lamps. The man calmly parked his car by the sidewalk and went into his apartment. His day had been totally exhausting. He immediately removed his business wear and had his usual shower. Then, he went straight to bed, laying his head peacefully upon his pillow.

"Why can't I sleep?" he thought. "Business! Business is all I think about!

I'm going insane!" he said to himself. He attempted to relax, even for just a short time. He had slept last night, but only after taking some pills, so he decided to take them again. "Oh, wait man..."

Suddenly, it was morning and everyone was rushing out for work. Had he slept enough? "You look tired. Stay home," his wife urged him. "No, I'm fine. I gotta run my business. Who else will do it?" he said as he ate his usual breakfast and then left quickly.

"May God keep you safe," his wife wanted to tell him, but unfortunately, he heard nothing. Driving crazily due to the horrible pressure of his work, the man sped

in his car because he wanted to get there early.

However, it was hard getting through the heavy traffic. "Man, move aside! You're making me late! I need to be at work in five minutes," the man shouted at the other driver. He started acting insanely and childishly, his speed climbing higher and higher...

Suddenly, another car turned, which made him swerve to the wrong side and there - Booooooom! "Ooouch!" he awoke groaning and feeling pain. He found himself on the floor; he had fallen out of bed. "Are you ok?" his wife quickly asked him. "Oh...yes...I am," he replied.

Cheating, what else?

By: Lamis Abdulkarim Shuga'a
lamis_shuga@yahoo.com

Since the usual examinations are being held these days in both schools and universities, I think it would be good if a little light were shed on some of the "special strategies" typically, if not always, taking a much-appreciated place there.

One of the most prevalent strategies is cheating, which has become a widespread phenomenon nowadays. This ugly habit is increasing daily in both rural and urban areas alike. What's more, it's become even more dangerous in urban districts.

In addition to quarreling, several different types of "weapons" are employed in cheating during examinations, particularly on general high school exams.

Nearly everyone knows at least several different methods of cheating. The first method is where students themselves can prepare to cheat either by handwriting "cheat sheets" themselves or copying ones using professional "scribes."

Cheating also may be done via hidden mobile telephones, contacting others outside the school. It also can take the form of a "cooperative process" among classmates during the exam itself.

A more "respectful" or "refined" way of cheating is by making a prior agreement with school principals themselves, who, of course, represent students, and the exam proctors, who are to "carefully observe" everything related to the exams. In this case, the money typically collected from the students - or "victims" - at the begin-

ning of the exam is split evenly between these two parties in charge.

However, in reality, not all school principals and exam proctors are alike, just as not all of a hand's fingers are alike - it's only those with dead consciences!

There's a new form of cheating, which I believe is the strangest method currently in use, as it's actually done by parents themselves, who are supposed to be the ideal role models for their children! This method occurs at numerous rural schools where "strict rules" are in vain.

In such schools, supposedly "educated" male and female teachers - who also happen to be parents of students attending the same school - go from one class to another to observe their children. Not being satisfied with simply observing them, they end up answering most, if not all, of their children's exam questions!

Other relatives and neighbors also are allowed to wait near schools to assist those students who throw their exam questions on pieces of paper from the school windows.

Thus, if these "educated" fathers or mothers take their children's exams for them, what do they expect their children to be or do in the future?! How else will they - both the parents and their children - behave?

I won't say that this is the responsibility of school principals, exam proctors or even the Yemeni government itself. No, in order to deal seriously with this problem, we must return to the basic building block of any society - the family. Children should be raised with Islamic instruction;

this is parents' real responsibility. As the prophet Mohammed (pbuh) stated, "He who cheats us is not one of us."

Indeed, students face many different obstacles and difficulties during the learning process that lead them to cheat, but parents still can cure - if not all, then at least most of them.

Another noticeable fact is that cheating is less at universities than in other schools, which can be attributed to the strict rules announced there. For example, if a cheater misses three subjects, he or she isn't allowed to be tested on them.

Thus, this phenomenon is reduced at universities due to the seriousness of its rules, but if students have the chance, of course, cheating will occur. However, if there were a real fear of God, there would be no cheating - neither in education nor in any aspect of life.

The outcome of this common bad practice appeared in a recent study, which found that Yemen is a very poor nation regarding education, as compared to other Arab countries. The findings showed that different reasons are causing this problem, one of which is widespread cheating.

In conclusion, I really do dream about Yemeni schools without cheating because as a village teacher myself, I suffer due to this bad phenomenon and its numerous disadvantages.

Lamis Abdulkarim Ahmed Shuga'a is an English teacher from Taiz, currently pursuing her master's degree at Taiz University's English Department, Language Center.

Through The Mind's Eye

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



Should women be educated? (Part 2)

In Part one, I shed light on several cases in which some families reject the idea of women's education and how to meet such cases with logical and reasonable justifications. In this part, I also shed light on more critical cases that stand against women's education and how others can counter them with reasonable justifications.

It's surprising to hear some families claim that individuals are only educated in order to get jobs and subsequently, to make money. Thus, in their opinion, there's no need for women to work and make money because their fathers, brothers or other family members provide for them.

Such parents must not think about the future and what it holds. They don't take into account those families where the father becomes too old to work and they suddenly have no source of income.

In such cases, daughters have a duty to work and save their family's dignity rather than beg or die of hunger. Such daughters have joined the work field and proven to be able to provide for the responsibilities of both work and home.

In this case, fathers realize the importance of educating women, keeping in mind that nobody knows what the future holds. For example, some fathers think they can provide everything for the home and family and there's no need for women to be educated or work, not under-

standing that they won't be healthy and young forever.

A father educates his daughters, although he also has educated sons. After completing their university studies and obtaining jobs in different fields, the sons marry, after which they no longer take care of their parents and their family's needs. In this case, we see the importance of educating women, since it was the daughters who looked for work and provided the family with all of its needs, while the sons paid no attention at all.

Some families are against educating women because education will open their eyes to everything around them, especially their rights. Such fathers believe that women should be as ignorant as possible or they'll rebel.

As one father explains, "If my daughters were educated, I wouldn't be able to control them as I want." For instance, an educated daughter will realize that it's her right to choose her husband and it will be difficult to force her to marry whomever the father wants.

In responding to such parents, it's necessary to remind them how uneducated daughters deal with them, i.e., simply following instructions not out of respect, but out of fear.

In contrast, educated daughters deal with their fathers with respect and mutual understanding. They also take everything as a matter of discussion with their parents, trying

to convince them if they like to do or not do anything, especially in matters requiring the daughter's opinion and approval, such as marriage.

In such cases, if a daughter doesn't want to marry the man proposing to her through her father, it doesn't mean she's rejecting her fathers' instructions or advice, but she may look at the matter from a different viewpoint which must be convincing to her father as a matter of respect.

There are many other cases in which the idea of women's education is rejected; however, one can't handle such cases with force, as every father or family must be convinced in the way suiting the ideas of each.

For example, it's completely wrong to open fire upon those who are against women's education. Both men and women should work together to treat such a social problem affecting both genders and, in fact, society as a whole.

Overall, women's education has value, particularly in a society like Yemen, where illiteracy remains deeply rooted, especially in the villages. We all must work together to solve this problem via peaceful means.

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

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION HEALTH REFORM SUPPORT PROJECT (HRSP) - CR NO.3625 CREDIT ADMINISTRATION UNIT (CAU) second Announcement for National Individual Consultants on (Evaluation & Updating of the Health Planning Training Manual for Health Care PLanning RFP # 39

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) within the Ministry of Public Health & Population intends to hire an national individual consultant who will be contracted to carry out the following tasks:

Objective of the Consultancy

The consultant is expected to evaluated the training manual prepared by the national team at the Ministry of Public Health & Population (MOPHP) and producing a report on the findings. The evaluation is expected to explore the planning process on different levels of the national health system (particularly the governorate and district levels). These data are to be elicited through the application of an evaluation tool that will explore the previous experience of using this manual.

The findings of the evaluation will feed into the current effort of the MOPHP in reforming the health sector. The consultant will be accountable to the Head of the Credit Administrative Unit and Director General of the planning.

Proposed Tasks of the Consultant

the consultant is expected to carry out the following activities and/pr responsibilities, which including but will not be limited to:

- Carry out a through analysis and study of the health planning training manual. Accordingly, a framework for the evaluation and study will be developed and share with the MOPHP.
- Choose a sample of health facilities / districts where previous training on health panning using this manual were conducted in agreement with the General Directorate of the planning at the MOPHP. Consequently, filed visits and data collection will follow.
- Conduct critical review of related documents and reports on the issue of planning.
- Carryout related filed visits as well as meetings and interviews with related bodies in particular planning trainers who trained districts and personnel using this manual and leading to gathering of and validation of essential review information.
- Produce a report on the findings and an updated draft of the training manual containing comprehensive planning framework on the different levels of the national health system and considering the inputs and plans of the donors and vertical programmes. The reports is expected to be produced in Arabic language.
- Present the findings of the review to the senior public health officials and interested parties in a workshop organized after the completion of the consultancy.

Required Qualifications and Experience of the Consultant

- A university degree public health, Health Care planning or Health management.
- Previous experience in similar field and analytical studies, preferably in the area of Health management or Health Care Planning.
- Capability to carry out related fieldwork activities.
- Verbal and written capability in Arabic Language and preferably in English Language.

Applications with supporting document and CV's should be submitted to the credit Administration unit by 5th July 2008 the HRSP located on the 4th floor in the Ministry of Public Health and Population - Al-Hasaba-Sana'a.
Tel: 00 967 1 252 224 - Fax: 00976 1 251 622 - Email: hrsp@y.net.ye



Position Opening Tracing Coordinator

The Yemen Red Crescent Society Head Quarter has opining for an Experienced and Qualified individual to assume the position of tracing coordinator in the Organization's HQ in Sana'a
The Successful candidate will be responsible for establishing a countrywide network to search for missing family members who have been separated from their relatives due to conflict or natural disasters and ensure that contact re-established and maintained.

Requirements

- Yemeni Citizen, holder ID card.
- Excellent knowledge of English language (spoken & written)
- Field Experience with Humanitarian NGO, s.
- Excellent administrative skills use information Technology effectively: programs, including budget estimated and monitoring expenditures.
- Ability to develop and maintain good working relationships.
- Capable of implementing training programs within area of expertise.
- Willing to travel within to travel within the county and abroad.

Candidates Meeting the above Criteria.

Please send your resume with a covering letter, Copies of Certificates and working experience by 21June, 2008 to the following address.

Head Quarter Yemen Red Crescent Society-
26 Sep Street Building No 102nd floor
Att: Mr. Mohamed Yahya Sawlan
Disaster Management Coordinator
Tel fax No. 01 485416
Email: mohamed.sawlan@ifrc.org

اعلان

تعلن جمعية الهلال الاحمر اليمني عن ملئ الوظيفة الشاغرة لذوى المؤهلات والخبرة لوظيفة منسق خدمات البحث عن المفقودين في المركز الرئيسي للجمعية بصنعاء . وحسب الشروط التالية :

- أن يكون المتقدم يمني الجنسية وحائزا على البطاقة الشخصية .
- يجيد اللغة الانجليزية اجاده تامه (كتابيا ، نطقا)
- لديه مهارات اداريه والقدرة على الاتصال والتواصل .
- لديه مهارات لوضع مقترح المشاريع مع الموازنات التقديرية
- تنفيذ انشطه البحث عن المفقودين
- جمع التقارير والبيانات الخاصة بالبحث عن المفقودين والروابط العائلية
- لديه الرغبة على السفر والتنقلات الداخلية والخارجية .
- لديه قدره على ادارة برامج التدريب في هذا المجال .

الخبرة العملية :

- خبره عمليه في احدى المنظمات العاملة في المجال الانساني .
- القدرة على تحليل الاوضاع .
- القدرة على التعامل مع الحاسب الالى (الكمبيوتر) مع استخدام الانترنت .
- القدرة على تطوير مجالات البحث عن المفقودين والروابط العائلية .

ستكون مهام الشخص الذي سيقع عليه الاختيار العمل على انشاء شبكة على المستوى الوطني للبحث عن ذوي الاسر المفقودين والذين انقطع الاتصال بينهم وبين ذويهم نتيجة النزاعات المسلحة والكوارث الطبيعية والعمل على اعادة التواصل فيما بينهم .

فعلى من تتوفر لديه المهارات والمؤهلات المطلوبة التقدم بطلب كتابي مشفوعا بالسيرة الذاتية والوثائق المؤيدة لذلك الى :

جمعية الهلال الاخضر اليمني المركز الرئيسي بصنعاء الكائن في شارع ٢٦ سبتمبر
عمارة رقم ١٠ - الطابق الثاني
عناية الاخ / محمد يحي صولان - منسق ادارة الكوارث
فاكس - ٤٨٥٤١٦
mohamed.sawlan@ifrc.org
بريد الكتروني:

آخر موعد لتقديم الطيات غايته ٢١ يونيو ٢٠٠٨ ، وستحدد موعد المقابلة مع من يقع عليه الاختيار لاحقا..

My journey to Germany

By: Hamed Thabet

Never did I think that traveling could be such a pleasure and an excellent way of discovering until I was on a high-speed train in Germany observing the fast-paced and ordered life there, as people moved quickly all around me trying to find their correct seats, and not just any vacant seat!

I have never seen such a fast, magnificent high-speed train before and it will remain as one of the exciting memories of my trip to Germany.

I traveled to Germany to attend the Global Media Conference in Bonn, but I thought to myself, "Since I'm in a great country such as Germany, why not take the advantage of every minute and truly make use it?"

Baha'i house of worship - Frankfurt

The moment I reached Frankfurt, I decided to make the most of my time. At the top of my list was to visit the Baha'i House of Worship to refresh my own religious beliefs. I was born Baha'i, and the Baha'i have a place of worship on nearly every continent. In Arabic it is known as mashruqa' l azkar. It is built by donations given by Baha'is around the world and is a place of prayer and meditation open to people of all beliefs.

The Baha'i temple reflects the spiritual truths of the Baha'i Faith, which is the oneness of God, the oneness of mankind and the oneness of religion. It is a place where the peace and unity of mankind is witnessed.

The European Baha'i house of worship is about 30 kilometers from



The Baha'i temple in langenhain

Of punctuality and church bells

The most interesting thing that I noticed in Germany was that I felt that time is the most important thing there! And because of that people were running to reach their destinations.

I noticed that I was so affected by this environment that even I started running while looking for a taxi. I thought to myself, "Oh my God, what a quick impact this has had on me! Imagine me running instead of walking!"

I found myself once again at the sta-

While I was walking around in the church, a man who was working there told me that if I paid 2.5 Euros I could go upstairs to the top and you find something I would definitely like.

Without any hesitation I took the courage to climb all 550 steps (which I thought were a thousand) and what did I finally see? A BELL?!

It was a huge big bell (and of course at that moment I felt like killing that guy), but what was really worth the climb was the outstanding view of the city from above. Unfortunately, at this



Next to the Rhine River in Kongswinter.



The ICE train in Germany

Frankfurt's central train station, so I had to take a taxi, which eventually cost me a scary 100 euros for the return journey.

The taxi driver who took me to the Baha'i House of Worship started to talk to me and I came to know that he was a Turk and had lived in Germany for about 27 years and loved it. He also mentioned that no one asked him about his religion and he had no problem at all with being a Muslim!

It was Sunday afternoon when I reached the Baha'i Temple and I noticed people peacefully praying, and I found myself unconsciously praying with them. At the same time it was my first time to see Baha'is from Germany.

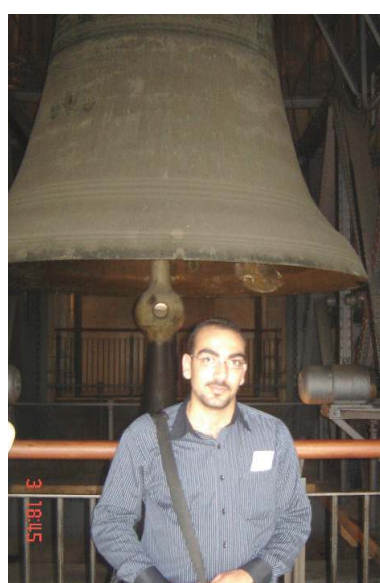
tion, taking a high-speed train to Bonn. Attending the conference was my official business, but I had a lot more fun going to different cities such as Kongswinter, Bad Honnef, Cologne, and another town by mistake whose name I don't remember!

What attracted me the most in all of these cities was Cologne, because once I arrived at the main station there, I saw a very huge church, which I couldn't stop myself from visiting.

I said to myself that I would visit the church first and then the city. Well, I entered the church and it was really amazing, with sculptures everywhere and statues actually embedded in the stone on every single part of the church.



the Church in Koln. and the Bell that i climbed hundreds of stairs to see.



Then, when I was going back to Bonn I went to Bad Honnef for only an hour, but honestly I did not walk too much to discover the amazing things in it, and I took the train and came back to Bonn.

The funniest thing in Germany that I faced was when I wanted to ask about an address. Although all the addresses are well-written everywhere so that no one can get lost, I liked to ask people lots of questions to get into a conversation and finally would get lost!

When I was in Cologne and wanted to come back to Bonn by train, I asked a man if he could speak English, and he said yes, but only a little. I asked him about an address, and he tried to explain to me in German by moving his hands and saying yes and no!

I thought that I understood what he said and I took the wrong train to another town which I didn't know. After that a German man who was a lawyer told me, "You never get lost in Germany. Just follow the directions in the stations and you will be fine." I followed his advice after that.

Though I learned how to follow the directions, I kept asking people just in case. A small mistake in Germany would cost me lots of money, and everything was too expensive for me, so I did not want to be a hero by not asking. I can say that Germany is a country with a clean and lush environment, with educated and respectful citizens, and has a perfect law and system. It is also a surprisingly tolerant country. I found many Iranians there, many of whom came to Germany after the Islamic revolution, while others had come before, looking for work or asylum. All of them said told me that Germany is the best place to live in and they have no problems at all with their being Iranian or their political lives.

Going to Germany was the best thing I have ever done in my life, and it is really a country that deserves to be visited.

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