



Thursday, 23 April, 2009 • Issue No. 1253 • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf • www.yementimes.com

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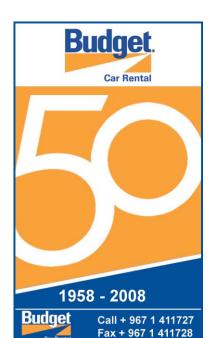
Mother executed with her children's approval

By: Kawkab Al-Thaibani For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, April 22 — Seven children went with their grandfather on Sunday to the Central Prison in Sana'a where their mother Aisha Al-Hamzi had been held for seven years. They went to give their approval for her execution by firing squad.

Aisha Al-Hamzi was charged with killing her husband, Yahya Al-Sharif, in 2002. She said she did it because he was abusing their daughter.

Two of her children watched the execution while the rest stayed in the car, in the prison's yard. She had four girls and three boys aged between eight and 25. Her little girls put their fingers in their ears as the four bullets were shot into





their mother's body ending her life.

Yemen Times called the number of Abdullah al-Sharif, her eldest son. He was angry at the media. "We insist on her death because of the press who ruined our reputation," he said. "If our demands were not just, the execution would not have taken place."

Despite pleas by international organizations including Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International to Yemen's officials to stop the execution, it was carried out. A letter was sent from HRW to President Ali Abdullah Saleh urging him to stop Aisha's execution a few days before it happened. The letter indicated that the legal proceedings in Aisha's trial were seriously flawed.

Al-Hamzi had been awaiting her death since 2003 when the Primary Court of the South East of Sana'a passed the verdict of death sentence in 2003. The verdict was ratified by the Appellate Court in 2007. The Supreme Court approved the previous sentences.

Aisha alleged that the murder was in self-defence that whereas her children and her husband's family claimed that she killed their father because he intended to marry another woman.

Her seven children are the plaintiffs, and they refused to drop the case or to pardon their mother. They insisted on her death because she "ruined their reputation" when she claimed that their father was an abuser. In her will, Aisha donated a quarter of her wealth for charitable acts, and some cash to her cousins because they tried to help her in her

Aisha claimed that the father was abusing the daughter at the time of the



Aisha Al-Hamzi

crime. They argued and, in the heat of the moment, Aisha picked up a rifle which was ready to shoot, and killed the father. Her daughter confessed to being abused by her father, according to the preliminary investigation, but she later withdrew her statements.

According to the defence team from HOOD, a Yemeni human rights organization, the legal procedures questioned whether there had been sufficient legal defence at the beginning of the case, as the dead body of the husband was buried immediately the next day without being subject to autopsy to verify Aisha's allegations. Furthermore, she received poor defence, as the lawyer was appointed by the court at the primary stage and reported to be absent during the court sessions.

Legally, no one has the right to pardon Al-Hamzi except her children and her father in law. Even the President of Yemen is not entitled to issue pardon in personal cases.

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In Islamic Sharia, and thus the



Yemeni women condemned to death are less often pardoned than men.

Yemeni law, the murderer should be killed when the relatives of the murdered demand it, although it is urged and preferable to give pardon. The people who are entitled to seek the death penalty are the children and parents of the murderer, and it is enough if one of them pardons the killer for the death sentence to be dropped.

Abdul-Rahman Barman, one of her defence lawyers and a member of HOOD, said that Aisha's case is not the first in which a mother is sentenced to death by their own children. He knew of four similar cases in which children had demanded the death of their mother.

He said he supported her case both

because she had poor legal defence and to advocate for the concept of pardon for a woman. Usually, only men are par-

Fouad Dahaba, an MP and Islamic speaker, said that he was willing to intervene to help for conciliation.

He stressed that, although the concept of claiming execution is present in Islam, pardon is urged. "The Holy Quran says, 'The recompense for an injury is an injury equal thereto (in degree): but if a person forgives and makes reconciliation, his reward is due from Allah."

Dahaba added that Yemeni society tends to make women responsible for

all the mistakes in the country: "Calling for death to women when men are pardoned is an indication of foolish traditions."

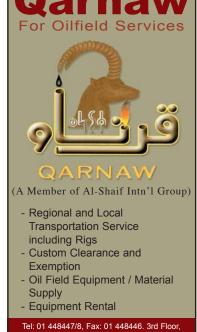
Barman said there is gender-based discrimination when it comes to dispensing the death penalty in Yemen. He cited a number of cases in which the family forced the children to ask for their mother's death, when the total opposite would have happened, had it come to the father.

Tribal pressure in seeking the death penalty for women can limit the chances of pardon. Barman added: "I am sure that, if Aisha were the father, she would have been pardoned."



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Former Dutch hostages: "The real problem in Yemen is corruption, not security."

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

TAIZ, April 22 — Weeks before his planned departure back to his hometown in the Netherlands, Jan Hoogendoorn sent a farewell email to his colleagues at the Taiz Water and Sanitation Local Corporation Spearhead Committee.

In the email, he described how, as a representative of Vitens-Evides International, he had tried for three years to help the Yemeni governmental offices in Taiz with the water problem. But faced with an irresponsible central government and deep-rooted corruption at both the central and local levels, his efforts had been in vain. He simply announced the end of his organization's intervention in Yemen.

"We [Jan and his wife] will return to the Netherlands by the end of April, but this has nothing to do with the kidnapping. The reason we return to the Netherlands is that our project in Taiz comprising support to the Taiz Water and Sanitation Local Corporation, TWSLC has been finished. Until now we [Vitens-Evides International, VEI] decided not to extend the project because of the lack of progress we experienced," they said.

Jan Hoogendoorn and his wife Heleen Janszen have lived in Taiz for three years and have come to love Yemen: "Especially my wife, but also me, will miss Yemen. We like the country and the people and despite the 'dangerous' image of Yemen in the West, we felt safe."

Being held hostage in a remote area of Bani Dhabyan for 14 days has not changed their attitudes towards Yemen. They are grateful to the Yemeni govern-



"We were treated very well and were more or less part of the family life at the place we stayed," said Hoogendoorn and his wife Heleen, here with women from the village during the time they were being held hostage.

ment that it took the time and had the patience to get them released without using violence.

They also appreciate the role of the mediators, especially Sheikh Abdulqawi Al-Sharif, whose negotiations reached an agreement which led to Jan and Heleen's release. They are grateful to the Dar Al-Salam organization, who took the effort to visit them while they were in the custody of the kidnappers.

"For us that was really a sign that something was happening," they said.

Being abducted between Sana'a city and the Sana'a checkpoint was rather surprising as check points were set by security at governorate borders assuming that the risk is on long distance roads between governorates.

"The silly thing is that, according to our experience, the real danger along the Sana'a-Taiz road is not between the Sana'a checkpoint and Taiz, but between the Sana'a checkpoint and Sana'a, so sending people back to Sana'a if they don't have the right papers is rather ridiculous," they commented.

Although checkpoints are meant to ensure security and are useful with respect to weapon control, they greatly limit the freedom of traveling throughout the country, and this has been a disappointment for many foreigners, including Jan and Heleen who wanted to enjoy the country's beauty.

Despite the kidnappings and other

security concerns in Yemen, they emphasized that they always felt safe in their regular life in Yemen, where street violence is relatively low compared to many other countries in the world, Western countries included.

"We hold the opinion that the bad image of Yemen regarding safety is not correct or at least exaggerated. Of course there are [safety] risks, but these are competitive with figures for other [Western] countries."

During their ordeal, they were in regular contact with the Dutch ambassador in Yemen, Mr. Harry Buikema, the First Secretary Water and Environment at the embassy, Mr. Job Kleijn, and with Mrs. Enas Al-Areqi, Assistant for the General Affairs Department at the embassy, who was "very helpful in many respects."

The embassy took all efforts to press the Yemeni Government to act and not to use violence, although the viewpoint of the Dutch Government was however that the issue is mainly a matter between the Yemeni Government and the kidnappers, which the couple respects.

As for the kidnappers, Jan and Heleen confirmed that the kidnappers were not hostile against them: "We consider kidnapping as an illegal action and it does harm the image of Yemen. However, regarding the kidnappers, we did not have the impression that we dealt with criminals, but with people seeking their rights. We were treated very well and were more or less part of the family life at the place we stayed. The people showed the typically Yemeni hospitality. In our opinion however, the personal freedom to come and go, is part of hospitality. And that was lacking."

In fact, they consider kidnapping as rather an innocent action compared to the attacks of Al-Qaeda, which really leads to casualties: "About 10 tourists being killed during the three years we were here."

The real concerns

What Jan worries about with respect to Yemen's development is not security as much as good governance, or rather the lack of it. From his personal experience with the governmental water sector in Taiz and relevant stakeholders, he came to conclude that water and sanitation local councils will not improve as long as they remain a governmental institution

But there is a chance that the management of TWSLC be transferred to the responsibility of the Hayel Saeed Anam (HSA) Group: "If that is the case, and HSA thinks that cooperation with us (VEI) can deliver added value, we might return to Yemen in August/September for another three years."

He suggested that paying for water and ensuring transparent and efficient management of water resources would solve the problem of water in Yemen: "Over the world people say that water is a serious issue, but I think its mere an expression of the mouth than of real concern. I believe the major issue is that in many cases people are not willing enough to pay for water and sanitation services and/or water utilities are misused by political interferences and have become corrupt. Sometimes people argue that water should be freely available, but any service will eventually deteriorate if revenues are insufficient."

"And remember, a water utility has to be carried by it employees," he continued. "Can you expect these people to commit to their work if they have to work in an infantile, corrupt working environment? Do people working at water utilities have to pay the price for the unwillingness of consumers to pay? No, of course! Everybody accepts you have to pay for food, so why not for water services?"

As they prepare for their departure from Yemen, Jan and Heleen reflect on their time in the country and how they grew to like Yemeni people despite the fact that some men act "like big children, which makes them funny to get on, but difficult to work with." The also commented that they would wish for Yemeni women to find more freedom and not to have to be hidden behind their black balto and veils just because of habit.

In their opinion, the unreliability of parties to a deal is one of the serious issues in Yemen. This was the bottleneck Jan encountered in the Vitens-Evides project in Taiz. He reflected that for Yemenis it is difficult to keep to agreements, the government included.

"Now, we wonder if the agreement between the government/sheikhs/kidnappers is somewhere on paper or not," he said. "And who monitors that parties stick to the agreement?"

They are concerned that, if the government does not keep to its promises, another kidnapping is sure to happen, and if the kidnappers do not keep to their promise not to kidnap anymore, negations will become increasingly difficult

Low level of transparency in Yemeni businesses

By: Alice Hackman

SANA'A, April 22 — The level of transparency in Yemeni economic companies and enterprises is still low, according to a recent survey on corporate governance in the country by the Yemen Polling Center (YPC).

Up to 60.5 percent of Yemeni companies abstain from disclosing their profits, while 57.5 percent abstain from disclosing large shareholders, reported the survey. A little over 30 percent disclose or publish auditors' reports.

"The business sector in Yemen suffers from many problems, most notably the weak institutional and administrative setup of many companies," said the report, which found that only 25.5 percent of companies always train their board members about their tasks.

The survey of the country's business sector, which included 200 companies - mostly private- in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout and Hodeida, assessed awareness and presence of principles of corporate governance in the Yemeni business sector.

Leaders in the business sector believe that principles of corporate governance will help boost Yemen's economy. These include the rule of a board of directors, certain rights for shareholders and stakeholders, auditing, disclosure and transparency.

On a national level, corporate governance improves the investment climate, attracts foreign investors, and prevents major financial crises, according to the Yemeni Businessmen's Club (YBC).

On a company level, corporate governance increases access to capital, maximizes profit, manages transition within family-owned businesses, and decreases the incidence of corruption.

But Yemeni businessmen are reticent to publish how much money they make because of unfriendly tax laws, said Amgad Mohamed, corporate governance coordinator at the YBC, which supported the survey.

"If you feel that something might hurt your business because of certain types of laws, how can you be transparent about your business?" he said. A taskforce of businessmen from the private and public sectors and academic experts, notably from the government, has been formed to address to issues like these so that Yemeni companies can further grow, said Mohamed.

"They are thinking the tax laws should be revised, and there is a discussion in the government that tax should be decreased," he explained.

"The business sector still hesitates regarding disclosure, and I think this is because of the blackmail that they might face in their relationship with the government," added Hafez Al-Bukari, president of the Yemen Polling Center, nevertheless adding that the survey uncovered great awareness of the importance of corporate governance in Yemen.

Almost 82 percent of Yemeni business leaders believe that it is important to implement corporate governance principles in the country's business sector, according to the survey, and up to 84 percent think that developing transparency-based relations with partners, shareholders, consumers and beneficiaries is important.

In general, those who decided to undergo the interview were already aware of the concept of corporate governance

"Every day I am more convinced that these principles will be helpful, especially in the Arab and Muslim world," explained Mohamed. "We can use them because they match Islamic laws, because we can convince people that they are not from outside, but that their roots come from our culture, our background."

"We [the YBC] are planning a seminar, especially for academics and Muslim scholars, for the academics to encourage students to conduct research into the subject, and scholars to convince others of its benefits for the people, the economy and the country," he said.

Despite widespread enthusiasm, some participants in the survey said that the time is still not appropriate to implement such principles, while others called them inappropriate to either their company or the Yemeni business sector. Others demanded more assistance.

Among the assistance suggested by

participants were binding laws and regulations for all companies, special training programs and the availability of a consulting office.

Although no such office has get been set up, the YBC has offered all businessmen access to its materials on corporate governance and offered to arrange training for those interested so that they can better participate in economical development to benefit the country and society.

"The other thing [that was interesting in survey results] is social responsibility, as we found that the business sector has not yet take real action regarding this in institutional way not personally," said Al-

A promising future

But the survey highlighted the presence of educated businessmen to lead the economy's development. Of the director generals, chairmen and senior directors interviewed, more than 60 percent said that they hold a university degree, while 22.5 percent held an MA or PhD.

The great majority of these businessmen speak fluent English: "In addition to Arabic, 83 percent of participants reported that they master English. Some 3.5 percent master French in addition to English, while 2.5 percent master German and 2 percent master Russian."

The survey pointed to a burst of activity in the private sector, with many more private businesses being founded in the new millennium.

"Businessmen had a meeting last Monday and Tuesday for board directors of big companies in Yemen," said Mohamed. "People who attended were really serious, and some are thinking of making another one, so they believe in corporate governance."

The first conference on corporate governance in Yemen was organized by the YBC in February 2008.

The YPC survey was conducted in cooperation with the Yemen Businessmen's Club, the Center for International Private Enterprise, a non-profit affiliate to the US Chamber of Commerce, and the Middle East Project Initiative, affiliated to the US Department of State.

Yemeni-British detainee released from 'tribal' prison

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, April 21— After being detained for 55 days, Yemeni Yahya Othman, 47, who holds a British passport, hopped on a minibus home after he was released from an undisclosed location on Sunday evening at 9:00 pm.

"A group of men took me from where I was detained, a place they allegedly claimed was the national security prison and put me in the car," said Othman. "They drove the vehicle to an area outside Sana'a, where they removed my handcuffs and blindfold, and ordered me to keep my eyes shut for five minutes."

"During that time my whole life flashed before my eyes, because I thought they were going to shoot me," said Othman. "I opened my eyes to realize that I was in the middle of nowhere."

"I walked towards a light and found an old house. I knocked on the door and two young men came out. I told them I can't see very well since my glasses are broken and asked them to just stop a taxi for me," he explained.

"The young men were very helpful. They accompanied me to the road and helped me to a mini-bus and then I arrived home peacefully," he said. "My family cried in relief at my arrival and the scene was incredible."

The detainee said he was confined at Al-Alaya'a police station in Al-Qadisia, Sana'a for ten days after which he was transferred to a prison. He says those who detained him said that the cell was a national security prison.

"They were hit my face saying, 'You are at the national security prison,' but after I was released, I was found out that I was in a prison belonging to some tribal and influential men," said Othman.

"Some leaders in the political and national security confirmed to me that I was not detained by either national security or political security," explained Othman.

"Now I'm demanding President Ali



Yahya Othman

Abdullah Saleh, the prosecution and all NGOs working to defend human rights and democracy to give me my rights," he said.

"After being detained for 55 days without charges, I have lost my job. I was working as an investment manager in a company in Sana'a," said

Othman says he was apprehended on his way to work at 3.30 pm mid-February by seven men in plain clothes and one in military uniform. He was detained without visitation rights at the police station, then transferred to an unknown location.

"Harmal Al-Anqat, head officer of Al-Alaya'a police station is responsible for my illegal detention since the Yemeni law states that any suspected citizen should be kept in custody for only 24 hours. After that, the detainee should be released or referred to the prosecution if he or she was charged, but I still have not been charged with anything up until now," says Othman.

"Al-Alaya police station is responsible to inform to which authority Othman was transferred," said Khaled Al-Ansi, executive director of HOOD.

At the time of his arrest, the prosecution sent an inspector to Al-Alaya'a police station to search for Othman, but Al-Angat, head of the prosecution

refused the inspection by saying, "The station is not a market to be inspected at any time".

According to a memo written byAbduljabar Al-Qirshi, prosecution officer, Al-Anqat refused the inspection which, according to Al-Qirshi, is illegal since the prosecution has the right to inspect any police station at any time.

Othman and his sons think that their step mother, Ibtisam Ahmed Saleh Al-Rayashi, is behind the detention of their father since she had an argument with him and left their home, leaving her three month-old baby behind.

"After the arrest of my father, I received phone calls from my step mother's sister, threatening that if I don't deliver her sister's baby to her I would join my father in jail," said Abdurrahman, Othman's son.

According to Al-Ansi, Othman's detention was caused by a report Othman had allegedly written in English accusing Mohammed Naji Alaaw, director of HOOD, Al-Ansi, other individuals in the Yemeni government and Yahia Saleh Al-Faqih, a local businessman from Rada'a in Al-Bayda, whom Othman went into business with 14 years ago, of being terror-

The men he accused were part of a court case raised by Al-Faqih against Othman, who eventually lost the case to his former partner and was ordered by the court to pay USD 30,000 in compensation to him.

"I read the report that Othman supposedly wrote after he was detained and found that anyone who reads it would definitely decide that it is baseless," said Al-Ansi at the time.

The report apparently suggests that a number of Yemenis working with the state and private sector have relations with Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.

According to Al-Ansi some "concerned people" informed him at the time of Othman's arrest two months ago, that the latter had written such reports in English for the benefit of a foreign country and these reports were found in Othman's personal laptop.

A survey on causes for blindness and low vision

By: Almigdad Mojalli

SANA'A, April 18 — The first phase of the Field National Survey for the Blindness and Low Vision Causes in Yemen started last Saturday in the

Amran and Lahj governorates.

The survey aims to find out the reasons of blindness and weak eyesight in Yemen, as well as to suggest solutions

and treatment accordingly.

The Director of the National Program to Combat Blindness Dr. Tawfiq Al-Khateb stated that this phase is part of a nationwide survey that consists of many phases. In each phase, they select one governorate from the south and another

from the north.

"For the first phases, which will last four weeks, we selected Amran governorate from the north and Lahj from the south," said Al-Khadeb.

Al-Khadeb, pointed out that the survey includes random samples from all the districts of Amran to determine the causes of blindness and low vision in all the selected samples.

"In the beginning, we had training in Al-Thawra hospital, then lectures in the Ministry of Health and Population," explained Al-Khadeb. "After that we had practical training in Hamal, Sana'a city, and finally another practical training session in Amran governorate immediately

before the beginning of the survey."

He clarified that the survey targeted 39 population samples and each sample consists of 50 people over the age of 50 in Amran. "The age of all the sample is over 50 years and the check up is at the samples' homes," he said.

Al-Khadeb indicated that the main causes of blindness in Yemen are cataracts, trachoma, blue waters, and white water.

"1.5 percent of all Yemenis are blind, 4.5 percent suffer low vision and 80 per cent of the blind people have suffered from cataracts," said Al-Khateb.

Dr. Mokhtar Ahmed, a member of the survey team, revealed that they have so

far checked over 150 patients in three districts and found out that cataracts and trachoma are the main cause for blindness and low vision.

Cataract is clouding of the lens of the eye which impedes the passage of light, according to WHO. Although most cases of cataract are related to the aging process, occasionally children can be born with the condition, or a cataract may develop after eye injuries, inflammation, and some other eye diseases.

Trachoma, which is the most common infectious cause of blindness, is caused by Chlamydia trachoma. Children who have the active stages of the disease are the reservoir of infection, while blind-

ness, which occurs after repeated episodes of infection, principally affects adults.

Trachoma is frequently passed from child to child and from child to mother, especially where there are shortages of water, numerous flies, and crowded liv-

ing conditions.

Marwa Al-Habbari, 29, a blind girl, said that she has been blind since she was born. "After the delivery my eyes were immediately exposed to the sun whose light destroyed the retina," she

said.

Hatem Rezq, 59, mentioned that his sight was reduced after he started suffering from diabetes. He says that his sight

becomes lower by the passage of time. Rezq thinks that this is normal with the progress of age.

Al-Khateb indicated that the survey will be conducted by ten specialized ophthalmologists who underwent training with consultants from WHO on the methods of conducting the survey.

Al-Khadeb added that the program is considered the first of its kind not only at the level of Yemen but also the Arab Gulf and the region countries.

The first phase of the survey will last for three weeks in collaboration with the WHO. "After we finished the survey in Amran, we will head Lahj then Al-Hodeida and Mukalla," Al-Khadeb.

In Brief

SANA'A

Minister of Trade minister meets Japanese, Lebanese ambassadors

Minister of Industry and Trade Yahya Al-Mutawakel has discussed, with the Japanese Ambassador to Yemen Masakazu Toshikage, Yemen's accession into the World Trade Organization.

The two brought up current negotiations with the team on Yemen's joining the organization.

In the meeting, Al-Mutawakel hoped Japan will take into account difficulties facing Yemen amid the global economic crisis. The two men discussed accession-related issues, including the topic of Yemeni products to enter markets.

He affirmed Yemen is doing its best to meet requirements to accede to the

For his part, Toshikage assured that his country supports Yemen to join the WTO, pointing to a WTO decision on measures in favor of least-developed countries to ease their joining the organization.

The meeting also brought up the Japanese support for Yemen, particularly Japan's Yemen aid for food security programs and the establishment of

Al-Mutawakel also met with Lebanon's ambassador to the country Hassan Abu Aker. The two discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

The meeting focused on business and investment issues and asserted the importance of establishing a Yemeni-Lebanese trade committee to boost trade volume between the two states.

Moreover, the meeting urged businessmen in both countries to have joint investment projects in the interest of their states.

ADEN

French ship frees sailors as pirates hijack Yemeni

A French ship belongs to international forces patrolling the Indian Ocean has freed twenty Yemeni fishermen after pirates hijacked their boat about 57 nautical miles south of Aden.

Coast Guard sources in the province said the ship intercepted the hijacked boat and checked it. The French troops who were aboard the ship found twenty Yemeni fishermen taken hostage by Somali pirates.

11 Somali pirates were arrested with the hijacked Yemeni boat released with the crew of 20.

However, the source quoted French troops as saying two pirates could run away after their arrest on a small boat they took from aboard the ship and headed towards Somalia's coast.

The arrestees are still in custody of international forces.

Few days ago, a Dutch ship freed 20 Yemeni fishermen after Somali pirates seized their boat in the same sea area.

The freed fishermen have arrived in Aden, the sources said.

Dutch naval forces said they captured seven pirates and freed 20 captive fishermen after tracking the pirates to their mother ship in the western Gulf of Aden on Saturday, a NATO maritime spokesman told media out-

After the Dutch disarmed the pirates, they released them, the source said, adding because the crew was on a NATO mission, they lacked the jurisdiction to hold them.

Saturday's rescue operation happened after pirates failed to take over petroleum tanker MT Handy tankers Magic, according to the company web-

Somali pirates are getting wilder and out of control, pirate spokesman Ali Sugulle said on April 11. "They go too far away from the Somali [coast] and go to Gulf of Aden, the Kenyan coast even.

The issue of piracy in the Gulf of Aden has attracted international attention in the past two years. There were 62 attacks in the first nine months of 2008, according to the International Maritime Bureau Piracy Reporting Centre. Last month saw a spike in pirate activity off the east coast of Somalia with 15 attacks on vessels reported, the centre said.

Separate from the freed fishermen, A group of suspected Somali pirates are to appear in a Yemeni court during the next few days.

A judicial source at the Specialized Penal Court in Sana'a said on Sunday 12 suspected pirates, who were arrested by international forces patrolling the Indian Ocean on anti-pirate operations late last year, will face court on piracy charges.

The source who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, made clear invistigations with the suspected pirates have been completed.

However, the source declined to give further details.

Some of those in custody object to being labeled pirates and say they are simply protecting both their right to make a living and the coastline of Somalia.

"We are not pirates, but we are defending our country. There are a lot of ships that throw poisonous rubbish into our territorial waters and go back loaded with our fish," Ahmed

Abdullah Musa, 26, one of the 12- out to the importance of the joint coormember group captured by an Indian ship said

ABYAN

Gulf 20 committee approves development projects visions in Abyan

Committee of the 20 Gulf in Abyan province approved Monday at its meeting visions of development projects in the areas of communications, lighting, planting and the main and subsidiary roads.

During the meeting, they approved the completion of construction works, including the current preparations to organize the Gulf 20 in the end of

Abyan governor, Ahmed al-Maisari, affirmed the importance to speed up the project implementation in a code with the identified specifications to host the important sports event of Gulf

He pointed out to improve the image of the environment and the rehabilitation of the Martyrs Square, the swimming pools, gardens and green spaces caring.

Yemen, Care organization discuss women development cooperation

Governor Ahmed al-Maisari discussed here on Sunday with the World Care organization delegation the implemented processes of the projects provided by Care organization in the area of women development, illiteracy and supporting women foundations.

The governor praised the support provided by organization during the last period in the projects of irrigations, education and water, pointing dination between Abyan province and Care organization.

For his part, chairman of Care organization affirmed readiness for contributions in a number of projects related to raising capacities of women's groups through micro enterprise projects in aspects of literacy and girl's education

MARIB

Marib launches three training courses to 139 teachers in education

Education Office in collaboration with Yemeni-German Program to Improve Education launched on Sunday three training courses in the education area for 139 teachers which will last for 12

The courses aim to provide the participants with an overview on the skills of the modern methods, modern means of teaching, ways of students evaluating and class management.

At the opening of the courses, Director General of Education Office Ahmed Bin Saad said these courses come within the framework the education's plan in the field of rehabilitation for education cadres.

AMRAN

Information, statistical system course concluded

A training course on Information and Statistical System, organized by Department of Reproductive Health in Amran province in cooperation with Dutch Project of Maternal and Newborn Health, was concluded its work on Monday.

The two-day course aimed at pro-

viding 30 health workers with scientific information and skills in field of productive health.

General Director of Health Office in Amran Abdul-Ghani Al-Ghezzi briefed the importance of the course in serving developed health services in five districts as a first stage.

He also made reference that the course aims at developing the trainers' skills in the field of reproductive health which would contribute in developing the health sector in the governorate.

TAIZ

Taiz launch workshop on epidemiology, disease control

Taiz governorate launched on Monday a workshop on building the capacities of 48 farmers in monitoring epidemiology, disease control and developing the report system.

The workshop aims to introduce the participants to the skills of common diseases, symptoms and means of control, in addition to measures of scientific application.

In a statement to Saba, Director General of Badari Project Najib al-Hamadi said the workshop focused on the epidemiological surveillance, animal diseases in Yemen and the identification of trans-boundary diseases particularly plague laboratories and the worm screw.

It is worth to mention that the workshop aims to provide all information about the diseases that threaten livestock to take appropriate measures.

It was organized by the Rural Development Support Project in collaboration with al-Matary Agricultural Project (Badari).

Their News

Call for applications: UN-**HABITAT's Opportunities Fund for Urban Youth-Led Development**

UN-HABITAT's mandate is to promote sustainable urbanization through the transformation of today's cities into friendlier, healthier and more inclusive places with better opportunities for all, especially children, youth and women who live in slums. Since its inception, unhabitat has focused on meaningfully engaging youth in all its programmes. un-habitat, with its partners, has actively supported youth to become positive change agents in their communities through innovative pilot projects focused on the improvement of young peoples' livelihoods, especially those most marginalized and living in slums. For example, unhabitat has supported the establishment of One stop Youth resource Centres in east africa and the training of youth in slums through the Youth empowerment project.

Raha Taxi Launches Raha Program

for Serving society and "Raha Bus"

شركة راحة للمواصلات المحدودة

http://cambodiajobs.blogspot.com/200 9/04/call-for-applications-unhabitats.html

HH Shaikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al-**Maktoum Scholarships for Palestinian Students for Academic** Year 2009/2010

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a humanities or social sciences

- Would you like to take up a unique opportunity to study at postgraduate level in an area of humanities with crucial relevance to today s world?
- and Muslims?
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For more information please visit the following link: http://www.almaktoumfoundation.co m/index.php?id=58

STEP into our CULTURES

STEP into our CULTURES training course was designed to offer the youth workers a ground and an opportunity to re reflect on the concepts of Culture and Religion; their own and the others as well.

As working actors, the young people are involved in different ways into the construction of their countries. They engage through such activities into active participation in dealing with hot issues that produce visible impacts on the local, regional and international levels.

Awareness-raising about these issues are constructive ways to link the past to the future and smooth projections into the future.

Project aim

The overall aim of the training course is to develop competencies of youth workers from Euro-Mediterranean countries in becoming active promoters of cultural diversity in their communities by implementing youth activities on local and international

The focus is to increase the youth workers and youth leaders awareness about European and Mediterranean cultures and enhancing their active participation in bringing both of the regions together.

Goals and Objectives

- To reflect and raise awareness about European Mediterranean cultures;
- To reflect on the participants own cultural identity; To identify the common elements
- in relation to the other cultures; To be able to create together using
- the past to prepare a better future; To develop positive attitudes and

responses (actions) to the existing

- challenges in Euro Med societies; To prepare the framework and coach the participants in the realization of concrete partnerships within the youth and intercultural dialogue field;
- To get acquainted with sources of financial/informati onal support; To build cooperation among
- participants for mutual learning and joint actions;

Expected outcomes

- The participants are expected: to enrich their knowledge and
- awareness regarding European and Mediterranean cultures;
- Deeply understand interferences among different cultures within the Euro-

Mediterranean region;

- to become motivated in acting as multipliers at local and national level to promote intercultural dialogue and cooperation between European and Mediterranean regions;
- to develop at least two new projects as a result of the course.

Profile of participants

The course is aimed for youth workers and youth leaders who:

- have experience on projects in youth field and intercultural dialogue;
- are open to enrich their knowledge and awareness regarding new cultures;
- are committed to prepare themselves for the handled subjects, previous to their arrival and to do the remote work requested by the team in case of selection:
- are motivated to undergo training and able to attend the course for its full duration;
- are supported by their organization and have green light for implementing new projects within Euro Med context;
- are able to communicate and work in English;
- are resident in a Member State of the European Union or in a Mediterranean country signatory to the Barcelona Declaration.

Participating countries

Romania, Austria, Latvia, Croatia, Montenegro, Greece, Bulgaria, Italy, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordon, Morocco, Turkey, Syria, Palestine.

Dates: 4-12.12.2009

Drobeta Turnu Severin town,

Leader organization

Youth of XXI-th Century Unirii 89 str, Drobeta Turnu Severin, Mehedinti county, Romania Phone: +40730106998 Fax: +40352814046 E-mail: tineriisecoluluixxi @yahoo.com Web: http://www.ts21. 3x.ro (under construction)

Methodology

The course is based on the principles and practice of non-formal education

and is conceived to allow a learnercentered approach based on active and interactive methods. Participants need to self organize part of the activities and thus take a personal responsibility for their learning process. They should be open for an experiential learning experience.

Intercultural activities will be organized using different techniques and methods linked to communication tools namely; languages, art forms, food, traditions requiring as much as possible of the five senses.

All activities are organized as well using different techniques and methods linked to verbal and non-

verbal communication. Each group had to deal with a given topic relevant to the cultures and the concept of secularism when applicable. Each group have to make the necessary research in order to develop and deliver a two-hour nonformal education activity to the rest of the group. A special emphasis was constantly put on its transferable characteristics with the perspective of practically implementing it in the youth work within the EuroMed region.

Programme Elements

The course programme will address the following key modules (the modules are described by a set of issues which are indicative and not exhaustive and will be developed further):

- Why Euro-Med co-operation projects?
- Communication and group dynamics Definitions of
 - multiculturalism, and intercultural dialogue
 - Intercultural awareness International teamwork
- Sources of funding youth projects within Euro Med context
- Concrete follow-up projects
- Overall evaluation of the course

The project will have 3 phases: preparation phase, implementation of the training course and follow-up. During the preparation phase, the partners will collect materials and prepare a booklet that will contain cultural information s related to the country of each partner. That booklet will be used in the follow up phase as a tool to raise awareness on the cultural diversity among Euro Med

improve the civilized looks and level of tourism services and present a new concept to transportation service in Yemen. Raha Taxi Company Limited is now adding to its record a new service represented by "Raha Program for Serving Society". This program enables youths to obtain a permanent and independent, and possess a taxi with the stamp, color and trademark of Raha company. The car will also be insured against accidents, life and complete handicap. This program was

Raha Taxi Company Limited has been

achieving continuous successes for the

last four years in serving its customers.

During this period, the company was able

to provide hundreds of job opportunities,

Yemen and the Arab World. Efforts of four large companies in Yemen came together to achieve this program for society through main partnership with Raha. The companies are MTN liaison company, Tadamon International Islamic Bank, United Insurance and Huandai Company through its agent in

designed to be the first of its kind in

Yemen Natco for Cars. The program is directly supervised by General Traffic Administration.

At the same time, Raha is to launch another service "Raha Bus" to serve in transportation between governorates and Yemeni cities. Through this service, Raha offers another sense for travelling and puts new criteria for this service including traits which Raha provided its buses with such as ventilation system and nigh lightening. In addition, all trips of this new service will include various amusement programs-religious, scientific, amusement and tourist and children programs prepared carefully to fit all groups of passengers on Raha through three LCD

It is worth mentioning that the company will officialy launch "Raha Program for Serving Society" and "Raha Bus" on Wednesday, April 22. The event will be attended by Ali Mohammed Mujawwar, the prime minister, at Movenpick Hotel under auspices of the government and special media coverage

subject area?

- Would you like to be part of the new agenda for the Study of Islam Would you like to be part of the
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- programmes:
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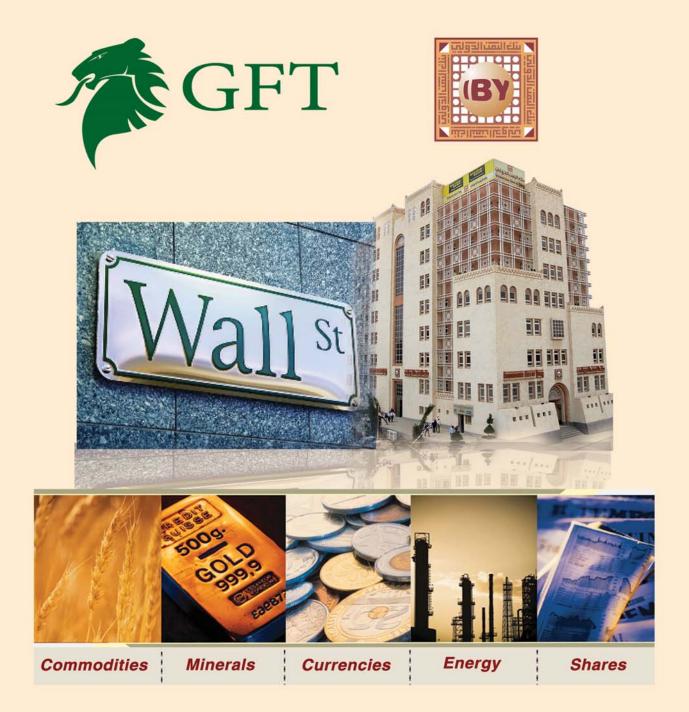
Every Friday 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm Reservations recommended on 272372 or Ext. 1123



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International Bank of Yemen bringing Wall Street to Yemen

Vice-director of Yemen Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Union Dr. Ehsan Hussein Al-Rabahi to the Yemen Times:

"The Ministry of Public Health and Population should purchase drugs from local manufacturers."

ounded in 2003, the Yemen Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Union (YPMU) is a non-profit union that strives to protect the Yemeni market from second-rate medicine and improve medical care nationwide. The union's founder Dr. Ehsan Hussein Al-Rabahi has been working on the project since 1999. He graduated with a BA in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Medicine in Moscow, Russia, in 1986.

Vice-director of Yemen Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Union Dr. Ehsan Hussein Al-Rabahi spoke to Ismail Al-Ghabri of the Yemen Times on challenges and opportunities in the country's pharmaceutical industry.

What are the strategic objectives of the union?

The main objective is to create national pharmaceutical awareness to eradicate phenomenon of smuggling and counterfeiting drugs.

The union aims to achieve a national strategy for drug security in Yemen and improve the overall health situation of Yemeni citizens. It works on providing the necessary high quality at a suitable price through local drug manufacturers

It also aims to enhance relations with colleges of pharmacology, research centers and regional and international organizations specialized in this field. The union also aims to produce drugs to combat endemic diseases.

As the vice-director of the YPMU, how do you assess the drug market and counterfeiting in Yemen?

To face the violations committed against the drug market by counterfeiting or the supply of poor quality drugs from anonymous sources, I believe that many procedures should be taken, including forbidding drugs that are not licensed and registered by the right corporations.

These bodies should combat drug smuggling and impose sanctions against those who are involved in such a phenomenon. That is the main tool for fighting counterfeited drugs that are dangerous to people's health.

Drugs that carry similar trademarks or brand names should not be registered. This is to ensure the rights of manufacturers and consumers. Consumers can make better-informed choices when there is no confusion between original and imitation items.

How do you assess the quality of a manufactured drug?

As you know, the good manufacture product (G.M.P.) and drug market in Yemen have witnessed notable development due to continuous increase in the development of health services

which currently cover most governorates, districts and villages of Yemen

Determining the most important initiatives to develop the local market in the future consists in increasing local high quality specialized pharmaceutical manufacturers and competition between these manufacturers under the umbrella of the union.

Has the union held workshops to combat drug smuggling and counterfeiting?

The union held the first national scientific symposium to eradicate these in May 2005 at the University of Sana'a.

What are your efforts with regards to protecting the environment?

The role of the union and manufacturers is active in advocating for the right systems to eradicate non-poisoning waste in scientific ways to serve public welfare

Have any of the manufacturers who are union members obtained the international quality certification? Yes. Sheba Pharmaceutical Company

obtained the ISO quality certification in 2000.

Other manufactories attained international certificates and certificates

from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Without the high quality of manufacturing drug in Yemen, these manufactories wouldn't have attained such certificates of quality under the openness of

markets. Therefore, there is strong

competition that leaves no scope for

poor products.

How do you view the investment laws and dumping policy in Yemen? [Dumping is used to refer to a manufacturer selling his product in another

[Dumping is used to refer to a manufacturer selling his product in another country at a lower price than it charges in its home market or below the cost of production.]

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea is looking for a Secretary to the Ambassador.

Interested applicants with the below qualifications are requested to send their curriculum vitae no later than **April 30, 2009** by e-mail to: challeni@hanmail.net

- Over two years of secretarial work
- Fluency in english and Arabic
- University Degree
- Gender: female



Dr. Ehsan Hussein Al-Rabahi

We have reservations about these laws as they are very old. Bureaucracy hampers investment and the manufacturing of low-cost drugs. We are in need of a longer grace period in Yemen and rare specializations. Investment laws in Yemen need to be reconsidered to facilitate investment opportunities.

In addition, we have noticed that a dumping policy in the Yemeni market. This has created disagreement with official bodies who promised to protect local products, but have done nothing so far.

What are the major obstacles that you face?

Major obstacles include dealing with the official bodies, particularly tax and customs authorities. The first are bent

which will be financed from Government sources.

Tel: 00 967 02 20200168

YGAPCplanning@y.net.ye

The deadline for selling BDs will be on 26 MAY 2009

Fax: 00 967 02 201541

Social Security in Yemen)

its country of registration as appropriate.

period 27 days starting from advertisement.

Invitation for Bids

Tender Advertisement no. (12) 2009 for 2nd 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. (12) for supplying One No. New survey Boat for Port of Ader

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 150USD

Yemen Gulf of Aden Ports Corporation — Port of Aden- Tawahi

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman of the Board

1- A Bank Guarantee for a lump sum (60,000 USD for one survey 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 home

Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for

Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract

registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from

The Deadline for submission and bids opening will be Sunday at 11:00 Am on 09

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

Executive Chairman. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to

MAY 2009. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened.

non-refundable. Bidders have to apply during the official working hours at

of exploitation and the second on routine

Customs authorities do not consider people's living standards. They allow drugs of poor quality to enter the market and create unfair competition. As I mentioned earlier, the phenomenon of dumping has spread in the market, and pharmacists in Yemen care only about swift profits with little regard to the productive efforts of Yemeni drug manufacturers.

Moreover, no deterring measures have been taken by the Customs Authority to eradicate the smuggling that so affects the economy, development and human beings.

against drugs.

How do in Yemo

The Ministry of Public Health ad Population should purchase drugs from the local manufacturers. Unfortunately, the ministry buys expired drugs, and pays little attention to the safe drugs manufactured locally. It should be more careful and should protect citizens

Yemeni drugs are not expensive in comparison with lower-quality imported drugs, says Al-Rabahi.

against poor-quality and imitation

How do you assess the price of drugs in Yemen?

The price of drugs in Yemen is suitable. Drugs are affordable to the average citizen. In addition, drug prices are determined by the General Pharmaceutical Corporation. In my opinion, Yemeni drugs are not expensive in comparison with lower-quality imported drugs.



JOB VACANCY Procurement Assistant

CARE International is looking for an experienced Procurement Assistant to provide procurement support to the CARE Yemen Country Office in Sana'a

- Core responsibilities

- Assist in identifying vendors,
- Prepare purchase requisition, request for quotes to suppliers
- collecting bids/quotations
 producing bids analysis
- producing bids analysis
 Producing purchase and
- Producing purchase orders.
- Issue all procurement invoices and submits to finance for activation.
- Ensuring all the procurement documents are filed appropriately and are easy to access.
- Be a member of the procurement committeeGuide new staff on procurement procedures.
- Guide new starr on procurement procedure
 Follow donor guidelines on procurement
- Follow donor guidelines on procurement

1. Required Qualifications

- Degree in related fields
- Experience in procurement
- Excellent writing skills in English. Fluency in spoken and written English and Arabic.
 Remuneration: Gross salary plus other associated benefits is USD

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To apply send CV with a covering letter to our office at 68 Arwa School street or email vacancy@careyemen.org.

Application deadline (CV and a covering letter) is 8th May 2009. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.







TIMES

Two steps spare any government to do more

By: Ali Mohammed Al-Khamisi

he world is currently undergoing the worst financial crisis since the two World Wars. The crisis has affected most countries and governments, particularly the industrial ones.

In Yemen, where we are classified among the poorest countries worldwide, we were not affected by this crisis except in limited fields of little importance. But we were greatly affected by the unexpected drop in the price of oil, which constitutes 70 percent of the public budget. To face this change in oil price, the Yemeni government announced reducing its budget of 2009

to 50 percent.

This coincided with brave and active decisions in this field, including the adoption of a policy of austerity, which we hope will be applied honestly and comprehensively. This is because this decision can be breached partially or completely if profiteers "manipulate" it to empty it from its planned targets.

Similar experiences of similar decisions were emptied from their contents through twisting ways that made them mere ink on paper.

The Yemeni government is facing many financial difficulties in the current world economy. No one can deny this. But, whatever these difficulties are, they would vanish if there was an honest, wise and active national will by mem-

bers of the government. Managing crises and finding successful solutions to them is the job of good governments.

In my opinion, if we allocated a special budget for every ministry and public facility according to their needs based on real scientific study and the capabilities of the government, we would be able to overcome this crisis peacefully.

We could do that particularly if we applied a policy of austerity and cut back on unnecessary expenses including, for example, granting cars to people in high positions, traveling for conferences and unnecessary medical treatment, re-furnishing offices, giving out illegal rewards, advertising the government's every move in the media

-instead using the phone to make a congratulatory phone call, and having diplomatic missions abroad in countries that don't benefit Yemen

If these simple procedures are seriously applied on the basis of national responsibility, our government would come up with exceedingly positive results that would spare it from having to take hasty decisions or unpractical procedures. It would avoid silly decisions, such as the rumored one to lift subsidies on all oil derivatives. If true, this would not bring stability, particularly if the government abolished subsidies in the current political and social climate, and would cause more harm than

In addition, the government subsidies

on most oil derivatives are not longer what they used to be when oil cost USD 160 a barrel, with the exception of diesel which farmers mainly benefit from. If diesel subsidies are lifted, the price of vegetables and fruit will sore and, as when the price of meat increased, most Yemenis will be unable to buy them.

Instead, to reduce diesel subsidies to a great extent, the government can tackle smugglers who export diesel to neighboring countries, and stop those who exploit these subsidies to purchase quantities of diesel that exceed their needs for agriculture to sell them in black market. Subsidies need to be rationalized according to the real needs of farmers, but not lifted at the expense of normal people.

As for raising the price of cooking gas, this will prompt many to start uprooting trees to use as fire wood, which would transform Yemen into a desert and affect the country's environment

Finally, I believe that the government will not lift the subsidies on oil derivatives for many reasons, particularly after it reduced public expenses by half as part of facing the decrease in oil prices.

This, with the policy of austerity and cutting down on unnecessary expenses, will be the most practical step. These two steps logically and economically will spare the government, to a great extent, from having to take any additional procedures.

Source: nabanews.net

Federation and radical solutions

By: Abdul Fattah Al-Batool

here is no doubt that recognizing the southern issue, dealing with its reasons, manifestations and stages as they are in reality is the right beginning to solving it. Stepping over reality, ignoring what has happened and is going on aggravates the problem which is already complicated. Indifference and procrastination only encourages it to become more serious and perhaps spiral out of control.

I was against the current of reforms for unity. I agreed with those who said that the issue is related to demands and rights, rather than to law and politics. I was, and am still, also against the term "southern issue," secessionist voices and regional conflicts. However, the problem is escalating, and, as developments suc-

ceed themselves, a human being is called to deal with reality, and look at the matters as they are in detail and without being scared.

What attracted my attention and supported my opinion that I showed in a previous article is the press statements that head of the Islah Party office in Abyan Nasser Abdulla Al-Bejairi has made. He confirmed in an interview with Al-'Aasima and Al-Nass newspapers that dangerous matters are taking place in the south and that the government has to tackle the issue before it becomes difficult to control.

This is a big and dangerous speech coming from an expert and prudent critic. I wished that the journalist who interviewed Al-Bejairi had asked him about details of these dangerous issues that many people don't know.

They are undoubtedly dangerous as

the head of the Islah Party in Abyan called for "a federation" as it is, according to opinion, the lesser of two evils. He made clear that, although a federation is an evil, it is better than the evil of secession and partition.

The strange inconsistency is that, whereas a call for a federation a year ago was ruled out by most, these same people now believe that a federation is the solution to the south issue, or rather to all problems of Yemen.

This matter is worth considering and understanding. It is certain that Mr. Al-Bejairi's call for federation made him a secessionist in the eyes of the government and the ruling party, and pro-government in the eyes of people of the Southern Movement!

This is no doubt a sedition that frustrates even the most tolerant of people. Whoever reviews the declaration of Sheikh Tareq Al-Fadhli with Al-Ayyam newspaper a few days ago is overwhelmed with frustration, grief and wonder upon seeing the man say clearly, frankly and bravely that today's demands are summarized with "complete independence and return of the south to its people. The aim is liberating the south from the grasps of new colonization."

This is a milestone in the progress of southern issue. Those who talk about liberating are not Hassan Ba Oum, Al-Nawbah or Al-Shanfarah but Sheikh Tareq Bin Nasser Al-Fadhli. Although I don't agree with some of what Sheikh Al-Fadhli said, I can, as a researcher having historical knowledge and a realistic vision, to a great extent assess men and comprehend their stances.

When Sheikh Al-Fadhli issued his release to join the southern movement, I was confident and certain that the situa-

tion is serious and real. I denied that it was a conspiracy theory or merely one of the government's new games to confuse this movement.

What Al-Fadhli did is an independent, strategic and historical action, regardless of whether we agree with him or not. Anyone whose action is periodical and interest-driven cannot take crucial decisions and final stances.

In addition, a voice this time comes from Abyan from the head of the Islah Party Mr. Al-Bejairi and Sheikh Al-Fadhli. This has much significance related with the role and importance of Abyan in terms of its geographical location, political history and the events it has witnessed. We are afraid that this governorate will become the gate to secession after it was a gate of victory in repelling secession in the summer of 1994

The question that I want to answer is: What are the factors and justifications that prompted many people in the southern governorates to think that what happened in 1994 targeted them although the battle was against secessionists? It is a big inconsistency that those who were pro-unification have started talking about secession, federation, self-determination and the new colonization!

Nevertheless, I still believe that there is still an opportunity- even though limited- to tackle the southern issue in the context of the national issue and Yemeni unity. This is because the choice of secession -or even federation-is not in anyone's interest either in the south or in the north. A complete partnership under a strong civil state is the solution, as Dr. Abdu Yahya Al-Dabbani said in his article in Al-Wasat newspaper. Source: nasspress.net

We say Al-Beidh is a hero, they say he is idiotic!

By: Hamdan Al-Aleyee

was enthralled to recently read in a newspaper that the popularity of struggler Ali Salem Al-Beidh has resumed in the Yemeni street. Many Yemeni people- both in the north and south, had some hostility against him following his declaration of secession as a general secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), although he wasn't present when the decision of secession was taken by the YSP's polit-

ical office in Aden in 1994.

There is no doubt that campaigns aiming to defame the history of this man for reading the secession decisionalthough he didn't approve it- were the main reason that made Yemeni people ignore that he deserves to be called "the first pro-unity man." This is based on his stand prior to signing agreement for Yemeni unity to make it one ever-lasting unity through the merger of the two parts of Yemen into one homeland.

parts of Yemen into one homeland.

Colonization had split up the country

and deep differences in ideology fragmented it following independence and revolution. Difference in ideology was, in fact, a reflection of the obvious hostility between capitalism and socialism at the time.

In this respect, those against Yemeni unity accuse us of having ambivalent principles. They pretend that we shape these principles according to our interests, because we say that Al-Beidh is a hero although the Yemeni regime has called him a secessionist in the past.

Enjoy the taste of peace!

Enjoy the taste of peace!

They forgot that we can see through their lies. We are pro-unity and haven't changed since the past. We have been so since the regime of Imam Ahmed Hameed Al-Din when he attempted to liberate the nine districts [South Yemen] in 1956.

We have been so since the voice of martyr Ibrahim Al-Hamdi first rose on the opening of a project of a road that connected South Yemen with North Yemen. He said that the project aimed to connect the two parts of Yemen. We have been pro-unity since the people of the southern governorates fought side by side with their brother republicans during the 70-day siege on Sana'a.

We have been pro-unity since North Yemen hosted the meetings of the revolutionary people of the south -Qahtan Mohammed Al-Sha'bi, Faisal Abdul Latif Al-Sha'bi, Sultan Ahmed Omar, Ali Ahmed Al-Salami, Taha Ahmed Muqbel, Salem Zaid Mohammed, Nuraddin Qassem, Abdul Bari Qassem, Abdulla Al-Khamiri, Mohammed Saleh Mutee and Abdul Rahman Mohammed Omar- in 1963 I Taiz.

We are pro-unity and have never changed since days of "Labuza", Abdul Fattah "Ismael" and "Salimain." We have remained so through thick and thin. We don't hesitate in our principles when a robber steals, a barbaric man loots or a regime attempts to seize the power.

Unity for us is a noble objective that every honest Yemeni, and also every honest Arab, wished to achieve. In addition, unity for us is not the unity of individuals or regimes, but rather the integration of the soil and people devastated by invaders and fragmented by greed of its political blocs.

Yes. You, who invented the so-called the Arab South, deviated from your

principles when you said that you were and are still pro-unity, but now because of the corruption of the government - whose representatives are from the south and north of Yemen- you hate unity.

We are pro-unity and we believe in its holiness. There are many reasons for Al-Beidh's return to popularity.

First is a more liberal media in Yemen today. This freedom, which did not exist last century, has raised political awareness. Yemeni society no longer receives biased information as in the past.

Second is government corruption that prompted people to lament over the first years of unity, and wish for the previous justice in the southern governorates before unification, despite a lack of freedom there at that time.

Third, Al-Beidh's silence in the context of the current Southern Movement and its leaders' demands to establish a Southern Arab state indicates that the man stands firm with Yemeni unity, lest his big dream vanish. He stated to the London-based Al-Hayat newspaper that, if Yemen separates again, it will never be unified in the future.

I know that some people will be prone to hysteric bouts of laughter when they read hear such words because they don't want Al-Beidh to be pro-unity. They want him to be an enemy to a unified Yemen which he participated in making. Yet more terrible is that they don't want any connection between the people of Yemen in the south and north. For many years, they have aimed to provoke sedition against this country through different means.

In addition, I am sure that, unfortunately, some people in the southern governorates abhor unity not because of corruption or the government but because they are selfish.

Al-Beidh pointed this out to the press, as reported in an article in the Al-Ayyam newspaper by Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Saqqaf. The newspaper reported the following: "Ali Salem Al-Beidh told a Gulf newspaper that he bears the whole responsibility for his individual decision regarding unity the establishment of which hastened with President Saleh. Al-Beidh was afraid that if his people learned about quantities of oil discovered in the south, they might reject unity with the north. Therefore he hastened its achievement."

I had a discussion with a man from the south who supports the movement that demands establishing the Arab South. He said that he was pro-unity in the past. When

When I told him about Al-Beidh's statement, he showed wonder to his friend and said that Al-Beidh was idiotic because he involved them. Maybe this man doesn't know that we are in a stage of testing our level of belief in unity.

On Oct. 30, 1993, Al-Beidh said in a statement to Al-Hayat newspaper, "On the day of unity in November 30, 1989, no one around us was satisfied that unity might be achieved but we said that with the help of God, we could achieve it. We are people of a dream. I believe that I hail from a national movement that has a dream. I mean there is nothing special that drives me but my big national dream that I have kept. We refused two suggestions: the first is to form a confederation, and the second is to form a federation. We said that we should move to an integrative union and test our persistence and belief in these issues."

From these sayings and deeds, the supporters of unity consider him to be a hero, but messy people call him emotional and idiotic.

Source: nabanews.net

YEMEN TIMES

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Subscription rates:

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

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China's recovery and global growth

By: Martin Feldstein

AMBRIDGE - China is likely to be the first of the major economies to recover from the current global

Its pace of expansion may not reach the double-digit rates of recent years, but China in 2010 will probably grow more rapidly than any country in Europe or in the western hemisphere.

But, even as China recovers from its current slowdown, it is not likely to provide a similar boost to all of its trading partners. That lack of spillover will reflect the recovery's focus on expansion of domestic demand.

There is no doubt that China currently is suffering from the global collapse in demand for a wide range of manufactured products. The sharp drop in retail sales in the United States and Europe means fewer orders for the goods produced in Chinese factories.

And, while the Chinese yuan has remained more or less unchanged relative to the US dollar in the past year, the dollar's sharp appreciation relative to the euro and other currencies caused the overall tradeweighted value of the yuan to rise. This further depressed Chinese

The resulting layoffs of Chinese factory workers has caused secondround declines in local demand for Chinese goods and services, as Chinese households cut back on their spending. Small firms that exported 100% of their production have been forced to close. Millions of lowskilled workers who left farms in China's interior to work in coastal manufacturing centers are now being forced to return to their villages. The

families benefiting from their remittances will now be forced to cut their consumption as well.

The Chinese authorities are determined to reverse the resulting decline in growth in order to reemploy those who have lost their jobs and to create employment for the millions of young people who join the labor force each year. Failure to do so would not only create hardship for the millions of unemployed, but would also threaten political stability, which depends on the expectation of continuing economic prosperity.

The government's initial policies aimed at raising aggregate demand focused on major infrastructure spending, including roads and mass transit. But the more significant strategy is to alter government policies in ways that will lead to higher spending by Chinese

consumers, and that raise the level of those government outlays, like health care, which directly benefit Chinese households.

Spending by China's consumers has lagged behind the Chinese economy's overall rate of growth for many years. This reflects the declining share of wages in total GDP and the rising share of savings relative to household incomes. To raise consumer spending, the Chinese government must reverse both of these trends.

Although private enterprises are the fastest growing part of the Chinese economy, enterprises that are partially or fully owned by the state continue to be major employers.

The government can directly affect wage levels in these firms, thereby altering the general wage level in the economy.

The high saving rate of Chinese

households reflects both the normal high rate of saving among younger generations and the fact that older generations had very little income and therefore did very little saving when they were young. The aggregate saving rate of the household sector reflects the difference between the saving of the savers and the dissaving of the dissavers. Since the saving of younger savers is now high and the dissaving of the older dissavers is low, the net saving rate is high.

Young people have many reasons to

The public pension system is unreliable, there is little health insurance available to pay for the high cost of Western-style care, parents must pay tuition for their children's schooling, there is little credit available for purchases of consumer durable, and buying an apartment requires a large down-payment.

I believe that the government will act on all of these reasons for high saving, making credit more widely available, introducing a health insurance system, and relaxing some of the down-payment requirements.

Premier Wen Jiabao made clear in his recent remarks to the People's Congress that he will do what it takes to stimulate demand in order to ensure strong growth in China. I have little doubt about his willingness and ability to do so.

Martin Feldstein, a professor of economics at Harvard, was formerly Chairman of President Ronald Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors and President of the National Bureau for Economic Copyright: Project Research. Syndicate

The ghosts of summits past

By: Harold James

PRINCETON - The world is confronted by a dramatic financial crisis that many policymakers believe is more severe than the interwar Great Depression. Before 2008, experts said that a new Great Depression was impossible because of the strength and the depth of the cooperative mechanisms set up at the end of World War II.

The G-20 summit has thus created enormous expectations internationalism may once again overcome a plethora of economic problems. Unfortunately, the magnitude of the expectations alone suggests that disappointment is almost certain.

The symbolism of the location is unfortunate, as it carries a reminiscence of the main abortive attempt to manage the world economy during the Great Depression. The 1933 World Economic Conference also met in London, at the Geological Museum, with an even broader range

of participants from 66 countries. The participants at the 2009 summit may not visit the Geological Museum, but they will have to deal with the specter of conferences past, for the failure in 1933 offers important lessons for our current leaders. First, as with the G-20 summit, everyone expected the London Conference to fail. The plenary meeting was paralyzed by the way in which the preparatory commissions had worked. Monetary experts argued that an agreement on currency stabilization would be highly desirable, but that it required a prior agreement on the dismantling of trade barriers - all the high tariffs and quotas that had been introduced in the course of the depression.

Trade experts met in parallel and made the mirror image of this argument. They agreed that protectionism was obviously a vice, but thought that it was a necessary one that could not be addressed without monetary stability.

Only leadership by a determined great power, prepared to sacrifice its

particular national interests in order to break the resulting impasse, might conceivably have saved the meeting. But such leadership was as unlikely then as it is now

Indeed, the second lesson of the London Conference of 1933 consists in governments' unwillingness in times of great economic difficulty to make sacrifices that might entail a short-term cost. Even if the result would have been longer-term stability, the immediate political consequences were too unpleasant. In adverse circumstances, governments felt vulnerable and unsure, and they could not afford to alienate public support.

Finally, faced by a realization of inevitable failure, participants look for a scapegoat. The 1933 Conference looked like a classic detective novel in which every party had a reason to be a suspect. Britain and France had turned away from internationalism, adopting trade systems known as "Imperial Preference," which favored their vast overseas empires. Germany's president had just appointed Adolf Hitler's radical and aggressive government. The German delegation was led by Alfred Hugenberg, who was not a Nazi but wanted to show that he was an even more implacable nationalist than Hitler himself. The Japanese government had just sent troops into Manchuria.

Of all the major powers in London, the United States looked the most reasonable and internationalist by far. It had a new, charismatic president, who was known as an Anglophile and cosmopolitan spirit. Franklin Roosevelt was already taking vigorous action against the depression, and was trying to reorder the failed US banking system.

Roosevelt did not know what line to take at the conference, and his stream of advisers offered inconsistent counsel. At last, he lost patience and announced that for the moment the US had no intention of stabilizing the dollar. This message, delivered on July 3, 1933, was known as "the bombshell." Roosevelt talked about the need to restore "the sound internal economic system of a nation" and condemned the "old fetishes of socalled international bankers."

Everyone pretended to be shocked at the failure of internationalism. But, at the same time, they were delighted to have found someone who could be blamed for the failure of the conference.

In 2009 we face a similar set of circumstances. The lines of conflict have been clearly drawn in advance. The US wants the world to embark on macroeconomic stimulus programs, and thinks that the complicated task of reinventing and reordering financial supervision and regulation can wait. Many European countries cannot afford a stimulus package, owing to overstretched public finances, and instead want to make progress on the international regulation of banking.

The alibis for failure are also already prepared. The new summit is unlikely to produce either a coordinated stimulus package or a detailed blueprint for a foolproof

system of financial regulation. Throughout the meeting, participants will be waiting for the moment when one of the leaders (maybe Angela Merkel) loses patience and makes the obvious and true remark that the process is a waste of effort. Then everyone will denounce this honest politician for having wrecked internationalism.

In the 1930's, it was the autocratic and belligerent governments of Germany and Japan that could derive the most capital from the failure of the London conference. Failure at today's London conference is also likely to be used as a rhetorical weapon against the large Western governments, and to provide a rationale for implementing new forms of state capitalism.

Harold James is Professor of history and international affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University and professor of history at the European University Institute, Florence. Copyright: Project

When India votes

By: Shashi Tharoor

KERALA, INDIA - Beginning this month, the largest exercise of the democratic franchise in history will take place, as India n voters head to the polls to elect a new national parliament.

They have done this 14 times since India gained its independence. Each time India has voted has been the world's largest exercise in electoral democracy. India's growing population keeps breaking its own record.

This time, the electorate includes 714 million voters, an increase of 43 million over the previous general election in 2004. Votes will be cast in 828,804 polling stations scattered throughout the country for over 5000 candidates from seven national political parties and several state and other parties.

The process involves four million electoral officials and 6.1 million police and civilian personnel.

The numbers involved are so huge that the elections will be staggered over five phases, ending only on May 13, with electoral and security state as polling is concluded in each place.

Despite the phased voting, the counting takes place nationwide immediately after the last phase, and the results of the elections everywhere will be announced on May 16. A new parliament will be convened on June 2 to elect a national government to succeed the outgoing administration of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

India's elections, conducted by the autonomous (and all-powerful) Election Commission of India, are an extraordinary event, and not just

felling of a sizeable forest to furnish enough paper for 714 million ballots, and every election has at least one story of officers battling through snow or jungle, or traveling by elephant and camel, to ensure that the democratic personnel being moved from state to wishes of remote constituents are duly recorded. (There is even one polling booth for a single voter, who lives too far from civilization to travel to another polling station.) Nor is any Indian election complete

without the media publishing at least

one picture of a female voter whose

enthusiasm for the suffrage is

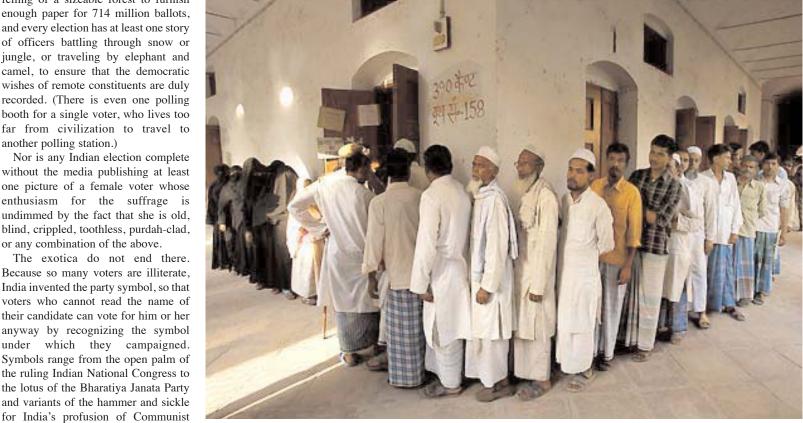
undimmed by the fact that she is old,

because of their sheer scale. It takes the

blind, crippled, toothless, purdah-clad, or any combination of the above. The exotica do not end there. Because so many voters are illiterate, India invented the party symbol, so that voters who cannot read the name of their candidate can vote for him or her anyway by recognizing the symbol under which they campaigned. Symbols range from the open palm of the ruling Indian National Congress to the lotus of the Bharatiya Janata Party and variants of the hammer and sickle

parties. Independent candidates can choose from an assortment of alternatives, ranging from a cricket bat to images of various large animals. (Small ones were removed from the list when one candidate, running against another whose symbol was a parrot, wrung the neck of a live parrot at a public meeting to signify what he would do to his rival.)

India was also the first country to use an indelible stain on the voter's fingernail to signify that he has already cast his ballot. At every election, someone "discovers" a new chemical that will remove the stain and permit one to vote twice, though this is unlikely to make a great difference in



constituencies the size of India's. where each MP represents more than two million people. Likewise, some distinguished voter invariably claims that his name is missing from the rolls, or that someone has already cast his vote (but usually not both).

In any case, India's elections have a reputation for honesty.

In this election, as in previous ones, votes will be cast on electronic voting machines invented in India, which combine the virtues of simplicity, reliability, and ruggedness. The electoral rolls carry photographs of every individual voter, as does each voter's identity card.

The elections have also been increasingly free of violence.

There was a time when, in certain parts of India, workers could stuff ballot boxes for a candidate and political parties could "capture" polling booths. Electronic voting machines and strict security arrangements have largely eliminated that possibility. It has been some time since there were reports of the occasional election worker, candidate, or voter being assaulted, kidnapped, or shot. Nothing (short of the death of a major contender) interrupts the franchise.

Elections are an enduring spectacle of free India, and give foreign journalists the opportunity to remind the world that India is the world's largest democracy. Indeed, Indians now take for granted that elections will take place, that they will be free and fair, and that they will result in actual transfers of power.

There are few developing countries in the world where this is true, and fewer still where poverty and illiteracy are both rife.

That may be the real miracle of what will occur in India over the next few

Shashi Tharoor, a former UN Under-Secretary General, is the Congress Party candidate for Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram in India's southwestern state of Kerala. Copyright: Project Syndicate, www.project-syndicate.org



India was among the first countries to use indelible ink on the voter's fingernail to signify that he/she had voted

Bassam and Yemen's struggling economy

By: Ali Saeed

assam is a 19 year-old Yemeni from the Ibb governorate. He finished secondary school last year, excelling in his science classes. He wanted to study medicine at Sana'a University to become a doctor, but living standards quashed his dreams. Instead of attending lectures, Bassam now works in a car mechanic's work-

Around 16 million people in Yemen more than 80 percent of the populationlive on an income of less than USD 2 a day. Although national income per capita recently increased, this is not best way to measure income levels, and it was recently discovered that Yemen's wealthiest control up to 90 percent of the national income.

Because he does not come from a wealthy family, Bassam had to draw a line through his aspirations of completing higher education to become a bread winner for his family, just to help make ends meet.

"Had I been to the university, I would be looking clean and wearing nice clothes," he said gloomily. "But now I'm wearing a torn and dirty uniform that looks disgusting to others.

Not having a degree from university has narrowed his employment opportunities, but he thinks that, even a university degree would not have made much of a difference as unemployment rates range from 45 to 61.1 percent, depending on definitions and methods of calcu-

Bassam's salary at the mechanic workshop is YR 20,000, or USD 100 a month. Although he spends more than half his salary every month on daily expenses, he is planning to marry as soon as possible and buy a house in

Such low salaries are the norm in Yemen, a country considered to be have one of the lowest economic growth rates in the world. Although the official economic growth rate for 2008 stood at 4.3 percent, economists think that this rate is exaggerated because others economic indicators do not agree.

Bassam saves around YR 5,000 every



Grade-A student Bassam (right) had to abandon his dreams of becoming a doctor to work as a car mechanic because of the country's dire economic situation.

month. These days, weddings cost around YR one million. If wedding expenses remain the same as they are now, Bassam needs around 16 and half years to be able to pay for the wedding with his monthly savings of YR 5,000.

Bassam has stopped thinking about buying a house in Sana'a because he has to be true to himself: "I have to be realistic about my plans in Yemen. Otherwise I would be doing the equivalent of trying to sow wheat in the sea."

The government reported an inflation rate of 17.5 percent last year alone, but Dr. Mohammed Jubran, professor of economics at Sana'a University doubts this percentage is accurate since it depends on desk research and old surveys, and not on realistic and recent

"All of us, even those who have no

idea about economics, know that prices rose in 2007 and 2008 between 150 and 250 percent. According to this, the government estimation of inflation is wrong," said the professor.

This means that a plot of land that used to cost YR 5 million will now between YR 10 million and 15 million after inflation.

A 44 square meter plot of land, called a 'libna' in Sana'a, costs around YR 15 million on Taiz Street, and even a libna in Artel in the outskirts of Sana'a city costs around YR 5 million. These prices make home ownership a distant dream for most Yemenis like Bassam.

In his village, Bassam's family lives without electricity. Although up to 91 percent of Yemenis in urban areas have access to electricity, only 25 percent of Yemenis in rural areas do. As 75 percent

of Yemen's population lives in the countryside, this means that only about 56 percent of Yemenis have access to elec-"I'm wondering where the London

donors' conference and the developmental and social projects that our government pledged to be done went," questioned Bassam. Economists replied to Bassam that the Yemeni government has not invest-

ed most of these loans and donations, and in particular utilized less than 50 percent of external loans. Interest rates on external loans do not exceed 5 percent a year, whereas the interest rate for internal loans is more than 14 percent a

"There is misdistribution of expenditures in the public sector and its activities," explained Dr. Mohammed Jubran,



for over 16 years to get married.

professor of economics at Sana'a

"For instance, the government spends twice as much on security as it does on the health sector," he said. "Total social expenditure in 2007 reached 19 percent, whereas security and defense expenditure reached 22 percent during the same period."

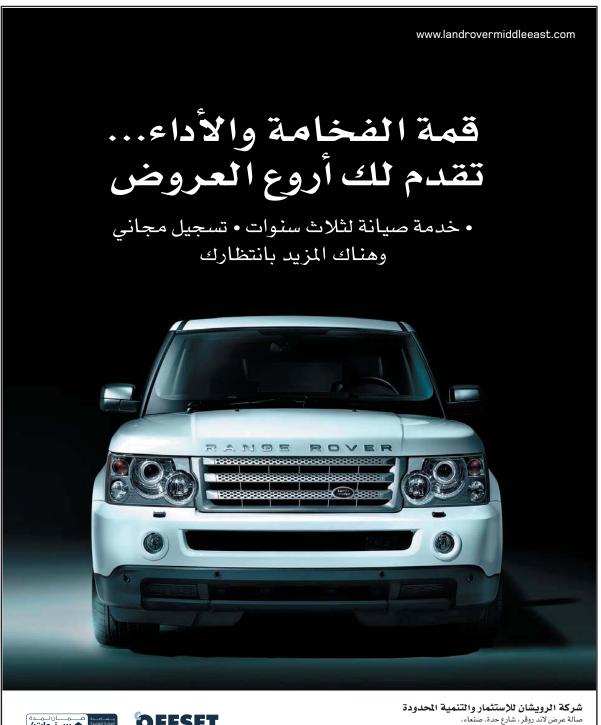
Bassam thinks that the government collects huge amounts of money from customs fees but, like many other Yemenis, question where this money which in 2007 alone reached YR 447,395 million- goes.

In addition, imposed profit taxes on foreign companies in Yemen were estimated at USD 688 million in 2006 and USD 751 million in 2007. These amounts of money were not registered in government accounts at the Ministry

of Finance, but submitted as cash to the Ministry of Oil.

When a member of Bassam's family falls sick, there is no doctor in the health center in their village to go to. They have two alternatives: either to go Ibb city or Sana'a city. In both cases, his family ends up spending its money on travel expenses, not medicine.

"Employment distribution in the government is does not comply with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) since 2007, and around 100 deputy ministers have been designated to positions that have no actual function except to gain cars, furniture, and other possessions," explained the economist. "At the same time, only 40 physicians were designated across the country to achieve the MDGs, which is



EXPRESSION OF INTERSET FOR GROUND HANDLING SERVICES CONCESSION AT ADEN INTENATIONAL AIRPORT

The Civil Aviation And Meteorology Authority (CAMA) Of the Republic of Yemen hereby announces its desire to invite International Ground Handling Companies to indicate their interest in providing their services for Aden International Airport for seven years term.

Interested Companies shall provide evidence of their ability and qualifications to carry out the whole of the above services especially:

- General information and experience of the Company, previous projects it was involved in, work experience in similar conditions, reference, etc.
- Specific experience of the Company in the field of the assignment in minimum one International airport in the last five years, main task of the company and years of experience in the required services.
- Ability to provide sufficient equipment and facilities to efficiently carry out the whole of the above services.
- Qualifications of key personnel and availability of required skills to carry out the required services.
- Minimum annual turnover of the company shall be not less than US Dollars three million.
- A firm may associate to enhance its qualification.

Short listed companies will be invited to submit their proposals.

A successful company will be selected using Quality based selection method which is explained in the Bidding documents.

The deadline for receiving two copies of EOI from each company shall be 9 June 2009.

Interested companies may obtain further information between 07:00 am and 10:00 am GMT, Saturday to Wednesday via the following:

Mr. Hamed Ahmed Farag.

Chairman, civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority

P.O. Box: 1042

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Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW)

A turning point in charitable work

Establishment of the Charitable Society for Social Welfare(CSSW) in early nineties of the last century constituted a turning point in the way of charitable work in Yemen. This is through the leading role that it played to

achieve sustainable development, help the needy and alleviate poverty in cooperation with partners from donor organizations and corporations, benefactors and donators. This, in turn, created and outstanding the wide presence of the CSSW in all fields of charitable work, which

enabled it to gain the trust and support of benefactors inside and outside the country. Every benefactor and supporter of the charity found that their support turned to programs, projects humanitarian and services full of everlasting charity that is never detached from them during their life and after the die.

Undoubtedly, the CSSW is considered the first in offering institutional charity as it offers its services in accordance with criteria and well-studied plans that meet the needs of the society and contribute to achieving sustainable

development and combating pover-

Due to the expansion of the CSSW s unremitting work and development as its branches amounted to 23 in addition to 236 committees deployed in all governorates of the republic, it outlined its strategic plan to enhance its leading role as a non-governmental organization that copes with the priorities and policies and the effective laws within its partnership with donors to achieve development in the society. What confirms the significance that the CSSW ranked on its voluntary work is that it has become a consultant member in the UN Economic and Social Council and a member of the UN Public Information Management of Non-Organizations Governmental (NGOs). In addition, the CSSW has been recently granted the international standards certificate: ISO 9001, 2008 by the largest Germen

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CSSW is

g r a n t i n g companies(TUV). In this context, Dr. Abdul Majeed Farhan, Secretary General of the CSSW, said that ISO certificate crowned the society s efforts and commitments to apply system of the world

quality management through applying standard criteria in its administrative dealings and commitment to institutionalization principle in all its dealings based on its aims to achieve excellence in offering different voluntary works. He made clear that the ISO certificate will encour-

age and drive the CSSW to develop and improve its performance, which the society made as a slogan of 2009 following 2008 which was the year of excellence and innovation. He pointed out that the CSSW is preparing to hold the ceremony of receiving the ISO certificate on the 23rd of the current month under the auspices of official bodies. Many social personalities, donors, and businessmen inside and outside the country will attend

the occasion.

Concerning the works and projects of the CSSW, Farhan said that the society has become an institution of wide spread and service. It offers its services in all governorates and districts of the republic. He pointed out that it is currently sponsoring over 25 thousand male and female orphans and over seven thousand families as well as operates 27 medical centers offering primary health care services. He pointed out that the CSSW has unprecedented programs and projects in the health and development field the most important of which are Al-Amal Neoro and Psychiatric Hospital with a capacity of 200 beds and Dar Al-Shafaqah for admitting renal failure and cancer patients with a capacity of 50 beds in its first phase. In addition, the CSSW is carrying out the oncho cerciasis control program in five governorates in addition to projects of reproductive health, family planning, establishing surgery



The organization's leadership talks to official health representatives.

camps and medical caravans in the deprived areas. The society is also carrying out the project of alternatives to child labor through education and sustainable service (Access Plus) in partnership with CHF International Organization and

support of the U.S. Ministry of Labor.

In the construction field, Farhan said that the CSSW has constructed until the end of 2008, 160 development institution in the different governorates of the republic. These

institutions included building houses for the poor families, building and furnishing mosques, establishing health centers and units, rehabilitating and training centers in Sana a and a number of governorates in the republic.



Income generating projects - fishing boat.



Income generating projects - transport cars.



V. P. Shunt operation.



Second group wedding - Dhamar.



Workshop for training female leaders in reproductive health and social marketing - project in cooperation with the organization.



Charitable sewing project in the family development sector in Hodaida



Training center for orphans in Taiz.

Labor office in **Shabwa – Personal Experience**

Rashad Almagrebi RashadHSE@gmail.com **HSE** officer

wo years ago, I applied for a job as a health, safety and environment (HSE) officer in a French company 'Amecspie' in Shabwa. Two weeks later, the HSE office called me for an interview. I headed the next day from Taiz to Shabwa. I was interviewed by the HSE manager who was of British descent. I passed the interview with flying colors and thought that there would be no other problems. The manager kindly told me to go and get some rest until tomorrow.

Later that day, I was surprised to hear some news from a friend of mine. He said that the labor office might create problems for me. I said, "I passed the interview and the test as well. What could be next?" He jokingly told me, "You are not a Yemeni here." I was shocked and did not know what to say. My friend then said, "When somebody comes from the north of Yemen, he faces a lot of difficulties in getting a job. The labor office first has to look for any other qualified candidates, and if there are any others to be found, the candidates from north will be denied. Mostly they use vitamins W and B (mediation and money) around here,"

A day later, I went to the HSE office and met the manager there. The manager himself went to meet the people in charge of the labor office, most of who were from Shabwa. I followed him to the labor office. A tough quarrel took place between the two sides. The labor office said, "This guy has to be suspended for two weeks until we find another qualified employee." Two weeks passed and the matter was still unsolved. My friends told me to give some money to the labor office so that they might sign the papers for me, but I strongly refused. The next day I was called by the manager to come and start my work. I asked the manager how the problem was solved.

He said, "They did not find any other HSE experts and that's why they accepted you." I was really disappointed, even though I got the job. The problem isn't the job but the discrimination that people in the labor office

Two months later I was transferred from Shabwa-Ataq to the Shabwa-Balhaf site to work as a security and HSE officer. I found another type of discrimination there. The labor office claimed that 80 percent of the employment should be in the favor of Shabwa

people. They might have the right to this make kind of law, but they do not actually follow it in practice. They apply this procedure only to those poor workers who do not have vitamins W or B – mediation or money. Another thing, which is worse than all of the above facts, is that there are no such obstacles for the workers who come from other countries. A foreign laborer, and not necessarily a skillful laborer, comes and works in Yemen without any problem. But if one wants to hire a Yemeni worker, one needs first to get an agreement from the labor office. You might have to bribe someone to get them to do this, or they might not accept the worker. In addition, a lot of papers have to be signed to issue an ID card for a Yemeni worker while it is very easy for a foreign worker to get a similar ID card. After all that, the Yemeni worker gets the lowest salary in the company. In spite of this salary discrepancy, most companies tend to hire foreign workers rather than Yemeni ones even though there are hundreds of Yemeni workers at the gate of the companies.

These facts show us how discriminatory the people in charge of the labor office are. We appeal to our government to take this matter into account and to force the labor office to drop such clearly discriminating procedures.

First love

By: Ahmed Ibrahim Al Hasan ahamed alhasn@hotmail.com

he majority of people believe that their first love is the only love, and if this love ends, they consider it the end of their life. In fact, their lives will continue, but with closed and dead hearts.

What about you? Do you believe in that? I know that is difficult to be free from the memories of your loved one. You will continue to experience these memories all the days of your life. But the most important thing you should know is that the pain associated with these memories will decrease over time and will be remembered less and less till a moment comes when, except for the occasional flashback, you feel that you are almost back to your old life again. So don't trap yourself in the blind idea that you will never forget and will never be able to live. Just try to involve yourself in interesting activities and always look forward.

I want you to remember two rules. The first rule is that God who brought this loved one to you can always bring another love. The second rule is that when God takes something from you, he always compensates you with something much better than what you lost. Mahmoud Darwish, the famous Palestinian poet, said exactly what I mean: "Unfortunately I escaped from death by love several times, but fortunately I am still alive and have a heart to experience love again"

Finally, I want to say that the end of love is not the end of life. Just look to the future, there is another one coming to you, and believe me that you will experience love again. If and when this occurs, please don't repeat your previous mistakes.

Pray constantly for God to bless your love again and maintain it for the rest of your life.

Response to article: Man isn't born for bread alone

Dear Hanan Al-Shibami, By: Micah Brown micah.s.brown@gmail.com

applaud your skills in writing the recent article "Man is not born for bread alone" in the Yemen Times. However, it grieves me that Islam is based on the works of man and not the grace of God. When the prophet Moses gave the commandments to the Israelites, they were laws that man could not possibly achieve by works and

They were literally impossible, for if a

man falls in one sin, it is the same as if he has broken all of God's commands. Because of this, God's laws are not meant to give men a standard to live by, but rather to show us that we cannot world, that by His bloodshed for us, we can now believe in Him and have a relationship with God, and by Him we are saved. This gives us so much freedom! It frees us from the burden of trying so hard to live up to a standard when we know we will eventually fail. As you said in your article, no one is

perfect, and that is precisely why we need a perfect God to forgive us and allow us to be covered by His grace, not by our works. I hope this makes sense, and it is my opinion that this is do them without the help, grace, and truth. I respect Islam, but I believe it is mercy of God. I believe that He sent a religion of captivity, in which men and endless toil for a God who has already forgiven them, if only they would trust in Him to do work in them rather than try to save themselves by their effort! Peace to you, and thank you for listening. I would love to hear your opinion as well.

The forgotten tribes of Oromo in Somalia

By: Abas Eenow **Activist for the Oromo-Somalis** abas.freedomfighter.eenow28@gmail

long time ago, most of the current Somali territories in the horn of Africa belonged to the larger Cushitic nationality of Oromo known by the Somalis as Galla and others. For hundreds of years, until the end of the 19th century, the nomadic

Somali tribes have invaded and forcefully occupied parts of the present state of Somalia which was populated by non-ethnic Somali ethnic groups.

During their expansion, the Somali pastoral warriors have evicted the majority of the Oromo and other non Somali tribes from their land and forced those who remained to be assimilated. In the course of these campaigns, Oromo tribes such as

Boran, Rendiile and others have been dislodged from their territories of origin inside Somalia and these communities are found in Kenya & Ethiopia. In fact large number of them such as Wa Boni and Gaalbore have been partially integrated and have taken nominal Somali tribal names although still considered inferior to noble Somali tribes. Most of them live among the Digil & Mirifle tribe of the South.

But Oromos who declined to convert and refused to become clients to the Somalis tribesman were subjected to aggression and discrimination like Ribo (raybo), Wardey (Waradaya) in the South and Lo'jir in the North.

If you go back to the oral history of the Somali people, you will understand that Hargeeysa (North) and Garbohareey (South) are actually Oromo names and literally Galkacyo means, " Where the Oromo has been kicked out "

Overall, the Somali war of " Force

occupation " has been stopped by the British colonial administration in the late of the 19th century after the British has realized that the wandering warlike tribes would cross over the Tana river in Kenya and into great lake

After the Somali civil, the Somali tribes of Oromo origin who were unarmed were robbed, raped and killed in wanton. In regards to the minority groups in the failed state of Somalia a lot of reports have been written over the plight and the suffering of ethnic clans but, unfortunately, the Somali tribes of Oromo origin such as Ribo, Wardeey and others have not been mentioned.

Therefore, as there is no hope that a democratic state will come out of Somalia in the foreseeable future, we demand from human rights organizations to correct their mistakes so that, at least, the rights of these communities are recognized by international organi-

Through The Mind'S Eye By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy



Street children: Is there a serious solution?

ecent statistics have shown that about 35,000 children between the age of 12 and 14 use the streets as a workplace and sometimes as a

home. There, in the street, they feed and educate themselves, inasmuch as is possible. They learn the morals, customs and habits surrounding them there. The environment they are exposed to promises them only a dull

The phenomenon must be taken seriously. We must find out its reasons and offer radical solutions before the situation deteriorates.

Of course, life is full of difficulties that force such children to take to the streets. Some of them are responsible for their families. Others are asked by parents to go out in search of work, any way to collect money, whatever it is. Some children leave home to escape family problems, while some have their own dreams and ambitions which, they think, will be achieved this way.

In an interview published in Al-Jumhuriya, a 14 year-old child said that he came from the village with friends in search of work to collect money for his mother and four sisters after his father's death.

Two brothers of the age of 12 said that they clean cars to finance their father's daily gat and cigarettes, while a little girl of the same age said that she roams in the streets to escape her father and mother's daily arguments.

Another 10 year-old child takes to working and, sometimes begging, in streets as the only way to fulfill his ambition of "buying a new suit or new toy."

In view of the dire circumstances that make these children escape from their homes and schools, they must not be blamed. Rather, the families should try to offer solutions to their children to ensure they have a prosperous future, before they become involved in crime or unlawful acts.

Society itself plays a role as well, and must be blamed. We are used to seeing children begging in the streets. Some people do not respond, while others help them with money. In the two cases, such children are encouraged to continue begging since society does not reject their behavior.

There might be other solutions, and every one of us should find a possible solution to the crucial problem so that we make our society better.

It also seems to me that the authorities also contribute to the spreading of this human catastrophe. The lack of efforts of its part contributes to the increase in the number of street children in Yemen. The government must fight such cases, not by preventing children from staying in the street, but in analyzing the reasons for their being there and offering suitable solutions to them. If the government cannot stop this phenomenon, who can?

The ill-effects of having children living and working in the street are obvious. These children will, of course, be the targets of crimes. It is rare to find street children who are not either the victims of others, or the criminals themselves. Better put, "They are the victims of today and the criminals of tomorrow."

But it would be silly to call them criminals in the future, because they grew up as victims.

Such predictions should encourage families, society and the government to cooperate with each other to find a radical solution to this social problem that promises more broken families and a crime-oriented society.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinions writer from Taiz. He holds a Master Degree of Arts in English and is the former editor of Taiz University's English language magazine.

The dark in the morning

By: Yasser alwaheezi

he walks to school everyday since the blockade on Gaza by the Israeli government under the collusion of Arab countries.

There is no gasoline or diesel so no busses and no electricity in her house. She studies and writes her homework before the darkness of night comes.

Today she got up early, ate breakfast, and looked out the window. Oh, what a morning! she said, taking her books after putting on her school uniform, and left her house.

It's early, but the morning is very beautiful. Let me enjoy this atmosphere and breathe the fresh breezes, she said, and kept walking.

She was thinking about last night when her dad entered her room and told her about her their visitor who came to ask for her hand in marriage. Her dad wants the answer within three days. What she's going to say?

What about her education? It's the last year of high school before going off to college, so how can she get mar-

She will finish high school and get married directly!!

It's a problem for her, but what's wrong? she asked herself and answered, you can resume your education in the new house of your husband. But what about your husband? Maybe he is a good choice. He is kindly and is a lieutenant in the Palestinian armed forces with a good position. He's going to help you to complete your educa-

Suddenly she heard a noise; it was an army plane. A few seconds later an explosion rocked the earth in front of her. Then she doesn't see anything. It's like the dark. What's the matter? She doesn't know.

A few minutes later she is in another world. She saw group of people; one of them keeps looking at her. Who is this man? Maybe I saw him before, she said, but who is he? The man separated from the group and walked towards her and shook her hand. Then she recognized him. He was her fiancé. How are you? How did you get here? the man asked. I don't know, she answered.

Ok don't worry, you'll be safe. Come with me to see this land and go shopping here. Should we buy a lot of things for the marriage?

She went with him but heard some people quickly talking. One of them said it was an Israeli bomb, another asked how many people are killed? One said I found a girl, she's still alive but injured, is her situation serious? I think so but take her to the emergency

What are they saying? she asked. Leave them, just walk, the man said. They went together to the market. I can't walk, my feet are tired, she said. The man helped her, then she looked to her right and saw a jewelry shop. Let us take a look, she said, then entered the shop.

I like this wristwatch, what does it cost? It's golden, it costs one thousand

But it's very expensive, she said, but the man paid the price and said everything is cheap for you, just wear it.

Oh it's beautiful! she said. But the woman wearing it is more beautiful, the man said. She wanted to put it in the box for the party, but she couldn't remove it. The man came to help here, suddenly she heard someone saying remove her hand or she's going to die. Who is this? she asked, and then

looked out but there is nobody, don't worry, the man said and tried to remove the watch but he couldn't, so he left it in her hand.

They went but she feels a pain in her hand, maybe because the watch is heavy or because it's the first time she is wearing a watch.

After a few minutes of walking they arrived to the shoes' store. She chose a pair and put them on. After that she wanted to remove them but she has the same problem, she can't take off her shoes. While she was trying to remove it she heard a man say to lift up her leg. Then she stopped and said, this sounds like the same man at the previous shop, let's go dear, I am afraid. Don't worry, the man said, we're going to leave this

A few minutes after they left the market she was looking behind her and thinking about the man. Who and where was he?

After that she found herself alone in the desert. She looked at right and left but nobody is there. Suddenly she can't move, what's the matter? She then tried to move her leg, but she heard her dad say, Don't move baby you're going to hurt yourself.

She opened her eyes and said, Dad, where I am? In the hospital. What happened? You are one of the victims of the Gaza attack.

She wanted to see the watch but she doesn't have a hand. Then she looked at her leg to see the shoes but her leg was also gone. She screamed and said, Please Dad, kill me, I can't live this life. Her father cried and then tried to stop her when she wanted hurt herself.

A few minutes later she calmed down and quietly asked, Where is my

He was killed during the attack.

Someone had said my village was an Al-Qaida base

By: FM Shah

lion.of.khyber@gmail.com

Someone had said my village was an Al-Oaeda base Without hesitation the Americans

bombed the place So willing they are to believe such

baseless, bought lies Now half my village lies dead while the other half cries

For US Blood Dollars, puppets like Zardari, Mush and Karzai always lie. For US War for Terror so many of my Muslims fellows have died

The Americans said they were sorry, that it was all a mistake

But how much more "collateral damage" can we expect to take How can I forgive the Americans the

deaths of my loved ones I wept as I saw my neighbors bury thier

daughters and sons It seems as if this "war for terror" is never going to end

And sadly every day we are killed by a so called "friend"

We all wonder what new horrors for us, tomorrow has in store

Since we (250 millions) are caught in endless war for terror on US

Blood Dollars for resources and trade

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البنوك

بنك اليمن والخليج 🔵 فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤ ت: ٢٦٠٨٢٣ -٩٦٧ -٩٦٧

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دا- ۲۷٦٥٨٥/۲ :ت

ت : ۱-۵٦٣٨١٣ - ۱۰

تأجير سيارات

فاکس: ۲۷۰۸۰۶

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مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر

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فاکس: ۲٦٤٧٠٣,٥٠٣٣٥٠

الإطفاء ۱۹۱، طوارىء المياه ۱۷۱،

الإستعلامات ١١٨، حوادث (المرور) ١٩٤،

الإذاعة ٢٨٢٠٦١، التلفزيون ٢/٢٠٠١،

٢٥٠٧٦١/٣، وزارة المواصلات (تلفون) ٧٥٢٢٢٠٢،

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الصلب الاحمر ٢٠٣١٣١/٣، تليمن ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

وزارة المواصلات ٣٢٥١١٠/١/٢/٣، السياحه ٢٥٤٠٣٢،

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-البنك التجاري ت: ٢٧٧٢٢٤ فاكس: ٢٧٧٢٩١

مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ۲٦٤٧٧٥,٢٦٤٧٠٢

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معاهد

معهد یالي ت: ۳۶-۴۵۸ ۴۴/۵ ۴٤۵۴۸۲ فاکس:۴٤۸۰۳۷ معهد اللغة الألمانيه المعهد البريطاني للغات والكمبيوتر ت: ٢٦٦٢٢٢ فاكس: ٥١٤٧٥٥

معهد کاروکوس ت: ۵۳۲٤۳٤/۵ فاکس: ۵۳۲٤۳٦ معهدأیکتك ت: ۲۲۰۸۳۳ - ۵۱۰۶۱۳ فاکس: ۲۹۵۵۳۷

شركات للتأمين

الوطنية للتأمين ت:٢٧٢٧١٣/٢٧٢٨٧٣ فاكس:٢٧٢٩٢٤ الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين صنعاء ت: ۲۸٤۱۹۳،

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تعز ت: ۲٥٠٣٤٥

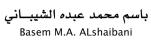
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مطاعم

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• دبلوم مهنى بعد الإعدادية تخصص مساحة وطرقات، دبلوم تقنى بعد الثانوية مساحة وطرقات، إجادة العمل على جميع الأجهزة المساحية، التعامل مع برامج الرسم على الحاسب، خبرة في مجال نفس

للتواصل: ٧٧١٩٢٢٠٨٨

عقارات

• مطلوب استئجار مبنى لايقل عن ١٨ غرفة مع حوش كبير في حي حده أو الحي السياسي للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٦٩٠٨٧ • للإيجار (للأجانب فقط) شقة ٣ غرف نوم - مفرج

صالة تحتوي على غرفة طعام وغرِفة جلوس - مطبخ أنيق - ٣ حمامات. الشقة آمنه جداً الإيجار: ١٥٠٠ دولار قابل للتفاوض

على العديد من الأنظمة المحاسبية - دبلوم كمبيوتر -خبرة في التعاملات البنكية الألكترونية للتواصل: ٧٧٧٧٠ - ٥٤٤٥ - ٧٧٧٧

• دورات حاسوب، ثانوية عامة، دورة في أساسيات التسويق، دورة تدريبية في مجال التنسيق والإدارة وتنفيذ الأنشطة، دورة لغة إنجليزية، دورة حول التوثيق والأرشفة وأعمال السكرتارية، دورة في النظام المحاسبي المتكامل، دورة في مجال التقييم الريفي بالمشاركة (PRA). للتواصل: ٥٩٩٩٥٩٥ أو ٧٧٠٥٥٥٧

• يوسف أحمد قائد الشامي بكالوريوس كيمياء، جامعة تعز، دورة في مجال البترول (شركة أسيوط لتكرير البترول - اسيوط مصر) إجادة إستخدام برامج micro soft office - Windows إجادة اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً - خبرة سنة واحدة كمراقب تأكيد الجودة في مصنع الإسفنج والبلاستيك- تعز عملت في مجال البحوث والترجمة (عربي إنجليزي والعكس) أرغب في العمل داخل الوطن أو خارجه للتواصل: ٧١٣٠٢٣١٠٣ – ٧١٣٠٢٣١٠٧

• بكالوريوس علوم الحاسوب خبرة في الصيانة، شهادة خبرة معتمدة في الصيانة، خبرة في الشبكات، خبرة عامة في تقنية المعلومات، أرغب في العمل في مجال التخصص.

للتواصل: ٥٧٧٢٢٤١١٥

للتواصل: ٧٧٠٢٨٧٢٧٨ • ليسانس في الشريعة والقانون - خبرة واسعة في مجال المبيعات والقانون - خبرة واسعة في خدمة العملاء - جيد جداً في اللغة الإنجليزية - جيد جداً في استخدام الكمبيوتر والشبكات والإنترنيت - خبرة في التعامل مع العملاء - خبرة في الإدارة والتعامل ضمن الهيكل الإداري لدي الشركات الكبرى - يبحث عن عمل في مجال المبيعات أو العلاقات العامه

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• عارف علي مثنى - بكالوريوس في (الأحياء المجهرية) microbiology – جامعة اب – خبرة سابقة - يبحث عن عمل في أي مستشفى أو مختبرأو عيادة (دوام كامل) - براتب

للتواصل: ۷۱۳٤۰۷۸۵۳ – ۳۸۸۲۹۹۹ • بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - دبلوم سكرتارية - برامج كمبيوتر متطورة للتواصل: ۲۰۹ه ۷۱۱۳۰

• بكالوريوس ترجمة جامعة صنعاء -دبلوم سكرتارية كمبيوتر - النظام المحاسبي المتكامل (يمن سوفت) -دورات في الإنترنيت والتنمية البشرية -خبرة في المراسلات التجارية والترجمة من العربية إلى الإنجليزية والعكس - يريد العمل لدى شركة أو منظمة أو سفارة في الفترة الصباحية فقط للتواصل: ۷۷۷۹۹۱۲٤۸ - ۷۷۷۸۹۹۱۲٤۸

• خبرة واسعة في مجال التصميم الإعلاني والتصوير الرقمي للتواصل: ٧٧٧٠٨٨٠٠٦

• حافظ النويهي - بكالوريوس محاسبة - خبرة ست سنوات - خبرة على العديد من البرامج المحاسبية - خبرة في إدارة حسابات وكالات خطوط الطيران - دبلوم كمبيوتر - مستوى متوسط في اللغة الإنجليزية للتواصل: ٧٠٠٧٧٤٣٩٧

• سودانى الجنسية - خبرة سبعة عشرة سنة في إدارة التجارة الدولية-

المناقصات - التسويق - المراسلات التجارية - دراسة الجدوى الإقتصادية للمشاريع للتواصل: ٥٧٣٣٦٣٨٤٢٥

• بكالوريوس علوم حاسوب - خبرة في الصيانة + خيرة في الشبكات - شهادة خبرة معتمدة في الصيانة - خبرة عامة في تقنية المعلومات - يرغب في العمل

للتواصل: ٥٧٧٢٢٤١١٥

للتواصل: ۲۲۲۲۱ه ۷۳

• بكالوريوس محاسبة - جامعة صنعاء - دبلوم كمبيوتر - دورة النظام المحاسبي المتكامل (يمن

للتواصل: ٧٣٣٠٧٩٨٨٢ • محمد يحى السقاف - بكالوريوس هندسة نفطية -يجيد التعامل مع الحاسوب - مستوى جيد في اللغة الإنجليزية - يبحث عن وظيفة شاغرة في شركة نفطية

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• مطلوب للعمل طبيبات أسنان - خبرة لاتقل عن ٣

للتواصل: ٧٧٧١٠٦٩٦٩

باحثون عن وظيفة

• جلال عبده مهيوب - دبلوم تقنى بعد الثانوية -تكيف وتبريد - عمل لدى ورشة العريقي لخدمات التكييف والتبريد لمدة سنة – عمل في تركيبات التكييف المركزي في مستشفى الشرطة النموذجي- عمل لدى مكاتب ومستلمين أعمال في خدمات التركيب والصيانة - يرغب في العمل لدى أى شركة تحتاج لخدمات



قص هذا الكوبون وارسله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦, او على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت ٢٦٨٦٦١/٢/٣)





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Celebrating Jerusalem in Yemen

By: Nisreen Shadad For Yemen Times

n line with Jerusalem being the cultural capital of the Arab world this year and under the slogan 'Gaza is the start and Al-Aqsa is the aim', the Palestinian Women's Union in Yemen held its ninth festival for Palestinian children.

Despite a harsh context of closures. restrictions of movement and occupation. Palestinians are standing firm in celebrating the Arab cultural heritage of the holy city, in Palestine and in Yemen.

"This festival is larger that the previous ones because of the culture capital celebration," said Umm Omar, the representative of Palestinian women committee

A large number of people, including political and religious leaders, attended. The festival was a celebration of Palestinian sol-

"This year, Palestine faces one of the wildest attacks, Israel aimed to destroy everything, our heritage, land and peoples, said Umm Omar. "But neither our children



nor women will surrender. Gaza taught the whole world a mythical steadfastness.

"In this festival we intend to reveal the type of education Israeli children are brought up with," she continued.

Nafisa Al-Jaeefi, the secretary general of

the High Council for Motherhood and Childhood declared death statistics included infants and children. "There are about 1.900.000 children under the age of 18 living in Palestine, according to 2007 statistics," said Al-Jaeefi.

Al-Jaeefi also spoke about the reality of education in Palestine. Despite the pitiful situation they live in, they are interested in women's education.

She criticized the attack of the international covenants and treaties: "The Palestinian child has the right to live in a safe environment."

Al-Jaeefi recommended continuing defending children's rights and supporting Palestinians morally and financially.

Palestinian children sang zealous songs defending press freedom and thank the Al-Jazeera news channel for highlighting their situation and conveying it to the whole

A play about Jerusalem portrayed the type of education that Israeli children reportedly receive: "Our Lord orders us to kill Arabs," one of the children, playing the role of an Israeli child, said.

Another commented, "Palestine is oursour role is to purify it and build the temple." At the end of the play the actors and actress swear to dedicate their lives to achieve Israeli aims.

The festival ended with a message of peace. Little girls appeared wearing white dresses and carrying candles to spread hope in the hearts of the attendees.

Moneer Sa'ad, one of the doctors who traveled to Gaza during the attack said, "We aspire to liberate Jerusalem and hope to

pray there one day. This year, Israel prepared to destroy Al-Aqsa but they were defeated in Gaza, and God willing they will be defeated in the West Bank and Jerusalem too."

Sa'ad was surprised at their strength, "The secret behind their steadfastness is their faith. In the Al-Qassam Brigades [the military wing of Hamas], there are about 6000 mujahedeen who memorized the Quran by heart. You will never find an army in the whole world that can defeat those who keep the words of God in their hearts.'

"Death and life for them are the same. They told me that they and their martyrs are alive for the sake of Allah. The concept of death is similar to the concept of life. We are ready to pay the price of dignity, but we are not ready to pay the price of humiliation," he added.

The doctor then related a story of courage and faith to those attending. The house of a little girl, Mariam Al-Garam, was destroyed in the attacks. She lost all members of her family. Wounded, she crawled for 400 meters until she reached a neighbor's house. She found no one, except some water.

She stayed there for two days. When the owner came to check his house, he saw surprised to find the little girl. The first thing she asked for was forgiveness, because she entered his house without permission and drank from their water.

Another story which was related by the doctor was that of a man who was killed by a gunshot wound. "I removed his jacket and found in his right pocket the Quran. There was another bullet embedded in the Quran. It settled on the verse, They are the youths that believe in God.'

The year-long designation of cultural

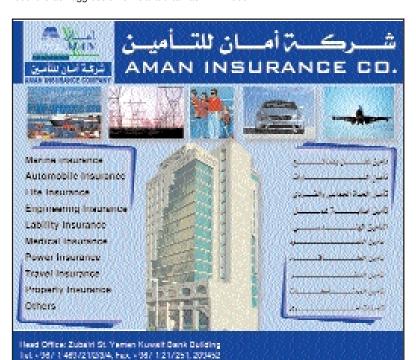
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capital of the Arab World is an honor and prestige for Arab cities. It rotates among Arab countries and it is usually a cause for

celebration. But in Jerusalem, Israeli occupation made the festivities difficult. Initially planned for early 2009, the celebration was postponed until the 21st of March, due to the recent Israeli aggression on Gaza that has left Palestinians mourning.

The launching of the event occurred in Bethlehem, rather than Jerusalem, to bypass the Israel occupation on the holy city, as the government did everything possible for Jerusalem not to celebrate its Arab

Damascus was the capital of Arab culture



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