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Despite strategic reserves, Yemen suffers another gas crisis

By Mahmoud Assamie

SANA'A, Feb 1 — Local markets in Sana'a as well as in other governorates have been witnessing an unjustifiable crisis in the supply of gas for 20 days now, leading to the creation of black markets.

Although Yemen has the potential to become a commercial producer and exporter of natural gas, a gas crisis is not new to Yemen, and often happens during Ramadan or in times of political turmoil.

According to the US Energy Information Administration, Yemen "has reserves of 16.9 trillion cubic feet, with the bulk of the reserves concentrated in the Marib-Jawf fields."

People are carrying their empty gas cylinders in the streets of the capital Sana'a in search for gas to cook with. Many families now have to depend on restaurants to feed their families. Others complain that they have to resort to buying it from the black market, often having to pay up to YR 400 extra for one cylinder of cooking gas.

"I have spent the past week buying ready made food from restaurants because I could not find a gas cylinder," said Abdul-Wase'a, a teacher. He added the price of a gas cylinder has risen from YR 600 to YR 1000.

Abdul-Aziz al-Hakimi, 30, owner of a workshop in Assiteen Street, says he spent the whole day in vain searching for a cylinder of gas. "I got the help of another merchant to get a cylinder of gas for the price of YR 1000," he explained.

Ahmad al-Bahri, owner of a gas store in Assunaina area, says he usually purchases his gas supply every two days, but now this number increased to every four days and sometimes for a whole week.

"Sometimes we are forced to bribe workers in the gas stations to get gas to cover the need. For this reason we are selling gas cylinders at an increased price," he confessed.

"In ordinary days," he said, "we sell the gas cylinder for YR 550 but nowadays we sell the cylinder for YR 600."

Reasons behind the crisis

A report issued by the Yemen Gas Company last week explained that the crisis is due to the repeated blockage of the Mareb-Safer roads of tankers by locals. The report admitted that the amount of gas being distributed doesn't

meet the existing demand. Tribes usually block roads to blackmail the government for concessions.

In a meeting chaired by Vice President Abdu Rabou Mansour Hadi last week in the Ministry of Oil and Minerals, which included concerned officials, the director of Yemeni General Corporation for Oil and Gas Anwar Hassan reviewed clarifications regarding the crisis.

He affirmed that there are sufficient quantities of gas but the crisis is created by outlaws, greedy traders, and profiteers who want to create black markets in the country.

However, observers referred the crisis to corruption, pointing to merchants and gas officials who are not held accountable by the government. They say the only solution of this crisis is brining concerned bodies to justices.

Not only domestic gas

The crisis is not limited to cooking gas only but to fuel for cars as well. Besides lines of people before gas stores for getting cooking gas, there are other lines of vehicles before fuel stations waiting to

be fueled with gas.

"I am waiting here for four hours to fuel my car with gas. Every day I spent three or four hours to fill up my car," said Mohammad Salama, a taxi driver.

Mohammad Saif, a mini-bus driver, said, "We are suffering from the crisis. I wait 3 hours every day to fuel up. This crisis is hampering us from performing our work," he added.

Ali Nasser, an employee at a fuel station in Assiteen area, said, "We are lucky that our daily supply of gas ranges from 2500-4000 liters of gas, while others do not get the same quantity; hence they have vehicles in line waiting."

Effect on gas cylinder vendor

The gas crisis has negatively affected gas cylinder vendors. Some said they have been without work for the past twenty days.

"This crisis adversely affected our living conditions. I used to sell 30 cylinders a day but now I received only 3 cylinders from owners of gas stores after I help them to unload cylinders from their vehicle," said Nasser Ahmad, 32, a gas



People lining up their cylinders, waiting for the gas supply to arrive to one of the distribution terminals in Sana'a.

seller in Arribat zone.

Mohammad al-Asbahi, 35, a gas cylinder vendor in Assunaina area, said he stayed for two whole weeks without work. "I used to sell almost 50 gas cylinders

a day for a small profit, but nowadays I have to increase the profits at the expense of the consumer, so that I can make up for the days I was without work," he admitted.

WFP to provide Yemen with USD 24 million worth of food aid

By: Alice Hackman

SANA'A, Feb. 1 — To help the over half a million poor Yemenis affected by high and volatile food prices, the United Nations' (UN) World Food Programme (WFP) is to deliver USD 24 million worth of food aid to eight governorates in Yemen.

The letter of understanding signed between WFP and the Yemeni government to provide emergency food aid to Yemen's most vulnerable was announced during the visit of UN Assistant Secretary General John M. Powell to the country earlier this week.

Yemen has faced many challenges this last year, including the flash floods in Hadramout and Mahara and the constant influx of refugees to its southern shores, to which the addition of the sudden increase in food prices has had a devastating effect.

One in three Yemenis now suffers from chronic hunger, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization's 2008 State of Food Insecurity report.



John M. Powell, UN Assistant Secretary General.

The four main causes for high and volatile food prices around the world are the increase of the cost of fuel and fertilizers for farmers, the continuance of natural disasters such as the drought in Australia, the extra growth in demand from China and India and the increase of the price of oil, according to Powell.

"The tragedy is that in the last year 150 million people were added to the list of chronically hungry people [in the world]," said Powell. "That's one in six people in the world."

"Families adopt measures which are

in the long term very detrimental to them," he continued, "They take their child from school to save on education expenses, take the child less to the doctor, and [provide] fewer, smaller meals, with less nutritional value."

The WFP office in Yemen conducted a survey in mid-2008 which showed that poor Yemeni families were forced to spend up to 65 percent of their income of food, at the cost of children's health and education.

The WFP's emergency relief program in Yemen will target two groups. First, the organization will provide nutritional supplements to under-fives as well as under-twos and nursing mothers in specific districts. Second, it will ensure targeted food distribution to the country's poorest families as determined by previous surveys.

Typically, targeted groups receive cereal, pulses which are high in protein, sugar, oil, and salt. Dates are distributed in some areas of Yemen, and high nutritional value biscuits are handed out in emergency situations. The types of food are chosen according to nutritional targets set by the World Health Organization (WHO), according to the

WFP Country Director Giancarlo Cirri.

The program is part of the UN's global action plan to combat acute poverty generated by the increase in food prices. Providing immediate relief to the hungry through emergency food supplies is the short term objective of this plan. The UN's long term goal is to increase agricultural supply and provide support to small farmers.

Although the emergency food supplies are for now bought mostly from developed countries according to the season, the WFP in cooperation with the FAO hopes to purchase food from small farmers in 21 developing economies in the future as part of a program called Purchase for Progress.

"High and volatile food prices will continue at least for the next four to five years," said Powell, stressing the importance of increasing agricultural supply by helping the world's 450 million small farmers to produce more.

In the coming year, the WFP will continue its programs to provide girls with access to education and support refugees, as well as its special operations in the flood-affected governorates of Hadramout and Mahara, and the war-torn governorate of Sa'ada.

Overall the WFP hopes to reach 1.5 million beneficiaries in Yemen in 2009. See full interview with John M. Powell, UN Assistant Secretary General next issue.

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The GPC and JMP exchange accusations of terrorism and instigating disorder in the south

By: Mohamed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Feb. 1—The conflict between the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), the main opposition parties in Yemen, has intensified with the approaching parliamentary elections scheduled next April 27. While some mass media talk about political reconciliation between the ruling party and the JMP, accusations between leaders of the two sides are on the increase, threatening the carrying-out of parliamentary elections on time.

The head of the political circuit at the GPC, Abdullah Ahmed Ghanim, accused the Yemeni Socialist Party and Islah of "sheltering terrorist groups and promoting their extremist ideologies through the newspapers of the two parties with the view to disable democracy and parliamentary elections." He said that they want to carry out these attempts "through destabilizing security, as the JMP made an alliance with extremist powers affiliated with Al-Qaeda, instigators of secession, and Houthis." Ghanim continued to state that the JMP aims to hinder the parlia-

mentary elections through the upcoming "National Consultation Conference".

For his part, Mohammed Al-Mansour, spokesman of the JMP, expressed his sorrow towards these accusations. He said that it is regretful and shameful to accuse political powers like the JMP of such things, which always condemns violence and terrorism. He said that the JMP adopts peaceful alternatives and calls on the government to be transparent, especially concerning security issues.

In a statement made to the online website newsyemen.net, Al-Mansour said that the GPC makes such accusations without any evidence, as it did in the past. He said that the GPC ignores the feelings of the Yemeni people and the International Community which watch these practices that have such a negative influence on the country. "All people know well that those who employ accusations to serve their own narrow political agenda only end up harming the nation itself," said Al-Mansour. He called the ruling party to transcend trivialities that do not serve the nation, its stability, or its security.

Concerning the "National Consultancy Conference," Ghanim stated that this conference aims to create a new political alliance and join the Houthis in Sa'ada as well as those who promote the culture of hatred and secession in the eastern and southern governorates, to the JMP.

Al-Mansour said that these are accusations that have been leveled against the JMP before, as they preceded any consultation or dialogue. He noted that the GPC would be against any such meeting as "they [the GPC] consider any who disagree with the government to be rivals."

He further pointed out that the government had already conducted agreements and dealt with the bodies which were invited to the consultation. This was stated in reference to the Houthis, who confirmed in releases from their leadership that they are for unity and democracy. Al-Mansour considered such a statement as the highest ceiling for the JMP, stating that he will conduct dialogues with anyone under the same ceiling. "The National Consultancy Conference meeting aims to be an opportunity to diagnose the current

political crisis and come up with solutions for different issues and problems through dialogue. The ruling party itself will be one of the sides invited to the dialogue table," added Al-Mansour.

"Alliance of the conference doesn't aim to render democracy a failure and hinder elections in non-democratic ways that contradict constitution and law," Abdulla Ahmed Ghanim had said in a statement to the military forces mouthpiece September.net. "We feel that the new alliance which the JMP is trying to create will not harm the political democratic process only. Rather, it harms some parties involved in the JMP itself," he stated.

The six parties included under the umbrella of the JMP have already called for a boycotting of the elections scheduled next April 27. They considered that procedures taken to conduct elections contradict the Yemeni constitution. This stand comes after President Ali Abdullah Saleh had confirmed that parliamentary elections will be conducted in due time, calling the opposition parties to adhere to the dialogue initiative.

The JMP warned the government against persistence on lateral prepara-

tion for the elections, stating that this will lead the country to what they called "a sedition."

The ruling GPC approved forming the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) last August without the participation of the JMP, which the latter considered a breach of election law.

With regard towards the ruling party and the JMP, the latter accused the GPC of halting dialogue. This came in a release by the JMP soon after meetings which gathered their leadership in Sana'a. "The government and its ruling party degrades the country and endangers civil and social peace," said the JMP release. "Serious and responsible dialogue is the path that we should stick in order to seek successful solutions to crises and problems," the release continued.

The JMP warned the government against shirking from its responsibilities and breaking electoral promises. They pointed out that creating more political tension and ignoring the actual problems of the country will be of no avail.

The JMP confirmed that the crisis that threatens the present and future of

the country was a direct result of wrong policy based on comprehensive extortion of the government, seizure of the country's wealth, giving corruption chances, and protecting individual interests at the expense of the Yemeni people.

These parties said that "poor living standards of citizens and the aggravation of poverty, unemployment, and social and political problems, particularly in the south, are all consequences of the wrong policies that the government follows."

They continued to say that "the government aimed to create a new crisis with the JMP to distract people from the real crises of the country."

The ruling GPC had announced to stop the dialogue with the JMP after the latter refused an initiative by President Saleh aimed to change the current political system, which is a mixture between the Cabinet and Republic Presidency, to a complete presidential system. The initiative included that the Shura Council be elected every four years as a second chamber beside the Parliament, and reducing the presidential period from seven to five years.

2009 crime-fighting plan

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, Jan. 28— Activities of the nineteenth Conference for Leaders of Ministry of Interior, under the slogan "Security of the country is a social and national responsibility", concluded last Monday in Sana'a.

Minister of Interior Mutahhar Rashad Al-Masri confirmed that the conference, which took place from January 24-26, aimed to evaluate the ministry's recent efforts in preparation for the forthcoming year's plan.

Participants stressed the importance of complete information exchange between all sectors of the ministry to prevent and face terrorist acts and kidnapping, as well as to combat drugs, robbery and crack down on all fugitives.

Participants recommended the ministry follow up issuing a law to regulate arms possession and a law to combat terror, laws of vital importance in improving prevention and response to terrorist acts and maintaining security and stability in the country.

Al-Masri pointed out that the ministry had carried out almost 80 percent of the 2008 annual plan. He said that terrorist and extremist acts have become a source of concern as they threaten all people on the local, regional and international levels. He pointed out that Yemen has suffered a lot from terrorist acts and that security apparatuses have done a lot to track down the sources of this crime.



Women soldiers were an addition to the security system in Republic of Yemen a few years ago. They are posted at airports, police stations and used in intelligence.

"We care about facing such crimes as they represent a source of concern for citizens, security and public order," said Al-Masri. The minister added that the crimes reported in 2008 had amounted to 40,154 crimes and 37,669 of those have been solved. The number of people convicted of committing these crimes had reached 59,798. Security apparatuses were able to arrest 54,349 of these people, representing 91 percent of the total number of those convicted. In addition, out of

10,477 wanted criminals and fugitives, 6,014 were caught by security apparatuses during the last year. That's a success rate of over 40 percent.

He further added that security had seized 204,197 weapons and closed down 270 arms shops. Concerning drugs, the minister said that security had caught 113 drug crimes and 252 people suspected of drug trading. He pointed out that the total quantity caught amounted to 26 tons of hashish and 14 million pills.

Five more suspects arrested in doctor's murder case

By: Enas Ahmed

SANA'A, Feb. 1 - The Penal Prosecution Court last Wednesday started investigating eight men from Dhamar who are suspected to be involved in the murder of Yemeni doctor Derhem Al-Qadasi while on duty. Three of the attackers were arrested immediately after the attack by the hospital's security but the main killer, Yousif Al-Muflihi, was still at large even today. Security authorities explained that an investigation is ongoing to find the rest of the tribesmen involved in the attack.

The arrest of the five others took place more than one month after a gang of 18 members broke into the University of Science and Technology Hospital and stabbed Dr. Al-Qadasi, head of its Intensive Care Unit (ICU), in his back. The attack left Al-Qadasi struggling for his life for three weeks before he passed away on Jan. 18, 2009.

The arrest comes after wide-staged protests by the family of the deceased and the Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicates. Protesters staged frequent demonstrations in front of the prime minister's office and the hospital, outside which Al-Qadasi's relatives have been living in a tent for over a month in protest at the authorities' failure to address the case and bring the attackers to justice.

"We won't allow the murderers to escape punishment, we have dispatched security forces around suspected areas in order to arrest Al-Qadasi's killers," said Saleh Hussain Al-Zawari, Deputy



Al-Qadasi's family protest in a tent erected outside Science and Technology Hospital

Minister of the Interior, who referred Dr. Al-Qadasi as "a military doctor" in a recent statement to the press.

"We are not just tracking down Al-Qadasi's killers, but are also after terrorists and those who are involved in kidnapping and killing people," he added.

Last Saturday, doctors, pharmacists, nurses and hospital workers from the Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacist Syndicate announced a full strike in solidarity with Al-Qadasi until his issue is resolved. "We will only treat urgent cases and those which are already in the hospital. We will stand strong till the government fulfills our requests," head of the union Dr. Mohammed Al-Sermi said. Al-Sermi said that they can't punish innocent patients for their government's neglect. "We do all that we can and won't give up until they ensure safety for doctors."

Supporters of Al-Qadasi have not

called off their strike completely although they showed good intention and resumed work gradually.

All private and public hospitals as well as clinics in all governorates will continue their strike each Tuesday, only receiving emergency cases.

"Seventy hospitals prevented their doctors from participating in the sit-in in Al-Sabaen on January 22 by placing security at

the gates to prevent them from going out," Al-Sermi said on an earlier occasion, commenting on the strike that has now been transformed into a once-a-week demonstration. Prior to his attack, Al-Qadasi had received a threatening call from relatives of an 80-year-old patient after he informed them of his death. The relatives are tribesmen from Rada' in Dhamar, around 100 kilometers south of Sana'a. Carrying out the threat and armed with guns and knives, the gang broke into the hospital soon after receiving the news of their relative's death. Eight of them infiltrated the ICU and stabbed Al-Qadasi in his back, damaging his right lung and main arterial vessels.

The hospital did not have sufficient security to deter the attackers, especially since the Ministry of the Interior had previously disarmed the hospital's security personnel.

Yemeni Journalists Syndicate struggle to gain credibility

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Feb. 1 - A group of Yemeni journalists working for official newspapers have announced a gradual strike this Wednesday if their newspapers do not improve their working conditions.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate's council is meeting today to discuss this announcement, especially since this syndicate is the front line when it comes to negotiating working conditions and job descriptions. Yemeni journalists are known to have low salaries despite the fact that they are subjected to risks because of their jobs.

A proposal for the classification of journalists was presented last year to the Ministry of Information, the governing body for press in Yemen. This proposal was endorsed by the president who instructed the implementation of a new strategy that would improve working and living conditions for journalists. Abdulbary Tahir, former chair of the syndicate, commented that the government is not serious about improving the financial conditions of journalists working in official newspapers, as nothing as such was included in the national budget 2009.

The meeting also includes discussions on the preparation for the Syndicate's coming elections and gen-



There are over 17 newspapers in Yemen, only three are daily. Most Yemeni journalists suffer from bad working conditions as well as difficulties in finding information.

eral conference.

With the advent of the elections and fourth general conference, the current officials at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate struggle to prepare for the elections conference and to convince doubtful journalists to participate. The

date for elections was previously set for Dec. 20th, 2008 and was delayed until March 14th this year. Reasons for the delay have to do mostly with finances according to the syndicate officials, although non-member journalists doubt its sincerity.

The government refused to fund the elections according to Mohammed Al-Gobari, a member of the Syndicate's council. Al-Gobari further claimed that the Syndicate does not work to improve their financial conditions.

Nasr Taha Mostafa, chair of the Syndicate, added that the government fund allotted for them was supposed to be 45 million riyals, however the government wasn't able to fund it.

Non-member journalists complain that the Syndicate did not respond to their application requests of joining the Syndicate, although they have submitted the applications a long time back, even years ago in some cases.

However, Hamdi Al-Bokari, a member of council, referred the delay to the preparations for conference and elections.

"We will discuss the entire policy of the Syndicate as part of the Conference Agenda's work," Al-Bokari said.

The syndicate started receiving the new registration applications last week from journalists to fill the membership and the director positions in the Syndicate. So far the number of the nominated journalists for the membership of the council has increased to 13, eight from Sana'a and five from Aden, while so far there are only two candidates for the chair's position.

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OIL MOVEMENT OPERATOR Position # 0706 @ Terminal

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- b. Ensures that all equipment used in loading operations such as generators, booster pumps, metering systems, cargo loading pumps and associated equipment functions efficiently and safely. Includes carrying out visual checks and logging parameter readings on a continuous basis during loading, and taking appropriate action to rectify faults and abnormalities as authorized. Notifies his Supervisor or Foreman as necessary.
- c. Carries out a variety of routine maintenance tasks. Includes such work as checking and replenishing lubricating oil in pumps, cleaning up minor oil spills, changing filters in the R.O. unit, carrying out chemical cleaning of R.O. plant, checking for leaks and rectifying as necessary.
- d. Drains water from crude oil tanks. Includes checking volume in tank using dipping equipment and water finding paste, determining volume of water to be drained and opening appropriate valves as required. Carries out periodic checks during draining operation.
- e. Carries out gauging checks on tanks. Includes comparing manual checks with read out on Varec tank gauges. Informs the Foreman / Lead Operator of any abnormalities.
- f. Accompanied by surveyor and government representative, checks and gauges tanks from which oil will be loaded to export tankers, checks meter readings and passes information to the Foreman / Lead Operator.
- g. Monitors potable water distribution throughout the site, conducting daily checks of chlorine content. Ensures that water storage tanks are kept at normal operational levels includes starting and stopping of R.O. units.
- h. Starts and stops diesel transfers to the Day tank to ensure that operational levels are kept constant.
- i. Carries out other similar or related duties such as test running fire water pumps, stroking motor and hand operated valves for opening and closing capability, pigging the sea line, retrieving pig from the main oil pipeline, batching diesel fuel from CPF, pumping waste oil from slop tanks to crude tank and draining water from slop tanks, and assisting in the training of junior staff. Will conduct all other reasonable Operational tasks as required.
- j. Shares responsibility for the safety and security of the Terminal operations staff. This is accomplished by the Oil Movements Operator through specific duties, which include but not limited to:
 - i) Reporting any unsafe acts and conditions (vehicle, driving or in the workplace)
 - ii) Performing inspections of work areas involved in Safe Work Permits, before and during SWP activities
 - iii) Ensuring that appropriate mechanical or electrical isolations have been completed prior to any maintenance activity.
 - iv) Complying with standard operating procedures.
 - v) Participation in Safety Meetings.
- k. Shares responsibility (with all other Terminal staff) for implementing and supporting the Responsible Care program and its initiatives. This is accomplished by the Oil Movements Operator, through:
 - i) Knowing and understanding the responsible care Ethics.
 - ii) Following the Responsible Care standards as it applies to his role as Oil Movements Operator.
- l. Shares responsibility (with all other Terminal staff) for supporting the Process Safety Management (PSM) program, this is accomplished by:
 - i) Understanding the concept of PSM and how it is unique from our other safety initiatives.
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- c) Interacts closely with clients on a daily basis. Is expected to maintain a professional attitude and handles customer issues promptly and efficiently to the client's satisfaction.
- d) Repairs computer related equipment to the circuitry level. Includes repairs for PCs, monitors, printers, scanners, UPS etc.
- e) Assists and trains junior IT staff. Assists all other team members as required
- f) Assists the Network Administrator in maintaining accurate records for all network equipment. This includes network layout diagrams for all equipment connected to the network (routers, switches, servers, printers, modems, etc.).
- g) Maintains all IT systems to Nexen standards. Identifies and reports violations of company policy and standards.
- h) Assists the Network Administrator in performing daily checks of network system backup, disk space monitoring and gateway communication.
- i) Researches updates and patches for desktop O/S and common application software. Ensures patches and updates are tested appropriately before rolling out to clients.
- j) Assists in developing testing methodologies for new equipment and systems; implements new testing procedures. Reports on, and corrects, issues arising from the implementation of new procedures.
- k) Makes recommendations regarding hardware and software acquisition based upon consultations with clients and supervisors.
- l) Tests all new equipment thoroughly to ensure they meet Nexen's standards before issuing to clients. Works with clients to ensure that equipment functions as expected and then resolves any issues that may arise.
- m) Maintains and updates IT inventories. Makes recommendations regarding inventory levels. Ensures that inventory at end of life is delivered to Logistics in a satisfactory manner for proper disposal.
- n) In consultation with the Network Administrator. Installs, tests, and troubleshoots network cabling. This includes CAT6, Multimode and SingleMode Fiber, and any wireless equipment in use. Coordinates and supervises contractors assisting in installations. Ensures that all ISO and IEEE standards are adhered to and maintained.
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Cultivating the power of the mind: Neuro-Linguistic Programming in Yemen

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Despite the science of Neuro-Linguistic Programming being relatively new to Yemen, several institutes provide courses in the subject and hundreds of students have enrolled. Neuro-Linguistic Programming or NLP is an intellectual tool that helps people to understand how the human mind works.

This science was created in the early 1970s. John Grinder, co-creator of NLP, defines it as the strategies, tools and techniques that represent an opportunity unlike any other for the exploration of human functioning, or more precisely, that rare and valuable subset of human functioning known as genius.

Training on this programming provides the skills to define and



“Whether or not you think you can or you can't, you are right”
Henry Ford

achieve your goals and a heightened awareness of your five senses, allowing you to remain flexible, on track and maintain rapport with those around you.

So far none of the existing trainers in Yemen are authorized to award a certification endorsed by the

International Union for NLP. Most trainers in the country have completed an intermediate level course and, at most, a practitioner's course. According to the union, one has to complete the advanced practitioners' course to be able to give certified diplomas in NLP, and a teacher training course for advanced practitioners to train further NLP teachers.

NLP will help you dispel your unhealthy traits and replace them with positive thoughts, and patterns that promote wellness.

Practitioner Taha Senan, founder and director of the Basmati [in Arabic, "my mark"] Center for human development, training and consultation, says that during 2008, 344 students enrolled for various NLP courses provided by the center. Most of them were women.

"They feel changed once they complete the courses. It helps them understand their abilities and communicate better with the world around them," he said.

Today there are more than five centers in Sana'a alone that teach NLP along with other human development courses. The appeal of such courses is increasing, especially since the price of a one-day intensive course can be as low as YR 200.

Practitioner Abdulkader Dahman confirms the interest and need for such

courses in Yemen.

"Yemeni youth need to learn positive and constructive mechanisms to develop their potentials and change their bad traits into helpful ones to develop their career and personality," he said, explaining that companies have not yet recognized the importance of NLP for their staff, especially those working in the marketing or public relations.

Become better communicators with NLP

The representational system in NLP consists of our five senses. These are:

- Visual (images)
- Auditory (sounds)
- Kinesthetic (touch and internal feelings)
- Gustatory (tastes)
- Olfactory (smells)

Every one of us uses one or a combination of these senses to perceive the world, but mainly there are three types of people: visual, auditory and kinesthetic. One way of determining a person's preferential representational system is by observing them.

A person who is mainly visual walks with an upright bearing, gesticulates upwards, communicates verbally with

a loud and quick tone of voice and breaths deeply.

A person who is mainly auditory communicates verbally with a lower and more controlled tone of voice compared to the visual, breaths from the diaphragm, tends to lean the head to one side (as if speaking on the phone) and gesticulates laterally. And a person who is mainly kinesthetic breaths abdominally, has a deep voice with long pauses, has a bowed posture, when searching for information 'looks' towards the feet and gesticulates downwards.

The London based NLP center (NLP-london.co.uk) reports that during a communicative process the right hemisphere prevails. Up to 38 percent is made up of tone of voice and 55 percent by gesture and body language, representing a total percentage equal to 93 percent. The other 7 percent is managed by the logical part, i.e. by words.

This means that visual people will respond more to images, while auditory people respond better to speech, music and sounds. Kinesthetic people are less common. They process information using sensation, taste and smell, and relate more to textures,

4U

Sneak peak at NLP

When speaking with people, try to establish which verbal predicates they use most often and in which circumstances: you will understand a lot about their way of thinking! By interpreting the type of person you are dealing with, you can calibrate your communication on the basis of his or her subjective reality, and become a better communicator.

heat, and smells.

NLP students learn about all these different kinds of people and the channels they can use for optimum results. Not only does NLP help improve relationships, but it is often used in professional development –especially for marketing and sales personnel, in training development and education. It is also used to improve dyslexia, health, relationships, writing and artistic talents, abilities and parenting skills to name a few. Source: holisticonline.com

What is NLP?

Neuro linguistic programming (NLP for short) was developed in the early 1970s by an information scientist and a linguist at the University of California at Santa Cruz. They had observed that people with similar education, training, background, and years of experience were achieving widely varying results ranging from wonderful to mediocre. They wanted to know the secrets of effective people. What makes them perform and accomplish things? They were especially interested in the possibility of being able to duplicate the behavior, and therefore the competence, of these highly effective individuals. It was the golden era of modeling and simulation. They decided to model human excellence. They looked at factors such as education, business and therapy. They have then zeroed in on the communication aspect. They started studying how the successful people communicated (verbal language, body language, eye movements, and others). By modeling their behavior, John Grinder and Richard Bandler were able to make out patterns of thinking that assisted in the subject's success. The two theorized that the brain can learn the healthy patterns and behaviors and that this would bring about positive physical and emotional effects. What emerged from their work came to be known as Neuro-Linguistic Programming.

VISUAL	AUDITORY	KINESTHETIC
To see clearly	To listen	To touch
To focus	To shout	To feel
To illuminate	To speak	Relaxed
To imagine	To say	Tense
To demonstrate	To call	Pressure
Unclear	To discuss	Real
Colored	Harmony	
To visualize	Noise	
	To play	
	To tune	

Identifying people can be done by finding verbal predicates that are used during interaction. This table shows a list of those most used.

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Words of Wisdom



It is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial.

Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
(1951 - 1999)
Founder of Yemen Times



OUR OPINION

Davos and the balance of the world economy

Economic powers rising from the east show that the phrase "post-American world" used increasingly by policy and economic analyst strikes a chord with reality.

The World Economic Forum's latest conference in Davos confirmed this idea through the striking emergence of Putin and Wen Jiabao as they lashed out on the west and its economic policies.

There was no strong American presence in the forum.

Soon after the conference, China's Wen Jiabao met with Germany's Angela Merkel to discuss cooperation between Europe's biggest economy and Asia's most powerful emerging economy.

"It shows that most of the questions cannot be resolved by the G8 nations alone," said Merkel after her meeting with China's PM, reflecting on the great eight countries and their need for others to cope with the current financial crises.

Analyses explain that the dominant feeling from Davos is disorientation. CNN reporter Fareed Zakaria explains that every year WEF participants feel as if they understand the basic framework in which the world is operating. But this financial crisis - the depth, scale and severity of it - has left everyone gasping. "It's a humbling time," he said.

Most of the economic discussions at the forum and around the world focus on how to get out of the current mess, or how the world got into it in the first place. And although Davos was seen as an opportunity to find solutions, it has appeared that there is a lot to be done to mend relations and release tension in the world's politics before economic networking can resume.

The argument between Peres and Erdogan before the latter stormed out is only an example of how economy cannot be seen or dealt with as a standalone sector. Although Turkey as well as Israel said that the argument would not affect the "friendly relations" between the two countries, Erdogan was received as a hero when he arrived back in his home country last Friday.

There were hundreds of comments on the incident asking what Gaza had to do with world economy.

The answer is "everything".

For the world to be able to overcome economic dangers, synergies have to be made and business leaders have to start thinking in terms of "we" rather than "I". This can only happen if sentiments are in the right place, and partners view each other as fair - or at least reasonably fair - before they do business together.

If one thing is clear after Davos, it is that there will be a massive change in business orientation, which, instead of going west, this time they will go east with momentum.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

How odd these 'reconciliation and forgiveness festivals' are

By: Nabeel Haidar

Seemingly, those organizing the so-called "reconciliation and forgiveness festivals" didn't succeed in establishing any reconciliation or forgiveness since they held another festival by the same name this year. Had their reconciliation helped solve their issues and purify their souls from malice, those concerned would not have needed to organize this kind of festival for the second time, nor will they hold these festivals in the years to come. But they probably will.

When individuals and groups reconcile and forgive each other after antagonism, all that is related to antagonism ends at the time of reconciliation and both sides then open new pages in dealing with each other. When people forgive each other, they forget about what happened in the past and never intend to remember it. They enjoy their daily life equally and make use of such an experience which is reflected in their improved behavior.

When reconciliation is combined with forgiveness, this means the closure of both bitter and sweet files as the reconciling sides decide not to return to their past antagonism in order to maintain calm and peaceful atmospheres around them.

When it comes to the people who took to the streets in irregular demonstrations

for the second consecutive year under the guise of marking the anniversary of what they call the "reconciliation and forgiveness festival," this is labeled as odd behavior. We believe that they already reconciled and their issues were entirely settled; however, when such festivals are held, it seems that past reconciliation was a form of deception.

Reconciliation reminding people of past experience

Reconciliation now has an annual anniversary, thus reminding people of past related experiences which they are supposed to forget about. If the antagonism of those people was so ugly and cruel to the extent that they couldn't forget about it, this would mean that they made history and joined the list of great people famous for their forgiveness. They would register the first event of reconciliation throughout history to be celebrated every year.

Imagine how a judicious man may label assemblies raising banners and slogans of a political color and chant statements that have nothing to do with reconciliation and forgiveness. How it is possible for this kind of activity to be named a "festival"? What was seen on the ground is that festivals under the cover of reconciliation and forgiveness instigate imprudent and irresponsible actions.

Is it not logical for such a festival to demonstrate great moral values and real

forgiveness and reconciliation aside from baseless charges? Speeches given at the festival didn't indicate something of relevance to reconciliation and forgiveness. Those claiming to be reconciliation leaders made a house-to-house search to identify those who lost their relatives and beloved ones in Bloody Events of January 1986. I don't know why they associate reconciliation with the anniversary of this ugly event that killed dozens of innocent people.

Their speeches about reconciliation and forgiveness did not indicate that they have created special committees to be in charge of those who are still anonymous since the killing of their relatives in the bloody event. In the language of reconciliation, this must mean respect for the missing and the dead, as well as consideration towards those who are saddened by the demise of their relatives. The language of reconciliation must contain no instigative slogans or expressions.

I remind those who organized the festival that not even a single camera recorded any visit paid by those claiming to be reconciliation and forgiveness pioneers to the tombs of the January 1986 victims. So, we don't know what type of reconciliation they are advocating. A reconciliation festival must contain no slogans instigating secession and political conflict in the nation.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily

Obama's message to the Arabs and Muslims

By: Muneer Al-Mawri

I listened to the address of the US President Barack Hussein Obama, delivered on the first day of officially assuming his job.

The address continued for 20 minutes after Obama took oath. My attention was drawn to those words he designed very carefully to communicate a strong message to the world, most notably to the Arabs and Muslims.

Clearly, Obama's style, according to the statements he selected for his address, was totally different from that of his predecessor Bush who divided the world into two pavilions: "One side's with us and the other is against us," a division that targeted Osama Bin Laden and his followers. On the other hand, Obama's statements were designed in a way that reflects a fundamental change in U.S. foreign policy since the first day of the new reign.

Here, I want to discuss the message to Arabs and Muslims, which was contained in the address. First of all, Obama made a clear distinction between the Arabs and the Muslims, as well as between the killers and terrorists who slaughter innocent people. The new US President sent a strong message in his historical address to those who attempt to reach their own objectives through terrorism and the slaughtering of innocent people. He warned them by saying, "Our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken. You cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you."

This statement of warning is not sarcastic since it is being addressed to killers and criminals. And in order to make sure that ill-spirited people who manipulate words understand that these words were not specifically addressed to Arabs or Muslims - under the pretext that the majority of terrorists these days are Arabs or Muslims - Obama followed the statement by explaining factors of his

trust in the ability to defeat killers and terrorists by saying "We are a nation comprised of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus, and nonbelievers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth."

By saying these words, Obama wanted to remind Muslims in the world that Islam is one of the components of the US, and that US animosity is directed toward killers and criminals, irrespective of their religion, shape, or color. Obama was not extravagant in his use of the word terrorism, as he mentioned this word only one time throughout his address.

Obama didn't stop at the differentiation between Muslims and terrorists, but he deliberated to use the word Fascism in its natural context, comparing it to Secularism and not to Islam like Bush did.

"Understanding among Nations"

Obama cared to say that confronting new threats requires mutual cooperation and understanding among nations. By this, he invented a new term: "Understanding Among Nations," which differs from the term: "Conflict Among Civilizations." Apparently, Obama may mean the Arabs and Muslims in producing the new term, even though he didn't specifically name them.

He started by saying, "We'll begin to responsibly leave Iraq to its people and forge a hard-earned peace in Afghanistan." He vowed to remain defending the American values without interfering with others' affairs.

Most importantly, the new American leader communicated a frank and clear message to the Islamic world.

"To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect," Obama said. By this Obama, may mean "Muslims, respect us in order for us to respect you

and we also want you to consider our interests in order for us to consider your interests." It is a message with a deeper meaning since politics is based on interests.

In another shorter statement, he communicated a good piece of advice to the Arabs and Muslims by saying, "To those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent, know that you are on the wrong side of history, but that we will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist."

This was the strongest and most important paragraph in Obama's speech because it came following an implicit confession to mistakes committed by the former US Administration. Through this mistake, Obama urges concerned leaders to admit their mistakes and reduce their control of people around the world in order to help them.

Source: Al-Tagheer.com

SILVER LINING

Al-Qaeda and fragile system

I wrote in my column earlier last month that Al-Qaeda will be one of the major challenges Yemen will face this year. The announcement that Saudi and Yemeni militants have joined forces proved my concern that Al-Qaeda has regrouped and is gearing up for a new wave of attacks.

The release of a videotape of the interview of this group's leader, Naser al-Wahishi, demonstrates that Al-Qaeda is still strong only because of the fragile political and economic situation as well as the loose security system that enables it to use Yemen as its stronghold to launch attacks across the region.

Al-Wahishi, who escaped from intelligence jail in February 2006 along with 22 other militants, said he managed to pass through security checkpoints several times without being arrested. Al-Qaeda said in a letter published by the News Yemen website last week that the political regime wanted to have a deal with the terrorists so that the terrorists stand by it against the opposition coalition. This questions the credibility of the security apparatuses in hunting down terrorists and the relationship between the regime and the terrorist network.

Is it true that the security is not able to arrest these people who seem to move easily not only in rugged tribal areas but also in Sana'a? This loose security position has helped Al-Qaeda to move around and recruit new fighters, not only from Yemen but also from Saudi Arabia and other countries.

We have several security agencies working on terrorism issues: the national security organizations, the central security organization, central security terrorism forces, and special tasks forces, to name but a few. All these agencies have made it difficult to figure out who is doing what. The fragmentation of security agencies has enabled militants to network with tribes to secure protection. They have also been able to recruit sons of tribal sheikhs. This became clear during the confrontation between security forces and sons of tribal sheikhs Ali bin Ali Dawha and Naji Jordan in July 2007 in Mareb.

In the videotape recently released, Al-Qaeda announced that Said al-Shihri, a Saudi national recently released from Guantanamo Bay after spending nearly six years inside the US prison camp, is now the No. 2 of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, which groups militants in Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

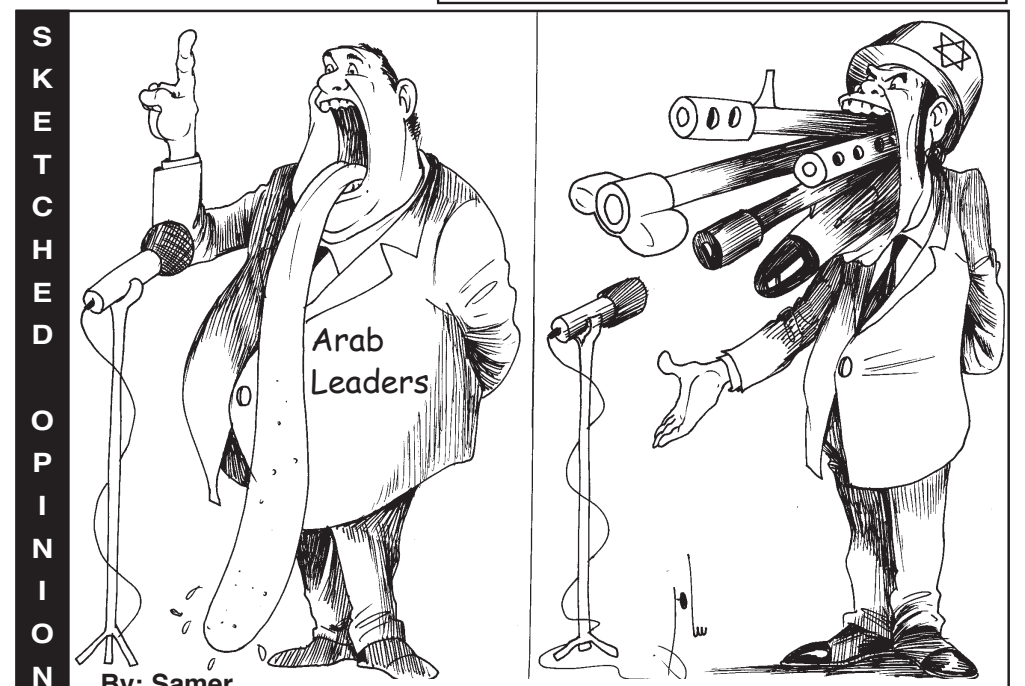
The announcement came as the new US president Barack Obama ordered the detention facility to be closed within a year. It is a stupid response to Obama's initiative to have a new start with Muslims. The videotape will definitely make Obama's administration reconsider his decision to close the Guantanamo prison and send detainees back to their home countries. It also questions the credibility of dialogue programs both Yemen and Saudi governments have been conducting with terrorists.

In the final analysis, the government should realize the seriousness of the situation and stop playing tricks with Al-Qaeda. The leniency and dialogue policy the government has been carrying out with these radicals has proved fruitless, as some of those people who renounced violence were subsequently caught fighting again either in Yemen or Iraq. This policy should be changed and only one security agency should handle things. Otherwise, Yemen, which is geographically and tribally sophisticated, will fall into the trap of Afghanistan.

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



By: Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi



By: Samer

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Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the
Islah Party
Thursday, January 29, 2009

Top Stories

- Medical staff's strike in solidarity with murdered physician paralyzes business in government and private hospitals
- The Hodeida Appeals Court summons local council secretary general on corruption charges
- Yemen's opposition hails EU, NDI's efforts to hold free and fair elections

The Higher Council of Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), Yemen's major opposition alliance, has appreciated the European Union and the National Democratic Institute's efforts aimed at holding free and fair elections in Yemen, the website reported in one of its main stories.

It added that the JMP released a statement expressing satisfaction with its meetings with the EU mission and the NDI's delegations in which it explained why it is insisting on holding free and fair elections, pointing out that the ruling party pushes to hold elections alone.

The opposition alliance's council expressed its commitments to EU mission observers' recommendations that followed the 2006 presidential and local elections, pointing out that transparent elections are key to solving all other crises in the nation.

The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) has met Yemeni officials from the ruling and opposition parties, informing both sides that it would not observe Yemen's up-coming parliamentary elections if the JMP remains boycotting the process and the ruling party would run in the election alone.

The website quoted the Emirate Al-Bayan newspaper as reporting that the EU EOM urged both sides to run in the elections together. The UAE daily said that the EU EOM further urged Yemen to put off the up-coming parliamentary elections until a later date up to but not exceeding one year from now.

Yemen's political parties reached a deadlock over various elements of the election such as voter registration, membership of the country's Supreme Commission for Elections and Referenda (SCER), and other procedural disagreements.

In a statement made to the website America.gov, the U.S. Ambassador to Yemen, Stephen A. Seche, urged Yemen's ruling and opposition parties to reach a compromise in order to

allow the vote to proceed and give Yemen's people the opportunity to express their will freely and fairly.

He further labeled Yemen's situation as disappointing to everyone who watched it in recent years. Until recently, the country had been building "a pretty good track record in terms of its commitment to democratic processes, including elections," he told America.gov.

Seche further urged Yemeni politicians to look beyond narrowly defined party interests and make needed compromises to give the Yemeni people the opportunity to go to ballot boxes and participate in a process that they can be proud of.

Seche also called Yemen's security forces to step up their efforts against Al-Qaeda and Yemeni terrorists, pointing out that the Yemeni government needs to do more to take the fight to the terrorists and put them on defensive. "The security situation in Yemen remains somewhat precarious," he concluded.



Al-Motamar.net, affiliated with the
General People Congress (ruling party)
Thursday, Jan. 29, 2009

Top Stories

- Local and international support to hold elections as scheduled in next April
- Islah Party official involved in violence and highway blocking referred to prosecution
- European team denies allegations of proposing to postpone upcoming parliamentary elections

The official in charge of elections at the European Commission EU Foreign Relations Department, Patrick Dupont, denied Monday that his team proposed postponing the upcoming parliamentary elections in Yemen, which are scheduled to take place on April 27th, 2009, the website reported.

It went on to say that Dupont expressed his regret for the incorrect news reported by some party-affiliated media outlets that was wrongly attributed to the European Union (EU) team.

Mr. Dupont made it clear that during the meeting held Sunday at Al-Thawra Press Establishment that included the EU team and leadership of the three press establishments: namely Al-Thawra, 14 October, and Al-Gumhuriya, that the team did not mention any suggestion concerning the postponement of the elections, nor did it say that it wouldn't participate in the election monitoring. He labeled

those media reports published by some party-affiliated newspapers as groundless.

The European delegation, meanwhile, praised the forward steps and development achieved by the democratic experience in Yemen, expressing its hope that the democratic process in Yemen would continue at this momentum.

The website quoted reliable sources as denying what they called groundless allegations rumored by the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) with regards to the EU team's intention to not participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections observation should the JMP boycott them. The website also denied that the team proposed postponement of the elections.

Sources confirmed that the delegation from the European Commission (EC) continues to hold meetings and consultations with various Yemeni political parties, including the General People's Congress (GPC), JMP member parties, and the rest of political parties in Yemen.

These sources also clarified that during a meeting with leaders of Yemen's major political parties, the EC stressed the necessity of holding the elections on the determined date, as they are considered to be the essence of the democratic process in

the country.

The European team's confirmations coincided with a similar emphasis on timely elections raised by other international organizations that operate in the areas of democracy and election support in Yemen, most notably the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES).

Meanwhile, President Ali Abdullah Saleh reiterated his affirmation to hold the upcoming parliamentary elections on its fixed date, indicating that any postponement would damage the democracy in Yemen.

Vice President Abid Rabu Mansour Hadi, who is also Secretary General of the ruling party, ascertained last week in his meeting with the elections official at the EC Foreign Relations Department, Patrick Dupont, and the official in charge of relations with Yemen at the same department, Philip Gross, that the political leadership represented by President Ali Abdullah Saleh believes categorically that democratic pursuit is the most realistic outlet for all issues and problems of different forms.

He added that the Yemeni government views ballot boxes as the foundation for bringing about political solutions to any pressing problems in accordance with the people's judgment.

A Dream Deferred – Construction in Dubai

By: Sean Robson
The Media Line News Agency

Dubai has seen a tremendous growth in its construction industry over the past few years. But the global economic slowdown spells tough times for the industry. Companies are cutting back on workers, projects are being suspended and investors are hesitant. While some analysts believe Dubai's construction bubble has finally burst, others predict the situation will soon pick up and get back onto a steady but more conservative track.

[Dubai, UAE] The dream of a skyline that would soon have matched Manhattan's may be on hold as Dubai's once stellar property and construction boom slows from its previously frenetic pace to a more sedate one, in which many projects have been either suspended or completely abandoned.

It is an oft-quoted fact that 20 percent of the world's cranes are in the emirate, but now many of them stand motionless and once bustling construction sites are empty, save for the few security guards posted at the gates.

When reports of the financial crisis facing the world's economies first emerged, many observers in Dubai were quick to quash any suggestion that it would affect the desert city; but it has, and the shockwaves have rippled throughout the city.

Major developers have all gone on the offensive with Dubai's largest private property developer Damac retrenching 200 employees in October. Damac was soon followed by developers Omniyat and Tameer, which have let go 69 and 180 employees respectively.

The single biggest bloodletting so far has come from Nakheel. Construction work on the Nakheel Tower, which is destined to become the world's tallest building, has been suspended for a period of 12 months, the company announced last week.

Nakheel had already shed 500 jobs in December while calling a halt on a number of high-profile projects including the Trump International Hotel and Tower in Dubai.

Coupled with this, A-Shafar



General Contracting said in early December that it was planning to cut between 500 and 1,000 jobs as new projects become harder to come by. Reports remain rife that government-owned Emaar is also in the process of making its own job cuts with the developer only going as far as to say that it is evaluating the current situation and will take the appropriate action.

Niall McLoughlin, senior vice president for corporate communications at Damac Properties, said, "Whilst there were significant challenges in the property market during the second half of 2008, we believe the market correction is likely for 2010 for all concerned and that ultimately this will lead to a more mature market where strong companies will continue to be successful."

"DAMAC Properties was one of the first companies to react to the slowdown in the market with the release of 200 jobs globally in sales and marketing related activities," he added.

However it has not just been the big players that have suffered from the crash; many mid-level operators and

their staff have seen fortunes take a turn for the worse.

"I first started to realize things were not good around four months ago [in September]. It started when our usual suppliers started demanding cash payment instead of extending us credit as before," says Yahya Fujo, who was working as the human resources officer at a small contracting firm mainly involved in building the high-priced villas that were sprouting like mushrooms across town.

Fujo, who is from Syria, explains how everything was going well until the price of materials such as steel and concrete spiked, coinciding with supplier fears that the companies they were dealing with might not be in a position to pay them.

"With the crunch and the banks putting a stop to a lot of lending, it meant people wanted cash; this was a problem. At first we started to get paid later in the month and less than usual, but when we complained we were told it would be sorted out later," he explains.

According to Fujo, when the company's laborers, who were from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan,

began to complain they were told that if they continued to make trouble they would have their visas immediately cancelled and be blacklisted from working in the UAE.

This is a major drawback of the Emirates' labor law, which places the power in the employers' hands. Foreign workers who lose their jobs have one month to find another position before they must leave the country.

Ultimately, after two months of being paid nominal amounts and another two months of not receiving any salary the workers' visas were cancelled and they were forced to leave the country.

"My boss sent me to the labor department with the cancellation forms and that was that. I, and a few of the office staff, including the engineer, have been given a three-four-month 'holiday' in which we need to find another job. My employer has said he will cancel the visa sponsorship after that."

Part of the Dubai property phenomena were the fabulous returns investors saw as they snapped up property the moment it was released on the market before selling it only a

short while later and making, in some cases, 40-50% on their initial investment.

However, many of these so-called property "flippers" have been left with egg on their faces as values slump and credit becomes harder to come by. One of these investors, who declined to be named, said that after having made some decent money in his initial forays into the market, he started seeing some hesitancy creeping in during the middle of 2008.

"People started to get a little more cautious and my partner and I started to see a stagnation in the values we were being quoted. We had a real struggle in shifting our last property and just managed to get rid of it at a very small profit."

A long-term resident of Dubai, the investor admits that the market was unrealistically high and that a combination of easily obtained financing and greed saw a number of people biting off more than they could chew.

"People have been hit hard by this and I am glad that we took a conservative approach. I do think though that this market will recover; however I do not believe it will ever accelerate as fast as it did and it's unlikely that it will ever reach the heights it did price-wise."

This prediction is borne out by a recent report issued by investment bank EFG-Hermes that predicts a 20% correction in the price of property in Dubai by 2011. However, the Egypt-based bank admits that the time scale may be even shorter.

"While EFG's forecast is still for a 20% decline, this has now become very front-end loaded and with risks significantly skewed to the downside," said EFG Hermes analyst Raj Madha.

While analysts and market experts are eager to weigh in with predictions on which way things will turn, many of those working in the industry warn against making pronouncements just yet.

"I don't believe that anyone really knows just how far things will go down before they stop or even if they will continue to slide. It's just too difficult at the moment and truthfully we have never seen anything like what is happening at the moment,"

says Hids Samsudeen, an architect working in nearby Abu Dhabi.

Samsudeen points out that while the crisis may be painful at the moment it could very well be an opportunity for those developers and builders with some liquidity to take advantage of the situation.

"Where the price of construction materials was sky high just a few months ago it's come crashing down like everything else. Some developers will just prioritize as to which of their ventures are going to be quickly profitable and go ahead with those because the cost of construction will eventually increase again," he says.

When pressed on whether the ubiquitous bubble surrounding property in Dubai has burst, Samsudeen answers by pointing out that while growth in the region has been nothing short of remarkable, it needs to be taken with a dose of reality.

"Sure, growth was impressive, but when you start from zero or nearly zero, then that's bound to happen. I do think that while it will not return to the levels it reached over the past two years it will still do more than ok."

Dubai is undoubtedly experiencing a downturn across all its industries, from retail to hospitality and tourism. It is the construction and development sectors, however, that have seen the most palpable effects as they arguably had further to fall. It is, however, uniquely placed to weather the storm thanks to the financial support offered by both its wealthy neighbors as well as its relatively limited exposure to outside influences.

Naturally the big players like Damac are quick to point out that the current crisis is a "normalization" in the market and that it will not be too long before things start to turn around.

"Last year, 27,000 housing units were delivered, while this year, we expect between 32,000 to 34,000 to be supplied. The demand is definitely much higher than supply and the industry is bound to bounce back by end of 2009," noted Damac Properties' McLoughlin.

Whether the bubble has truly finally burst, as many Western-based media outlets seem to be reporting with much glee, is something that still remains to be seen.

Reducing neonatal tetanus and measles mortality by 2015

In a bid to reduce the mortality rate for children under five years-old in Yemen, the Ministry of Health plans to eradicate neonatal tetanus and measles by 2010 and immunization campaigns are already under way.

YT photo archive



This step of the Ministry of Health's neonatal tetanus immunization campaign aims to vaccinate 2,167,000 women between the ages of 15 and 45 in 16 governorates.

By: Alice Hackman

Yemen must reduce its under-five mortality rate by two thirds between 1990 and 2015 to reach the United Nation's (UN) fourth Millennium Development Goal (MDG). Although the country's under-five mortality rate has dropped by over a half since 1990, it must be reduced by a further 30 per 1,000 in the next six years to reach this health-related goal on time.

Yemen's under-five mortality rate stood at 73 per 1,000 in 2007, according to UNICEF.

The country's neonatal mortality rate—the probability of death within the first 28 days of a baby's life—was 41 per 1,000 in 2004, the third highest in the Middle East after Iraq and Afghanistan.

While neonatal tetanus is a particular threat to babies delivered without professional medical assistance, measles can cause serious complications in malnourished children. The Ministry of Health is actively setting out to prevent both these diseases through immunization.

Neonatal tetanus

Neonatal tetanus, or "lockjaw," develops when a bacterium, *Clostridium tetani*, infects a cut or wound. Unclean delivery or abortion practices can result in maternal tetanus, while neonatal tetanus occurs when a newly born infant's umbilical cord is cut with a non-sterile instrument. In the absence of intensive hospital care, neonatal tetanus is nearly always fatal, according to the UN Children's Fund's (UNICEF) 2009 State of the World's

Children report.

Globally, tetanus was directly responsible for up to seven percent of neonatal deaths in 2000, and was the second leading cause of deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases in 1999, according to UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Once a baby is infected, the bacteria produce an extremely potent toxin, or poison, which attacks the nervous system causing spasms and tightening of muscles in the newborn's jaw and neck and later, in the back and abdomen. The baby's mouth grows so rigid that it becomes "locked" the child will no longer be able to breastfeed, or ultimately, breathe, according to UNICEF.

Although the true extent of the tetanus death toll is not known as many newborns and mothers die at home and neither the birth nor the death is reported, UNICEF estimated the global fatality rate in 2000 between 70 and 100 percent.

In Yemen, a country where up to 64 percent of births take place at home without the presence of a skilled attendant, the risk for neonatal tetanus is far higher than in countries where pregnant women have better access to professional healthcare. And if a hygienic delivery using clean instruments cannot be guaranteed, the best method of prevention against maternal and neonatal tetanus is immunization.

For this, tetanus toxoid has proven to be an effective vaccine against the disease. Given to women of childbearing age, two doses a month apart are an effective prevention method in most cases. Once a mother is immunized, her baby acquires passive

immunity for her.

"In the 16 governorates, we aim to vaccinate 2,167,000 women between the ages of 15 and 45, and have so far insured 70 percent coverage of the targeted governorates" said Dr. Eissa Mohammad, director of the expanded immunization program at the Ministry of Health and assistant professor of Pediatrics at Sana'a University.

The six-day campaign was successful in 15 of the 16 governorates, but in Hadramout the immunization teams were unable to access targeted areas because of heavy rain. The campaign started in the governorate last Saturday and is expected to come to its conclusion soon.

The immunization campaign, which was launched with two vaccinations to

women of child-bearing age in Al-Dhale', Lahj, Al-Hodeidah and Ibb between May and June 2008, is a progressive one. In a month's time, a second vaccination will be administered to the women in all of the country's 16 remaining governorates, thereby completing the second phase of the program nationwide. In September 2009, the campaign will continue in all governorates with the third vaccination.

"The third vaccine provides immunization for five years, the fourth for ten years and the fifth provides immunization for life," explained Mohammad.

The global rate of vaccination against tetanus has risen from 9 percent to at least 81 percent globally since

1980, according to UNICEF, but this still leaves one in five infants worldwide at risk of infection.

"The rate of vaccination against neonatal tetanus in Yemen had reached 17 percent by mid-2007," said Mohammad, explaining that this rate is still low compared to the rest of the world.

Measles

But Yemen's battle against measles is a more successful story. From 2007 to 2006, reported cases of measles nationwide plummeted from 30,000 cases, 5,000 of which were fatal, to 13 cases only.

"In 2008, there were three reported cases of measles, and no fatalities," said Mohammad.

"[This year] we vaccinated over 667,000 children between the age of nine months and five years in the governorates of Mahara, Al-Hodeidah and Hadramout, achieving 85 percent coverage in all three governorates," he added, explaining that the campaign was still ongoing in Hadramout because of the rain.

Measles is a highly contagious viral disease, which affects mostly children, according to WHO. It is transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of infected persons. Initial symptoms, which usually appear eight to 12 days after infection, include high fever, runny nose, bloodshot eyes, and tiny white spots on the inside of the mouth. Several days later, a rash develops, starting on the face and upper neck and gradually spreading downwards.

There is no specific treatment for measles and most people recover within 2-3 weeks. But, particularly in malnourished children and people with reduced immunity, measles can cause serious complications, including blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhea, ear infection and pneumonia.

In a country where up to 42 percent of children under five years-old are underweight according to the latest WHO statistics, immunization is important

Measles deaths worldwide fell by 74 per cent between 2000 and 2007, according to UNICEF, and Yemen's successful vaccination campaign will have contributed, at least in part, to the UN's Global Immunization Goal and Strategy of reducing measles mortality by 90 percent by 2010.

In view of Yemen's triumph over measles in the last few years and the success of its ongoing campaign against neonatal tetanus, Mohammad is optimistic that the country will reach the UN's fourth MDG by 2015.

"We will reduce under-five mortality by two thirds by 2015 thanks to the departments of family health, basic health care and immunization at the Ministry of Health," he concluded.

VACANCIES

Database administrator & data entry operator For the Basic Education Development Project (IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDO) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants for the positions of database administrator and data entry operator. The candidates will report directly to the Project Director and will work closely with all sectors and departments of MOE, Governorates Offices and Districts Offices of MOE involved in the Project.

Database administrator

Specific Tasks:

- The database administrator will be responsible for:
 - Decide on type of software which is best to use for this database. Gather international experience to make decision. The data must be easily convertible into STATA and other statistical software.
 - Develop a user friendly beneficiary database of more than 10,000 school age children eligible and/or receiving the CCTs in the governorate of Lahej. The database will have detailed information on each child's household and child characteristics as well as space to enter progress through school such as attendance, school test scores and other monitoring indicators as developed by the consultant developing the CCT scheme. Each child will have a unique identification code of the original baseline survey.
 - Develop a methodology to continuously check the quality of the data centered (such as a template that accepts only relevant codes for the relevant question/variable)
 - Regular updating of the database and trouble shooting any problem that might come up during the year in the database.
 - Guiding and supervising the data entry operators (TORs below) in efficient and accurate data entry of the different conditionalities relating to the cash transfer.
 - Ensuring that the database reflects the right amount of money transferred to the child and the date of payments.
 - Developing a separate database (or extending beneficiary database) for monitoring the children that drop out of the program or fail to receive the CCTs due to a non-compliance of the conditions. This database will be developed on the basis of a short questionnaire (developed by the supervisor) that will be given to children if they fail to re-qualify for the CCT (criteria still to be determined). The administrator will ensure that the child's identification code matches with the original surveys.
 - Provide regular inputs to the supervisor to help develop periodic reports on the number of beneficiaries and the amount of money paid out by age, grade and gender.
 - Develop a clear codebook which explains all variables in the all database. The codebooks should be in English and Arabic.

Qualifications:

The successful candidate will have an advanced degree in computer and information systems (BS in computer sciences or an advanced diploma in database management), with at least 3 years experience of working on developing database. The candidate should be proficient in Arabic with a working knowledge of English language.

Other:

The position is a one year term position starting February 2009, with a possibility of an extension of another year on the successful completion of the first year on the discretion of the MoE. The position requires long work hours.

Data Entry Operator (two people)

Scope of Work

S/he will be responsible for data entry and consolidating the information from the baseline survey (mentioned above) and other sources used for identifying the individual children and the background information. S/he will work under the supervision of the database administrator to enter information in the database developed by the database administrator and will be responsible for the regular updating of all information.

Specific Tasks

- The data entry operator will be responsible for:
 - Entering the information on all the relevant children for the CCT scheme in the database developed by the database administrator.
 - Helping the database administrator in consolidating the information on children's economic and social background from the baseline survey and any other relevant survey into a beneficiary database.
 - Ensuring that any information regarding an individual in the system has a unique identifying code and ensuring that the code can identify the individual in any survey used as a background survey.
 - Monthly or periodic (as relevant) update of the database.
 - Entering the attendance, school grades and other relevant conditionality information of each child as soon as the information from the field is received.
 - Provide information regularly to the database administrator and the supervisor to help develop periodic reports on the number of beneficiaries and the amount of money paid out by age, grade and gender as well as other requested information.
 - Helping with documentation and administrative work requested by supervisor.
 - If requested by supervisor, participate in surprise visits to the beneficiary schools to verify the compliance of children with the conditionalities and to verify the data and information about children being transmitted to the team and GES by the schools.

Qualifications

The successful candidate will have an advanced diploma or a degree (equivalent to bachelors) with relevant experience and knowledge of compute database programs. The person will be proficient in Arabic and have working knowledge of English language.

Other

The two positions are one year term positions starting February 2009, with a possibility of an extension of another year on the successful completion of the first year on the discretion of the MoE. The position requires commitment and long work hours.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting document should be submitted by Monday February 16, 2009 at the following address:

Basic Education Development Project
60M Southern Road, Bait Meyad
Tel: 01-619160 / Fax 01-619219



UNFPA Country Office in Yemen, Sana'a, is looking to fill the posts of:

Post Title: Programme Assistant for Gender Based Violence Project (2009- 2010) based in Yemeni Women Union
Unit: Gender Programme Component
Position: SC Grade 4

Under the direct supervision of the Gender Programme Officer, the immediate duties and responsibilities of the incumbent will be, but not limited to, the following: -

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Secure and review GBV work plan for the project, ensure their regular updating and consistency with expected project objectives;
- Maintain close relationships with UNFPA staff and project personnel and counterparts and monitor progress and highlight need for corrective actions and policy implications, including drafting correspondences and translation of relevant documents. Liaise with the Operations Unit for the Mobilization of inputs;
- Secure the preparation required substantive reports and arrange for standard monitoring and evaluation exercises, including the preparation of terms of reference;
- Processes mandatory and budgetary revisions, verifies data from project delivery reports; Maintain records, documents and work plans for the monitoring of project implementation; organizes data and information for easy follow-up;
- Prepare financial forecasts and reflect them in budgets; monitor expenditures;
- Plan and contribute to gender portfolio-related activities and events (workshops);
- Discuss with supervisor competency development plan, devote time for self-learning and maintain close working relationship with other CO colleagues.

Minimum Qualifications:

- University degree in development or social science;
- Experience (3 Years) in Programme/Project management;
- Excellent knowledge of computer and Internet use including mastery of word processing;
- Excellent drafting and communication skills;
- Excellent knowledge of Arabic and English Languages.

Competencies Required:

Corporate Responsibility & Teamwork:

- Serves and promotes the vision, mission, values, and strategic goals of UNFPA;
- Plans, prioritizes, and delivers tasks on time;
- Participates effectively in a team-based, information-sharing environment, collaborating and cooperating with others;
- Responds flexibly & positively to change through active involvement.

People Skills

- Recognizes & responds appropriately to the ideas, interests & concerns of others; gives credit to the contributions of others;
- Establishes clear performance goals, standards & responsibilities; manages them accordingly;
- Promotes a learning environment; facilitates the development of individual and team competencies.

Communication:

- Formulates written information clearly and persuasively;
- Presents oral information clearly and persuasively.

Job knowledge & Expertise

- Executes day-to-day tasks systematically & efficiently;
- Uses Information Technology effectively as a tool and resource;
- Is motivated & demonstrates a capacity to pursue personal development & learn.

Please send your resume with a covering letter, indicating the post title in the letter and on the outside envelope. UNFPA offers an attractive compensation package commensurate with experience. Please send your application to: UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a. Deadline for application: February 15, 2009

Please note that only candidates who fulfil the above requirements will be considered and notified.

Let "the head of Imam" rest in peace

By: Abu Hudeifa Al-Abadi
For the Yemen Times

As every Muslim knows, that after death of Prophet Mohammed Islam passed through a very critical stage of its history. Among Muslims there appeared some stray people, who based their understanding of Islam on their own wishes, philosophic ideas or their motherland pagan cultures. These categories of people were known as Ahlu al-Beda'ah.

On the contrary, these groups were strongly confined and confronted and their mistaken beliefs were unmasked by true Muslim scholars and Imams who adhered to the true principles Islam as correctly as conveyed by Prophet Mohammed based on Quran and Prophets' preaching's, who are called Ahlu Al-Sunnah.

Taking the above-mentioned fact into consideration, one can realize that the subject article was deliberately intended to praise state of Fatemiyeen and their mistaken ideology which, as Muslim Olama (scholars) have proven, does pervert from right path of Islam and true instructions of ketab and sunna, in the sense that their ideology negates five pillars of Islam and violates worshipping of Allah as the only God, and calls for glorifying the dead, and turning their tombs into places for worshipping, and performing hajj to their graves.

The writer himself throughout his article has acknowledged this and further elaborated how rulers of fatimyeen state one after one were so busy in establishing magnificent graves' Mashhad and seek their "blessings".

Muslims are instructed clearly by prophet Mohamed, who warned his companions against glorifying his grave, and against turning his tomb into a worshipping place.

We read in "SAhlih albukhari" what um alomeeneen Aisha narrated that the prophet Mohammed said "Allah did curse the jewish and Christians for their turning the graves of their prophets into places of worshipping (masajid)".

In the authenticated sunna also we read a supplication by prophet: "O Allah, don't turn my grave into an idol for worshipping".

If this is the case with prophet grave, what about graves of all other Muslims, surely it is forbidden to turn them into places for supplication for benefits, help or "tabaruk".

The contents of the article in question are running against Tawheed, i.e the belief in oneness and uniqueness of Allah, and promoting mistaken ideas of arranging pilgrimages to seek tabaruk from the dead. This belief could negate your faith, and turn you into MUSHREK, which comes among the major sins. He, the Almighty says:

".....Lo! Allah forgiveth not that a partner should be ascribed unto him. He forgiveth (all)save that to whom He will. Whoso ascribes partners to Allah, he hath indeed invented a tremendous sin....." (kuran: Surat AlNisa, Aya No.48)

Rights of Aal Albait between Sunna and Bedaa'h
As perceived all through the article in question, the writer promote the idea of splitting Muslims into two: Enemies of Al-hussein (Ahlu AlBait, and proponents of Al-Hussein(or Anssaru Ahl Albait).

The ideology of dividing Muslims based on their love to Aal Albait has no reference in Kuran and sunna, and was first originated by a stray group (Ahlu Beda'ah).

Shaikhu aleslam Bin Taymia in his Resalah titled (Rights Of Aal Albaiti Between Sunna And Bedaa'h) has pointed out that Muslims should pay Aal Albait their due rights of love, and respect in line with Shariaeh guidance as instructed by prophet Mohammed.

He clarified who are to be called Aal Albait, what are their rights, and how to sort out the mistaken beliefs in their infallibility and to avoid all acts of beda'ah associated with their excessive respect.

The whereabouts of Head of Imam Alhussein Ibn Ali:

When Shaikh Aleslam Ahmed Ibn Taymia was asked about the tragic events leading to the killing of Alhussein ibn Ali, and whether his head was transferred to Damascus or to A-IQahea as claimed by some people, his answer was totally different from that stated in the article in question.

When killing of Alhussein was reported to Ummayd Caliph Yazid ibn Abdulmalik, he was totally unhappy with this and said " I would have accepted loyalty of people of Iraq without the killing of AlHussein", and further he cursed Obaidulla bin Ziad, his ruler in Iraq, who was behind this tragedy, and In retaliation to this event, Obaidulla bin Ziad was killed.

Ibn Taymia, further said that Alhussein was then buried in Karbala In Iraq, and the alleged transference of his head to Damascus and then to Egypt was not confirmed by Muslim Oloma (scholars). While, they agreed that The Head of Al-Hussein Ibn Ali was carried to Al-Madina Al-Munawara where it was buried there. This fact is confirmed by Alzubair Bin Bekar (in His book" Ansab Kuraish")

The glamorous history of Islam
Muslim rulers of STATES of Ummayad and



abbayssid, as well as great leader Salahuddin, who are described by the writer as enemies of Alhussein IBN Ali, were combating Beda'ah (invented acts of glorifying graves) and ordered for banning such acts and discourage construction of Mashahid for tombs of Alsaleheen' religious people".

Despite the faults of some of their rulers, the glamorous history of the two states reflects very important stages of Islamic history, and at that time Islamic Ummah was pioneering among other nations. Besides, the great leader Salahuddin was praised not only by Muslim historians but by western writers as

well for his tolerance, wisdom, and righteousness.

Whatever they write, the ill-biased historians can by no means turn this great leader into a mere treasures' seeker or invader.

We conclude with a supplication to God: May Allah guide all Muslims to be steadfast to the right path of Islam under the umbrella of ketab and sunna.

This article was written as a counter argument for an article titled 'The transfer of the sacred head of Hussain ibn Ali' published in Yemen Times issue 1228 dated Jan. 26, 2009.

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For further information and an application form please visit: www.progressio.org.uk/jobs.

Closing date: 11 February 2009
Interviews: Late February 2009

Progressio worked under the name **International Cooperation for Development** (ICD) between 1991 and 2005. The organisation has been working in Yemen since 1974, and is one of the oldest International NGOs in the country.

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Book Review

Pencil Faces

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Shihab Al-Maqrami is a Yemeni artist who wanted to create an unprecedented piece of art that preserves the memory of many famous people who touched his life one way or another. With his pencil he drew the portraits of thousands of people, finally coming out with his book Pencil Faces, a collection of over three thousand portraits streaming down from what Shihab calls "the Shihabi memory."

The book holds portraits of many people: Yemenis, men and women, international characters – there is even space for sports figures and movie stars. Every day he adds one more face to his collection which is shaped by world politics and his personal impressions.

When asked why use pencil and not oil painting, he jokes "I would rather use the oil for cooking." Shihab reflects on his struggle, like many artists, to make ends meet. It seems that poverty is the destiny of many artists, at least until they die, he says.

The only text found in the 200 page book is the foreword, an introduction, and a poem dedicated to the author from another artist.

The foreword is by Naser Taha Mustafa, former Minister of Information and current chair of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate as well as the director of Saba News Agency. During the foreword, he himself admits that if he had nurtured his own talent, he could have been as creative as our author, and praises Shihab's talent and perseverance in following his dream.

In the introduction, Shihab explains

why the pencil, why portraits and why this book. He talks about his struggle to comply with the demands of his jobs and his talent and how after a serious illness he realized that time is running out, and he needed to present his work to the world in a way to be remembered.

The poem at the back cover of the book is by Sultan Azazi, a Yemeni poet who describes the faces drawn by pencil crowding against each other as if they are trying to keep a foothold in the world's memory.

Because of some religious statements terming sketching as "Haram" [sin], he quit sketching for years until a breakthrough came to his rescue in the form of Yousif Al-Qardhawi, a renowned religious scholar. Al-Qardhawi issued a fatwa, or religious decree, stating that such forms of decent arts are indeed not forbidden in Islam.

"He saved my soul. With his fatwa I began to breathe again, and the first sketch I did after a long time was of Sheikh Yusif Al-Qardhawi," he said.

Shihab hopes to be able to do the same with his caricatures and hold them all together in one book. He also hopes to produce another book of portraits, but this time with colors and with a twist of "mocking irony" as he called it.

4U

If you are interested in obtaining a pencil sketch or wood portrait contact the artist at 711483156



Yemeni women, portrait of famous Yemeni women at the center President Saleh dressing first Yemeni female pilot Captain Rosa Abdulkhaleq with a medal of honor.



Barack Obama, recently joined the list after becoming first black president of the United States of America.

Mahatma Gandhi



Even the Beatles did not escape Shihab's memory.

Vacancy Announcement

Aide Médicale Internationale - AMI - is a humanitarian, apolitical and non-profit French Non-Governmental organization. AMI has been working in Yemen since 2007 supporting the Ministry of Public Health and Population in improving primary health care in Hodeidah Governorate.

The country representative office based in Hodeidah is currently looking for:

1 General Practitioner

Candidates should meet the following requirements:

- Be graduated from official diploma
- Have a minimum of 2 years experience as GP in a public health facility
- Have good command of Arabic & English (both spoken and written)
- Have computer skills
- Available for full-time job in Hodeidah

Contract:

- 1 year contract with possibility of extension
- Salary according to AMI salary scale

Applicants should apply submitting a covering letter and CV by email to:

yemen@amifrance.org

Deadline for application: February, 28th 2009

Only short listed candidates will be contacted for interview

CULTURAL SERIES FACES & TRACES

Faces & Traces is a cultural series of concise biographies of local or international famous and obscure personalities in fields such as literature, arts, culture and religion in which these individuals contribute affirmatively. It is a short journey in contemporary history, attempting to tackle numerous effective characters in human civilization.

Al-Albani, Muhammad Nasirudeen

An Albanian fervent scholar of Prophetic Tradition

By: Eyad N. Al-Samman
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Al-Albani, Muhammad Nasirudeen, was muhadith (scholar of prophetic tradition), jurist, and herald. He was born in 1914 in Ashkoder, then capital city of Albania. Because of the strict secular ideology in Albania at that time, Al-Albani's father decided to migrate to Syria along with his family to live in a pure Islamic country. At age 9, Al-Albani arrived to Damascus, Syria, and enrolled at Jam'ayyat Al-Is'af Al-Khayriyya School, a relief shelter for refugees in Damascus. Later on, he joined another school and completed his elementary education. Al-Albani's father removed his son from school and decided to teach him personally because he realized that such formal schools teach only how to read and write. Consequently, Al-Albani learned from his father and other scholars the Holy Qur'an, sciences of the Arabic language, and jurisprudence. Al-Albani also learned from his father the art of horology in which he became highly skilled and from which he later



derived his income.

By the age of 20, he had become engrossed and specialized in the field of Hadith (prophetic tradition) and its related sciences. He earned a certificate to accurately convey hadith, teach them, and give judgments through their narrations. In 1954, Al-Albani started giving two weekly classes about different Islamic sciences attended by students and academic teachers. He also began organizing monthly journeys for Dawaa (missionary work) to the various cities in Syria and Jordan. During the 1960s, Al-Albani established the Faculty of Hadith in the Islamic University of Al-Madina in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where taught the science of Hadith and verification of chains of narrations from 1961 to 1963. Afterwards, Al-Albani returned to Syria to work in Al-Zahiriyyah Library in Damascus where he was given a special room to live in. In 1969, he was imprisoned along with other scholars in Al-Qala'a (The Castle) prison in Syria for six months due to the complaints of Sufi sheikhs who accused him of preaching Wahaabiyah (a very conservative Islamic ideology that rejects any innovation from the third century of Islam) and causing problems to Muslims. Shortly afterwards, Al-Albani was imprisoned again for 8 months in

Al-Jazeera (The Island) prison located in the Syrian island on the Mediterranean Sea. In the mid-1970s, Al-Albani migrated from Syria to Jordan and settled down in Amman for the rest of his life.

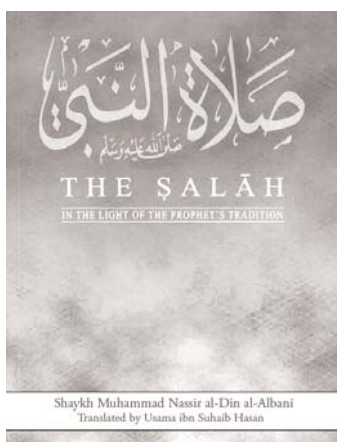
Al-Albani was involved in active learning and teaching of the Islamic sciences for more than 50 years. He was renowned for his efforts in the service of the science of Hadith and in explaining the sources of those hadith, books mentioning them, and their grades in terms of authenticity and weakness. He is considered by various Muslim scholars as being the greatest Islamic scholar of the 20th century in the field of Hadith sciences. He authored more than 220 titles with some books being up to 40 volumes long and a good number of them comprising over three volumes. One of his first works regarding the Hadith was the transcription of a book entitled "Al-Mughni." In 1957, Al-Albani published his first book which was authored in jurisprudence and entitled "Warning the Worshipper of Taking Graves as Mosques." The book contains Al-Albani's treatise against using graves as places for worship through explaining the position of the Sharia'a (Islamic Law) on prayers performed in graveyards, mosques built upon graves, and the evil of seeking aid from the dead.

During the 1950s, Al-Albani worked on writing and publishing the book entitled "Hijab ul Mar'atul Muslimah" (Veil of the Muslim Woman). Al-Albani's book entitled "Silsilatus Saheehah wa Da'eefah" (The Series of Correct and Fabricated Narrations) are the two monumental compilations of the Hadith. "Silsilatu Da'eefah" is a book published in 14 large volumes with a total number of about 7,000 hadith, and "Silsilatus Saheeh" is another of his books published in seven large volumes with a total

number of about 3000 hadith. The book entitled "Irwa' ul Galeel fii Takhreej il Ahadeethi Manaarus Sabeel" (The Complete Source in Explaining the Hadith) presents the evidence for the jurisprudential opinions in the book entitled "Manaarus Sabeel" and verifies the authenticity of the evidence in terms of soundness or weakness of the hadith and the conclusions reached on the rulings. The book contained more than 2,707 hadith verified and compiled in eight volumes. The book entitled "Sifatus Salaatu Nabiiyy" (The Description of the Prophet's Prayer (pbuh)) contains a detailed description of the prophet's prayer (pbuh) including its essentials, manners, forms, supplications, and remembrances. His book entitled "Ghaayatul Maraam fii Takhreeji Ahadith il Halaal wal Haraam" (The Ultimate Goal in Explaining the Lawful and Unlawful Prophetic Traditions) which comprises elaborate discussions on the verification and the categorization of the prophetic traditions included in the book with brief notes on a few jurisprudential conclusions of the author. Also among his other famous books: "Rules of Funerals" and "Forbiddance of Musical Instruments."

Al-Albani was awarded the King Faisal's International Award for Islamic Studies in 1999 in tribute to his scientific efforts in authenticating and studying of the sciences of Hadith.

Al-Albani died on October 2, 1999, at age of 85 and was buried in Amman, Jordan. Al-Albani was described as the mujaddid (reviver) of the Mohammedan nation who is raised up at the beginning of every century. He was also the upholder of the Sunna (norms) of the prophet Muhammad (pbuh), a supporter of the truth, and opposed the people of fabrications.



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An invitation from Malta

By: Yemen Times Staff

Would you like to correspond with a pen friend from Malta? If so, you now have the opportunity to find a pen pal through the International Correspondence Club (ICC) which is based in Malta. "Write a letter, Make a friend for a culture of peace" is the title of the campaign created by the club to advocate for a global perspective and help participants get a broader view of life that is indispensable to our mutual future well being. Today this message was directed to people in Yemen

through a written invitation from Malta on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the UNESCO Club in Malta.

According to chairman of UNESCO Club in Malta and Director of the ICC, Albert V. Rutter, "By writing a letter, one can enrich one's life by making new friends, give a true picture of one's country to others, practice a language and help create the climate of better understanding so necessary for world peace."

The aim of the ICC is to develop and maintain, through the medium of correspondence, friendly relations and better understanding between the people of Malta and the people of

will help you to get a broader view of life that is indispensable to our mutual future well being.



other countries; to help in the knowledge of foreign languages and

culture and to organize correspondence exchanges for students, schoolchildren and all those who are interested in correspondence.

It is an international project set up with the aim of fostering friendship with no barriers for membership.

"In recent years there has been a decline in letter writing as modern technology has somewhat replaces the old system of pen and paper. But yet no e-mail message can replace the personal touch of written letter posted and delivered to a distant recipient. In this way letter writing opens new friendly doors and consolidates already established contacts. This in turn creates a mutual culture of peace and friendliness," said Rutter

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