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Islamic charity organizations: A partner in development



Assistant Professor Aziz Al-Zindani: "Our policy is that patients come first"



10

Armed with a Nikon, on her path to success

Yemen stands with Sudan

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, March 8 — Demonstrations took place in Sana'a on Sunday in solidarity with Sudan and in opposition to the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s arrest warrant against President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir.

The Sudanese president, who is charged with two counts of war crimes and five of crimes against humanity in the Sudanese region of Darfur, has defied the warrant and announced he will attend an Arab League summit in Doha, Qatar, later this month.

"Sudan has been the target of plotting for a long time," said Sudanese Ambassador to Yemen Mohammad Adam Ismail at a rally in front of the Sudanese Embassy in Sana'a. "It is no secret that former [US] Secretary of State Madeline Albright openly donated US 2 million dollars to neighboring countries and rebel groups to overthrow the government."

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh denounced the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s decision to issue an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, describing it as a "dangerous

'The decision of the court has a very positive impact on the Sudanese political spectrum," continued Mohammad Adam. "It has united all the citizens





Al-Zindani (left) and the Sudanese ambassador address the rally in Sana'a on Sunday

around the president and brought the support of the Africans, the Arab and the Muslim countries.'

Sudan is the largest country in Africa and an oil-producing country, with a production of 600,000 barrels of oil a day. Darfur is also reported to have oil reserves that are comparable to Saudi Arabia according to international geological studies.

"As an independent resource-rich nation it [Sudan] acts independently and it natural resources and oil are craved by the United States," said Mohammad Adam at the rally.

"The response will be more development," read slogans upheld by protesters at the demonstration, referring to Sudan's inauguration of the largest hydropower project in Africa last week.

Experts expect the over two-billiondollar Chinese-engineered dam to eventually double Sudan's power capacity to about 1,250 megawatts and cut utility bills by 25-35 percent. Although the country has been under embargo for decades now, it has taken strides in development. The latest World Bank report ranks Sudan first in development.

Also addressing the rally was Sheikh Abdulmageed Al-Zindani who said, 'The reason behind targeting Sudan is the West's greed for Sudan's petrol, as in the oil in the Caspian Sea and the subsequent war in Afghanistan and, of course, the Iraq war.'

According the US Department of State, Sudan has been a state sponsor of "terrorism" since 1993. The US attacked a successful pharmaceutical company in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, in 1998, under the pretext it was developing chemical weapons. Sudan has since invited the US to conduct chemical tests at the site to support its claims. So far, the US has refused the invitation to investigate or to officially apologize.

The US signed but did not ratify the Rome Statute that created the ICC during the Bill Clinton administration. It later withdrew its support after George W. Bush assumed the presidency.

"Western powers are after the heads of state of Islamic countries one by one," said a Yemeni protester.

"The reaction on the Yemeni streets is overwhelming. It's good to see nations come together in times like this," a Sudanese student from Sana'a University said.

The ICC is not recognized by African

Union, the Organization of Islamic Conference, African League and the Group of 77 plus China. Many countries including Yemen have pledged support to Sudan in condemning the ICC's deci-

"The court is based on political rather than legal foundations, and is one of the tools of the new colonialism. It aims at destroying the national sovereignty of an independent state. And it does not do it for peace in Sudan," said Mohammad

There is a growing perception in Africa and the Arab world that the ICC is guilty of double standards, pursuing an Afro-Arab leader over misdemeanors, while ignoring the crimes of America and Britain in Iraq and Afghanistan and those of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories," the ambassador concluded.

In response to demands that Tony Blair, Bill Clinton and George Bush be investigated in relation to Iraq and former Yugoslavia, Former British foreign secretary Robin Cook previously commented: "The ICC was not created to bring to book prime ministers of the United Kingdom and presidents of the United States."

Aid agencies in Darfur

As a result of the ICC ruling, the Sudanese government has expelled 13 out of the 85 international aid agencies working in Darfur, accusing them of cooperating with the ICC to issue an arrest warrant against the president.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has called on the Sudanese government to urgently reconsider the decision, and aid workers have said ending these groups' activities in the conflict-ridden region will endanger the lives of up to 2 million people.

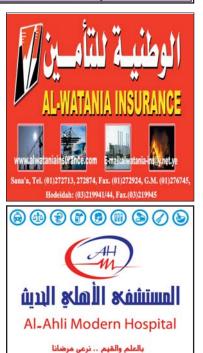
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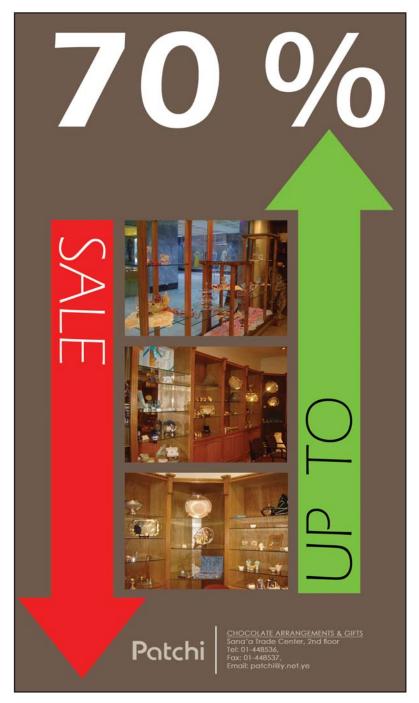




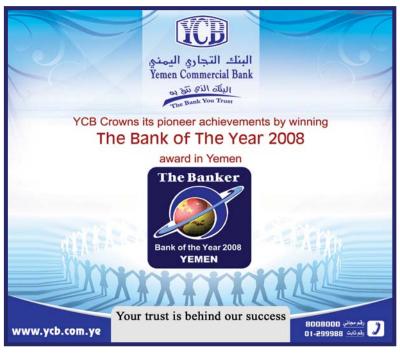
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New military reinforcements and army mobilizations threaten to start a sixth war in Sa'ada

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, MARCH 8 - Sa'ada residents stated on Saturday that the army is mobilizing both medium and heavy infantry in more than one district and is building roads to new sites. The army is also sending reinforcements to troops centered in many strategic areas in the Sa'ada governorate and is establishing new checkpoints.

According to citizens in Sa'ada governorate "thousands of Jihadist groups, or Salafia - including Yemenis and foreigners from neighboring Arab and non-Arab countries - started gathering in areas around villages and towns where Houthi supporters live. These groups are gathering against the Houthis in coordination with the army under the management of military centers and sheikhs known for their affiliation with the Islah Party and their objection to the Zaidi sect.

"These groups – backed by official approval - are inciting citizens to fight Houthis in the areas of contact between Houthis and the army almost on a daily basis," said the sources.

A prominent politician affiliated with the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) who preferred to remain anonymous told the Yemen Times yesterday that "the National Defense Council held an emergency meeting late last week and decided to resume the war against the Houthis.

"There is a secret agreement between the Islah Party, represented by its leader Mohammed Al-Yadoumi, and General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar to enter into another war against the Houthis," said the JMP politician. "The aim is to guarantee the achievement of their joint purposes through prompting Salafis, particularly the conservatives who came from neighboring countries as well as Yemeni natives, into conducting mass ethnic killing against Zaidi Shiite sect supporters in Sa'ada."

A security source at the Ministry of Interior denied government's intensions of the government to launch a sixth war Malek Al-Houthi. He accused the govin Sa'ada post two soldiers were killed last Friday by Houthi supporters.

Yet Saleh Habra, political spokesman for the Houthis, said in an electronic statement circulated by the Houthi Office that the National Security held an extended meeting last Wednesday in its premises in Sana'a which gathered military and security leadership as well as other personalities. He said that the meeting discussed many issues, at the forefront of which was the readiness level to declare a sixth war in Sa'ada, adding that "participants in the meeting approved the declaration of war and the start of a sixth battle as soon as possi-

"The government declaration of war will confirm the credibility of our previous statements that the government doesn't want a solution and has never aimed to achieve one," continued Habra. "What it confirms that is that the government rejected the Doha Agreement. Government actions aim to avoid applying the terms of the agreements. The government procrastinates in carrying out its commitments – either through changing committees or through limiting committees' tasks. This is only an attempt to make use of

Habra called on "all citizens of the country, military and civilian alike, as well as honest people from outside the country, to advise the government. Silence about such aggressive acts that the government practices against people and its aim to destroy its citizens is illicit by all means." He accused the government of setting out new military sites and repeating breaches of the Doha agreement. He further accused President Saleh of threatening the people of Sa'ada and insulting them shortly before he travelled to Russia in search for weapons, according to the state-

Habra added that General Abdul Aziz Al-Dhahab didn't carry out promises he made during his meeting with Abdul ernment of mobilizing armed tribal militia formed by the government after the fifth war was declared over.

The Yemeni Ministry of Defense reported that the anonymous security source said that "allegations of Sheikh Saleh Habra that a meeting was held last Wednesday at the premises of the National Security in Sana'a and announced their readiness to launch a sixth war in Sa'ada are baseless.'

According to the security source, "a sixth war exists only in the mind of this man [Saleh Habra] as a result of his intensions toward the citizens of Sa'ada. The initiative of the government is for peace and is against any war. Habra is considered to be one of the war mongers in Sa'ada who hinders any efforts to reconstruct the areas ravaged by war, of which he was one of the main ele-

Last July 17, President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced the end of the Sa'ada war between Houthis and the army forever. Following the declaration, a fund was formed in order to reconstruct the damage five years of war caused to the northern governorate.

Mass media reported that two soldiers were killed and a third was injured last Friday in a shooting incident that targeted a military vehicle in Al-Malahidh district of Sa'ada while the vehicle was on its way from the security office to the main market of the district. The Ministry of the Interior said that "Houthi elements which are outside the law" were behind the incident.

The security media center of the Ministry of the Interior reported that security apparatuses said that "a Houthi group threw fire at security officials next to Al-Nur hospital which is located on the main road."

The center reported that soldiers on board the vehicle responded to the fire and killed one of the members of the group that carried out "the aggression." Another member was arrested by one of the security checkpoints in the dis-

For its part, the Houthi Office denied any relationship with the Houthis involved in the incident. Local sources told mass media that a dispute over lands in the area was behind the act. They pointed out that security officials intervened to solve the dispute between a citizen and a sheikh over the land, which prompted one of the disputing sides to target soldiers, killing two of them and injuring a third one. They added that the man who killed the soldiers was killed by security.

Concerning the security situation in the governorate, local sources in the Ghamr district confirmed that on Saturday, Houthis were able to dominate Ar'ar Mountain that overlooks the district after fierce confrontations with government forces that continued for more than 20 hours.

The sources said that six soldiers were killed during the confrontations, whereas no statistics about Houthi casualties are available. Citizens expressed their apprehension that confrontations may aggravate the fragile stability in the region, calling on the two sides to commit to the agreements signed and the decision to end war.

Journalist Yahya Al-Sa'adi of Sa'ada told the Yemen times on Saturday that Houthi supporters in Sa'ada are ready to celebrate birthday of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) starting Sunday. He said that thousands of people from different governorates of the republic are heading to the Matra area, where Abdul Malek Al-Houthi, the leader of Houthis, is based.

"Bullets were forbidden in this celebration. Instead, fireworks that are mainly used in wedding ceremonies and the other religious occasions will be used," said Al-Sa'adi. "Salafis and their advocates from the Islah party launched a hostile campaign. Groups from Ibn Taimeyah mosque, which was recently established in Sa'ada, started to warn against the religious celebration, considering it blasphemy.

No more potatoes from Saudi Arabia

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, MARCH 8 — Almost 4,000 tons of potatoes imported last month from Saudi Arabia have flooded vegetable markets in Yemen at a cheaper price than the local produce leading the Cabinet to halt the import altogether since last week.

According to a trade treaty, Yemen imports potatoes from Saudi Arabia every year during the winter season when production is low. This year, the country has imported large quantities from Saudi Arabia due to a cold wave that hit the Marib governorate, one of the largest potatoes producers in the country, and floods that had devastated the governorates of Hadramout and Mahra.

Small merchants say that, if it weren't

Abdullah Mohammad, consumer and head of a household.

"We carried out a study about this kind of potato imported from Saudi Arabia, and found that it is not suitable for eating because they are bulbs mean for planting," said Mustapha Nasr, owner of Economic and Media Studies

Importers said they suffered great loss because of this problem.

"We lost four trucks of potatoes at the border when the committee from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation stopped them for twenty days to check whether or not the potatoes were for planting," said Mohammad Naser Al-Qaifi, spokesman of Al-Nawami Group for Importing and Exporting Vegetables. "The authorities in general



for the imported potatoes, there would be a shortage in the market. Moreover, people cannot afford buying local grown potatoes because they are very expen-

"Importing potatoes from Saudi Arabia has helped local consumers," said Ali Nasser, grocery seller in the Al-Ragas market in Sana'a. "There are not enough quantities of local potatoes because of cold weather which hit the country last month."

"The price of the potato has increased nowadays even the kind imported from Saudi Arabia," said Jaber Al-Umaisi, vegetable wholesaler at Al-Hasaba Central Market. This kind of potatoes, he says, comes to our market in bad conditions because they spend so much time at the border. He thinks that "importing them should be banned."

Cheating in selling potatoes The Yemeni potato is better in quality

than its Saudi competitor which has driven some merchants into cheating consumers by changing the appearance of potatoes imported from Saudi Arabia.

"Potatoes from Saudi Arabia are clean unlike Yemeni ones, which has prompted some merchants to spray these potatoes with water and roll them in dirt to give them the appearance of a Yemeni one," said Ali Al-Sadani, retailer and wholesaler of groceries in the Al-Hasaba market. "There is a shortage of Yemeni potatoes in the markets, so we turn to imported potatoes to meet consumer demand." Al-Sadani explained. He said that he sells a 20-kilo basket of imported potatoes for YR 2,700 and the same basket of Yemeni potatoes for up to YR

Not suitable for human consumption Some people say this kind of potato is not suitable for consumption because of its bad taste.

"Although its shape is clean and good, when it is cooked it tastes bad," said are blackmailing us. They say the potatoes are too small, meant for planting and not suitable for eating," said al-Qaifi.

Farmers demand end to imports

Officials in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation say they received complaints from farmers that they are making losses as a result of the country importing potatoes. Dr. Mansour Al-Aqel, general director of Agricultural Guidance says, "We have a treaty with Saudi Arabia for open borders between the two countries to import and export vegetables."

"We import vegetables for a limited period between October and December," he added. "These days there is a scarcity of potatoes because of unfavorable weather conditions that delay local production and floods which swept agricultural lands." Because the farmers have been affected, we have stopped importing potatoes now on the basis of the Cabinet's decision which defines the period for importing from October to December.

Foreign potatoes re-exported

The imported potatoes from Saudi Arabia are not of Saudi origin, but reexported from other countries.

"Saudi exporters are intelligent, they use the treaties signed between Yemen and Saudi Arabia for their interests.' said Al-Qaifi who declared that Saudi exporters are importing potatoes from Egypt with lower prices and re- exporting them to Yemen for more benefits.

"Potatoes from Saudi Arabia are imported by Saudi merchants from Egypt and India," agreed al-Aqel who affirmed that the Yemeni potato is better than the imported type. "As exporters and importers, we export onions, potatoes and tomatoes to Saudi Arabia but we face difficulties from the authorities in our business," said Al-Qifi. "The Saudis have better strategies than us."

Yemen stands out in UNICEF Regional Awards for Media about Children's Rights

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, MARCH 7 — Yemeni radio program 'From the Children's by Memories' has won the first UNICEF Regional Awards for Media on Children's Rights in the radio category.

During each of its 37-minute episodes during Ramadan last year, Yemeni children and adolescents spoke out about incidents which had changed their lives. They expressed their thoughts on various issues, including the sensitive topics of AIDS, terrorism, early marriage and discrimination.

Sameer Al-Madhagi, producer of the program for Yemen's Radio Channel, was happy at the recognition although he admitted that he expected more sup-

"It would have been helpful to get some capacity building such as a scholarship to study child rights, or training or anything that would help us improve our performance. After all, we are working hard against all odds to promote children's rights," he said.

Yemen also secured another award which was for the category of electronic media. Mohammad Al-Jabri won this category through his investigative report on street children published in IRIN, the Humanitarian News Service of the United Nations. Al-Jabri was excited at the recognition and mentioned that after the ceremony, the winners, jury members, and other media representatives took part in the discussion on the challenges of covering ado-

"It was interesting to see how media can and should play an important role in advocating for children's rights," he

Responding to the brilliant success achieved by the two journalists from UNICEF Country Representative in Yemen, Aboudou Karimou Adjibade said that in a coun-



At the media awards ceremony in Amman: UNICEF Regional Director Sigrid Kaag (left), Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah (fourth from left) and honorees (left to right) Manal Salhya, Mohammed Al Jabri, Sameer Mohammad Al-Madhagi, and Abeer Salahudin.

try where development journalism is a recent phenomenon, it is no small feat to get this distinction in a regional competition among 19 countries of Middle East and North Africa. Mr. Adjibade said "It is a moment of pride for Yemen to get recognition for its impressive coverage of the rights of the child during the year. It seems our continuous advocacy and work with Yemeni media to promote child rights have paid off."

The third winner was Manal Salhya from Syria for the television category. Her winning work was a film called 'Al Muna'ataf' (The Turning Point) which tackles the challenges facing four adolescent girls in the absence of parental supervision. For printed media, the honoree was Abeer Salahudin from Egypt for her Sabah Al-Khair Magazine article about the unhealthy temptations that face adolescents and ways to avoid them.

In addition to the four main awards, special awards went to Khaled Khlaif Koteish from Jordan and Mahmoud

Waddah Al-Jaabari from the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Both are determined 16-year-olds who produced media projects without financial support from any governmental or private

The awards jury consisted of experts in media, current and former UNICEF officials, and Egyptian actor Mahmoud Kabil, UNICEF's Regional Goodwill Ambassador for the Middle East and North Africa. The awards ceremony took place at the end of last month in Amman and was conducted under the patronage of H.M. Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan who is known for her advocacy for children around the

The ceremony was organized by the UNICEF Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa in collaboration with Al-Bayan Emirates Newspaper.

Sigrid Kaag, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, lauded the Arab media's growing interest and quality coverage of issues that are crucial to the survival,

development, and protection of children. "How you portray society, its children, and its youth shapes society itself. You carry a huge responsibility which we have entrusted upon you and which increases every day. This is the responsibility to give children and youth an image of themselves that they recognize in their early through life," she remarked.

UNICEF's Middle East and North Africa Media awards are the first of its kind and generated great interest among print and electronic media professionals from 19 countries around the region. UNICEF is now accepting contributions for the next Regional Award for Media in the Middle East and North Africa. The subject matter of the next award is focused on 'promoting health and changing behaviors.' UNICEF Country Offices will offer details about the 2009 awards soon; contributions will be accepted until September 2009.

Continued from page 1

Yemen stands with Sudan

Out USD 2 billion that enters Darfur only 100 million reaches the ground, said Al-Bashir. We have enough wheat and food to fill what gap their aid agencies might have left.

Sudanese ambassador to the United Nations Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem dismissed this criticism as a storm in a teacup, and said Sudan had compiled a thick dossier of evidence that the aid agencies being shut down had supported the court s work.

He said, as an example, that aid groups had used their private aircraft to fly potential witnesses against the president to Europe from Darfur.

They are spoiling, sabotaging and conducting a lot of very bad activities incompatible with their humanitarian mandate. Abdalhaleem said, explaining that the Sudanese government, local groups and organizations allowed to stay

would fill the gap created by the expul-

International Response The ICC arrest warrant has aroused con-

cerns about Sudan s peace and stability. including Venezuela who has warned that the ICC s arrest warrant for the Sudanese president could derail peace efforts in the African country.

Venezuela questions the intrusion into the legitimate internal affairs and sovereignty of Sudan, said Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister Reinaldo Bolivar.

The government s refusal to recognize the authority of the ICC and to dismiss its arrest warrant has been applauded by ICC Watch, the British non-governmental human rights organization that monitors the Hague-based court and other international criminal tribunals

The courageous decision of Sudan signaled an important and much needed resistance to the dangerous phenomenon of undemocratic transnational institutions such as the ICC, wrote ICC Watch in a recent press release Representatives of Iran and Syria as

well as Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad arrived in Khartoum on Thursday to express solidarity with Al-Bashir and to denounce the court s decision.

The African Union, the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) have voiced opposition to the ICC ruling. A joint delegation of African and Arab states will visit the United Nations later this month to ask the Security Council to defer the arrest war-

Yemen is also preparing to send a large delegation to pledge support to



In Brief

GAVI supports Yemen with \$ 14.8 mln to get vaccines

The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) has agreed to support Yemen with \$ 14.8 million to get vaccines of pneumonitis starting from com-

The decision was taken within the alliance's budget in agreement with the board chairman of the vaccination at the alliance, Minister of Public Health and Population Abdul-Kareem Rase said.

The Yemeni delegation- who is now participating in the meeting of the alliance's council in Rotterdam city of Netherlands- presented in the meeting several suggestions on behalf Middle East and North Africa region to develop program of the alliance and importance of reducing direct interfere of the alliance in the national health policies in the region.

The suggestions also include encouragement for producing vaccines by countries like China and India to reduce cast of such vaccines and a call for enhancing the joint work with alliance to face challenges resulted due to global financial crisis by finding out a mechanism to support the developing countries to have vaccines.

HADRAMOUT

Al-Manbar Museum opened in Shibam General Manager of German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) expressed admiration of Shibam Hadramout City which he described as natural wide museum of clay skyscrapers civilization.

He also expressed admiration of Yemeni ancient man who could build the greatest clay facilitations and palaces, said state-run al-Mutamar.net website.

In his visit to Shibam city on Saturday for acquainting with the ongoing work in infrastructure project funded by Social Fund for Urban Development with contribution from GTZ with total cost reaches \$ 2,5 million.

Earlier, Deputy Governor of Hadramout for Valley and Desert Affairs along with the German official had opened al-Manbar Museum, which is considered of the most rare historical platforms dating back to twelfth and thirteenth centuries. It represents antique piece tied with Bani Rasul State which ruled Yemen in the period between these two centuries.

On the occasion of GTZ delegation visit, local authority in Shibam district and people of the city held musical party in which popular dances and plays were performed.

ment towards Yemenization.

gramme.

TOTAL in Yemen:

DHAMAR

FRC to implement water project

Governor of Dhamar Yahya al-Amari met on Monday the representative of the French Red Cross (FRC) in Yemen over arrangements to carry out the second phase of the project of improving drink water and sanitation in the governorate.

The project includes implementation of 11 drink water projects that target 13,000 citizens in 11 villages in the governorate. The project is being implemented by the French Red Cross in cooperation with the Yemen Red Crescent Society YRCS at sum of ¤700,000 funded by the European assistance program and the French embassy in Sana'a.

The FRC representative reviewed arrangements to carry out the project, saying that the project comes within comprehensive efforts of the FRC, YRCS, Social Fund for Development and office of rural waters authority in the governorate.

The governor highlighted efforts of the

The head of the YRCS branch in Dhamar Abdul Salam al-Ahsab reviewed steps to select targeted areas to carry out the project in.

SHABWA

GOAM announces discovery of ancient

General Organization for Antiquities and Museum (GOAM) has announced discovery of ancient settlements and archeological cemeteries in different regions of Shabwa governorate- east of Yemen which dated back to prehistory era, according to Mayonews.net.

The news website quoted director of GOAM office in the governorate and head of exploration team Khairan al-Zabidi said that 29 archeological sites have been discovered in Ataq, Jardan and al-Rawadah regions of Shabwa gover-

Al-Zabidi said that the discovery was happened during the first phase of archeological survey and exploration on antiquities in these regions which lasted for ten

The date of these sites dated back to the bronze and stone eras and the team of exploration would resume its activities this month.

SANA A

Total Launches Training

Programme For 80 Yemenis

After the end of this programme, the successful TOTAL and will

'This training programme is an essential step in preparing these 80 Yemenis to play significant roles in the increasingly expanding operations

of Block 10. It is our commitment to train Yemenis in order to allow them

perform their jobs efficiently and, as a result, increase the production in Block 10,' stated Mr. Martin Deffontaines, the General Manager of Total

E&P Yemen, while referring to the significance of this training pro-

Present in Yemen for more than 20 years, TOTAL is the operator of Block

10, East Shabwa and holds several other participations in oil exploration

and production blocks. Since 1997, the Group has been producing from

Block 10 and celebrated March last year the milestone of 100 million bar-

rels production. TOTAL is also the technical leader of the largest-ever

Based on a strong belief in the importance of its

Yemeni employees training, TOTAL is launching

today, 3 March, an 18-month training programme

for eighty Yemeni nationals. This training pro-

gramme, which represents a critical component

towards more success of the company in Yemen, is

conducted as part of TOTAL's unshakable commit-

trainees will be employed by TOTAL and will

Yemen LNG project with a participation of 39.6%.

become part of Block 10's operational team.

Workshop on fighting child labor A workshop on fighting child labor was launched in Sana'a on Monday with the

participation of 24 representatives of the governorates of Sana'a, Hajja, Taiz, Hodeidah, Aden and the capital Sana'a during the period 2-4 March.

The workshop is organized by Scouting and Girl Guides Association in collaboration with International Program for Fighting Child Labor. The workshop aims at training youth to get acquired with dangers caused by childr labor as well as discussing the ways of ending this phenomenon. The workshop will call on gathering efforts to fight this phenomenon which has bad effects on the childhood's future in the country.

GIA allocates \$90 mln to finance projects in Yemen

The General Investment Authority (GIA) has allocated more than \$90 million to finance four projects in the industrial, services, tourist and agricultural sectors.

In an official statement issued by the GIA, these projects will absorb 2892 employees.

Mechanism of getting rid of impaired gas cylinders approved

The Committee of Security and Safety approved in its meeting on Tuesday a mechanism of taking out impaired gas cylinders from market and replacing them with new.

The committee - headed by Deputy Minister of Interior Saleh al-Zawari- valued directives of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Cabinet towards recommendations of the committee to get rid of these cylinders, saying such directives reflect concern of the political leadership and government with safety of the citi-

President Saleh has given orders to withdraw impaired cylinders from market to avoid risks might be caused due to these cylinders.

The General Authority for Standards and Measures has signed a contract with a foreign company to check up new gas cylinders to make sure that they meet international standards before entering the country. The committee approved to follow up the mechanism to insure the market is free from these cylinders.

It was estimated that there are around 4 million gas impaired cylinders in the market.

Court sentences executing one, imprisoning 15 Pakistanis on drugs charge

The Primary Specialized Penal Court here sentenced on Monday executing the first convicted of drugs trafficking and 25 years imprisonment to the others in the same case.

The gang which is composed of 16 was convicted of bringing drugs to Yemeni regional waters mid last April

The sentence, issued in today session and headed by Judge Mohsen Alwan, stipulated on executing the first convicted Khowad Bakhs Ladad, 45, Pakistani citizen and 25 years imprisonments to the rest 15 other Pakistanis included in the same case. The sentence also stipulated on seizing and burning quantities of

The court convicted the accused of bringing 10.000 kilograms of drugs and putting them on a Pakistani boat called al-Makran in Pakistani Port of Kawader and then heading to Yemeni regional waters. They were arrested while taking possession of the drugs. 170 kilo grams of the quantities, Hashish type, were

ADEN

24 tourist yachts arrive at Aden harbor Twenty five tourist yachts from different European nationalities arrived on Tuesday at Aden harbor in few-day visit to Yemen.

Speaking to Saba, a source at the harbor said that the tourists will pay visits to the historical sites at the city including Sirah castle and water cistern as well as popular and old markets.

Office for Malaysian commercial chamber to be opened

Malaysian -Malawi Commercial Chamber is to open its coordination office in Aden governorate at the office of the General Authority for Investments next April to boost trade Yemeni-Malaysian ties.

During the meeting with Aden governor Adnan al-Jafri, a delegation of the chamber briefed the governor on goals of the visit which were to get acquaintance with the available investment opportunities in Aden governorate especially Aden Free Zeon and plan of the Malaysian chamber to invest in industrial zones in

Al-Jafri welcomed the Malaysian investments and initiatives to enhance trade exchange between Yemen and Malaysia, calling for further horizons of the commercial cooperation between commercial chambers in both countries.

The delegation is currently visiting the country to discuss with officials means of enhancing trade cooperation between Yemen and Malaysia

Coast guards rescue Korean ship of piracy

Yemeni Coast Guards Forces (YCGF) thwarted a try of attacking Korean ship by Somali pirates in the international waters in the Gulf of Aden

An authorized source in YCGF told Saba that forces in the Gulf of Aden received call for help from the Korean ship and then directed one of its boats, exiting in Ras Amran area, for helping it.

The source indicated that the boat has arrived on time before seizing the ship by the pirates who fired against the ship when their boats approached the ship nearly 40 meters causing its some dam-

The source pointed out that the boat's crew has engaged with pirates as soon as they reach for helping the ship. The pirates threatened to fire RPG rockets against the ship if it did not surrender.

He indicated that the forces injured one of the pirates while trying to fire RPG rocket at the ship. As a result the pirates ran away while the ship continued its safely to its desti

SANAA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



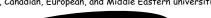
PROVIDING A HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR 35 YEARS

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Beautiful purpose-built facilities on a spacious 34 acre site in a countryside setting. Sports facilities include soccer and softball fields basketball and tennis courts Large indoor multi-purpose area for volleyball, basketball, badminton, gymnastics, table tennis, musical and dramatic productions. Bus service available

Main Campus

- Performance-Based curriculum for 5 years of age through secondary school
- Personalized education/small class sizes run by highly qualified & experienced teachers
- Over 40 computers available for student use, and computer instruction for all ages Extensive after school activity program involving music, art, craft, drama, & sports
- Advanced Placement (AP) college level courses available for qualified students Graduates attend American, Canadian, European, and Middle Eastern universities



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Japanese Modern Architecture Panel Exhibition "Kumamoto Artpolis" on 4th -17th March at Sana'a University

The Japanese Modern Panel Architecture Exhibition "Kumamoto Artpolis" will be held on 4th - 17th March, 2009, at Sana'a University (New Campus) with more than 70 panels of Japanese modern architectural works built in Kumamoto Prefecture, located in the South-West of Japan.

The Exhibition is organized as part of the



cultural exchange programs of the Embassy of Japan in Sana'a and will start on Wednesday, 4th March with an opening ceremony at 10:00am at the Psychological Counseling Center, opposite the Faculty of Engineering, Sana'a

The Kumamoto Artpolis was launched in 1988 in an attempt to enrich the architectural culture, not only of Kumamoto, but also of the contemporary world as a whole. Since then, some 100 public construction works were developed with a sensitive awareness towards functional and environmental design, in harmony with Kumamoto's natural and historical surroundings.

At the Exhibition more than 70 outstanding works will be on display from 8:00am to 2:00pm except weekends (admission free).

Invitation for Bids

Tender Advertisement no. (5) 2009 - for 1st Time (One Envelope System - Technical + Financial)

The Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden here announces its desire to invite bidders to Tender no. (5) for supplying [One No. New Work Boat for Port of Aden I which will be financed from Government sources.

Bidders who are willing to participate in this Tender have to submit written applications to Tender committee Secretary to receive Bidding Documents for an amount 150 USD non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at

Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden- Tawahi Tel: 00 967 02 20200168 Fax: 00 967 02 201541 YGAPCplanning@y.net.ye

The deadline for selling BDs will be on 30 MARCH 2009

effectiveness.)

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman of the Board Executive Chairman. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (60.000 USD for one Work boat) (Sixty Thousand American Dollars.) Bank guarantee has to be valid for not less than 150 days from date of Bid Opening. Bank guarantee may be substituted with a
- Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his 3- Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with
- Social Security in Yemen) Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement or contract

employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for

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

The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be (Saterday) at 11:00 Am on 04 APRIL 2009. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened. Bid Opening will take place at the Office Chairman Executive — Headquarters and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized

Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a

period 27 days starting from advertisement.

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External Vacancy Announcement 03/2009

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

Responsibilities:

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

Qualifications and Skills required:

- Completion of High school is desirable.
- 6 years of experience as a driver. Proven experience in vehicle maintenance.
- Good knowledge of local traffic regulations and road. Basic Knowledge of English and Arabic is an asset.

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with the curriculum vitae and P-11 form to UNICEF Yemen, P.O. Box 725, Sana a, Republic of Yemen or - <u>yemenhr@unicef.org</u>. **Applications received after 15**

UNICEF is a non-smoking environment

March 2009 will not be considered.

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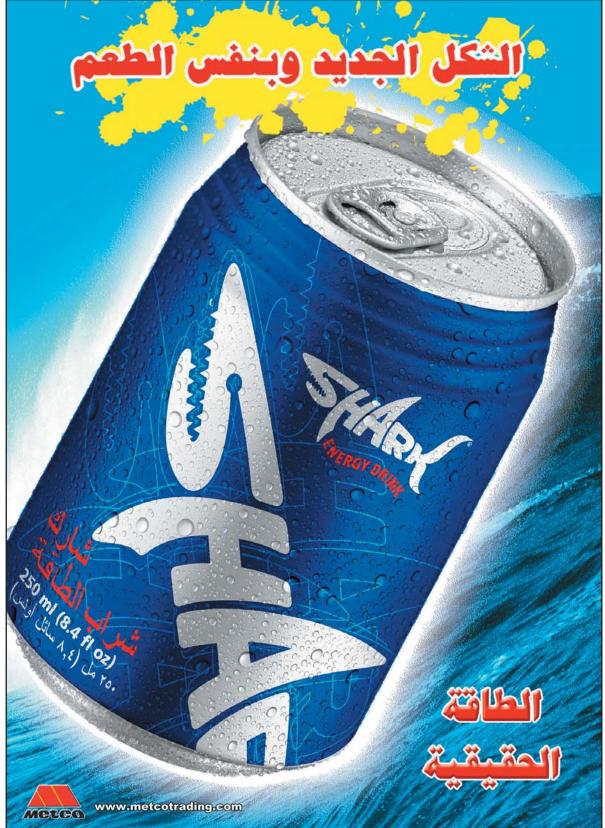
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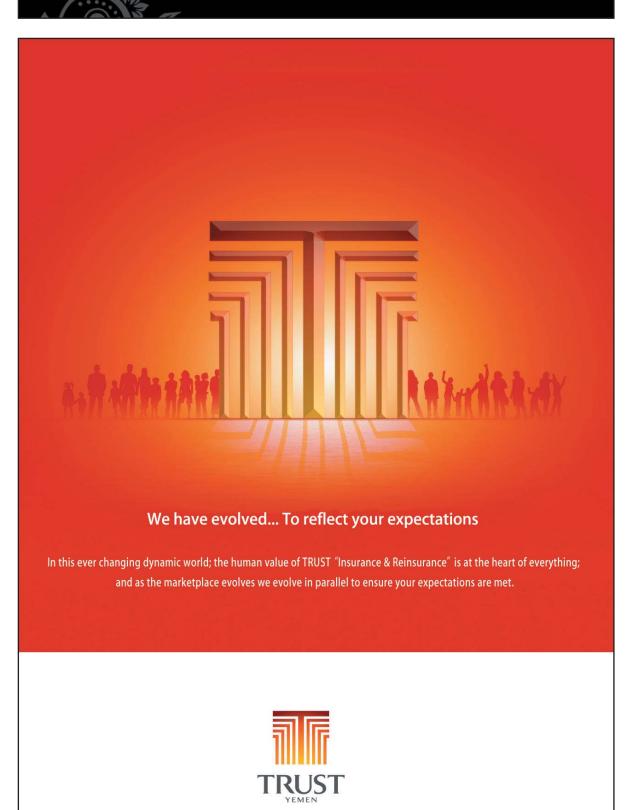
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Islamic charity organizations: A partner in development

By: Ali Saeed

hmed stands in a busy line. almost an hour away from his home, waiting for his daily handout. It's cold and he is tired, but he is patient as he understands the importance of the food ration he is about to receive.

Charity associations have become widespread in Yemen. They have made an outstanding contribution to the country's development, in all of the political, human rights, cultural and social fields. Yemen Times surveyed some of these organizations to highlight their developmental, educational and social activities in Yemeni society.

Over 2,500 charity organizations contribute to Yemeni development, according to the latest statistics from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, working to improve the health sector and education, and advocate for democracy as well as woman and child rights for example.

Sana'a

The Nama' Developmental Charitable Foundation, located in Dar Al-Salam, Sana'a, was established by some Muslim volunteers in 2004 to work in the field of construction, education, social services for both women and men.

In the field of education, the foundation has so far built six centers for both men and women to provide educational programs throughout the year, including illiteracy eradication classes for women and teaching the Holy Our'an.

Besides the illiteracy eradication classes, the foundation also offers women from poor families courses in tailoring, first aid, midwifery. Up to now the foundation has also distributed 36 sewing machines to the less fortunate of these. So far, the foundation has trained 310 women in sewing, 180 in first aid, 30 in midwifery and 980 in reading and writing.

"As for men, the foundation offers free courses in neuro-language programming, preaching and computer skills," said Mohammed Al-Amiri, manager of the foundation.

Up to now, the foundation has sponsored 300 orphans, girls and boys, to whom it offers them courses in welding, carpentry and computer skills. It also provides school uniforms and clothes for poor families during Eid. So far the foundation

distributed 8,000 school bags across the

The foundation distributes food baskets once a month to the poor families. There are around 600 poor families that benefit from this project .The average of the familv members of those families is seven members. The food basket contains rice, wheat, sugar, lentils and beans. Each basket is usually worth between YR 10,000 and YR 16,000. Up until now, the foundation has also supported the poor by handing out up to 6,000 blankets to families in Sana'a during the winter.

In Sana'a, Taiz, Hadramout, and Al-Baidha, the Sana'a-based foundation provides cars to collect decent leftovers from hotels, banquets and restaurants, and up to 1,800 families benefit from the project

Along with the meals and fresh bread cooked in the project's kitchen, the collected packages are distributed to poor families nominated by the neighborhoods'

The foundation also constructs water wells and mosques around the country. Since the establishment of the foundation, it constructed 60 water wells and 200

Another sample of these charities is Al-Charitable Foundation. Established in 2001, it works in the field of social services, education services and construction services, according to Nabeel Sa'ad Al-Maswari, manager of the founda-

Besides the 380 orphans and 8 poor families that it sponsors on a daily basis. the foundation also has two shelters in Sana'a and Hodeidah to provide 50 and 30 orphans respectively with food, a home and an education.

Over the last seven years, Al-Sadeeq has constructed 50 water wells, 30 water tanks, and 177 mosques, and has distributed 28 water coolers to mosques and schools.

In the women sector, Al-Sadeeq has 14 women centers provide education to 2,043 girl students. Up to now, up to 49 girls at the center have memorized the Holy Quran completely. Every year, the foundation offers 50 Islamic teachings courses across the country.

Another sample of these organizations is the Al-Forqan Charitable Foundation in

Bajil, Hodeidah.

"It was established in 2003 to enhance Islamic culture among Yemenis, maintain the identity of the Muslim woman, as well as to help the needy and contribute in relief campaigns," said Ali Yafooz, public relations manager of the foundation.

The foundation provides free accommodation for university students, has given financial assistance to 220 young men who wish to marry and has distributed up to 18 water coolers to mosques and schools. It has also constructed mosques, wells and public libraries.

"There are now 400 university students in both our hostels in Hodeidah," said Yafooz. "We have constructed 21 libraries that about 220,000 people benefit from, and 10 water wells that around 24,500 people are benefiting from."

In the" distributing 10 sheep project," said Yafooz, started with the foundation handing out 10 sheep to a poor family to take care of them. Their lambs are shared between the family and the foundation. Up to now, Al-Forgan has distributed 10 sheep each to 45 different families to benefit from the project.

Over the years for Eid, Al-Forqan has distributed 7,229 sheep to 361,450 people in Hodeidah, according to Yafooz.

The second sample in Hodeidah governorate is the Abumosa Al-Asha'ary Charity Association.

"Founded in April 1999, it works in the health, education and technology sector and supports women and children," said Abdo Ali Mansoob, executive manager of the association.

The association carries out awareness campaigns about AIDS in schools, hairdressers and public places. Beside that, the association every year carries out medical camps for eye, nose, ear and throat treatment to benefit around 500 people.

The association offers shelter and food to 220 university students studying in Hodeidah University, and sponsors around 2,250 orphans -boys and girls- whom it provides with clothes and IT courses. It further offers illiteracy eradication and vocational training courses to women, who can learn computer skills, tailoring and even the art of make-up in one of its centers. Up to now, the association has taught 104 women to read and write, trained 41 in tailoring and 78 in making up techniques.

Also from Hodeidah is Al-Zahra



Al-Ehsan Association provides free eye surgeries for the Sewing machines that Nama'a Foundation distributes to poor through its annual eye medical camp in cooperation women in poor families. with Al-Basar International Foundation.

Charitable Foundation, which was estab-

lished in 2004 by group of charitable men

to participate in social development and

besides similar ones to other organiza-

tions," said Mohammed Bin Sa'ad Al-

Hatami, director of the foundation.

"Al-Zahra has its own unique projects

Al-Zahra has a blood bank that connects

blood donors to those in need, benefiting

up to 3,194 patients up to now. It also runs

a program called "human dignity" to take

care of the unknown deceased by bathing

them and wrapping them in a shroud

before giving them a proper Islamic burial.

an ambulance car to carry the deceased

and refrigerators to keep the corpses. They

hope to spread the project to other gover-

But if the foundation is involved with

death, it also celebrates life, notably

through a giant group wedding ceremony

in which 1,250 bridegrooms and brides

Al-Zahra'a looks has sponsored 16,030

Established in 1992 and based in

Hadramout, the Al-Ehsan Charitable

Association has branches in all gover-

norates. The association was started by

religious scholars to participate in human

relief, and enhance Islamic principles

"Their main achievement is the Al-

Rahma orphan shelter in Taiz, which shel-

ters and educates 200 orphans," said

Mohsen Al-Dabi, public relations manager

according to the Sunni convention.

Al-Hatami said that this project needs

relief campaigns.

norates.

married in 2008.

Hadramout

poor families up until now.

at the association.

Al-Ehsan also runs a relief campaign to distribute wheat, sugar, rice, spaghetti, oil and milk to 5,000 Somali refugee families in Yemen. Al-Ehsan also in this campaign handed out blankets, pillows and mattress-

Al-Ehsan is heavily involved in aid and has carried out three relief campaigns targeting internally displaced persons from Sa'ada governorate during the war. Around 1,715 families were benefited from these campaigns.

Al-Ehsan also carried out a relief project to benefit around 3,700 families who lost everything in the floods in Hadramout last autumn. The association handed out mattresses, blankets and pillows to the families, as well as wheat, oil, rice and spaghetti.

The association holds an annual medical camp for eye treatment. So far, it has organized up to 39 camps across all the governorates. In these camps, glasses are distributed to those who need them and people can sign up for cataract extraction and lens implantation operations performed by volunteer doctors.

Obstacles

Although these organizations are making progress, there are obstacles. Foremost is the "lack of the infrastructure," according to Mansoob. He said this deprives people who live in rural areas from having access to the foundations' projects.

Second is political affiliation: "The partisanship either official or non-official is threatening charity work," said Al-Amiri, explaining that businessmen who donate

usually ask to who the foundation belongs before supporting to its activities.

"If that foundation is affiliated or agrees with his or her political party then he or she will immediately donate, but if the foundation is different with his party, he will not," wrote Mohammed Naji Atya, professor at Al-Andalus University in his research. "Some of the foundations also are careful not to make the projects accessible to people from different parties."

However, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is strict in not licensing any foundation or organization that encourages sectarianism.

"We recommend all the personalities and the charitable organizations to avoid such acts in their charitable works," said Ali Saleh Abdullah, deputy minister for social development, adding that the ministry is careful about social peace and applying the law.

Third, the weakness of administrative personnel and lack of qualifications are an obstacle to the good functioning of some associations, as most members of the foundation work of a volunteering basis, said Al-Amiri.

Fourth is the dwindling of donations, especially after the events of Sept. 11. The deputy minister said that the events affected the work of these organizations. He explained that this is clear in the shrinking amount of money that these foundations

"The events made donors reluctant to donate to these foundations," he explained, nevertheless adding that in the last three years the situation has improved and continues to do so.

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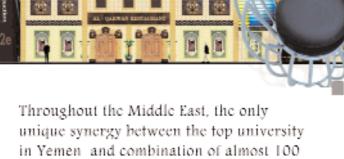
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Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, it is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would 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 some new values.

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



OUR OPINION

Using religion as an excuse for male dominance

he jurisprudence committee in Parliament is yet to approve defining a minimum age for marriage. As they see it, it is not Islamic to define a minimum age because it is halal [religiously plausible] to marry all ages provided puberty and consent, and those are issues not necessarily connected to a certain age. They figured that 15 is the average age at which puberty occurs in our part of the world and so are likely to recommend this age as the defining factor, not more.

The problem with this kind of reasoning is that it is completely incorrect. For one, the proposal is a law and not a religious fatwa, it is a human-set boundary to suit a particular time for a justified interest. It is simply not logical to tie our worldly issues with the prophet's worldly behavior because every time and place has its particular circumstances. Under the same reasoning, why not forbid traffic laws? The Prophet did not drive a car, so cars must be unlawful. Or why have passports and immigration laws, since people could travel freely in the time of the Prophet?

We claim that we are an Islamic country basing our legislation on the Sharia or jurisprudence. But our whole banking system is based on interest, despite it being clearly stipulated that Riba [usury] is strictly forbidden and there being no ambiguities clouding the issue like in the case of a minimum age for marriage. Another irony is taxes: In Islam there is no such concept, and only Zakat [alms] is mentioned. Yet in Yemen, we have both taxes and alms, and this double taxation is another forbidden act of deceit because it allows the state to take money from citizens unlawfully.

These are only a few examples of how, although we pretend to be an Islamic state, we are not really. So why, only when it comes to giving little girls the chance to grow up before they are burdened with the responsibilities of marriage and motherhood, do our protectors of Islam make a scene?

It is not right, and they are not being fair. We have every right to issue laws to help our community thrive and for our development. These are not laws we import from abroad, but laws that our society really needs. If we were responsible fathers and mothers, we would not need a law to tell us how to behave in the best interest of our children.

This is a time for people and organizations who claim they support child and women's rights to step in and demand to finalize the previously-passed law of defining 17 years old as the minimum age for marriage. National and international organizations, embassies and individuals can send letters to the Yemeni parliament and even to the president calling for defining the minimum age for marriage at 17 years old if not more.

If you believe in human rights and in little girls having a childhood, please call or send a letter to [country and city code 00967-1]:

Body	Phone	Fax
President	276777	274115
Parliament	276101 / 274665	276091
Prime minister	201314	282686
Minster of human rights	426471	426457
Women National Committee	473076	403119
Ministry of Human rights	444834	444833
Higher council for motherhood and childhood	426471	426457

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

A syndicate letter of release

By: Nasr Taha Mostafa

eople of the press ignore in their electoral battles that all of us as colleagues were remiss in establishing and fixing a syndication of norms and traditions. This is not because of the tense and disordered relations that we create. Rather, it is because we are still in our visions and in our performance constituting an image for improvisation and for chaos that prevails in our public life. We constitute another image for the current political conflict among partners of the political life in both the ruling party and in the opposition.

We constitute these images as if we want to move the battles of the ruling and opposition parties to our own field through different means through which we affront ourselves. Through these battles, we offer them free services while the rights of our colleagues in most private and partisan newspapers are well below the required level. In addition, our colleagues in the public media achieved only the first phase of their old ambitions toward their press freedoms and some of their materialistic rights after they waited for over eighteen years.

All this happens while everyone struggles fiercely and intensively with their pens to express the opinions of politicians and people of interest. At the same time, these same people consider journalists to be merely "clowns," mercenaries, and merchants of stances. Had we held professional and

syndicating norms and traditions, would we have reached this level? Would others have formed this negative image about

We all have the right to have our political affiliation that we believe in. However, we as colleagues of the same profession don't have the right to offend each other due to these affiliations. Look how some opinion articles published in some opposition and independent newspapers look with haughtiness at colleagues of the profession in the public media. They look at them as though every journalist defending the stance of the government or the ruling party is only an individual who sold his conscience and principles for a trivial price.

In return, we find that opinion articles in newspapers which are loyal or close to the ruling party condemn and offend colleagues of the profession on the other side as if they are "impure devils" and traitors who sold the country. Why don't we respect the stands, choices, and beliefs of each other since we are all colleagues of the same profession? Why don't we hold dialogues respectfully and discuss issues with each other using logic and evidence rather than causing any individual offense?

For eighteen years now, we journalists have been frustratingly seeking a charter of honor to protect our profession against immoral errors. We have been seeking a new press law that copes with the modern era and the huge developments in the world of journalism. Unfortunately, we, as tools that others

use in their electoral battles, are standing against our own interests. We continually impede every project to better our profession in Yemen either due to mistrusting each other or through degrading our group will. Therefore, we haven't yet fixed any professional and syndicate principles, norms, and traditions. Meanwhile, partisan and political calculations continue to dominate our performance in all stages and most stands!

Today, while approaching the fourth general conference, we will have in our hands for the first time serious and wellprepared projects for a main system and a charter of honor. The aim is to put the syndicate on the threshold of the path of moral professionalism and institutional work based on a main, solid, integrated, and realistic system that represents a real base for the syndicate and its members. Following that, colleagues will come to a day on which they consent to the importance of a law that organizes their profession and syndicate and guarantees resources that maintains the syndicate's independence. These resources will also enable it to develop the profession and give it more authority to protect this profession from outsiders as well as protect colleagues from each other. These projects need serious discussion, fruitful arguments, and good dialogues before and during the general conference so that the conference can become a guide for the road ahead that will establish an active and effective syndicate in the years

SILVER LINING

Journalists Syndicate Election

olitical parties are focusing their attention these days on the upcoming Yemen Journalists Syndicate (YJS) general assembly meeting to elect a new board and chairman. Being the most effective and important civil society organization, both the ruling party and opposition have been conducting intensive meetings, trying to mobilize journalists to



y: Dr. Monamr Al-Qadhi

vote for their candidates. The ruling party, in particular, has been mustering journalists working for the state-run media to vote for a selected list representing the party. Heads of these media outlets have used their positions to influence their journalists to vote for a specific group of journalists. This demonstrates how these parties are keen to control the YJS and manipulate it to serve their own political agenda.

The journalistic community is heading towards the election amid challenges. The incumbent board has prepared a package of documents to be presented for approval of the general assembly, including amended regulation of YJS, a draft code of ethics and a draft press law.

It was agreed in the previous election that any amended bylaws should be broadly discussed by the general assembly so that feedback of journalists are taken into consideration. The same thing applies for the draft code of ethics. But, these documents have been published just ten days before the election. In other words, there has not been sufficient time for journalists to read these documents and give their feedback. The YJS amended draft regulation and code of ethics in their current composition pose further obstacles.

Again, the present board drafted in cooperation with some international organizations a press law to be presented by the YJS to the government which has been alleging that journalists do not have an alternative to its proposed draft laws that invited broad criticism. Unfortunately, this draft has been handed a lawyer other than the YJS legal consultant to edit it but it appeared in a different shape that does not serve the interest of the journalistic community.

The current board should have also filtered membership before this election for state media houses including the military ones have presented long lists of new members even some days before the elections. Due to disagreements among the current board, particularly during the last few months, many new members have been accepted.

Therefore, many journalists have warned that hell will break loose if such documents are approved by the board and presented for debate during the election scheduled for March 14th; many journalists said they would boycott the election which leads to split the YJS and setting up a new trade union for journalists.

As of Saturday, March 7, the current board has not been ready with other relevant reports to be discussed by the general assembly. Journalists have been pressuring the board to restrict the agenda of the YJS conference to electing a new board and chairman.

It is crucial that journalists reject influence of politicians and vote for candidates who will address the journalistic community objectives in having a strong institutionalized syndicate that is able to serve all journalists. The elected board will have to challenge repressive draft laws government already forwarded and others expected to be forwarded to parliament to endorse.

We will see who will win, politicians or professionalism of journalists.

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

Yemen-Kuwait relations: focusing on what benefits us

By: Abdul Aziz Al-Majidi

f only one new thing took place during the last few weeks, it was the meeting of the Yemeni-Kuwaiti Committee in Aden. The meeting ended with a memorandum of understanding, a protocol agreement, and six cooperation agreements in several fields signed. This means that Yemen in particular ought to be preoccupied with one thing during the upcoming period: preparing suitable conditions within the country so that these agreements can turn into action.

Yemen and Kuwait have a lot to do, and not just to "serve the bonds of relations" as our emotional speech likes to describe the relations of Arabs with each other. Rather, and somewhat more importantly, the two countries have a lot of work to do in order to serve their joint interests.

We in Yemen have to head to Kuwait and the Gulf countries in order to establish an active partnership that contributes to solving our miserable conditions. In return, this partnership can grant real interest to the Gulf people and contribute to enhancing the power of their companies in the stock markets by betting on the circulation of their products in the Yemeni markets.

It is no longer beneficial for Yemen to insist on joining the rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) during every occasion or visit of a Gulf official to Yemen. The government should deal with this issue as being undesirable for many reasons, the last of which may be political

In the history of Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations, there is something that can be counted on to recover the spirit of Kuwaiti support to Yemen. Certainly this support is urgent now. During important stages in the past, Kuwaiti attendance in Yemen was greater than any other country in every single field. There is no need to remind Yemenis of the huge development projects, the support of the post-revolution republics, and the efforts to unify the two parts of Yemen when it was a commonly held belief that guns were the only solution.

The most important thing concerning Kuwait's relations with Yemen may be that these relations were conducted on Kuwait's part without any agenda or political calculations relating to the internal affairs of Yemen.

The crime that the dictator of Iraq committed toward Kuwait in 1990 most certainly affected the solidarity of Yemen's relations with Kuwait. They should therefore proceed with a lot of trust. The heavier burden lies on our government's shoulders, as it should do a lot to make Yemen hold the priority slot for economic support in Kuwaiti foreign policy.

Kuwait and the Gulf countries achieved a big financial surplus during the last three years due to high prices of oil. The logical destination for this surplus was Yemen, which has huge investment opportunities. However, this financial surplus headed to other countries that have more opportunities and more diplomatic ties!

In Kuwait, feelings of sympathy with Yemen still abundantly exist, but we don't make use of them in a practical and effective way. I visited Kuwait last March based on an invitation from the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information. In spite of the cool relations between the two countries during the past period, you can practically touch the enthusiasm for any cooperation with Yemen. Marwan Dammaj, Jamal An'am, Ahmed Ghurab and I listened to the Minister of Information while he was talking enthusiastically about his friendships with Yemenis and the readiness of Kuwait to offer any assistance to Yemen in the field of media as well as in other fields. In addition, he said that Kuwait waits for a clear Yemeni vision in order to proceed. Our meeting with Yemenis there confirmed that, for Kuwaitis, the image of the Yemeni citizen is still clear, clean, and credible in their collective memory.

Instead of the Yemeni continuous calls to join the Gulf Council, the Yemeni government can intensify its diplomacy at levels which are more beneficial for both the country and its citizens. There are many job opportunities that don't need a lot of skills. Yemenis can have more facilities to work abroad if Yemeni officials included this issue in their agenda during their meetings with the Kuwait.

during their meetings with the Kuwait.

Calling the Kuwaiti and Gulf private sector in general to invest in Yemen is not enough. If the Yemeni government wants really to achieve progress in this field, it should seriously discuss the following:

How can we make investment in Yemen beneficial and attractive to investors apart from mere televised speeches?

We really have many problems in this field. In order not to keep on failing and fail in introducing ourselves in reality as a country, we should mention important stories of success and focus on this.

Corruption is still prevalent in our country according to the latest international report about the economic freedom that involved 170 countries around the world. Banking indicators are still weak, in addition to indicators of the health of our financial policy. Simply put, Yemen is still classified among the countries that are not economically free.

The Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohammed Subah Al-Salem Al-Subah, was recently here in Yemen. He signed six agreements with his Yemeni counterpart Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, including the establishment of the Yemeni-Kuwaiti joint ministerial committee as an important step to build an institutional entity in the relations of the two countries. However, what is more important is this: How can we make this mechanism more dynamic to exceed the protocol form to a constructive and active framework? That is what the two sides, particularly Yemen, should discuss later more seriously.

Source:newwsyemen.net

Agreement between GPC and JMP C H E D O P I N By: Samer

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Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Top Stories

 Politicians: Yemen needs foods and medicines, not weapons

Yemeni politicians have undervalued the importance of a Russian-Yemeni weapon deal recently signed between the two states, pointing out that the purpose of the deal is to confront political opposition in the country and repress peaceful protests with more sophisticated weapons weaponry. They continued that the deal would only promote corruption, the website reported.

Dr. Aidros Al-Naqib, senior leader of the Yemeni Social Party (YSP), said that Yemen needs foods and medicines, not further Russian weapons.

"I do not think Yemen face threats for the time being, its only enemy is the Zionist entity which has no borders with Yemen" added he.

Al-Naqib further affirmed that the reasons behind purchasing such weapons are countering peaceful protests and political opposition, deep-rooting corruption and creating further opportunities for corrupt officials, who irresponsibly benefit much

from such deals.

According to Yemeni official media reports , Yemen has signed a USD 1 billion arms deal with Russia that includes fighter jets, helicopters and tanks.

Private prisons equal number of literacy centers in Hodeida

Private prisons in Hodeida governorate are as many as literacy centers, according to Alsahwa Newspaper correspondent Abdul-Hafeedh Al-Hattami, who visited a number of these private prisons.

Al-Hattami said in a comprehensive report that powerful sheikhs (chiefs of tribes), sons of lawmakers and local councilors jail and torture people in Hodeida, the poorest governorate in Yemen and levy unfair taxes on them.

"Five years ago, Badr Zohar from Al-Zohra district of Hodeida, was imprisoned in a jail, called Al-Mitiana where he remained overnight before being handed over to his father as corpse," said Al-Hattami indicating that powerful sheikhs and influential individuals exploit ineffective roles of security and judicial authorities in these remote areas.

Tribal chiefs, who are mostly Parliament members from the ruling party or local councilors, practice repressions, tortures and all forms of vandalism against simple citizens in their areas, and plunder their lands and other property, according to the report.



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

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Top Stories

Yemen's \$1 billion-worth arm deal is due to enhance government's defense capacity in the fight against terrorists and pirates, say official sources

The \$1 billion-worth arm deal, under which the Yemeni government purchases weapons from Russia, was signed with the purpose of enhancing Yemen's defense capacity in the fight against terrorism and piracy, both negative phenomena that emerged recently in the country, the website quoted senior government officials as saying.

According to the website, well-informed Yemeni official sources said last week that the outcomes of the most recent visit made by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the Russian capital Moscow were significant and would enhance bilateral relations and the areas of cooperation between Yemen and Russia, especially at the economic, trade and investment levels as well as the military level.

"The most important result of

President Saleh's successful visit to Moscow is the signing of a Russian-made arms and military equipment deal, including land, sea and air military ordinance in order to enhance the defense capability of Yemen in the fight against terrorism and piracy", the sources reiterated.

Pointing out that the cost of the contract amounted to \$1 billion, the sources said that the deal included a number of MiG-29 fighter jets and offensive and military transport helicopters, in addition to modern (T-80) and (T-72) tanks, (BT R 80) armored vehicles, cutters, modern telecommunications and other military equipment and supplies needed by Yemen's army and security forces to carry out their tasks and duties in the field of defense and security, as well as combating terrorism and piracy.

With regard to economy and investment, the talks held by President Saleh with Russian officials included the possibility of generating 3000 MW of electrical power of BOT power and exploration of oil, gas and metals by Russian companies

"A number of Russian companies stated willingness to invest in Yemen in these areas and the implementation of a number of projects in the fields of dam construction, irrigation, gas pipelines, railways, fishing and cement industry", added the sources.

The February 24-26 visit, the first to Moscow by President Saleh since

2004, is the second leg of Saleh's international tour, which was started with a trip to Syria. He also visited Tajikistan and Indonesia.

Assistant Secretary-General: GPC made concessions for the sake of homeland

Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs at the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) Sultan Al-Barakani affirmed last Monday that the national interest was the major and first factor of the political accord that resulted from the dialogue between leaderships of the GPC and the Joint Meeting Parties JMP, pursuant to directives of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

When the GPC makes concessions it prefers the homeland interest to its own interest as a party. The national interest is given precedence over those of leaderships and individuals, Al-Barakani went on to say.

During an interview with Al-Mithaq weekly, mouthpiece of the ruling party, published Monday Al-Barakani explained that the dialogue is for the interest of the homeland without considering any individual political party or organization.

To ensure success of the dialogue, Al-Barakani presented the condition of commitment to transparency and publicity during all next dialogues. He said, "We don't want to hold dialogues behind closed doors so that each party will come to hold the other responsible for any discrepan-

cies or inconvenience.

Al-Barakani denied allegations of secret agreements or reciprocal deals between the GPC and JMP, stressing that political reforms are not something new. They have been submitted within the initiative of the President of the Republic in Ramadan of 2007 and were included in his election platform and programs of the GPC since the 2003 parliamentary elections

While confirming that the reforms will not be a ready-made prescription presented by the political parties represented in Parliament, Al-Barakani laid more emphasis on the engagement of all political parties and groups, as well as the civil society organizations in political reform dialogues.

"Our current task is to overstep the past and sit at the dialogue table to discuss the kind of political and electoral reforms required," considering the 2-year extension in the tenure of the current Parliament formation as an opportunity and a test for all the parties to demonstrate their credibility and seriousness in moving together for carrying out mutually agreed-upon terms and achieving those determined political and electoral reforms.

Al-Barakani also expressed his optimism concerning the success of the agreement and truthfulness of the intentions to execute what has been agreed-upon through the next two years.



Invitation for General Bid No. (6) for the year 2009

The TV and Radio General Corporation declared its interest in inviting for general bid number (6) for the year 2009 for:

Importing, installing, licensing, testing, guaranteeing and delivering lighting systems equipment and tools for the Eman and Saba Satellite Channels.

All the interested importers and specialized companies must apply with their written request for this bid during the official work time to the following address:

The TV and Radio General Corporation General Administration for Projects Tel: (01/230752)

Cost for buying the bid documents (\$300) non refundable. The deadline of selling the documents is: 30/3/2009.

The bids must be presented in a red wax sealed envelopes t the bids and tenders committee's secretariat at the corporation. The names of the bidding company and of the project along with the tender number and the bidder's name must be written on the envelop, which should contain the following documents:

- 1. An unconditional bank guarantee of (US 16,000\$) valid for 120 days as of the date of bid opening or a cashable check.
- 2. A copy of valid tax certificate for the year 2009 (feign bidders with no existing business activities in Yemen may furnish a copy of equivalent VAT registration document from their home countries).
- 3. A copy f valid insurance certificate for the year 2009 (insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefit from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen).
- 4. A copy of valid registration and classification for the year 2009.
- 5. A copy of valid Zakat certificate for the year 2009.
- 6. A copy of valid commercial registration valid for the year 2009.
- 7. A copy of valid profession license certificate for the year 2009.8. A copy of valid sales tax registration certificate for the year 2009.

The deadline for receiving the proposals is at 11:00 am on Saturday 4/4/2009 at the corporation's main premises.

Civil Society & Gender Specialist

The OXFAM GB invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the position **Civil Society & Gender Specialist** to work in the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit based in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MPIC).

Tasks & Responsibility:

The specialist will work within the team of M&E Unit and to undertake a propoor and gender analysis of the M&E System used by the M&E Unit, Study the existing M& systems and identify gaps and potential areas for interventions, assist in capacity building activities, contribute into M&E reports, enhance the Civil society Organizations Participation in the Development and Poverty Reduction Monitoring, strengthen the communication among development partners, and provide ongoing technical support to the M&E plans.

Qualifications

Candidates should have the following qualifications & skills:

- Minimum a university degree in the relevant field.
- At least 5 years of relevant experience at the national or international level
- Fluency in English and Arabic languages.
- Excellent command in the usage of computers and office software packages.
- Excellent Inter-personal communication skills.
- Excellent with development issues would be an asset.

To learn more about these positions, please visit our website: www.mpic-yemen.org. Interested candidates who have the necessary qualifications and background may submit their applications by fax to 01239703 or email: kawara2005@gmail.com with a letter of expression of interest and C.V attached. Response will only be made to short listed candidates.

<u>Deadline for receipt of the applications is Sunday, March 15, 2009 and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.</u>

Assistant Professor Aziz Al-Zindani, Head of Cardiac Center in Al-Thawrah General Teaching Hospital

"Our policy is that patients come first"

ziz Saleh Al-Zindani, born in 1966, is the Head of the Cardiac Center at Al-Thawrah General Teaching Hospital. He received his Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery degree from Sana'a University in 1992. He followed up with higher education and received his master's degree in cardiology from Ain Shams University in Egypt in 2000. He became a board certified doctor and received his MD in Syria in 2007. He took part in a number of specialized courses in catheterization in several countries including India, Germany, and Egypt. He is a consultant and an Assistant Professor at Sana'a University. He has accumulated years of experience since he has been working at the hospital since his graduation from Sana'a University in 1992.

Al-Thawrah Teaching Hospital serves 22 million people. Aziz Al-Zindani, the Head of the Cardiac Center, speaks to Mahmoud Assamiee of the Yemen Times about the challenges.



Aziz Al-Zindani

When was the Cardiac Center established in the hospital?

The center first was established as a unit in the general ward like most new units that were established in the early 90s. In 1995, we started pace maker implementation and in 1998 we began cardiac catheterization. We have highly qualified medical teams to carry out such operations. In tandem with the celebrations in 2000 of the 26th September Revolution, President Ali Abdullah Saleh officially opened the

Is the center capable of providing complete service to the patient to save him from traveling abroad for

Currently we are working on planting arteries, expanding and transplanting valves, and other major cardiac surgeries. In the case of complicated congenital heart deformations, we are assisted by visiting medical teams. However, we have a lack of cardiac physiologists and cardiac electrical cordial catheterization which require patients to travel abroad.

better treatment?

WORK PROCUREMENT

socialjusticeindevelopment

Title of the Contract: Implementation of Water Supply System Publication Reference: Y21-RZ-M-T-Water Project

DIA (French Non Governmental Organisation) intends to awards a works contract for IMPLEMENTATION OF A WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM in Mokha District, Taez Governorate, with financial assistance from the European Commission - EuropAid. Main tasks required for the implementation of this water supply system consist in:

- 1. Building of a pump room;
- 2. Installation of a pump unit;
- 3. Installation of 14 kilometres of pipes.

The application form is available for inspection at: DIA – Social Justice in Development

244, Near Al Safa Mosque, Kalabah, Taez, Yemen

Phone: 04-274927

Completed applications must be hand delivery to the same

The official language used for this work procurement is: **ENGLISH**

The deadline for submission application form is: 18th of March 2009 at 05:00 PM

Are cardiac surgeries performed free of charge to the citizens, given that the center is a public hospital?

In fact, there is no free service in the hospital. We are an independent staff that provides paid, but reduced, unique and specific health services. It is true that up to 95 percent of cardiac patients receive free medical decisions, but this is still paid for by the state. These decisions cover only 20 percent of operations costs; the rest of the costs are paid from the budget of the hospital. For example, the operation for replacing one valve costs USD 6000 dollars and some catheterization operations for making a balloon to expand the arteries and allow for catheterization could cost USD 2500 and the medical report the patient gets only contributes with USD

How much does a catheterization cost?

The diagnosis of a catheterization costs the patient USD 250, and we demand only USD 1000 for therapeutic catheterization. This sum does not cover the cost of the balloon we plant in the vessel. The cost of the balloon in the hospital is US 200 dollars and we ask the patient to pay a part of this sum. The rest of it is paid by the hospital.

How much does the operation of insertion of a balloon to assist the catheterization cost in private hospi-

In addition to the cost of the balloon, the cost of the operation alone is no less than US 5000 dollars, equivalent to YR 1,000,000. However, the cost of open cardiac surgeries in some private hospitals exceeds YR 1,600,000

In your hospital, how much does this kind of operations cost?

The patient who can afford this operation pays anywhere between YR 400,000 to 600,000. But we help the patient by giving him a discount.

Do you ask for other fees from the patient, such as fees for being admitted to the hospital or medication dur-

ing the operation?

The cost of the operation covers some medication, but the patient has to pay for medication not available in the hospital. Other services are provided by

Unlike other public hospitals, does the Al-Thawrah General Teaching Hospital provide free medications to the inpatient?

Yes, the hospital provides free medication to the patients. Unlike other public hospitals, we provide free medication even if it is very expensive. Some medications are very expensive and could cost between US 400 to 500 dollars. These medications are given to patients of cardiac stroke without hesitation.

Being very expensive, is this kind of medication always available in the hospital?

Yes. It is always available and is administered to the patient. We also have medication more expensive than this which is always available as well, such as the medication that is used for dissolving strokes. In addition, we have medications that could cost US 2700 dollars used for curing angina pectoris. This is also given freely to patients who come in under emergency situations.

How is this expensive medication made available?

We have a budget in the hospital that supports these medications. It has an independent budget from the ministry of finance, in addition to income that we receive from patients. However, not all of this income goes to the hospital because we have what is called government revenues. The government demands revenues from the hospital.

What about Yemen's health budget, which we know is only 2.5 percent of I talked with patients before the the state budget? Does it affect the performance of the center?

As an independent body, financially and administratively with special funds, we try to provide all required medications. And when we can, we offer them free of charge for patients.

What is the number of patients who come to the center every day for cardiac treatment?

No less than 150 patients a day.

Is this number considered to be high?

It is very high.

Is cardiac disease widespread in Yemen, and if yes, why?

Cardiac diseases are spreading in Yemen to a great degree among children and seniors. For children the number is great because of tonsillitis and parents' carelessness in seeking treatment for their children. This causes rheumatic heart disease which is spreading greatly in Yemen, particularly among children and seniors. There are also other cardiac vessel diseases, including rheumatic heart disease, which are widespread among adults because of negative lifestyles and bad habits that include stress and a lack of exercise. We see heart failure of the cardiac muscles because of arteriosclerosis due to smoking and eating unhealthy food as well as being due to high blood pressure. These are the cardiac diseases that are widespread in

Can we say that Yemen has more cardiac patients than neighboring countries, such as in Gulf countries for example?

We are preparing studies on the extent of cardiac disease in Yemen because we are preparing to join the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Do you have cooperation with GCC countries in this field?

We have great cooperation and we are conducting ongoing joint research concerning heart disease – great research,

What about some patients that have to leave the center without medication under the pretext of no more beds available for patients?

As I have already mentioned, we are serving 22 million people. We suffer from an extensive crowd of patients. I will give you an example. Last week I sterilized all the rooms in the cardiac center. I opened them on Saturday. These rooms were expected to be full of patients after three days, but they were full of patients only an hour after I opened them. As soon as the first patent leaves the bed, you find that a second patient follows right after him. I have to maintain all of the machines and the equipments of the center, and this often causes a delay for some oper-

meeting. Some of them said that they have been waiting for catheterization for two weeks while paying YR 2000 daily for being inpatients. Is this

Those who told you this are telling lies. First of all, the patient who wants to

undergo a catheterization sees a doctor that same day. If catheterization ends up being the actual diagnosis, the patients leave the center after six hours. If it is a therapeutic catheterization, the patient stays with us for a second day without paying anything other than the fees of the catheterization. Secondly, the patient who wants to undergo catheterization is checked before he leaves to make sure it is not an emergency and then stays at his house while he waits for his turn. We take his telephone number and call him to come to the hospital the day assigned for per-

If a poor patient that suffers from cardiac arrest comes to the center and has no money, how do you deal with him?

forming the catheterization.

We have the policy that patients come first. If he is poor, we refer him to the supreme medical committee for making an exceptional decision pardon the patient from paying. First we provide the service, and then we look to the financial aspect.

Do you have enough qualified profes-

Yes, we have highly specialized staff. All of them are Yemenis. We have only one foreigner who has worked in the hospital for 20 years. He is now a consultant and we treat him as a Yemeni.

We heard of buying cardiac valves from companies are not internationally recognized because they sell valves of weak quality with lower prices. Is this true?

This issue was discussed by the Parliament three years ago. Such claims were refuted at that time. You know every company states it is better than the other. We work with valves that are approved internationally. We buy the best quality from internationally recognized companies.

Is it true that some patients seeking treatment are turned away?

Some patients come when we do not have enough beds. In this case, we treat the patient in the emergency room until he is stable, at which point we let him go. If it is an urgent situation, we transfer him with special care from the hospital to another public hospital such Al-Jumhory Teaching Hospital or Al-Kuwait Teaching Hospital.

Are patients that happen to be government employees treated free of charge?

They are treated as ordinary people. However, we have contracts with some government entities that pay for their employees patients.

Ending the interview, what challenges do you face in the center?

My problem is the problem that faces Yemen as a whole. We suffer from overcrowding and the increasing number of patients. The great numbers of patients are overwhelming our capacities and resources.



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Welcome to China s Fairs

The Major Exhibitions and Fairs Programme in 2009 Promoted by the Ministry of Commerce of the People s Republic of China



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2	The Thirteenth Investment & Trade Forum For Cooperation Between East & West China	Xi'an	Apr.5-8, 2009	www.onlinew.gov.cn/onlinew/column
3	China (Shouguang) International Vegetable Sci-tech Fair	Shouguang	Apr.20-May 20, 2009	www.intvegetable-fair.com
4	China Chongqing Fair Of Investment And Trade & Global Sourcing	Chongqing	Apr.23-26, 2009	www.ccgsf.com
5	Expo Central China 2009	Wuhan	Apr.26-28, 2009	http://expocentralchina.mofcom.gov.cn
6	China (Shenzhen) International Culture Industries Fair	Shenzhen	May 15-18, 2009	www.cnicif.com
7	China Beijing International High-tech Expo	Beijing	May 24-29, 2009	www.chitec.cn
8	China Import & Export Fair, Kunming	Kunming Yunnan Province	June 6-10,2009	www.kmfair.org
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11	China International Software & Information Service Fair	Dalian, Liaoning Province	June 18-22,2009	www.cisis.com.cn
12	2009 China International Consumer Electronics Show	Qingdao Shandong Province	July 9-12, 2009	www.sinoces.com
13	China (Dalian) Internatioanl Garment & Textile Fair	Dalian, Liaoning Province	Aug. 28-31, 2009	www.cigf.com
14	China Urumqi Foreign Economic And Trade Fair	Urmqi, Xinjiang	Sep. 1-5, 2009	www.urumqifair.com
15	China International Equipment Manufacturing Expo.	Shenyang, Liaoning Province	Sep. 1-5, 2009	www.cieme.org
16	China Jilin-Northeast Asia Investment And Trade Expo.	Changchun, Jilin Province	Sep.2-6,2009	www.neasiaexpo.org
17	China Internatioanl Fair For Investment & Trade(Cifit)	Xiamen, Fujian Province	Sep.8-11,2009	www.chinafair.org.cn
18	China International Small And Medium Enterprises Fair	Yinchuan, Ningxia	Sep.10-13,2009	www.csmef.com.cn
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Please accept warm invitation and welcome to the Chinese **Exhibitions and Fairs in 2009.**

The Economic and Commercial Counselor's Office of the Chinese Embassy in Yemen



Armed with a Nikon, on her path to success

By: Alice Hackman

ocusing her Nikon D80 through the narrow slit of a black niqab, Yemeni female photographer Amira Al-Sherif is proof that social conventions are no obstacle to success. Anything is possible with family support and a good dose of determination.

Winner of the Ministry of Tourism's 2008 photography award, the 26 year-old English Literature graduate recently concluded her first exhibition to the theme of human rights at the French Cultural Center in Sana'a, and is happy with the results.

"It was the first time I felt a great amount of freedom to say something through my work," says an enthusiastic Al-Sherif, whose photographs were chosen on the 60th anniversary of the UN's Human Rights Charter to illustrate essential human rights.

"Photos are more efficient than words," she explains, "They are simple language for all people, educated or not, [and] much simpler than writing rules."

Al-Sherif first started taking pictures at the young age of eight, when her father, an Islamic studies teacher, was building her family a house in Saudi Arabia. With her father's Polaroid camera, she appointed herself to be the family's official photographer.

"I was the photographer, so I don't have many pictures of my childhood," she laughs.

Seeing her eagerness, her father promised her a camera of her own if she was first in her class that year at school. Determined as never before. she excelled in all subjects, and was awarded her first Kodak film camera. She saved up part of her lunch money to buy the YR 450 rolls of film for it.

With the support of her family and help of her teacher, professional photographer Marcos Abbs, Al-Sherif has since grown as a photographer.

"She learns fast, but she also has the capacity to have her own style.' said Abbs, who selected some of her work to feature in Faces of Yemen, a photography book sponsored by the Netherlands Embassy and published last October

"It's unusual to have a female photographer in Yemen who goes out to shoot like her," he adds. "She is very unique. She is very ambitious and motivated: She really wants to do something with photography, which is very important."

Al-Sherif's favorite photograph from her recent exhibition portrays the plight of Sana'a's daily laborers and the human right to work. Taken shortly after sunrise in Al-Qa' Street, the shot is of a man waiting with a shovel for someone to give him a job

"They lead such a difficult life," she says. "Imagine sometimes they have to return home without money. But they are strong believers that God will send them their work, their income."

Of the human rights her photographs have captured, she was most struck by "the human's freedom to choose without being forced by any other party."

"Often in Yemen, a girl's destiny is selected by her family: her brother or her husband," she explains. "A lot of the time, she doesn't have the right to select her education, husband or future."

But she is quick to point out that, in her case, her gender has not deterred her from photography in Yemen's conservative society. To the contrary, she finds that being a woman has afforded her more support and even protection than most of Yemen's male photographers might ever be used to.

She recalls an incident in the old city of Sana'a in which a man, who said he was a policeman, tried to grab her camera away from her. Bystanders were quick to jump in to her defense: "If she were a tourist, you would welcome her," they said. "Leave her alone."

On another occasion, a 16 year-old ambulant salesman abandoned his job to be her bodyguard for the day on an assignment in Taiz, because he spotted a man following her.

Sheikhs and policemen have appointed themselves as her fixers

and protectors, and, at the recent funeral of Masha Al-Nahari, up to six volunteers formed a safety cordon to protect her while she was shooting the proceedings.

"It is part of Yemeni tribal culture not to insult women and to help them," she says.

Obstacles exist to the work of a photojournalist in Yemen, she explains, but they are the same for men and women.

"Anybody can stop you in the street

and take your camera," she says. "Sometimes we are told that it is ok to shoot during the day, but not at night."

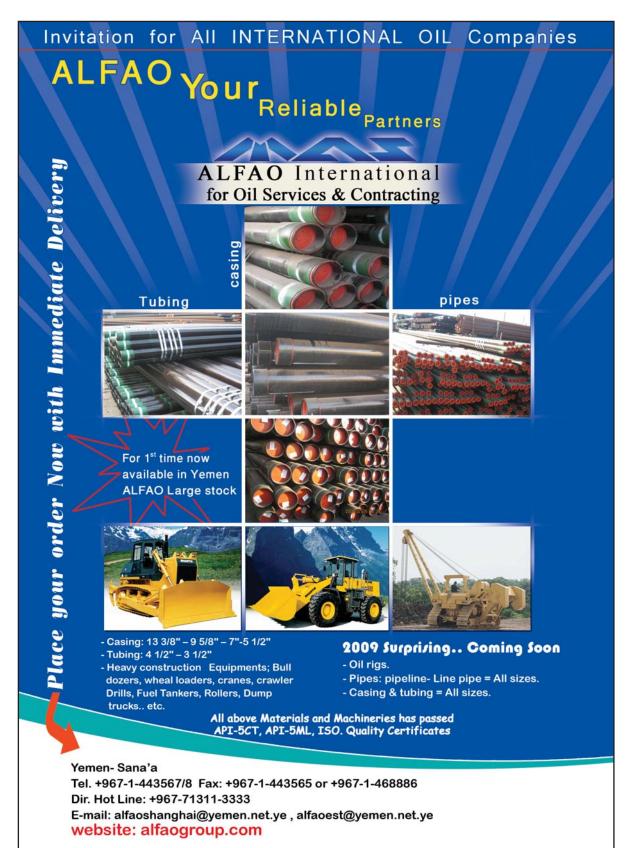
And so she veers from human rights to photographers' rights. Al-Sherif dreams to see a photographers' syndicate in Yemen. Until then, she has motivated her friends to found Eves of Yemen, the country's first photography association.

"Before, there was never anyone to take the lead," said Abbs of the association



Al-Sherif's favorite picture portrays the plight of Sana'a's daily laborers.







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Civil society advocates for women's development on women's day

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By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

andicrafts, art work, stuffed toys, incense were on display by proud representatives of more than twenty three civil society organization on the festivity at the Sana' trade

The festivity was to celebrate the International Women's Day and promote civil society's engagement in development and enhancing public awareness

Attracting the attention of casual visitors to the center or attendees of festivity, the charities, human rights or development organizations talked about their various programs and how important it is for the public to be engaged in such events.

"Today is an occasion to celebrate women's day with the rest of the world, and to evaluate Yemeni women's situation in the society," said Deputy Minister of Technical Education Ebtihaj Al-Kamal "We have to think of what women have achieved and what they are looking forward to achieving in the future."



"Islam honored women over than 1,400 years ago," said Najah Al-Mujahid head of SOUL community learning and development center. "In addition to bringing up generations, now, you can find Yemeni woman a minister and an ambas-

She urged women to pay more efforts to strengthen their role in the social and political life.

The organizations participated by exhibiting their programs aim to develop women abilities, create training opportunities, support society development and help needy families and orphans. They also displayed some samples of handicrafts products made by some charity and development organizations participants.

Most of the participants from these organizations were women and the occasion was a chance for them to meet and exchange experiences.

Focusing on vocational training for women, creating new opportunities for acquiring professional skills civil organizations has succeeded in increasing the participation of women in economic, social and political activities. They also participate in spreading awareness of risks of early marriage, child labor, the girls' education and family planning.



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