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Inside:



Why women have not been



Osteopenia among Yemeni



Danish impressions of Yemen

Bani Dhabyan release German hostages but keep 8-year-old Yemeni child

By: Almigdad Mojalli

SANA'A, Dec. 21 — The three German hostages who were kidnapped by an armed group from the Bani Dhabyan, Khawlan tribe, were released peacefully and without conditions on Friday, bringing to an end their fiveday ordeal.

A reliable tribal source, who wishes to remain anonymous, revealed that the hostages were released by Sheikh Abdul Qawi Shereif, the deputy of the Aldhalae governorate, and the head sheikhs of the Bani Dhabyan tribe. "The tribesmen realized that they were creating a negative image of the country by kidnapping foreigners, and agreed to release the hostages without any conditions," the source said.

The German Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his relief at hearing of the peaceful release of the three to the Yemeni government and German embassy for their efforts in this endeavor.

Marcus Abbs, one of the hostages, also thanked the German embassy and the Yemeni government for their role in securing the release of him and his family, but he declined to reveal any other information about the circumstances of the kidnapping.

However, the kidnappers of the 8year-old child Ali Mohammed Al-Odaini, who was kidnapped on Dec. 3 while he was on his way to the school, refused to release the child despite apparently confusing him with their real target. His abductors thought he was the son a wealthy businessman, with whom they have unresolved disputes, and so took him in error.

Moqbel Moshwah, the child's kidnapper, thought that he was the son of

hostages, and expressed his gratitude businessman Tawfeq Al-Khameri whose son was kidnapped but released in July 2007 over a dispute regarding a sum of USD \$490,000.

> Moshwah refused to release the child or allow any communication between him and his mother, even after discovering that the child is an orphan and merely the neighbor of the Al-Khameri family.

The recent events were set in motion in 1998, when Nabil Al-Khameri, the brother of Tawfeq Al-Khameri, wanted to buy mercury illegally from someone in his village and gave them a check for USD \$490,000. By the time the seller went to the bank to withdraw the money, Tawfiq Al-Khameri, Nabil's brother, had already notified the authorities. The police were waiting at the bank and arrested the seller upon his arrival

The seller spent six months in prison

and eventually gave up his claim to the money. After his release from prison, he returned to Bani Dhabyan and enlisted the help of the tribe in recovering the money from Al-Khameri.

Once Al-Khameri realized the Bani Dhabyan tribe was involved in the issue, he offered two thirds of the sum as a bribe, but the tribe refused and there were violent clashes between the two parties, which led to the death of Mohammed Abdullah Najran, and the injury of four others including Moshwah.

According to some sheikhs in Bani Dhabyan, Al-Khameri paid YR 5 million and gave five cars as compensation for Najran's death, but gave no compensation for Moshwah's injuries.

These events led to the misguided kidnapping of the child, and the subsequent demands for compensation for



Ali Mohammed Al-Odaini, 8, has been a hostage for 19 days because he was confused for the son of Tawfeeq Al-Khamiri an influential businessman accused of owing the tribe USD 490,000.

Outbreak of Dengue Fever in Taiz

By Salah Al-Warafy For the Yemen Times

TAIZ, Dec. 21 — The Taiz Governorate has been hit hard by a recent outbreak of Dengue Fever, with Al-Jumhoori Hospital reporting up to 525 cases in the past three months

Dengue Fever can be tested for by two methods, the Test Cassette and the Elisa Test, according to Dr. Ahmed Abddulaah Mansur, Chairman of Virology Department at Al-Jumhoori

Hospital. However, the availability of

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such methods is reportedly inadequate. "The Elisa Test is available only at the Aljumhuri Hospital, where cases are referred to from all other private or public hospitals and laboratories," Mansur said.

Other private labs have also reported scores of cases, with Alameri Laboratory reporting five this month

"Since there is a shortage of test equipment, we can not effectively diagnose patients, as most cases are identified through a general blood test," said Dr. Waleed Yasin, a lab technician.

Dengue Fever is a mosquito-borne infection that can take one of two forms Dengue Fever (DF) and Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF). These have both affected the rural areas in Taiz, including in Alshrooh Village in Jabal Habashi District.

The main reasons for the spread of this infectious disease are stagnant water, open-liquid containers, and rain-





fall in areas where mosquitoes breed.

Symptoms of the disease include severe headaches, rashes, muscular pain, joint pain, back and even eye

Mansur said that to help combat the spread of the disease in areas where it is endemic, the authorities concerned should raise awareness on how to take preventative measures.

In June 2008, among the provinces hit by Dengue Fever was the eastern province of Shabwa, contributing to more than 2000 cases of infection, and

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tens of deaths.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the epidemic also took hold in the western province of Hodeidah in 2005, resulting in a total of 392 cases of infection and 15 deaths.

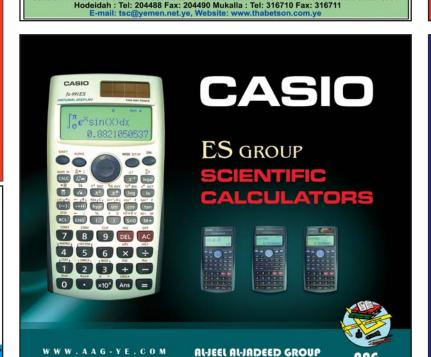
Some 2.5 billion of the world's population are at risk, and there may be up to 50 million annual cases of infections worldwide.

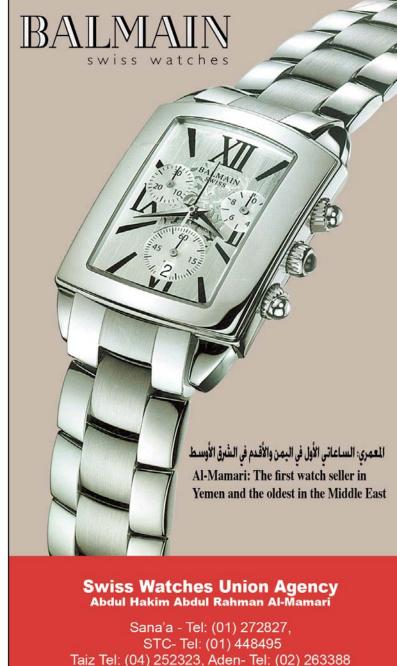
The epidemic has now spread into more than 100 countries in Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, Southeast Asia, and the Western Pacific.

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Proposal for MPs to be elected according to social rather than political allegiance

Since the opposition parties declared their boycott of the parliamentarian elections supposed to take place in April 2009, the ruling party has been studying different options by which to conduct the elections on time in a way that does not render the process meaningless.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Dec. 21 – A proposal by the Yemeni Institute for Democracy Development to hold this spring's parliamentary elections according to membership to a certain segment of society rather than allegiance to a particular political party is currently being discussed by the ruling party, the General Peoples Congress (GPC).

Dr. Ahmed Al-Sofi, director of the center and member of the GPC, explains that this is an alternative to maintain the gist of the elections.

"The elections have to run on time otherwise the whole credibility of the ruling system would collapse. And after all, the Parliament should be a true representation of society, and this proposal will insure that," he said.

Although the President, also the president of the GPC, instructed his party to dedicate a 15 percent quota for women in all decision-making positions during his presidential campaign in 2006, the GPC has still not even agreed on a quota system for its female candidates, let alone for other social groups such as laborers, the disabled or civil society activists.

The institute is currently conducting a survey of potential female candidates from around the republic. According to Al-Sofi, the list so far includes 20 nominees and the goal is to designate at least 60 women on standby in case such a controversial proposal actually sees the light.

MP Mohammed Al-Samie, member of the constitutional committee, the political office of the opposition Yemeni Socialist Party, and member of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), thinks this proposal is only another way to save face and ignore the GPC's previous agreements with the opposition witnessed by the EU's representative in

"Have you ever heard of something like this? Are the social groups prepared for the political domain and able to participate in running the country?" he questioned.

Despite the numerous occasions on which the opposition coalition of the IMP announced it would boycott the elections, there have been rumors that a compromise could be reached soon. The compromise would include agree-



Female relatives of Sa'ada detainees in a sit-in. Women are used in politics only when their votes are needed or they are needed to be present in protest and political demonstrations.

ing on the proportional list instead of the individual electoral system and an agenda for serious political reform.

Neither side has yet defined a quota for female candidates. The JMP includes Al-Islah, one of the strongest political parties in Yemen, a conservative religious party that apposes women's participation in the public domain. However, the Islah party encourages women to participate as voters because this will help strengthen the party's results, as in recent Yemeni election women constituted more than

half of the total number of voters.

"Islah is a civil party that develops each day and its stance towards women is changing gradually. There are a number of women in the Islah Shoura Council, a fact that was not plausible a few years back," commented Al-

In a press statement, Robert A. Wood, deputy spokesman of the American Embassy in Yemen, stated his country's concern over the lack of consensus and cooperation between the principle political parties in Yemen.

"We call on all political parties in Yemen to return immediately to dialogue to reach a consensus on the procedures for the upcoming parliamentary elections that are consistent with the recommendations made by international elections observers in 2006," he

Consequently, some members of the JMP have indicated their interest in running for parliamentary seats as independent candidates if their parties insist on boycotting the elections.

Status of women in the public sphere

In spite of women's increasing participation in elections, their contribution in decision-making is still weak. In the legislative field, there is only one seat for women in the parliament out of 301. In the Shura [Consultative] Council, women take two out of 111 seats. On the level of the executive authority, only two out of 33 ministries are headed by women.

There are only 39 female deputy ministers and assistants compared with 1210 men holding similar positions. Out of 44,490 general directors in Yemen, only 168 are women. In the diplomatic field, women represent around six percent of the total diplomatic community. The highest ratio for women in the public sphere is in the judiciary field where they represent seven percent.

The ratio of women's participation in the 1993 parliamentary elections was low as they represented only 18 percent of the total voters. In 1997, the ratio increased to 27 percent, and in 2003 elections, women's participation rose to 42 percent of the total voters.

It has been noticed that the number of women candidates decreases despite an increase in the number of women voters at each elections. In the 1993 elections, female candidates represented 1.3 percent and, in 1997, the percentage of women candidates was 1.4. However, in 2003 elections the ratio of women candidates was only 0.8 per-

US warns its diplomats and nationals away from Yemen hotels over threats

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Dec. 21 — The State department has cautioned US diplomats and nationals that they should avoid using Western hotels in Yemen, in the wake of several terrorist threats.

Ryan Gliha, the public relations officer in the US embassy in Sana'a, confirmed that threats were received, but gave no further comments.

The US embassy stated that it received threats against Western embassies, Western hotels, and Western interests in Sana'a and Aden.

A high ranking official in the US Intelligence Council stated in August that Yemen is rapidly reemerging as a jihadist battleground and is a potential base of operations for large international terrorist attacks.

Similarly, the German embassy had sent SMS warning to its citizens in Yemen to avoid public places where tourists are known to gather in an attempt to prevent further kidnapping of its citizens, in the wake of the kidnapping of three German nationals who had been recently released.

Western hotels have recently been the target of major terrorist attacks in Pakistan and India.

The September 2008 attack in Pakistan was caused by a dump truck filled with explosives detonated in front of the Marriott Hotel in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, killing at least 54, injuring at least 266 and leaving a 60 ft (20 m) wide, 20 ft (6 m) deep crater outside the hotel. Also in Nov. 2008 India witnessed a series of ten coordinated terrorist attacks across

Mumbai. The attacks were carried out by armed men using automatic weapons and grenades killing at least 173 people and at least 308 were injured in the attacks.

The most recent attack against the US embassy in Yemen was on Sept. 17 when two cars carrying a suicide bomber and armed fighters attacked the US Embassy in Sana'a killing sixteen people, four of which were civilians including an Indian, six security guards and six of the attackers.

In March, three mortar rounds targeting the US Embassy crashed into a high school for girls next door, killing a Yemeni security guard and wounding more than a dozen girls.

In March 2002, a Yemeni man threw a grenade into the US embassy grounds a day after Vice President Dick Cheney made a stop for talks with officials at Sana'a's main airport.

In March 2003, two people were shot dead and dozens more injured when police clashed with demonstrators trying to storm the embassy when tens of thousands rallied against the US-led invasion of Iraq.In 2006, a gunman opened fire outside the Embassy but was shot and arrested by Yemeni

The gunman, armed with a Kalashnikov rifle, claimed he wanted to kill Americans.

Al-Qaeda local group was blamed for the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole destroyer in the Yemeni port of Aden in which 17 American sailors died. It was also blamed for the attack on a French oil tanker two years later which resulted in the death of one person.



raised significantly and many of the embassy's employees were evacuated

Sana'a University Staff on Strike

By: Saddam Ashmoorie

SANA'A, Dec.20 — Tens of Sana'a University teaching staff, along with their assistants, carried out an open sitin last Saturday. This took place in view of the university president, and involved a general suspension of all teaching for two hours in protest against the university presidency which has prevented them from holding meetings in the past.

Protestors said that the university has "removed their rights" by preventing them from holding a consultative meeting at one of the university halls.

Abdul Ghani Qasem, Secretary General of University Staff Syndicate, said the Syndicate presented 17 demands to the university presidency. One such demand was a change to the university's security policy, removing the military security presence and establishing a civil security presence in its place. Further demands included the handing over of their land in the Madbah district, providing 400 new laptops, medical insurance, accrediting accommodation allowances for the retirees and families of dead members of staff, as well as completing the procedures for the delivery of their recent bonus.

For his part, Khaled Abdulla Tamim, rector of Sana'a University, apologized to the teaching staff members for preventing them from holding their meeting at the hall, pleading ignorance of their plight at the time.

"I apologize to all of you for this incident. I appreciate your demands as, first and foremost, I am a member of your Syndicate," said Tamim.

The Syndicate had called last Saturday for a sit-in in front of the university presidency as a precursor to a general strike, after Tamim ordered to close the hall and prevent teachers from holding their consultative meeting last Thursday.

The staff were forced to hold the meeting in the yard of the university

Dr. Abdul Hakim Nour Al-Din, member of the Syndicate's board of administrators, said that Tamim refused to allow the teachers to hold their meeting in the hall to discuss their issues, which he considers to be an attempt by Tamim to control the activities of the teaching staff.

Saleh Al-Sanabani, member of the Syndicate, said that he didn't expect that the university presidency's attitude towards the teachers and elite of society would "reach this degree of derision."

The Syndicate confirmed in a press release that staff are determined to hold the presidency accountable for the escalation of protests, claiming that it has violated their rights and impinged on their freedom. The press release considers the presidency of the university to have unprecedented measures.

It further states that this act is an attempt to hinder the election process in the university currently scheduled for 27th December, wherein representatives of the faculties will be appointed to the Syndicate's general

Amran Court adjourns the trial of Masha's murderer

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Dec.21 — Amran's Primary Court last Thursday adjourned the case of the man who is accused of murdering Masha Ya'ish Al-Nahari, a member of the Jewish community in Raidah dis-

During the first session of the court, headed by Judge Abdul Bari Aqabah, the secretary of the court presented the prosecution's accusations against Abdul Aziz Yahya Hamoud Al-Abdi, a 39-year-old ex-Air Force Officer, who is accused of killing Al-Nahari.

Following the list of accusations, and the presentation of evidence, Al-Abdi confessed to murdering Al-Nahari on the 11th September 2008. The court allowed five lawyers to defend the accused, and made a copy of the case



Masha Ya'ish Al-Nahari

file for reference. They will deliver five times with his rifle. their verdict in the upcoming court ses-

The court asked the prosecution representative to ask Al-Nahari's family to attend this next session, and offer demands of personal and civil rights against the accused.

Al-Abdi justified his actions by saying that he "enabled [Al-Nahari] to choose between embracing Islam, leaving the country, or being killed." He said that he killed Al-Nahari around ten days ago in Raidah.

Al-Abdi told the court judges that he had traveled to Lebanon to fight against Israel, according to news reports issued last week.

Al-Abdi met Al-Nahari in the Raidah market. "Learn the message of Islam, you Jew," he said, before shooting him

The prosecution accused him of the deliberate murder of a Yemeni Jewish citizen, whose rights are protected by both religion and rule of law. It also demanded that the court punish him not only for the murder, but also for the letter that he sent to the Jewish community in Yemen, in which Al-Abdi enjoined them to embrace Islam or leave the country. The prosecution said that he gave the Jews an ultimatum, and when it expired he carried out the murder. According to different reports, around one hundred thousand Jews still live in Yemen, and around another 22. thousand still hold Yemeni citizenship but have traveled to America and Britain as well as to other countries. In addition, around half a million Yemeni Jews have traveled to Israel.

Urgent need for Medical equipment in Milhan

By: Ali Saeed

MAHWAIT, Dec.20 - Medical facilities in the Milhan district of the Mahwit governorate are suffering, as they cannot adequately diagnose and treat their patients due to a lack of electricity to power what little medical equipment they have.

"There are no microscopes in the medical facility in Bani Mulaik to examine patients, nor are there sufficient rooms for patients.

Many are forced to transport their patients to hospitals in Hodeidah, up to 100Km away from Mahwit, to receive diagnosis and treatment," said Abas

Abdullah, former officer of the facility in Bani Mulaik. According to Ammar Al-Moswaee, health officer, the situation is the same in Al-Ma'azba.

Fatima Abdurahman, a midwife at the medical facility in Bani Mulaik said, "I have been working here for one year. So far I have not actually done anything onsite at the medical facility. Instead, I have to travel to villages to assist pregnant women in their own homes. The midwife said that the unit lacks beds for mothers and pregnant women, as well as microscopes and measuring equipment to assess the health of newborns. She added, "We have reported this to the Ministry of Health, but they have not responded." She concluded that the health unit requires many things, but that "the Ministry doesn't care". The former health officer explained that the situation was reported to the health office in the governorate years ago, however they received no response. The officer believes the topography of the district is to blame, as well as the lack of adequate road maintenance.

The total population of the district is 99,000 according to Farisl Al-Rawda, director of the Milhan district health

The district has around 16 medical facilities distributed across a wide area,

and according to Al-Rawda, most of them lack electricity and important machines.

"There are just four health facilities which have generators. One of them has microscopes, and the others are operating without electricity or equipment," Al-Rawda commented.

Mohammed Yahya Abdo, Secretary General of the local council in the district confirmed what Al-Rawda said adding, "We have demanded that the Ministry of Health provide the medical facilities throughout the district with essential equipment.

He added that they are still waiting for the ministry to respond.







VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The food security information systems (FSIS) project is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the Government of Yemen (GoY) with technical assistance being provided by the GFA/AEDES Consortium (TA). The project aims to address gaps in reliable food security information and provide a better basis for policy decisions and actions towards reducing food insecurity in Yemen. A national system is being created to manage the project from central level in Sana a and implement the pilot initiative in Al Hodeidah Governorate over the next three years. The main fields of support are to establish methods of data collection, coordinate between data providers, build analytical capacity and distribute food security information to the end-users on a regular basis.

The TA is currently recruiting for the following positions and both positions report to the TA Team Leader in Sana a:

ONE Field Coordinator, based in Hodeidah ONE Project Assistant, based in Sana a

Profile required for Field Coordinator s position

- Graduate degree in Agricultural Sciences is MUST, background in agronomy/crop production preferred
- 2-4 years of work experience in agriculture or rural development projects with NGOs
- Excellent familiarity to crop production / food security dynamics in Hodeidah Governorate
- Full proficiency in oral and written Arabic and English
- Full computer literacy in Arabic and English MS Office, internet, emails
- Ability to travel and work in remote locations, often with basic facilities
- Motivation to work in an inter-cultural setting and willingness to work as team member
- Ability to work independently, often times, with minimum supervision
- Ability to drive 4-wheel vehicle is an advantage

Profile required for Project Assistant s position:

- Graduate degree in English / translation (Arabic to English to Arabic) is MUST
- Excellent translation skills between Arabic and English
- Full computer literacy in Arabic and English MS Office, internet, emails
- Motivation to work in an inter-cultural setting and willingness to work as team member
- Willingness to travel in project sties in Al Hodeidah Governorate and make night halts if required
- Ability to work independently, often times, with minimum supervision
- Ability to drive 4-wheel vehicle is an advantage

Those interested and meeting candidates profile can forward their detailed Curriculum Vitae in English to FSISYEMEN@GMAIL.COM by close of business 2 January 2009

For every child Health, Education, Equality, Protection ADVANCE HUMANITY



Request for Expression of Interest Production of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods in Yemen

The United Nations Children s Fund (UNICEF) Yemen Country Office and the Ministry of Public Health and Population are promoting the establishment of production in Yemen of a dairy-based ready-to-use therapeutic food to be used for the management of acutely malnourished children. Yemeni food processing and food packaging companies are invited to express their interest in establishing this local production.

The local production is envisaged to be a partnership or a franchising arrangement with an international producer of dairy-based ready-to-use therapeutic foods. This arrangement will offer the local producer the know how of the International Company. This includes the manufacturing process, quality assurance and quality control, specifications of raw materials, the management tools (stocks, etc), the communication policy and the charter for good commercial practice, and any use of registered trade names if considered appropriate.

The relationship between the International Company and the Local Producer is to guarantee for the users the specified product at lowest cost, with a constant and validated level of quality in order to enter into a partnership or franchising arrangement. The Local Producer will be required to make a commitment to:

- Respect and implement the know-how transferred by the International Company;
- · Make sure his suppliers comply with the specifications put together with the International Company;
- Follow the indicated ethics and commercial charter:
- Ensure sustainable availability of the product at lowest cost.

The International Company will make a commitment to:

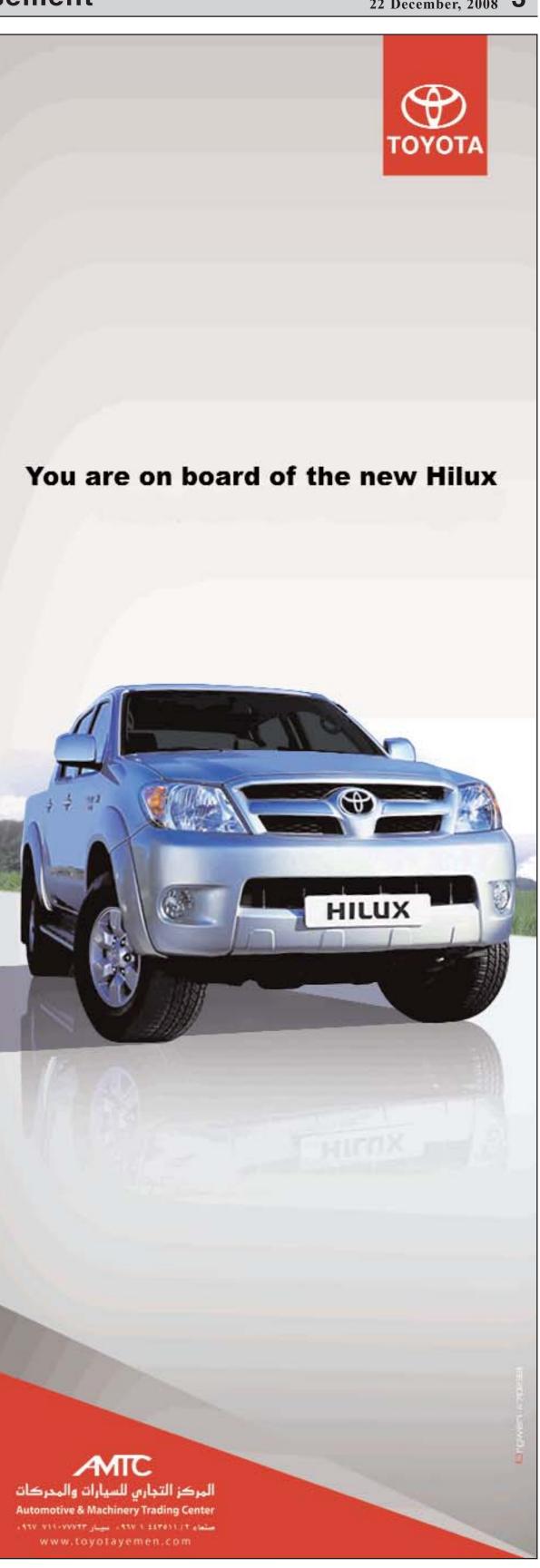
- Allow use of their registered trade name, if considered appropriate;
- · Transfer its know-how through:
 - training sessions attended by the Local Producer's Head of Production and key staff at its production site,
- full documentation required for production; · Assist the Local Producer during the whole period of the agreement:
- set-up of production,
 - selection of raw material suppliers,
 - set-up of a specific quality system based on a traceability software and HACCP guidelines,
- supply of validated production equipment; · Ensure constant and validated quality of the product through:
 - the raw material analysis,
 - the traceability software package,
 - validation of the first pilot production,
- continuous follow-up and audit of the quality system;
- · Possibly develop new product formulations, in view of the raw material available locally and/or based on users

UNICEF role is to facilitate contacts between interested Local Producers and Interested International Companies, including a visit of technical evaluation mission. Neither UNICEF in Yemen nor the Ministry of Public Health and Population will be directly involved in establishing local production, but will continue to promote this production as principal purchasers of certified quality ready-to-use therapeutic foods for use in Yemen.

Deadline for submission:

Interested Companies should submit their interest in establishing local production by official letter to UNICEF supply section, Office No. 5, Aser Area, Sana a, YEMEN (Tel: 967-1-211400 ex. 182, Fax: 967-1-20692) before 5 January 2009. Contact person Ms. Nada Abdelwahab (email: nabdelwahab@unicef.org).

At submission the interested companies will receive specific Forms to be filled and returned to UNICEF before 12 January 2009. These forms will be used by the international partner to proceed for a pre-selection. The short-listed companies will be visited by a technical team from the International Company for a technical evaluation mission planned for end January 2009.









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Company Profile

Felix Airways is a startup passenger airline based in Sana a. Felix will serve the domestic Yemen market and some selected regional locations. The company is owned by the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector and Yemenia Airlines. We are currently seeking candidates to fill the following important positions within our Finance & Accounting Department:

Accounts Receivable Supervisor

Job Description

Supervise the Sales System, Reconciling & Monitoring Receivables, Managing Revenue and other related reports for Governmental Taxes & Charges relating to Ticketing Revenue, Handling the matters of Travel Agents regarding their payments, sales, commissions, etc.

Requirements

University degree in Accounting, Previous accounts receivable experience, Minimum Four years accounting experience in same capacity, Proficiency in Excel, Airline accounting experience will be preferred.

Accountant

Job Description

Handling all basic accounting transactions, processing of all type of invoices / expenses, posting into system, keep proper records, preparing the trail balance, reconciling the supplier's accounts, tracking of inventories for consumption and balances. Ensure accurate and timely submission of reports

Requirements

Minimum Three years accounting experience but travel industry will be preferred, University degree in Accounting, Proficiency in Excel.

To Apply, Please send your CV in English to munawar@felixairways.com; alahmadi@felixairways.com within 10 days from the date of announcement, please mention your expected salary & position applied for in Subject Line of your email. Yemeni Nationals are encouraged to apply.



Why women have not been successful in political life

By: Dr. Najeeb Ghallab For the Yemen Times

emeni women live in an environment that opposes their very participation in politics. This is true even within political parties that claim to be modern. Instead, they are either organized under a, albeit suit-wearing, tribal model, or in the style of a religious group obsessed with its own interpretation of scripture.

The bright side is that there are a number of rising stars among women working in the political domain, and some of our existing leaders exhibit an open minded attitude towards women in the public sphere. However, such sentiments are often overshadowed by traditional political interests, and by the struggle between parties, which unfortunately pushes women's empowerment to the bottom of the priority list.

Advocates of Modernization

The problem facing the more liberalized people in positions of power is that they are no longer able to adequately highlight women's issues amid existing political conflict. Instead, the contradictory alliances in the field marginalized the new thought in the momentary political battles. The Socialist Party, for instance, is no longer able to face the conservative attitudes that dominate the southern part of the country. It renounced the plight of women and the issues of social and intellectual modernization, and has ignored the accomplishments of women

Therefore, the liberalization of atti-

tudes towards women in the south began to unravel in the face of the conservative thought, and as a result, the Socialist Party lost the support of women. Those who follow the party's decisions in the media find that gender issues are marginalized to a great extent. Political compromises that the party has made with regard to issues of modernization have caused it to lose its progressive spirit, and have contributed to its declining support among women. Proponents of modernization in the

General People's Congress (GPC) may be the most active in advocating the discussion of women's issues. However, the problem with the GPC is that it deals with women issues in an opportunistic way, either to present a positive image of the regime to the world, or to exert pressure on the Islah Party. The GPC's traditional structure and its alliance with the Salafia currents - both as partisans and conservatives - as well as with wings of the Muslims Brotherhood Movement, have led the party to tend towards traditional attitudes with regard to women. Indeed, the very structure of the party is heavily influenced by the tribes, which don't recognize women as human beings equal to men.

The Islah Party seems unable to escape this crisis with regard to women, although there are some women inside the party who are working to promote a liberalization of the traditional party structure. They are attempting to employ religion to aid them in resisting conservatism in a way that contributes towards the introduction of a more liberal Islam. However, the well established traditions of the past pose a significant obstacle to these

women. They must battle on two fronts, both resisting the traditional party structure on the one hand, and fighting those thoughts that challenge their very identity as human beings on the other. A further problem facing these women is that, to be in a position of influence they must have a political affiliation, yet this very political affiliation necessarily leads them to protect the conservatism that they are trying to defeat.

The Reality of Female Participation in Public Institutions

Despite the presence of women in elections, their contribution in decisionmaking is still weak. In the legislative field, there is a single seat for women in the entire parliament, from a total of 301. In the Shura Council, women occupy only 2 of 111 seats. On the level of the executive authority, only 2 of 33 ministries are directed by women. There are 39 women deputy ministers and assistants compared with 1210 men in similar positions. Out of 44490 general directors in Yemen, only 168 of them are women. In the diplomatic field, women represent a mere 10 percent of all diplomats, and in the judiciary field they represent 7 percent.

Female participation in the parliamentary elections of 1993 was low as they represented only 18 percent of the total voters. In 1997, this level of participation increased to 27 percent, and by the 2003 elections, the level of women participation increased to 42 percent of the total voters.

Interestingly, it is true that the number of women candidates decreases whenever the number of women voters increases. In the 1993 elections,

women candidates represented 1.3 percent, yet in 1997 the percentage of women candidates was down to 1.4. This trend has continued, as in the 2003 elections the ratio of women candidates was only .8 percent.

The GPC attains the highest ratio of women votes, such as in the 2003 elections where it captured 60 percent of the female vote - 43 percent of the total votes for that party. The Islah party received 22 percent of the female vote, which represented 40 percent of the total votes for that party. Only 5 percent of female votes went to the socialist party, which represented 39 percent of the total votes that the party attained. The Nasserite party gained 2 percent of the women's votes, which represented 39 percent of the party's total.

Voting for parties is not based entirely on their programs. It is right that women in the Yemeni society have a negative view of the extremist religious powers and their rigid stance toward women. However, votes are also affected by other issues. The presence of women in these parties affects the distribution of votes. For example, women represent 31 percent of GPC members, which may account for its popularity among women voters. In the GPC's General Committee, women represent 12.8 percent of its members, and 9.1 percent of its Permanent Committee.

In the Islah Shura Council, women represent 9.1 percent, and in its General Secretariat they represent 6.3 percent of the total members. Women represent 9.01 percent of the total members in the Socialist Party's Central Committee, and 10.52 percent in the General Secretariat.



German Researchers: Democracy is a relationship between civil society and state, and independence of the three powers

By: Salah Al-Warafy For the Yemen Times

emocracy becomes the standard with which the advance of countries can be evaluated. It goes along with rights and duties of both the civil society and the state towards each other and with independence of the three powers, considering the private markets and fairness to be a means of keeping this relationship between the state and the civil society, according to the two German researchers Julie Schultre Petra and Jens Kambick.

Earlier this month in a seminar held by Alsaeed Foundation for Sciences and Culture in Taiz, Schultre, a political and economic analyst, and Kambick, the international referee (judge) at the Chamber of Commerce in Taiz, discussed the relationship between "Democracy, Private Market, and Participation of civil society".

Democracy

Schultre opened with a definition of the concept of democracy, quoting former US president Abraham Lincoln's saying of a hundred and fifty years ago, "Democracy is the government of the people by the people for the people".

She says that democracy is the right of the civil society to participate in decision making and policies of the state, confirming that democracy "is not a perfect system, but rather the best system at the moment".

"Democracy goes along with some rights and some duties, and is supported

with the independence of the three pow-

"Democracy can only exist only if there is a free market. There should be private markets for the production and the distribution of the public and private goods. Markets are also where individuals can earn their living to fund themselves, and then are free to articulate their interests towards policies of the state", Schultre says.

She also explained how that although private markets are not completely separated from the state, they are no longer influenced by it.

Schultre points out that democracy is based on two main factors which are the state and the civil society; civil society never exists unless there is another source taking money from it, "In markets citizens pay taxes to the state, they,

in turn, get their full right of participation in decision making and politics.

She says that the state earns its economy from taxes, natural resources, immigration, real estate, and political rents. Once the state resorts to get aid from foreign sources, the relationship between the government and the civil society is somehow disturbed, and then the state lacks the real sense of democracy.

When the state is in no need of international aid, participation of civil society strengthens to make decisions regarding the high rate of taxes that citizens pay, according to Schultre. She said, "When the state earns from abroad, it focuses its policies on satisfying the policies of the supporter countries."

On the other hand, Janz Kambick the

international judge in the Chamber of Commerce discussed democracy and the relationship between the state and the civil society in reference to the law.

"The idea of democracy from the point of view of philosophy is to separate the power of the government into legislative, executive, and judicial powers which are never influenced by each other."

The other way of participation of civil society in how individuals can influence the politics of the state and their society is to make decisions and policies in formal and informal way",

Kambick pointed out that the most important part of decision making is to be fair. "Execution of laws is to keep the balance between the powers. Someone make laws: someone else executes

them; and others judge whether they work or not", Kambick explained.

He adds that to keep these procedures of the three powers separated from each other is the most important factor of fairness. He points out that the relationship between the state and the civil society has duties and rights can be found in all law books and religious books, and even in the Yemeni Constitution.

"Individuals have the right to speak, the right to give evidence, the right to consult a lawyer, and the right to have equal chances. What the relationship between the state and the civil society needs also is that citizens should have environment for decision making, politics, and execution of laws in order to have full participation in the policies of their state", Kambick says.

Nearly 78 percent of investment projects in Aden have stalled, says a recent study

By: Ayman Baggash Al-Sayah

recent study conducted by the government revealed that 1132 investment projects in the Aden governorate have stalled or are no longer active, accounting for 78 percent of the total projects registered by the General Investment Authority.

The study was undertaken by a team from the branch of the investment authority in Aden and was headed by Mohammed Hilbub, professor of investment and supply in Aden University. The report also received support from the Germen Organization for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). According to the study, between 1992 and 2008, 601 projects have stalled and 531 remain registered by the authority but have failed to proceed as investors were unable to find land and supplies for the projects.

of stalled projects registered between the 1992 and 2004 decreased, whereas the same number increased from 2005 to 2007. It attributed the change to the high demand on registering investment projects during the period following the establishment of the investment authority, which intended to appropriate the land after registering the projects.

According to officials, the registration process was also open without regulations or pre-conditions comparable to the minimum investment cost of YR 50 million agreed upon in 2002. Further, the process included all economic activities later exempted by the 2002 law.

According to the report, investment projects of general joint-stock companies have been the most successful, representing only 11 percent of stalled projects. Failure among projects that controlled by joint companies amounted 67

The study indicated that the number f stalled projects registered between the 1992 and 2004 decreased, whereas the same number increased from 2005 to 2007. It attributed the change to the high

The highest rate of blockage among investment was in the agricultural and livestock sector, exceeding 95 percent, followed by 92 percent in the services sector, 89 percent in the residential sector, and 81 percent in the industry sector. The lowest rate of blockage was registered in the education sector with a rate of 41 percent, followed by 45 percent in the fishery sector, 50 percent in the transportation sector, and 53 percent in the health sector. Obstruction among tourism projects also amounted to 62 percent.

The study further indicated that the industry sector accounted for the largest number of failed or failing projects, totaling nearly 51 percent, followed by

23 percent in the service sector, and 13 percent in the tourism sector. It pointed out that slowed investment projects remain focused on three economic sectors: industry, service, and tourism.

Foreign led projects totaled 83 percent, whereas obstruction among projects controlled by Yemeni investors is estimated at 78 percent. Stalled projects run by Arab investors amounted to 74 percent. Obstruction among joint projects controlled by foreign, Yemeni and Arab investors was estimated at 43 percent, which represents the lowest rate, according to the study.

The report also confirmed that the slowed progress of these projects resulted in the loss of 62.31 thousand job opportunities between 1992 and 2007. The study concludes that these projects would have satisfied the work demands of the Aden governorate's nearly 16 thousand graduates, as well as another

10 thousand job opportunities. It indicated that those lost jobs included projects that failed to progress, noting that there would have been more opportunities had these projects succeeded.

According to a questionnaire distributed among investors in Aden, 50 percent of respondents stated that lack of land was the primary reason for obstruction, while absence of coordination between the government bodies accounted for 49 percent, intimidation by groups or individuals totaled 47 percent, delay of issuing verdicts by the court, 33 percent, intervention of other bodies in the cases under prosecution, 29 percent, contradiction of laws, 28 percent, transferring cases to unspecialized bodies, 22 percent, continuous law amendments, 17 percent, inflation, 12 percent, and bribes, 12 percent.

The study emphasized the importance of mechanisms and procedures that pro-

vide accountability on all authorities – the executive, legislative, and judiciary – and civil service employees on the local and national levels. It also recommended supporting the role of the Central Organization for Control and Auditing(COCA) in overseeing all bodies concerned with investment, in order to ensure transparency and accountability in the investment process.

The findings also concluded that senior civil and military nominations should only be approved by the Shura Council in order to guarantee that public jobs and finance are not misused. All project locations and investors must be monitored and recorded, and land must only be allocated to active investors. It further recommended that land appropriated during the 1994 war must be returned to its original owner, according to article No. 13 of the 2002 investment law No. 22.

TIMES

Procurement Notice

Call for the Expression (EoI) for the Supply of Goods, Implementation of Civil Construction Works, Provision of Consulting Services and the General Services.

As part of the United Nations Development Programme s (UNDP) ongoing humanitarian and development projects in Yemen, the UNDP invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from local and international Companies, who wish to be considered for one of the following disciplines:

- 1. Supply of Goods (Equipment and supplies under the following Sectors: Electricity, Mine Action, Health care, Hospital facilities & Services, Water Sanitation, Vehicles, Armored Vehicles, IT, Communication, Furniture, Office supplies, Office Security and Safety and other types of goods).
- 2. Construction Works (Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Works).
- 3. Engineering and Consulting Services (any of the following disciplines: design of drawings, development of specifications, quantity assessment & survey, development of Bill of Quantity, construction supervision, Social Analysis and studies ...etc).
- 4. General Services (Translation, office cleaning, office security, general office maintenance, printing & design, travel and local transportation, conference facilities etc).

Interested Companies are encouraged to visit the website of UNDP Yemen www.undp.org.ye/procuremnt.php under (Vender Registration) for the registration purposes. The registered Companies shall be considered for UNDP s upcoming procurement activities under each of the above listed disciplines.

For any enquiries please contact the focal point in UNDP Yemen Office:

Name: Amal Ali Ghaleb
Tel.: 967 1 448605 Ext. 211
Email address: amal.ali@undp.org







2008





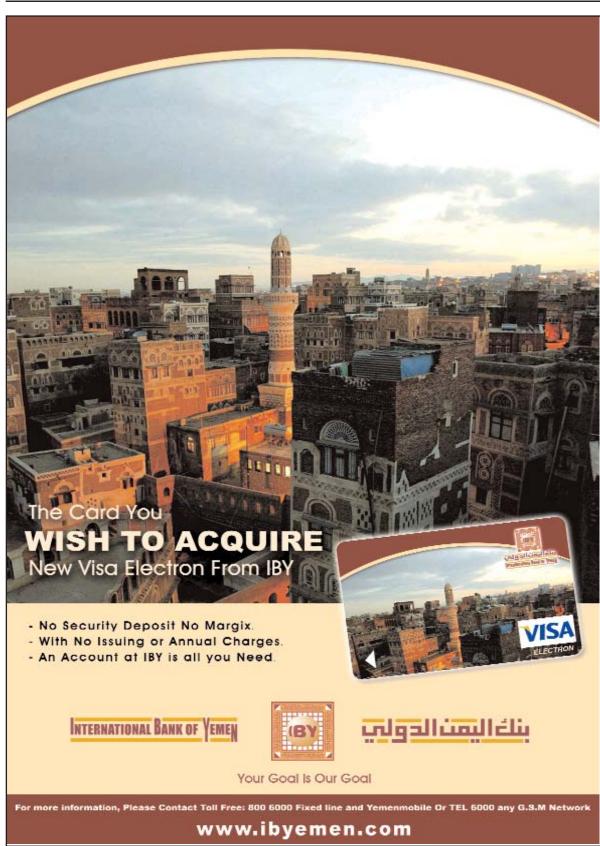
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الرويشان للسيارات والمحركات







Save the Children®

Save the Children in Yemen is looking for eligible candidates for the position of:

JOB DESCRIPTION Position Admin Assistant

Department Administration Reports to Administrative Officer

Direct Reportees / Supervision Administrative

Location Sana a

POSITION OBJECTIVES

Assist Administrative Officer in coordinating logistic and administration related to SC

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES. DUTIES AND

Core Responsibilities & Duties

- Responsible for the general filing in the office both in hard and in soft copies on the shared folders, i.e. creating new files with proper indexes according to the need, keeping and sorting documents according to the Management Guide
- Responsible for the library, i.e. keeping the resources in a systematic order and creating and updating a complete resource list, registering new resources and keeping track of lent resources to persons outside the office.
- Monitor and follow up day-to-day maintenance of the office.
- Handle in-coming and out-going mail, faxes and electronic mail.
- Attend to visitors, in-coming and out-going telephone calls.
- Collect and maintain personnel records timesheets, leave applications and entitle-
- Ensure that office equipment is looked after and kept in good working order.
- To assist in the procurement process and
- collect estimates for purchases Manage stationery stock — keep records
- and stock levels up to date. Keep the supplies tidy and in good order Preparing the payment order for our service
- providers Prepare Vehicles fuel & Maintenance
- Supervise cook / cleaner to ensure office is
- well kept and refreshments are available.
- Undertake other related tasks as necessary.

Occasional Significant Duties

1. Support program officers in secretarial and facilitating duties as requested through the Administrative Officer.

JOB SPECIFICATION (MINIMUM JOB

REQUIREMENTS) Education university degree of administration or relevant fields

Total Work Experience (In Yrs) At least two years experience in administration

with an international NGO, a UN agency or a similar experience.

- Understanding of community development
- Good English

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Purchase requests followed up within a
- Arrangement of meeting and training, work-
- of next month.
- Stationary Records are maintained

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position Guard **Department** Administration

- Arrive on time

- Inspect materials and equipment
- Control access by visitors
 - o Check identification
- o Verify appointment
- Inspect any vehicles parked in compound Ensure only authorized vehicles are parked

o Escort visitor to Reception

- in and near SC facility Inspect lights, locks, doors, windows
- Check generator (fuel, oil, battery, log book,
- maintenance schedule) Inspect premises inside and outside on reg-
- ular rounds Report any suspicious activity to supervisor
- Monitor radios, and satellite phone Control access to after-hours visitors and

Occasional Significant Duties

REQUIREMENTS)

years experience

Skills Security skills

security procedure.

without permission

Finance Officer

JOB DESCRIPTION

Location Aden

Position Finance Officer

Department Operations

POSITION OBJECTIVES

dotted line to the operation manger.

Direct Reportees / Supervision None

Education High school

Sector Experience (In Yrs) 2

DECISION-MAKING & AUTHORITY

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

the compound at any given time

ed through the Administrative Officer.

3. Support admin or program officers as request-

JOB SPECIFICATION (MINIMUM JOB

Total Work Experience (In Yrs) At least two

This position requires limited decision making.

control access of people to the sc compound

Identify and report any faulty & follow up the

Maintain a record of all staff and visitors inside

Arrival on time and not to Leave the post location

Reports to Direct line to area manager with a

To ensure that the record-keeping for the country

office is kept in accordance with the generally

accepted accounting principals (GAAP)that all

financial plans, budgets, contracts, agreements

and records are kept up to date and secured for

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES, DUTIES AND

access by authorized personnel only.

- Sector Experience (In Yrs) 2
- Good Communication and interpersonal
- skills
- Computer skills
- **DECISION-MAKING & AUTHORITY**

- week of request.
- shop are well planned.
- Monthly time sheet followed up within week
- The payment of our service providers paid
- Vehicles fuel & Maintenance reports

Security Guard

Reports to Administrative Officer **Direct Reportees** / Supervision

POSITION OBJECTIVES Security of the office building and control access of people to the SC compound

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES, DUTIES AND

Core Responsibilities & Duties

- Review shift book with previous shift
- Verify deliveries
- o Ask for name, organization and purpose
- o Register information in Visitors Logbook o Issue visitor identification card
- Core Responsibilities & Duties To demonstrate a high level of integrity in
 - the performance of the day to day activity and to do the book-keeping on daily bases. To demonstrate the book-keeping and entries to Agresso on daily bases.

TASKS

Ensure and supervise that all financial systems and records are kept in an accurate and up to date manner Supervise the Filling and maintain the accounting and financial records as per

GAAP general instructions from the MG.

- Ensure complete compliance with the SC
- Remain awake at all times Policies and Procedures. Do not let any items leave the office without To assist in preparation the budgets for the country office and to prepare and update
- Keep compound clean the cash budgets when needed. Hand over to next shift Ensure the preparation and submission of Undertake other related tasks as necessary monthly, quarterly and annual financial
 - reports on timing and in accordance with FO instructions. Ensure that all expenses are budgeted and are supported by adequate documentation
 - with authorized signature and will pass the audit test. Oversee petty cash and ensure that the funds are available at all times for the imple-
 - mentation of the activities. To assist the auditors as required, generally and in their half yearly and yearly reviews.
 - prepare monthly payroll.
 - To monitor and evaluate the partner and sub-grantees Supervise and monitor advances given out
 - to staff for field operation and assure timely accountability. Supervise and monitor the payment of
 - stipends to the teachers. 15. Any other duty as may be assigned by the area manger or the Operations Manager.

Occasional Significant Duties

- Cover the position in other places like Visit other duty stations and perform duties
- as assigned JOB SPECIFICATION (MINIMUM JOB REQUIREMENTS) Education Bachelors Degree Total Work Experience (In Yrs) 4 Sector Experience (In Yrs) 1
- Skills Bachelors Degree in Commerce, Business Administration with 4 years of relevant experience.
- Candidates having professional qualifications such as ACCA, CPA or ICSA will be
- Candidates having experience working with an International NGO and knowledge of Agresso system will be preferred. Experience and working knowledge of:
- [a] Computer software programs such as Excel. Word. MS Access [b] Staff Supervisory roles.
- Good organizational, communications and interpersonal skills

DECISION-MAKING & AUTHORITY This position requires limited decision making.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Maintain the accounting and financial records as per GAAP and general instructions from the MG.
- To prepare budgets for the country office

- and to prepare and update the cash budg-
- ets when needed. Ensure the preparation and submission of monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports on time and in accordance with FO
- instructions To monitor and evaluate partners and the sub-grantees
- Ensure that all expenses are budgeted and are supported by adequate documentation with authorized signature
- To demonstrate doing the book-keeping and entries to Agresso on daily bases.

Finance Assistant

JOB DESCRIPTION PositionFinance Assistant **Department** Operations Reports to Finance Officer

Direct Reportees / Supervision None

Location Sana a

POSITION OBJECTIVES ensure that the financial operations are continuing smoothly and in consistence with the provisions as laid down in the Management Guide

and those of the donors JOB RESPONSIBILITIES, DUTIES AND **TASKS**

- Core Responsibilities & Duties To maintain a high level of integrity in the performance of the day to day activity To do the book-keeping and entries to
- Agresso on daily bases. Ensure that all financial systems and records are kept in an accurate and up to date manner
- To file and maintain the accounting and financial records as per GAAP and general instructions from the MG
- Ensure complete compliance with the SC Policies and Procedures. Assist in the timely preparation of monthly, quarterly and annual financial reports are
- submitted on time and in accordance with FO instructions. Ensure that all expenses are budgeted and are supported by adequate documentation with authorized signature and will pass the
- audit test. Oversee petty cash and ensure that the funds are available at all times for the implementation of the activities.
- Prepare cash vouchers and bank vouchers. Assist in the preparation of monthly payroll. Supervise and monitor advances given out
- to staff for field operation and assure timely accountability. 12. To monitor the payment of stipends to the
- 13. To help in the monitoring and evaluation of Partners and the sub-grantees

- 14. Any other duty as may be assigned by the supervisor.
- Cover the position in other places like Aden

Visit other duty stations and perform duties SPECIFICATION (MINIMUM JOB

REQUIREMENTS) Education Bachelors Degree Total Work Experience (In Yrs) 2 Sector Experience (In Yrs) 1

Occasional Significant Duties

- Bachelors Degree in Commerce, Business Administration with 2 years of relevant experience.
- Candidates having experience working with an International NGO and knowledge of Agresso system will be preferred. Experience and working knowledge of : [a] Computer software programs such as

Excel. Word. MS Access

[b] Staff Supervisory roles. Good organizational, communications and

DECISION-MAKING & AUTHORITY This position requires limited decision making.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Maintain the accounting and financial records as per GAAP and general instructions from the MG
- Ensure that all expenses are budgeted and are supported by adequate documentation with authorized signature and will pass the Assist in the preparation of monthly, quar-
- terly and annual financial reports are submitted on time and in accordance with FO instructions

partners and the sub-grantees

Monitor advances given out to staff for field operation and assure timely accountability. help in the monitoring and evaluation of

We are looking for both men and women from Yemen with enthusiasm and commit ment to improve the protection and pronotion of the rights of all children in oplications and requests for a detailed

b Description need to be addressed to: Administrator , Save the Children Sweden Office,

Hadda, next to the Iranian Embassy. Halhakimi@scsmena.org

The dead line for the submission of applications is the 31 of December 2008

Words of Wisdom



The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non government organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle

> Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Founder of Yemen Times



Internet dependency

ver since the internet became available in Yemen, it has been used extensively by individuals and corporations for both leisure and work. Its use has become so endemic in our society that, whenever one has a question to be answered, we default to "google" rather than turn to traditional means such as books and reference documents, even if these are readily available.

The World Wide Web is a method for communication, self expression, research and entertainment, yet without this we feel handicapped. I never realized how totally dependant we are on the Web until we lost it. The recent disconnection in the undersea cable, which affected internet access across Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, and other countries in the Middle East, has made us realize that we need a back up plan.

For four days, the internet was out for reach, forcing us to talk instead of sending emails, carry documents in flash drives instead of posting them online, and look into dictionaries and books that had become a little too dusty over time. The problem, I realized, is that because of the internet our expectations for productivity have become much higher. We want the latest updates, the best sources, and the most answers in the shortest time possible, and with the least effort. And you cannot get all this by traditional means alone.

Without internet access there is also a sense of frustration among people who depend on it for work, and even for entertainment. For us as journalists, accessing our email is a sacred task that needs to be done every few hours. The thought of all the emails that have been waiting for me for several days without being read is driving me crazy. Now I have to talk to people and communicate and describe issues that were much easier to describe by writing, through illustrations, and other things I could share through the net.

I don't even know if I will be able to share this editorial with the readers, because if technology continues to fail us we cannot update the website and upload this Yemen Times issue onto the net.

It feels like we got used to a technology that we cannot deal with, just like a kid who gets a high tech gadget and gets used to its fancy operation and when something breaks down there is no one to repair it. Sometimes I feel that we in the developing countries are enjoying stolen technology; we use computers which we didn't make, we drive cars which were made elsewhere, we create websites that are hosted by other countries, and we are dependant on the internet which is maintained by others.

But does this mean we should wait until we master these technological advances or can we ride on the IT wave even if we are not so good at surfing? In all cases, I want my internet back, and I want it now.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Weapons of mass destruction

By: Moneer Al-Mawri

foreign researchers discuss Yemen's problems, they attempt to be objective. They also warn against Yemen changing into a failed state. I don't know when our state proved being successful in order to be feel concerned about its potential failure. Our state has been failed since the very beginning and there is no need to worry about this fact.

And, as researchers don't know Yemen like I and other Yemenis do, they deal with things as they appear and diagnose symptoms of the disease, but never investigate the real causes of the disease or sources of the pain. As a result, they describe the primary challenges currently facing Yemen as follows:

One: The issue of South Yemen, which is being described by President Saleh and senior ruling party leaders as "meaningless", while in fact it made them concerned during the daytime and

Two: The inflammable Houthi-led rebellion in Sa'ada for the sixth time, plus its expansion to the provinces of Al-Jawf, Dhamar and Sana'a before or after the latest presidential elections, particularly as Saleh doesn't see the rebellion as "meaningless". He rather sent negotiators to Qatar and dealt with Houthis as a real field force that defeated his army troops.

Third: The problem of Al-Qaeda Organization in the Arabian and its past collaboration with the regime. Despite the fact that Al-Qaeda in Yemen is not

that strong in a way posing a real threat to the current authority in Sana'a, it encourages other foreign forces against Yemen's regime and attacks foreign interests in the country. The Qaeda Organization in Yemen has become more able to change Yemen into a starting point for launching massive terrorist offensives outside Yemen, most notably as the regime exploits Al-Qaeda as a means to beg money from foreign organizations, however, it doesn't exert hard efforts in fighting Qaeda comrades.

Fourth: The problem of pervasive tension among people and opposition parties' bases because of rampant corruption, oppression, barbarism and piracy. In the meantime, we don't know what Yemen armed forces may do if people revolt against comprehensive oppression the government practices against them. Iran's Shah was the fourth strongest power in the world when the Iranian people revolted against his corruption. That was only one year after President Saleh assumed power in north

Fifth: The problem of presidential replacement and competition over legacy. This is also an ambiguity about effectiveness of a president amid absence of real democratic tool, under which contenders rely on ballot boxes, not no the armed forces, to achieve their dreams of assuming power. I hope that Yemen doesn't experience conflict between the central security personnel and republican guards over who will be the next President.

Conflict over power

This is the real problem (conflict over power) as visualized by foreign

researchers. They hold the view that the problem is urgent and requires workable solutions. In the meantime, we agree with those researchers that the problem is dangerous, but we differ with them over its causes. The problem and its alikes are merely symptoms of a dangerous disease, which is the source of all pains in Yemen.

Yemen's current authority is the source of all these pains, particularly as we are currently suffering the negative consequences of its poor policies. Since the current ruler assumed power, his policies have not only threatened our lives, as they will also continue threatening lives of next generations.

The current leadership in Yemen absolute financial, administrative and military powers, however, it behaves in an irresponsible way. This leadership, without an exaggeration, can be described as "Weapon of Mass Destruction" due to the absolute powers it holds. The way this authority behaves may lead to fragmenting the nation and threatening its future, plus destroying all what Yemenis have so far built throughout their history.

Having made a deep glance at the above-mentioned five problems highlighted by foreign researchers, we would have realized that the current authority in Yemen is their sole source. This authority is the primary reason for formation of Faithful Youth Organization in Sa'ada and its policies are responsible for escalated political congestions in the governorates.

Source: al-masdar.com

Assaulting journalists hurts democracy and public freedoms

By: Abdullah Al-Wazir

hat happened to some journalists a few days ago puts than more question before the government and not before the security personnel. The journalists were subjected to arbitrary arrests, beating, confiscation of their cameras and temporary detention by security personnel while covering a protest, organized by the opposition parties in Sana'a, against the voter registration process, which is currently undertaken by the ruling amid announced boycott of man on earth. the upcoming parliamentary elections by the major opposition parties.

We all know that security personnel

don't move toward citizens or demonstrators unless they are given orders from higher authorities. And, what happened on the protest day reflects that directions were given to prevent journalists from covering the event, which means that no single media outlet is targeted as such action targets all the media personnel and journalists.

What happened to colleague Abdulfatah Haidara, Correspondent of Al-Ayyam Daily, is a targeting of the newspaper, which is rejected and denounced by all means. This irresponsible behavior is impossible to be accepted or tolerated by any wise

The journalist was abducted outside Sana'a while covering the protest. He was then beaten and his fingers were hurt with stones. This manifests the ugliest forms of cruelty and barbarism in the country of faith and

We always claim that the government must abide by the Constitution and Law. If the law sides with journalists and encourages them to cover any events, be they organized by the ruling or opposition parties, this law also ensures protection of journalists while covering such events.

The government, on the other hand, must apply the law when a particular journalist commits legal violations while doing his/her job.

Both government and opposition must be law-abiding

An important question, which is being raised here is that, "What are the guarantees provided by the government to ensure that the law is not violated and people are abiding by it? If the government itself violates the law, it must not blame citizens for doing so.

The government always stresses the necessity of citizens, journalists and political parties abiding by the Constitution and laws put into effect. It always says, "The Constitution and Law are above all even the government authorities that are responsible for passing and applying laws.

The fact that the government authorities violate the Constitution and laws reflects insult of the blood of martyrs, who sacrificed their souls for the sake of protecting homeland against oppression and tyranny of leaders and

How one can assess the situation these days with the government authorities abusing citizens' rights and forcing soldiers to clash with citizens. As narrated by the colleague Abdulfatah Haidara, a soldier attacked one of the protesters during the protest with his rifle in his mouth until his teeth broke.

We don't know why security and military members are instigated against citizens and journalists as if they are their real enemies. We don't know in favor of whom this proceeds.

All the Yemenis, be they ruling party or opposition fans, educated or illiterate, soldiers or farmers students or party members, are brothers. All of them are sons of this homeland and must have equal access to practicing equal rights. All of them are required to do the same duties and are collectively responsible for security and stability of their homeland, and no one is above the law.

Source: al-balagh.net

SILVER LINING

The Yemeni Jews plight

hroughout M u s l i m s and Jews in Yemen have lived in harmony. Jews for the most part have found Muslim Yemenis tolerant and lived in harmony with their neighbors. They have preserved their tradition as well as religious conventions with freedom.



Now, the situation has begun to change. The recent attacks against the Jews in Raidah and Kharef in Ammran province and the murder of Moshe al-Nahari some days ago at the hands of a former military and previously the forcing of the Jews in Sa'ada last year to leave their houses demonstrate this ordeal of these people.

Last week, I went to Raidah and Kharef to report on the murder of al-Nahari and by accident, I found that the house of Masha Yahia and others were attacked by a hand grenade by unidentified people while the Jews were sleeping. I could see the moments of fear and awe in the faces of these people who could not explain their plight to journalists in the presence of security men. The father of Moshe said Jews used to live in peace with their Muslim neighbors, but since the murder of his son, they no longer feel secure in Rydah. He said they did not know the killer before. The murderer was said to have some psychological problems. But, his Moshe's father argument is that "Why is he allowed to carry a gun if he is crazy?" He is completely right. It is only in Yemen where crazy people can carry guns.

Police officers at the site of the bomb explosion that left no casualties said they were looking into the incident and would act on the Jewish community's suggestion and arrest any people the Jews suspect might be behind the attack. That is fine but it is not enough to protect these people from attacks and other forms of harassments.

Following these attacks, the president reportedly suggested after meeting with Jewish community representatives to relocate the Jews of Ammran to the capital Sana'a.

Previously, the government relocated the Jews who were forced by al-Houthi supporters in Sa'ada to quit their houses to the tourist city in Sana'a. Some 65 Jews now live in this city where the entrance and exit is controlled by police which makes life for typical Yemeni Jews who lived in the countryside feel like they are in jail.

Some of the Jews who moved from Sa'ada to Sana'a feel they are secured and that they will never think of going back to Sa'ada again. However, their relocation did not sort out all their problems; they have complained they just received a little amount of money mounting to \$25 per person per month. They want to go back to their work; they want the government support to help them reopen workshops to ear their living.

But, why should these people leave their houses? I believe it is the responsibility of the government to protect them for they are Yemeni citizens. These guys have refused all allurements to migrate to Israel because they love their home country and they should not be rewarded by relocation which will not hit the nail on the head for what we need is tolerance.

Otherwise, they will face in Sana'a the same attacks they have been facing in their home villages. Or does this mean the government exists only in Sana'a and therefore, will be able to protect them by putting them in a walled housing complex?

The government should address the culture of fanaticism and hatred that is growing fast in our country. I understand that not all the people in Ammran or Sa'ada or elsewhere are not against the Jews. Some Muslims in Ammran talked to me nicely about Moshe. However, these incidents demonstrate there is a problem that needs addressed.

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

SKETCHED 0 Ρ By: Samer

YEMEN TIMES

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Aleshteraki.net, affiliated with the **Yemeni Socialist Party** Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008

Top Stories

- The three German nationals were kidnapped from inside the capital city of Sana'a, sources
- Sana'a hosts conference on people's involvement in drafting state's general budget
- EU: We may observe Yemen's upcoming parliamentary elections if political parties reach compromise

The European Union said it is ready to send its Election Observation Mission once again to Yemen to observe the upcoming parliamentary elections, scheduled for April 2009 in case Yemen's political parties, most notably the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), reach a compromise on the electoral issue, the website reported in its lead story.

It added that the European Ministerial Council showed EU concern about Yemeni authorities' decision to postpone the next local council elections and extend the current local council's term by more four years. By the absolute majority, Parliament voted for extending the current term of local councilors by more four years under the pretext that local councilors have ahead of them a short time period to work.

EU said the matter may be explained as an indicator of deteriorating understanding and unprecedented crisis among Yemen's major political parties. In a statement released on Monday, the EU Ministerial Council said, "We invite all Yemen's political parties to establish dialogue and reach a compromise on the upcoming parliamentary elections, scheduled to take place in April 2009."

EU called on the political parties to work harder with a spirit of transparency and democracy in order to reach agreements in favor of Yemen's democratic experience as recommended by its Election Observation Mission following the most recent presidential and local council elections in September

The ministerial council reaffirmed EU strong commitment to continue supporting Yemen's democratic experience via free and fair elections.



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah **Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008**

Top Stories

- Transparency International uncovers unfair trials and cruel torture of prisoners in Yemen
- EU expresses concern over postponing next local elections in Yemen
- US Department of State concerned about Yemen political parties' disagreement over elections

The U.S. Department of State expressed deep concern about continuing disagreement among Yemen's major political parties over the upcoming parliamentary elections, the website

In a press release published on its website, the department said, "We welcome the upcoming Parliamentary elections in Yemen as an opportunity for the Yemeni people to renew their democratic institutions and processes."

It added that it is important for the integrity of the election process that preparations proceed in a fair and transparent manner, untainted by violence and accusations of misconduct.

"We are concerned that the lack of consensus and cooperation between the principal political parties in Yemen puts the successful execution of the elections at risk. Moreover, it contributes to a

perception that neither the ruling nor opposition parties are prepared to make the concessions necessary to ensure that the citizens of Yemen are able to express their political will in a free and transparent election," the Islah Party's website quoted the U.S. State Department

as saying in its press release. "We call on all political parties in Yemen to return immediately to dialogue to reach a consensus on the procedures for the upcoming parliamentary elections that are consistent with recommendations made by international elections observers in 2006," the department further said.

It concluded, "All Yemeni political parties share the responsibility to participate in the democratic process and to find a consensus to allow the elections to proceed in a manner that will reflect Yemen's commitment to democracy.

We look forward to a spirited campaign season, overseen by the responsible offices of the Supreme Council for Elections and Referenda in an orderly and transparent manner.'



Almotamar.net, affiliated with the General People's Congress (ruling party)

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008

Top Stories

- SCER criticizes requests to drop names of 54 thousand voters from registers
- Yafea locals reject BaAum's intervention in their festival
- GPC encourages large number of women to stand in upcoming parliamentary elections

Fatna Al-Khatari, Member of General People's Congress GPC, and also Head of the Woman Office, affirmed Tuesday GPC's moves to encourage a large number of Yemeni women to run for Parliament seats in the upcoming parliamentary elections, scheduled for

April 2009, the website reported.

Meanwhile an official source, specialized in stats related with political, economic and social empowerment of women, revealed appointment of 23 ladies to hold posts of director general in different ministries and government institutions last year.

Ms Al-Khatari also said the GPC General Secretariat is considering the subject of pushing women to engage in contests for the 2009 parliament in a positive form and full conviction in the necessity of engaging women in the political process as voters and candidates as well, in a way enabling them make successful achievements in the upcoming

She also pointed out that the GPC's rules of procedure stress the necessity of having women account for 15% of leaderships in the various government institutions. This step also encourages women to hold posts in the ruling party's central offices, its branches in governorates or memberships of the party's permanent and general committees.

Al-Mithaq weekly quoted the GPC leading member as saying," Whenever the woman is there as a candidate the man has to support her. We at the GPC do not discriminate between candidates in terms of providing spiritual, financial and organizational support and sometimes support for the women may be increased."

According to the website, Administration Director at the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum SCER Ilham Abulwahab said she pins hope on the code of ethics among political parties to support the woman as a candidate in the 4th parliamentary elections in Yemenin April 2009. she called for benefiting from he initiative of the president of the republic regarding the allocation of 15% of seats in elected councils for women and the quota system, which is part of the electoral system representing positive discrimination in favor of women.

Ms Abdulwahab added that the Yemeni

constitution stipulates equality between the man and the woman and its amendment in favor of positive discrimination for the woman recalls referendum amidst a masculine environment as it is possible to see bias against women. Nevertheless, she said it can be resorted to amending the law of political parties obliging them to offer a certain percentage of their candidate lists

to women.

Although the administration director at the SCER expected, in an interview with almotamar.net, an increase in the number of women candidates in the parliamentary elections of next April due to accumulation of awareness among the female population, she doesn't believe that any obstacles standing in the way of women's nomination may be removed.



UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY NOTICE

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Date of Entry on Duty: Immediate Duration: One year Closing Date: 5th January 09

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- Reports regularly of the conference of the confe

<u>Qualification Requirements</u>
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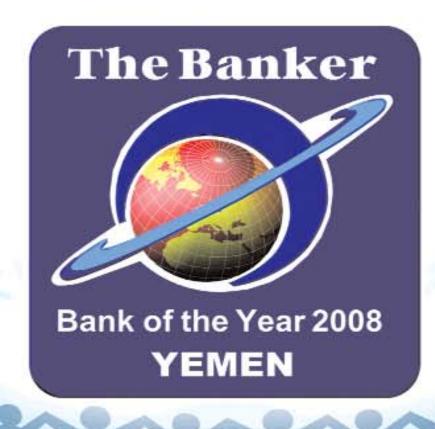
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Osteopenia among Yemeni Women

Health

By: Ola Al-Shami

backaches, weak bones that are easily broken and general decay are widespread complaints made by women in Yemen. In a developing nation where health awareness is restricted to a privileged few many are not conscious that these symptoms have serious consequences. Statistics indicate that osteopenia is more prevalent among women in Yemen than it is among men.

Osteopenia is a condition where bone mineral density (BMD) is lower than normal but not low enough to be classified as osteoporosis. Although it is considered by many doctors to be a precursor to osteoporosis, not every person diagnosed with osteopenia will develop osteoporosis.

Bone mineral density is a measurement of the level of minerals in the bones, which indicates how dense and strong they are.

What Causes Osteopenia

Like osteoporosis, osteopenia occurs more frequently in post-menopausal women as a result of the loss of estrogen. It can also be exacerbated by lifestyle factors such as lack of exercise, excessive consumption of alcohol, smoking, or prolonged use of certain types of medication.

Bones naturally become thinner as

thicker your bones are around that time, the longer it takes to develop osteopenia or osteoporosis.

Importance of Diet

Diet is very important for bone development. Calcium is the most critical mineral for generating bone mass. Your best sources of calcium are milk and other dairy products, green vegetables, and calcium-enriched

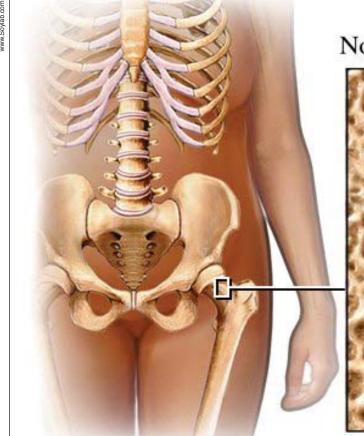
Calcium combined with vitamin D is vital. Vitamin D assists your body in absorbing calcium and other minerals.

It is found in milk, eggs, salmon, sardines, swordfish, and some fish oils. and can also be taken in calcium and vitamin supplements. In addition to what you take in from food, your body produces vitamin D in response to

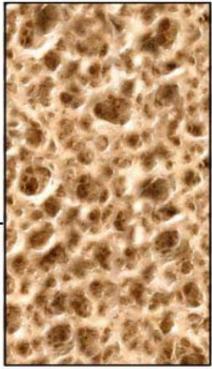
Reducing Risks

Osteopenia is treated by taking preventative steps to keep it from developing into osteoporosis and, for a few people, by taking medication. Lifestyle changes can help reduce the bone loss that leads to osteopenia and osteoporosis.

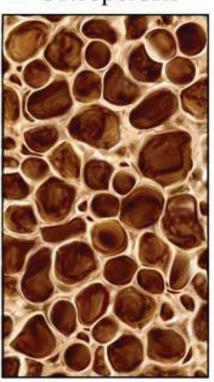
Exercise is important in maintaining strong bones, because bone forms in response to stress. Weight-bearing exercises such as walking, hiking, and dancing are all good choices.



Normal bone matrix



Osteoporosis



Osteoporosis is a condition characterized by progressive loss of bone density, thinning of bone tissue and increased vulnerability to fractures.

bone thinning, but these are typically only applied if your symptoms have progressed past osteopenia to the more serious condition of osteoporosis.

Osteopenia in Yemen

The lack of a balanced and vitamin-rich diet, coupled with a lack of adequate regular exercise, represent the two primary factors that speed the development of osteopenia among

"Osteopenia affects one in every three women in Yemen. This is because the majority of Yemeni women do not exercise regularly, if at all. Also, due to financial reasons, most families lack a balanced diet full of calcium and vitamins," said Dr. Motahar Al-Ariqi, an orthopedic specialist at Al-Thawra Hospital in Sana'a. He added that a further major problem is that Yemeni women are covered all of the time, which prevents the sun exposure required if the body is to produce its own vitamin D. In addition, women's misuse of medication and the paucity of food needed to help build bones, such as vegetables, fruits, and milk, and the frequent pregnancies which lessen the amount of calcium in female bones, are all contributing factors towards osteopenia. Dr. Ali Al-Mudhwahi, General Director of the Family Section in Ministry of Health, reports that, "woman in the city frequently spend from 4 to 5 hours in gat sessions, smoke, and lead relatively sedentary lifestyles.

heavy load on their heads, and moves affect their fertility, and so many girls around all the day also suffer.

Although this activity certainly represents more exercise than that which those living in the city would get, the unstructured stop-start nature of this activity, coupled with occasional bad posture, can undo any positive effects,"

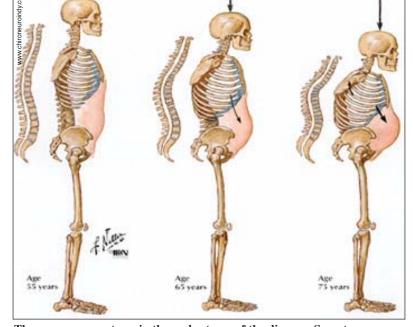
Due to inherent biological differences women suffer from bone decay more frequently than men. Also, when women are pregnant they don't receive sufficient ante-natal care and their bones become weaker," said Dr. A.Tawab

Moreover, ignorance among women of the causes of osteopenia is increasing the prevalence of phenomenon, and those that do recognize the symptoms of consult a doctor too late. "I always suffered from back pain whenever I washed clothes or cleaned the house. I could not stand the pain anymore, so finally decided to go to the doctor who told me that I have osteopenia. He then ordered me to drink milk and eat vegetables and fruit," said Altaf Mohammed, a 26 year old women

The current lack of affordable fitness clubs for women serves only to worsen the problem. Furthermore, the current cultural atmosphere surrounding the behavior of women means that they are often prevented from exercising. "Some families do not allow their daughters to join female fitness clubs, believing

suffer the consequences of their parents' misconceptions," said Hadeel Mohammed, a female fitness trainer at the 22nd of May Club. She also observed that the majority of women suffer from increased bone decay when they first begin fitness training, but that with regular exercise this improves.

Adjusting cultural attitudes toward women's health would make a significant impact in the fight the reduce osteopenia. For this to be successful, the full media spectrum must work together to spread awareness of the risks of osteopenia, and of the preventative measures that can, and indeed must, be



There are no symptoms in the early stages of the disease. Symptoms occurring late in the disease include: Joint pain and tenderness, swelling and warmth over the affected joint.

people grow older because, beginning in middle age, existing bone cells are reabsorbed by the body faster than new bone is made. As this occurs, the bones lose minerals, mass, and structure, making them weaker and increasing their risk of breaking. All people begin losing bone mass after they reach peak

In addition to diet and exercise, quitting smoking and avoiding excessive use of alcohol, soft drinks, and caffeine will also reduce your risk of bone loss.

Treatment

There are medications and hormone

married with two daughters.



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VACANCY

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Main Responsibilities are:

- Coordinate Project implementation including scheduling, liaison, planning and procuring resource requirements, report writing.
- Ensure all activities outlined in the project Activity Plan are carried out according to schedule and within budgets.
- Liaise with key stakeholders including Country Director and Project Supervisor, throughout the Project Period to ensure budget control, coordinated activities and timely reporting.
- Liaise with the MSIY Finance department and the GTZ office to ensure expenditure is correct and according to project regulations.
- Monitor and evaluate project performance, develop indicators of success, carry out follow up visits and ensure timely feedback.
- Keep the MSIY Country Director informed of progress and expenditure on the project, and schedule of activities.

Qualification:

- Must have a health background, ideally Obs/ Gyn or midwifery Must have experience managing and co-ordinating donor-funded
- projects. Must have good written and spoken English and Arabic.
- Must be able to travel unaccompanied to targeted governorates and
- spend a few days in each on a regular basis. Must have good computer skills, and reporting skills.

Due to the nature of the project, we are accepting applications from female with health background candidates only.

Deadline for application: 31st December 2008 Please send a CV in English to:

Dr Khadija Mustafa, Fax 01-425906, email:mustafakhadija@yahoo.com



VACANCY

Marie Stopes International in Yemen Is expanding its work in Yemen, and is seeking to recruit for the following positions:

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To be responsible for planning and managing the expansion of the MSIY programme- including the Clinics, the Community Midwife network and the Youth programme. Applicants must be graduates with previous management experience, proven strategic planning, budgeting and reporting skills, external relations and information management.

2. Clinical Services Manager

To be responsible for supervision and management of existing and new clinics, including maintenance of medical standards and financial sustainability. Applicants must have a recognised clinical qualification and business management experience. They must be highly motivated and able to travel extensively in Yemen.

3. Midwife Network Coordinator

To develop and run a community midwife network in several governorates, including training and supervision of out-based community midwives. Applicants must be qualified midwives with training experience, strong advocates of family planning and able to travel frequently and extensively in Yemen. We are only accepting applications from Female candidates for this position.

4. Youth Coordinator

To develop a new programme for raising awareness of sexual and reproductive health among young people. Applicants must be graduates, highly motivated to make a difference to their communities, with a positive, outgoing personality, and lots of energy and creativity. They must be keen to improve their knowledge and willing

All successful candidates must have good written and spoken English and computer

Deadline for applications is 31st December 2008. Only short listed candidates will

Please send CVs and a cover letter in English to mshanady@y.net.ye

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Danish impressions of Yemen

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

group of Danish citizens visited Yemen recently on a cultural study tour. For all involved it was a first time visit to Yemen, and for most it was the first time they had visited any country in the Middle East. The group included a teacher of history and comparative religions, an arts and design teacher, a social worker in a hospital, a retired nurse, a prison guard, a chemist who is also an activist and his son who is currently at university.

The tour lasted two weeks and included visits to Sana'a, Manakha, Ibb, Mahwait, Taiz, Kawkaban, Zabid, and Hodeidah. "We hesitated before coming because of the risk, and especially because other governments had already issued travel warnings. But our government had no particular instruction so we decided to go ahead."

It all started one year ago, when Osbjorn Petersen, a lecturer in Chemistry and Physics and an activist with the Crossing Boarders Program in Denmark, met a woman by chance who interested him in visiting Yemen. He asked her to remember him when the time for the trip came - she did, and so he came to Yemen.

"I had seen the movie "A New Day in the Old City" and liked it, and I had also read an article about the Old City of Sana'a in the Saudi-Aramco World magazine. The article talked about a small garden in the city, unfortunately we could not find it, apparently it no longer exists,"



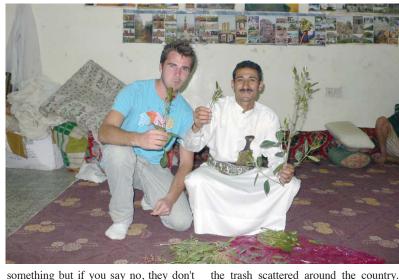
architecture and the beautiful buildings, especially in Manakha. "If there is anything I will take back from this experience, it is how simple life can be and that we should take the time to enjoy life, not just commercially but in its natural form," he commented. He added that he found the people so easy to talk to and welcoming. "The people in Yemen don't

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"Especially plastic bags," she said. She

called on Yemenis to protect their envi-

ronment more and to mobilize schools

and social groups to help clean up the

dent and Osbiorn's son, was encouraged

by his father to come along on this trip.

Ebbe hesitated a little because he had

heard about the attack against the

American embassy before coming and

wondered whether it would be safe. "but

I wanted to visit exotic places and I guess

as a simple tourist I was not really at

risk." He had heard about weapons and

Qat and was surprised that there are not

"I love everything, the nature, the

so many weapons as he was informed.

food, the friendly people and especially

the mountains. Yemen has a very beauti-

Ebbe bought several Jambiyas and

learnt a few steps of Jambiya dancing. He

actually chewed Qat twice during his

less-than-two-week visit, once for four

hours and then again for six hours. "No

effect." said the college student. "Maybe

they did not give me strong Qat," he

He was astonished at how most

Yemenis are covered from head to toe.

"Honestly, it felt like I am in a country

where there are only men and children

and some third species whose faces and

ful landscape," he said.

laughed.

Ebbe Filt Petersen, a university stu-

small towns.

something but if you say no, they don't

"The Yemenis are not afraid to speak their minds, and when I said I was from Denmark I expected to find some resistance, but fortunately they were ok with it. I wanted to show them that Danish people are nice and can be their friends, and demonstrate that not everything they hear or see on TV is necessarily true. It was good to be able to sit side by side with them, share the food, and even dance without thinking of our ideological differences."

Inge Nygaard Madsen is a sixty seven year old retired nurse. She heard about the trip from her friend who is the mother of an activist of Iraqi descent named Saleha. Saleha was organizing various

> trips to the Middle East and, having been to Yemen several times, she was keen to recommend it as a destination to anyone who might be interested. Inge was very much interested in the Arabic culture, especially given that she meets many Arabs through her work as a volunteer in a local social services center.

> "I realized I would not get such an opportunity again, so I decided to go ahead with the adventure. I tried to find some information in Danish to prepare me for the trip, but did not find much," she said.

Her impression about Yemen is very positive, although she was touched by the ordeal of the young mothers whom she came across during her travel in the rural areas. The best thing she says is that everyone smiles at you, some even wave and say hello! How are you?!

bodies I could not see," he said. Yet he was quite respectful of the local traditions and tried to learn a few Arabic words. Perhaps the only Yemeni friend he made during the trip was the driver who was also their tour guide. He had a great time hiking, and can't even describe how beautiful Yemeni mountains are.

"One thing I learnt from this trip," he said, "is that the world really is a small place, and very well connected."

Tyge Woetmann Nielson is a high school teacher of history and comparative religions. He studied Arabic language in the course of his work and, when he heard about the trip to Yemen, he jumped at the idea. "I even convinced my wife to come along, and we enjoyed our time thoroughly," he said.

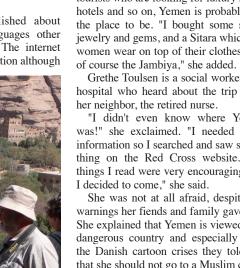
Tyge has been to Egypt twice, to Israel and the West Bank, to Turkey and Tunisia. He has also been to southern Spain, and seen the Islamic architecture.

Before coming he knew about the cliffs and the narrow streets and distinguished architecture. If he can, he will be back to see Hadramout and Shibam, and even Socotra. He thinks Yemenis are very kind for the most part, but was disappointed that his group was not allowed to go inside the mosques. Tyge thinks the Yemeni food is ok, but he had to be careful with the food, largely because he had stomach problems when he ate a local dish in Zabid

"I had an idea of what I would find in Yemen, but did not expect it to be so beautiful," he said. Although some friends told him not to come, he is glad he did not listen.

Bert Bjornow is a teacher of literature, arts, and design, and is Tyge's wife. She has a special interest in Islamic architecture, and was delighted when she got the chance to come to see Yemen. "Somehow it reminds me of the 1001 Nights," she smiled. Some of her friends warned her against coming here, yet others were so jealous. "My friend was going to New York, but she said she wished she would go to Yemen instead," explained Bert.

There isn't much published about Yemen, especially in languages other than Arabic and English. The internet also has conflicting information although



it was one of the sources she used to understand what she was up against. But Bert realized that the touring process is much easier than the process of deciding whether or not to come to Yemen. She has made it her responsibility from now on to be Yemen's ambassador to her friends and family, and tell them how beautiful and interesting this country is. Although her husband noted that, for tourists who are looking for luxury 5 star hotels and so on, Yemen is probably not the place to be. "I bought some silver jewelry and gems, and a Sitara which the women wear on top of their clothes, and

Grethe Toulsen is a social worker in a hospital who heard about the trip from her neighbor, the retired nurse.

"I didn't even know where Yemen was!" she exclaimed. "I needed more information so I searched and saw something on the Red Cross website. The things I read were very encouraging and I decided to come," she said.

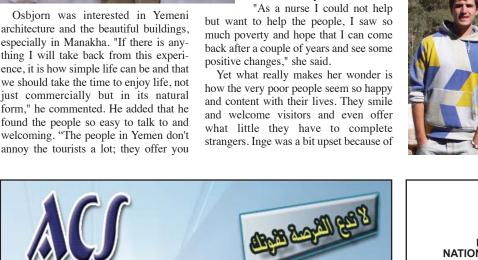
She was not at all afraid, despite the warnings her fiends and family gave her. She explained that Yemen is viewed as a dangerous country and especially after the Danish cartoon crises they told her that she should not go to a Muslim country, or at least not say that she was from Denmark. "But we always said we are from Denmark and received nothing but kind words and great hospitality," she

yet she feels Yemen is quite unique. "Maybe Turkey is a little similar in some of its traditional parts, but in Yemen there is a very particular atmosphere, especially surrounding the women as they are quite covered," she said. Grethe hoped to meet women and interact with them openly, but it was difficult since they were in a group and the women were very reserved when it comes to men. Sometimes she found it scary when she could not see the faces of women, but what really affected her was the poverty she saw everywhere she went.

Stine Sulbaek, works as a guard in a women's prison. She found that people are the same everywhere you go. That all they want is happiness and peace.

"Don't let politics influence your attitude towards others," she advised. Stine was impressed by the kind nature and warmth she received from the people she met in Yemen. She had previously been to Oman and Egypt, but Yemen has a special place in her memories. Unfortunately, she could not take photos of the women because they did not allow their photo to be taken. On of the things she noticed is the high level of illiteracy, and how this affects the people's comprehension of, and connection with, the rest of the world. She hoped for Yemen to develop further, and bought a Jambiya and a shawl.

"It was a kind of adventure, and interesting to see a country so different," she



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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION NATIONAL MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Public Health & Population (MoPHP) started in 2007 to implement the Maternal and Newborn Health Programme in five Governorates of the country. Gradually this programme will be expanded to other Governorates, ultimately aiming at covering the country as a whole. Reproductive Health Commodity Security is incorporated in this

The Population Sector of MoPHP is seeking now:

An Executive Manager for the Commodity Security component of the National MNH

The assignment is for two years. The Manager will be based in the Population Sector of MoPHP, work under the responsibility of the Deputy Minister of Health for the Population Sector, and on behalf of the latter assume responsibility for the coordination of the execution of the Commodity Security component of the National MNH Programme and be as such its catalyst. S/he will work in close collaboration with relevant staff members of the Population and other Sectors of MoPHP and assist these and other staff members in planning and management tasks related to RH Commodity Security and its different components. S/he will also work closely with all Governorate Health Offices. S/he ill work with all others, who are involved in commodity security such as manufacturers, procurement agents, NGOs, the private sector and funding agencies (donors), as well as with long-term International Technical Advisers to the Population Sector and the MoPHP.

Qualifications, Competencies and Experience:

The incumbent should possess all or most of the following: Yemeni Nationality;

- Higher degree in Planning and Management, preferably supported by a certificate in
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management or related field; Strong planning and management skills and familiarity with common planning tools; Strong interpersonal, facilitation and communication skills; and ability to transfer
- Able to maintain cordial relationships with all involved in commodity security:
- Fluency in Arabic and English;
- Computer literacy; Experience working with the Yemeni Health Sector;
- Experience in the area of MIS, in particular Logistics MIS;

Applications should be directed to: The Deputy Minister of Health for the Population Sector Email: mnhprogramme@yahoo.com

Applications, including a justification for the application, full CV and names and contact addresses of three referees, must be received not later than 14 January 2009



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POPULATION NATIONAL MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Public Health & Population (MoPHP) started in 2007 to implement the Maternal and Newborn Health Programme in five Governorates of the country. Gradually this programme will be expanded to other Governorates, ultimately aiming at covering the country as a whole

Because of this expansion, the Population Sector of MoPHP is seeking now

An Executive Manager for the National MNH Programme

The assignment is for two to three years. The Manager will be based in the Population Sector of MoPHP, work under the responsibility of the Deputy Minister of Health for the Population Sector and on behalf of the latter assume responsibility for the coordination of the execution of the National MNH Programme and be as such the catalyst of the programme. S/he will work in collaboration with relevant staff members within the Population and other Sectors of MoPHP, with Governorate Health Offices in the target Governorates, with long-term International Technical Advisers to the Population Sector and the MoPHP, and where relevant with representatives of External Development

Qualifications, Competencies and Experience:

The incumbent should possess all or most of the following:

- Yemeni Nationality Degree in Public Health, Reproductive Health or equivalent;
- Strong planning and management skills and familiarity with common planning tools:
- Strong interpersonal, facilitation and communication skills; and ability to transfer knowledge and skills;
- Ability to maintain cordial relationships with all involved in the National MNH Programme/ RH at central and peripheral levels, including the different development partners:
- Fluency in Arabic and English: Computer literacy;
- Long year experience with the Yemeni Health Sector;
- Long year experience in working in the broad areas of Reproductive Health and Family Planning, preferably with a focus on MNH.

Applications should be directed to:

The Deputy Minister of Health for the Population Sector

Applications, including a justification for the application, full CV and names and contact addresses of three referees, must be received not later than 14 January 2009.

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Travel Turkey Izmir 2008



A group photo of the participants in front of Ephesus ancient site in Izmir.

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

he Association of Turkish Travel Agencies organized a sightseeing tour for 350 journalists and PR personnel from 18 countries around the world to visit and enjoy Izmir. The tour, which took place between Nov. 26 and Nov. 29, introduced participants to the potential business and tourist opportunities within Izmir.

Despite being given a detailed information pack, and the ready availability of outside resources, nothing could

have prepared me for the breath-taking beauty of the destinations included on this tour.

The Yemeni participants met with many businessmen and exchanged ideas about future cooperation. Also a number of preliminary agreements took place between representatives from the 18 countries attending the conference. During the four days f the conference the organizers arranged for historic, health, educational;, scientific and business lectures and presentations.

Izmir, historic Smyrna, is Turkey's third most populous city and the country's largest port after Istanbul. It is located along the outlying waters of the Gulf of Izmir, by the Aegean Sea, and is the captial of Izmir Province. The city of Izmir is formed of nine metropolitan districts each with its own distinct feel. The total area of the

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nine districts is 855 km_ and together these districts constitute the area of the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality headed by the mayor of Izmir. The total population of this greater urban region in 2007 was 3 175 133.

region in 2007 was 3,175,133. Personally speaking, the highlight of the trip was our visit to Ephesus, it was the site of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, which has since been destroyed. Ephesus is held to be one of the most impressive outdoor museums of Turkey, if not of the entire world. It is located to the south of Izmir's Selcuk County, and the myths associated with the links between Ephesus and the Amazons have survived throughout history. The ruins at Ephesus are ranked among the greatest of archaeological sites, not only within Turkey, but the world over. This is due to the inestimable artistic patrimony, impressive historical and cultural heritage, and the inexhaustible beauty

and charm of the archaeological site.

Ancient Ephesus is thought to have originally been established on the Aegean coast, on the shores of a sea which today is located 8 km. away from the archaeological excavations. Over the centuries, the slit deposits ought onto the "Kucuk Menderes" enlarged this alluvial plain which surrounds the archaeological site, thus pushing back the shores of the Aegean. In Roman times the coast was situated on the northern slopes of the hills Coressus and Pion, and south of the Cayster (Kucuk Menderes) River, but the silt from this river formed a fertile plain which caused the coastline to move even farther west. Historically, a sea channel was maintained to a harbor well west of Pion, albeit with difficulty, but by late Byzantine times this channel had become useless, and by the mid-20th century the coast was three miles far-

Indians in Taiz remember Mumbai attacks' victims

By, Ms.Minal S.

t was shocking to hear about the Mumbai Terrorist attack on the 26th of November this year. Being away from your own country when a foreign attack takes place makes you all the more concerned for your brethren and family members there. Especially with NRI's (Non Resident Indians) away when such an incident occurs in India, it must certainly have touched every Indian's soul at that moment in time. A well renowned, celebrated, and century old five star Indian hotel, 'The Taj', along with the 'Oberoi Hotel', 'The Nariman Towers', and 'The Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Railway Station', were all the targets of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai. I need not elaborate on the nature of these attacks, as each individual will surely have read the daily newspapers and gone through the headlines.

India will never forget the great sacrifice made by high ranking officers like Hemant Karkare, Maj. Sandeep



Unnikrishnan, Vijay Salaskar, Ashok Kamte, Gajendra Singh and the several other commandos, police officers, law enforcement personnel, and numerous other innocent victims of this gruesome act.

A few Indians in Taiz, on the 10th of this month, offered their own small yet unique contribution by way of organizing a special evening in remembrance of both those killed in the attacks, and of the martyrs who laid down their lives in service of their nation. Indians gathered together for a minute of silence, or 'maun-vrath', during which each person lit a candle in memory of the martyrs, before singing patriotic songs. Thus they showed how, despite being thousands of miles away from India, they remain close to their motherland.



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