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Amidst false rumors of progress in releasing kidnapped foreigners, Houthis warn of a sixth war in three days

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf and Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, June 24 – Shiekh Saleh bin Shage' deputy chief of Waela Tribes at the Yemeni Saudi borders explained that the surrendering of two of his tribes men by his brother Rashad to the Yemeni security in Sa'ada has nothing to do with the missing six foreigners kidnapped on Friday June 12.

"It is a hideous crime that we all condemn, but the two men have nothing to do with it," he said. "In fact, being easily surrendered to the security without any resistance proves that if they had anything to hide they would have fled."

Mushin Al-Tam and Hassan Kazman, suspected of involvement in the killing and kidnapping of foreigners were in the remote area of Nushour while Yemeni security forces were hunting them. When the two heard they were sought after, they reported to their sheikh's house, proclaiming their innocence. Waela leaders asked them to surrender to the state and they obliged willingly, according to Bin Shage'.

Most of the locals in Waela belong to the Ismaili sect, which is the second largest part of the Shiite community.

The bodies of the two German nurses, 24-year-old Anita Gruenwald and 26-year-old Rita Stumpp, were buried on Tuesday after their memorial service was attended by more than 2000 people at their

church in Wolfsburg.

The family members of the Korean teacher Eom Young-seon, 34, buried her last Sunday June 21, after a large funeral in Suwon, south of Seoul.

The autopsy of the nurses' bodies in Germany showed that the women were shot twice in the head, and nowhere else. It also indicated on the same day or the day after they were kidnapped.

Bullet cases found on the scene confirmed that the women were killed in the place where their bodies were found, not where they were abducted.

The victims four-wheel-drive Toyota and the kidnappers' Suzuki Vitara are still nowhere to be found. It is speculated that the kidnappers used the hostages' car to transfer them from Ghuraz area north of Sa'ada city to a hideout after dividing the group of nine into the two cars. Late that night or the following day, the two German nurses and the Korean teacher were taken to Madar Valley of Nushour, shot dead and left there in the wilderness until the bodies were found three days later partially decomposed.

The distance between where the bodies were found [Nushour] and where they were kidnapped [Ghuraz] is no more than 30 minutes drive. Nushour area is around 300 meter from a state army camp, one and half kilometers away from MP Faez Al-Awjari who has been accusing the Houthis of kidnapping the foreigners. The Houthi territory is about

kilometer from where the dead bodies were found.

Rumors of handing over kidnappers to Houthi military commander Abdullah Al-Rizami or news of the whereabouts of the kidnapped have been flat-out denied by Al-Rizami in a direct conversation with Yemen Times. Saleh Habra second in command to Abdulmalik Al-Houthi accused the state of plotting this game in order to start a sixth war which he predicted will happen before Sunday.

"For over a month our skies have been patrolled by American military surveillance planes and we know that it holds on board a team of American and British geographical map specialists. We know that they are assisting the Yemeni government in plotting the area and designing for a sixth war," said Habra.

The American embassy spokes person denied this saying that "this claim has no basis in fact," while the British embassy had no comment on this issue at the moment.

"We have teams working with the German and British investigative experts to try and find the missing foreigners and return them safe home," said Brigade Mohammed Al-Qahm Sa'ada chief security last week. Although questions has been raised by western governments as to the seriousness of the Yemeni security in finding the mission persons amidst the State vs. Houthi accusations game.

Yemeni Times sources indicated



The family members of the late Eom Young-seon follow the body of 34-year-old South Korean aid worker Eom during her funeral in Suwon, south of Seoul, June 21, 2009.

that both German and British embassies are frustrated at the case's progress and that the western investigative teams are not getting much information from their Yemeni

counterparts.

Meanwhile, Yemeni Minister of Information Hassan Al-Lawzi is still insisting that Houthis kidnapped the nine foreigners and that the incident has nothing to do with religious extremists whether Muslims or Christian, confirming that what Minister of Interior Rashad Al-Masri had said from the first minute news on the kidnapping was reported.

Al-Lawzi being spokes person of the Yemeni government said the state is currently questioning 42 suspects on the kidnapping issue in the press conference he conducted to brief media on Tuesday. However, Faez Al-Awjari member of the parliament said the suspects being investigated currently are actually drug dealers with some relations with the Houthis.

Houthis in return fear that the real kidnappers would infiltrate their area and kill the kidnapped foreigners there in order to blame it on the Houthi movement. Habra said that they have been tightening their security at the entrances of the Houthi territory in north and west Sa'ada, which is the main center for Houthis

in Sa'ada for the same reason.

As it is, armed conflict between armed Houthis and state security in some Sa'ada areas such as Shada and Al-Malaheedh have started since the beginning of this week, the number of killed or injured in these clashes has not yet been identified.

Background

The group had been on an outing on a farm in Ghuraz on the outskirts of Sa'ada city on Friday. On their way home, their 4x4 Toyota was intercepted by three armed men with beads in a black Suzuki Grand Vitara.

The bodies of the Korean teacher Young-Sun Ium, 34 and two German nurses Anita Gruenwald, 25, Rita Stumpp, 26 were found by local shepherds on Monday. A German engineer, his wife and their three children as well as the Briton engineer are still missing.

Paul Lieveise, a spokesman for Worldwide Services, the Dutch-based aid group for which the women worked, told the German news agency DPA that the group places health workers on postings in the developing world for periods of up to two years.

Currently the 21 members of Worldwide Services working in Al-Jumhuri Hospital are taking extra safety precautions and the hospital, in state of emergency, has been shut down until further notice. At least half of the workers of Dutch, German and Korean nationalities have already left to Sana'a on a private plane, while the other half is preparing to leave.



Memorial service for Yemen hostages. The church was filled to capacity. The coffins of two German women who were missing in Yemen, stand sentinel during their funeral service in Wolfsburg, Germany, on Tuesday, June 23, 2009.



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First phase of VTS marine surveillance project in Aden

By: Rithwan Al-Saqqaf and Yemen Times Staff

ADEN, June 22 — In an attempt to protect marine and sea trade in the Gulf of Aden, a 20 million Euro Vessel Traffic System marine surveillance project funded by the Italian government was launched last Tuesday.

The surveillance project will cover 450 sea kilometers out of a total 2,400 sea kilometers that are Yemen's coastal territorial waters. This project will help the Yemeni coastguard and international marine patrolling ships to maintain security in the area and limit the smuggling of people and goods via the sea.

Italian ambassador Mario Boffo said that this project will be a highly technological system using microwave radiation telecommunication. The network will use fiber optics that will connect the central coastguard control unit in Sana'a with 12 stations in six different surveillance centers in Khokha, Mocha, Mion Island, Khor Al-Omirah, Al-Shihr, Shograh and Aden.

Two radar surveillance points will be posted on Ain and Mumasheeq Mountains in Aden to facilitate transmissions.

Abullah Qiran, Aden Security Chief, hopes that Yemen will maintain better control of its coastal region with the implementation of this project.

Director of Telecommunications Ahmed Sahbi told the media that this project was achieved by a Yemeni technical team along with experts from the Italian company SELEX that specializes in this field. Work on the project commenced last year and will also help the coastguard receive SOS calls from distressed ships in the region.

The Yemeni government decided in late 2008 to establish three regional



Gulf of Aden becomes world's top piracy hotspot. It witness many dangerous pirate activity, with 24 attacks between April and June.

centers for combating piracy in the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. The specific aim of these centers is to protect the nearby international navigation route which was affected by piracy operations. Between 2003 and 2008, 1,845 acts of piracy were carried out worldwide, with an average of 330 operations per year.

In the last quarter of 2008, twenty Asian and African countries signed an international memorandum of understanding concerning piracy in an effort to stem the rising tide of piracy.

Somali pirates have carried out 42

piracy operations so far this year in the international waters of the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. These acts resulted in 815 passengers and crew members being taken as hostages, 592 of whom were released. There are still 11 ships held by pirates, according to official sources.

The International Maritime Coalition is comprised of forces from the United States, Britain, France, Denmark, Spain, Turkey and Italy. This coalition works together to patrol the gulf and assist in fighting piracy. Currently, three international marine forces are in

charge of securing the region, the first of which is called "Atlantic Operation" and is affiliated with European Union. The second is affiliated with NATO and the third, which is Force 151, is with the US Marines.

Yemeni economic experts have warned against the major risks to the local economy caused by piracy in the Gulf of Aden and around the Horn of Africa. They pointed to the negative impacts of ongoing Somali piracy, in particular the increase in the cost of insurance for ships crossing Yemeni waters.

Riding to death



Although there is no law to prohibit drivers from talking on their mobile phones or make seatbelts compulsory for passengers or drivers in Yemen, the government advises safe driving

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, June 24 — Motorcyclists, pedestrians, and cyclists make up half of the almost 1.3 million people that die each year on the world's roads, according to the Global Status Report on Road Safety released by the World Health Organization last week.

Driving standards are poor and mountain roads hazardous in Yemen. Official government statistics reveal that road accidents in the country claimed the lives of 2,838 people, and left over 20,000 injured in 2008 alone.

According to official statistics from the General Traffic Administration, traffic accidents are steadily increasing. Between 1995 and 2008, there were over 55,000 traffic accidents in Sana'a alone, resulting in material damage amounted to over YR 6 billion.

The WHO survey, which assesses road safety in 178 countries, highlights the need for these road users to be given more attention in road safety programs.

The results suggest that in many countries road safety laws need to be made more comprehensive, while enforcement should be strengthened.

In Yemen, the maximum speed for private cars is 100 kilometers per hour but speed limits are rarely enforced and speed limit signs are rarely seen.

In addition, a large number of underage drivers are on the roads. The reasons are irresponsible parents and car rental companies that regularly rent out to under-age youth. The minimum age to obtain a driver's license in Yemen is 18.

"I always rent a car," says 14 year-old Ahmed who does not have a driver's license. "I just show them [car rental companies] my older brother's passport."

In Yemen, many vehicles are in poor repair and lack basic parts such as functional headlights and taillights. Pedestrians, especially children playing football, and animals on the roads constitute a hazard in both rural and urban areas.

No seatbelts

Yemen is not among the 57 percent of countries that, according to the report, require seatbelts to be used by passengers in both front and rear seats. In fact, Yemen not only does not have a seatbelt law, it neither has a motorcycle helmet law or a child restraints law.

Countries that join Yemen in the absence of a seatbelt law include, Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, the Cook islands, the Comoros, Liberia,

Maldives, Niger, Palau, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Tuvalu among a few others.

All countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), to which Yemen seeks full membership, countries Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have a national seatbelt law although percentage of enforcement varies.

Seat belts are conservatively estimated to have saved more than 300,000 lives and prevented more than 9 million injuries in highly motorized countries over the past 25 years.

Of the GCC countries, only Saudi Arabia has a child restraint law. Children under the age of four are 10 times more likely to be killed in a car crash if unrestrained.

Yemen does however, have a drink driving law. Penalties for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and reckless driving which causes an accident resulting in injury, are a fine and prison sentence, or both. If the accident results in death, the driver is subject to a maximum of three years in prison and/or a fine.

Under traditional practice, victims' families negotiate a monetary compensation from the driver proportionate to the extent of the injuries or death.

In the region Over 90 percent of the world's fatalities on the roads occur in low-income and middle-income countries, which have less than half of the world's vehicles.

The UAE is the worst performer in the region with 37.1 per 100,000 road deaths per head of population, significantly more than Bahrain with only 12.1 per 100,000, Kuwait with 16.9 per 100,000, Oman with 21.3 per 100,000, Qatar with 23.7 per 100,000, Saudi Arabia with 29 per 100,000, and even Yemen who comes second with 29.3 per 100,000.

Approximately 1.3 million people die each year on the world's roads, and between 20 and 50 million sustain non-fatal injuries.

Pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists make up almost half of those killed on the roads, highlighting the need for these road users to be given more attention in road safety programs.

The Global Status Report on Road Safety results clearly show that significantly more action is needed to make the world's roads safer.

In Yemen, enforcing the legal age to drive, building more pedestrians tunnel crossings and establishing seatbelt safety laws would significantly reduce the incidence of traffic deaths.

Books sold for low prices to encourage people to read

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, June 24 — With increasing internet services helping people to get information they need from research websites, few people still depend on books to acquire knowledge or to practice their reading habit.

This encouraged Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Group to hold its first book fair from June 6 - 21 in order to sell as many of its stored books as possible.

"The purpose of holding this book fair was because we have a great reserve of books, and we saw that it is a good idea to hold such fairs to sell our books," said manager of the book fair Abu Bilal Al-Shawarighi, a Syrian citizen that has been working at Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Group for ten years.

"The second purpose was to encourage people to read by taking advantage of the sales we had by lowering book prices," he continued.

The book fair was in a big tent pitched in Al-Tahrir Square in the center of the capital Sana'a. It attracted many passersby, making the fair a success.

Al-Shawarighi said the book fair included books on general culture, religious books, management and economy, agricultural books and other material. "The reader could find anything he wanted from this tent," he related.

"What was missed in the fair were books that contain CDs, mostly medical books, programming books and books about computers, because the tent was not suitable to show such books," he admitted.



Fifty riyals [25 US cents] a book. Books in literature, history, philosophy, religion and even self development were made available for people at extraordinary cheap prices by Al-Jeel Al-Gadeed Group in order to encourage a culture of reading in Yemen.

Big sale

Big sales went on at the book fair, some books being sold for up to 300 percent off regular price. There were sale lists on books sold for only YR 100-150 while their normal prices were YR 300-400.

"Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Group created this big sale to sell as large a number of books as possible," said Al-Shawarighi.

There was only a small reduction in price for other books, most of which were not published by the group and are religious, such as explanations of the Holy Quran. According to Al-Shawarighi, the reduction was based on the cost price of the books.

"25 percent of the books in the fair

were published by the group. Most of these books were university curriculum and books about Yemen. The greatest reduction in price was for these books," Al-Shawarighi related.

Good idea in an attractive place

"The show was attractive because it was in a good place," said Mohammad Al-Maqaleh, an employee at the Yemenia Airline Company. "The prices were very cheap. I bought four volumes of the interpretation of the Holy Quran by Ibn Kathir for only YR 3,000."

He explained that the location of the fair was attracting passersby who were going shopping in the area. "I was going to buy qat. When I saw the tent

and went in out of curiosity, I decided to allocate the YR 3,000 I was going to spend on qat to buy these books instead."

Nadim Ahmad, a teacher of Islamic Studies, said there were no discounts for great books, like interpretations of the Holy Quran. "Discounts were found only for small books, like books about the autobiography of the Prophet's companions. These books were sold for only YR 50," she said.

"The fair is good compared to other book fairs organized in large places, like Apollo Hall," said Um Mahmoud a visitor at the fair. "I discovered the fair by chance. When I entered the tent, I found good books with good prices. I bought books related to specializations that interested me," she said.

Organizers of the fair said that visitors asked them to expand the period of the show, but they could not do so. They said they were forced to close it before schedule on June 21.

Amazing experience

"This experience amazed us because of the great number of people who visited the fair," said Abdullah Al-Anesi, the Chairman of Books Department at Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Group. "God willing, the tent fair will be organized in other provinces such as Aden, Taiz, and Ibb in the future," he added.

Al-Anesi made it clear that the second book fair will be organized in the center of Taiz City when the new academic year starts. "In the second book fair, we will add scientific books and books in different fields of reading," he said.

pornography."

"Usually the main computer server at an Internet center is taken by the field team to the ministry to be checked for pornography movie clips and photos," said Kamal Al-Bartani, head of culture office in the capital. "We always do observatory field visits to internet centers and CDs sellers and we seized thousands of pornography CDs last year."

"Those Internet centers found to download or allow pornography have to sign a commitment not to do it again," he added. "If they do it again, they are prosecuted by the law."

Some people exploit the open space of freedom to do things that may harm themselves and society, according to Al-Bartani.

"Regulations need to be updated and added to control Internet businesses," he adds.

Internet users in Yemen search for pornography, according to a government survey in 2007.

Internet cafés play an important role in access to the web for many Yemenis, since Internet service at home is cost-prohibitive.

Although the number of Internet subscribers rose from 295,624 to 206,909 between and 2009, according to the Public Telecommunications Corporation, Internet use in the country is still relatively low, with less than one to two percent of the population using the Net, depending on studies.

Both Internet service providers in Yemen are 100 percent government-owned, but TeleYemen is managed by a French company.

The Ministry of Telecommunication controls what is accessed on the Internet, both by banning websites and

keywords, and by the regular campaigns by Ministry of Culture to internet centers to observe the contents of the server commutators.

Internet center administrators also have their own censorship tools, such as software which alerts them when someone is on a pornography website.

One of these programs, for example, shows a special icon next to the culprit's computer number on the administrator's computer screen. The latter can then decide whether to ignore the alert, or ask the user to stop what he is doing, which most of the time leads to losing that customer.

"I know an Internet center where it is allowed to watch pornography and computers are facing the wall," said 19 year-old Ahmed. "I once saw the owner of this center kicking out a man because he was engaging in indecent behavior while watching

Government to step up raids on internet pornography

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, June 24 - In an attempt to safeguard the morality of Yemen's youth, the Ministry of Culture will step up its campaign to search internet cafes and CD sellers without warning.

The move is to prevent youth, especially school children, from watching pornographic material on the internet, the ministry says.

Instructions given to Internet café owners include obtaining a license for opening the café, and ensuring computer screens are not set up either facing the wall or separated by partitions. They are also asked not to allow school students to use Internet during school hours if they are wearing school uniform.

Yemenis between 15-35 years are the most common users in Internet cafes, and about 70 percent of young

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Their News

A doctor from Yemen to be trained by Al Gore at the Asia Pacific

A doctor working in a small hospital at the outskirts of Taiz city in Yemen named Yasir Abdul Mageed Hameed has been selected from more than 2000 Australasian applicants to be trained by former US Vice President Al Gore at The Climate Project - Australia Asia Pacific Summit (A-P Summit) in Melbourne in 11 - 13 July.

Dr. Hameed will travel to Melbourne and complete a three day intensive course where he will learn to deliver a version of the slide show from the doc-

umentary "An Inconvenient Truth".

It is the first time people from the Asia Pacific region have been specifically included in the program which builds on the work of The Climate Project - Australia. Building on the work of The Climate Project - Australia, the A-P Summit will bring together 300 people representing a diverse cross section of industry, advocacy and broad social groupings from Australasia and the Asia Pacific region. Mr Gore and a panel of international experts will provide the training hosted by the Australian Conservation Foundation. As a delegate, Dr. Yasir

Hameed will have the chance to help focus and re-invigorate the Asia Pacific's regional response to climate change in the lead into the critical UNCCC Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

"I work as a general practitioner in Al Karama hospital in Taiz. I became interested in the subject of climate change and its health consequences in Yemen. I wrote a report about that subject and send it to Dr. Grant Blashki, from the University of Melbourne. He encouraged me to publish this paper in local media. Through Dr. Blashki, I heard about this Summit and applied to

be one of the trainees. I did not even imagine that I will be selected from Yemen to attend such an important global event. But the selection came shortly after I applied and I was overwhelmed with joy." Dr. Yasir said.

"I hope my role at the A-P Summit will mean I can work to inspire and create change in order to avoid catastrophic climate change here in Yemen. I plan to be an advocate for this work in the important five month lead-up to the Copenhagen climate change negotiations," Dr. Yasir said. Once trained, Dr. Yasir Hameed commits to completing 10 activities - to an audience of his

choice. Five of those activities need be completed by November 30. The activities might be speaking to work colleagues about climate change, delivering a climate change presentation or talking to the media about his role.

"We are extremely proud of Dr. Yasir's achievement and we will support him over the year to ensure he is as effective as possible. As a hospital staff and a Yemeni people we are committed to taking real strides on order to help avoid the worst of the climate crisis" Dr. Abdul Mughni Al Massani, the hospital manager said.

"The A-P Summit has a specific

focus on the unique window of time to act on climate change, particularly with the Copenhagen negotiations at the end of this year. Together A-P Summit delegates will inspire people from the region to make a difference at global level," said Angela Rutter, Manager of The Climate Project - Australia.

One in seventy five Australians have now seen a presentation delivered by the 250 Al Gore trained Climate Project Presenters working throughout communities in Australia.

For more information see www.acfonline.org.au/climateproject

500 seedlings were implanted in Culture House garden

MTN Liaison Company continued the annual environmental and social 21-day campaign by implanting 500 various seedlings on 789 square meter in the garden of Culture House in Sana'a, and deforestation of many gardens in different governorates of Yemen.

During deforestation that which Dr. Mohammed Al-Muflehi, Minister of Culture, participated in, seedlings of sustainable roses were implanted. In addition, irrigation network and fountain of the Culture House were rehabilitated. Lawns were established and plants of the garden were pruned.

During the launch, Minister of Culture commended the joint efforts in rehabilitating Culture House garden and social development. "Field visits that the company pays to serve environmental work emphasize the level of awareness of its administration particularly in paying attention to garden of the Culture House and Book House, the important location that intellectuals visit," said the minister.

In the same context, MTN Yemen launched traffic education campaign for drivers. The campaign which was carried out in all governorates of Yemen aimed to raise traffic awareness through distributing brochures and posters that show risks of roads and the importance of commitment to traffic signs and regulations.



Dr. Mohammed Al-Muflehi Minister of Culture, participating in, seedlings of sustainable roses were implanted

In addition, MTN Yemen organized the open day for orphans in Fun City park in Sana'a. The event was attended by 400 male and female orphans from Orphans Care House, Al-Bara'ah Association, Al-Abcal House and Al-Luwa House for Orphans Care within a 21-day campaign which the company dedicated as a general work to carry out a number of social development projects that directly serve society.

General director of marketing in the company Aimen Al-Masri reviewed objectives of the campaign represented by direct participation in supporting society through sustainable projects and contribution to carrying out many social projects. Al-Masri stressed the importance of providing all forms of care and support to orphans, and qualifying them to be able to participate in development as an active element and important group

in society. He expressed his gladness to see orphans smiling and happy in the event that comes within the annual campaign of the company. He further talked about the programs that have been carried out during the campaign including cleanliness campaign in a number of mosques and distribution of mattresses and blankets in cancer and kidney centers. Additionally, activities of the campaign included giving a bus and one million riyals to United Association for Female Handicapped and dialysis machine to Kidney Center at Al-Thawra Hospital as well as other social and charitable activities.

The 21-day campaign aims to offer direct social services to society through field visits and participation of over 800 employees carrying out over 17 service projects which the company funded or contributed to funding and supporting them. The campaign also aims to involve the private sector in serving and developing local communities as well as empowering the government's efforts in development.

It is worth mentioning that the campaign is organized by MTN Universal Group in the countries that the country serves in. There is a competition between 21 operators to win the first place award. MTN Yemen won the award last year, 2008.

European Commission approves tie-up between Lufthansa and Brussels Airlines

Transaction due to be completed by end of June / Customers will benefit from closer cooperation between the two airlines.



Lufthansa

Green light for Lufthansa and Brussels Airlines: the European Commission has today granted regulatory approval for the tie-up of the two airlines.

The decision paves the way for Lufthansa to acquire an initial 45 per cent stake in SN Airholding SA/NV, the parent company of Brussels Airlines.

Clearance from the EU competition authority will also give Lufthansa an option, from 2011, to buy the remaining 55 per cent stake in Brussels Airlines once it has secured the necessary traffic rights, thereby completing the takeover of the Belgian carrier. The transaction is expected to be finalised by the end of this month.

Regulatory clearance will enable both carriers to realise synergies, further strengthen their competitive position and intensify their cooperation - to the benefit of their respective customers.

Harmonised schedules, which will lead to improved connections at the

Frankfurt, Munich, Zurich and Brussels hubs, are just one of the advantages that customers can look forward to in future.

Today, Lufthansa and Brussels Airlines passengers already profit from the partnership between the two airlines in the run-up to Brussels Airlines' accession to Star Alliance. Besides offering code-share flights on cross-border routes between Germany and Belgium and to other destinations in Europe, Lufthansa, Brussels Airlines and SWISS have forged a reciprocal arrangement that allows members of their respective frequent flyer programmes to earn and redeem miles throughout the partner's network.

From the end of October 2009, Privilege, the loyalty programme operated by Brussels Airlines, will be integrated into Miles & More, Lufthansa's frequent flyer scheme. Furthermore, since the introduction of the summer timetable, fares

offered by both airlines on cross-border routes have been combinable.

This means that passengers of either airline who have a ticket for a round-trip flight between Belgium and Germany can take one flight with Lufthansa and the other with Brussels Airlines.

Lufthansa's and Brussels Airlines' airport lounges are already open to status customers and Business Class passengers travelling with either carrier.

Full information about the cooperation and customer benefits is available on the Internet at www.lufthansa.com and www.brusselsairlines.com.

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- ¥ Perform any other duties assigned by the supervisor.

Required Qualifications

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- ¥ Coordinate venue, hotel, transport and visa requirements for training courses, conferences and business meetings (in and out of country).
- ¥ Assist in preparing travel schedules, manifests, and travel updates while ensuring proper documentation.

Required Qualifications

- ¥ Minimum 5 years experience in travel and ticketing.
- ¥ Excellent organizational and problem-solving skills.
- ¥ Ability to coordinate and prioritize numerous projects with competing priorities and produce accurate timely results.
- ¥ Highly effective and customer-oriented: works well and patiently with various people and personalities and maintains composure while meeting demanding deadlines.
- ¥ Team player who takes an active role in group responsibilities, is flexible, and responds well to change.
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Yemen Times interview with Russian Ambassador Vladimir Trofimov: *“I don't believe that Yemen will ever fall apart, and my government position is to support Yemen's unity.”*

“I will be happy to answer all your questions,” said the Russian Federation's Ambassador to Yemen Vladimir Trofimov when we met him for an interview. He candidly opened his hands, “When it comes to Yemeni and Russian relations, we have no secrets.” Trofimov had been ambassador in Yemen for two and half years and is likely to continue for another one and half. Before that, he had been working for Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 35 years, 22 of which were spent Arab countries.

He graduated from Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1974 and in 1986 graduated from the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has a Masters degree in History and speaks German, English, French and Arabic. He is married with one son who also works for the Foreign Service, specialized in Chinese affairs.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf interviewed Trofimov about Russia, Yemen and international affairs.



YT photo by Mohammed Bin Salim

Every year, the Russian Federation provides Yemen with 80 Bachelor degree scholarships in many fields in addition to 45 scholarships for military degrees. A Yemeni-Russian Friendship Association recommends candidates for 20 of the general scholarships, while the remaining are decided on by the Ministry of Education.

Russia has investments in energy as it involved in the establishment of the Marib Power Plant, although it is keen on expanding to other fields when opportunity is available.

There are representatives of many large Russian industrial companies in

Yemen and they are involved in energy and medical work, among other fields.

In the last few years, Russia canceled USD 5.5 billion of Yemen's debts to the Russian Federation. And while Yemen still owes USD 1.2 billion, there is no pressure to return this amount as Yemen continues to pay an annual interest rate around no more than USD 20 million a year.

To Yemen, the Russian federation is not a donor country as such. However, it does help Yemen in facilitating agreements and supports Yemen's development through expertise and discounted deals for equipment, arms, medicines and so forth.

Russians in Yemen

Formally, 500 Russians, mostly doctors and nurses, are registered with the embassy and have official state contracts. Yet the total Russian community in Yemen by far exceeds this number. Trofimov estimates that there are around 3,500 Russians living in Yemen, mainly in the medical field while others working in geological exploration among other disciplines.

Over the years, there have not been serious complaints raised by Russians living in Yemen and the general impression is that Russians feel safe across the country. They work in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Hadramout and Hodeidah. The embassy does not instruct its citizens where to go and where not to, as they have been evidently wise in their movement and work in Yemen.

“Even we at the embassy don't believe that we need extra security measures despite the tragic incident of kidnapping and murdering foreigners in Sa'ada,” he said. “Thanks to the Yemeni government, security around the embassy is good enough.”

Security cooperation

Russia and Yemen signed a security cooperation agreement in 1998 and since then the two countries have exchanged expertise and Russia has supported Yemen with intelligence and military training, besides the 24 military scholarships every year.

During Saleh's visit to Moscow this February, the two countries agreed on cooperation in combating terrorism and piracy. As a follow up, a special-

ized Russian delegation will be visiting Yemen in November this year to take the agreement further. There is talk of a joint Yemeni-Russian anti-terrorism and anti-piracy committee.

President Saleh also signed a deal to buy arms from Russia during his February visit. This is not the first time that Yemen buys weapons from Russia, who provides Yemen with discounted prices.

“We know Yemen is not a very rich country, so we do what we can to support Yemen's sovereignty and internal security, which is very important to us,” he said.

Yemen's instability

“Our relations with Yemen are friendly and strong,” he said. “Our position is to firmly support Yemen's unity and integrity.”

But Russia does not interfere in Yemen's internal affairs like other countries do, Trofimov stressed. It trusts that the current president was elected by the people through a democratic process, and hence it is not fair to meddle into local affairs.

However, he believes that the instability in Yemen should not be over-dramatized. Another country with the amount of arms available in Yemen would have already been blown to pieces. Yemenis are therefore patient and calm people and are wise at handling their internal affairs.

The demonstrations in the south are economically based, and were triggered by some foreign and local political interests that do not represent all the Yemeni people.

“I don't believe that Yemen will ever fall apart, and my government position is to support Yemen's unity,” he said.

International affairs

Russia intends to hold a Middle East Peace Conference in the coming months. Its interest in the region's stability is not new, as it has played a role as a mediator among many conflicting parties of the region.

“We don't call it the Middle East,” he said. “We call it the Near East because it is near to us. And naturally we are concerned with its stability and want to ensure peace in the region. We have no problem talking to anyone in the process of making peace.”

Hamas has always been a controversial file between Russia and the United States among other western countries.

Historical view, Yemeni Russian relations

Yemeni Russian relations date back to 1928 when a trade agreement was signed in Sana'a, establishing normal official relations between the USSR and Yemen. In October, 1955 a friendship agreement between the Soviet Union and Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen was signed in Cairo.

It renewed the Sana'a Agreement of 1928 and filled it with the new political substance. In June 1956 – the Crown Prince of Yemen Al-Badr visited the USSR and the two countries agreed upon the exchange of diplomatic representations on the

level of missions. In the same year, 1928 when a trade agreement was signed in Sana'a, establishing several economic projects (including cement works in Badjil and port of Hodeida) on favorable terms of credit. And in that year also the military cooperation between the USSR and Yemen started.

Soon after the Yemeni revolution in 1962 USSR recognized Yemeni Arab Republic, and in November the same year the Soviet mission in Yemen and Yemeni mission in USSR were elevated to the level of embassies.

Although there are currently around one and half million Russian Jews in Israel, Russia's friendly position towards Hamas, Fatah and Iran has been made clear on more than one occasion.

“Mish'al had been invited to Russia twice before and we are inviting him again to visit some time soon,” he explained. “We must not ignore the fact that his government was a legitimate one elected by the Palestinian people. If we don't consider Israel who keeps killing dozens of Palestinians every day a terrorist state, why should we consider Hamas a terrorist organization?”

“Our policy is to have fair relations

with all sides, so that we can play a balanced role in the region in order to maintain peace,” he concluded.

Similarly, Russia's relations with eastern countries are also maintained on friendly levels. Russia has annual USD 30 billion trade agreements with China and strong relations with India, notably commercial ones, as well as with other Asian countries.

Whether the new US administration means different US policy in the Middle East region is yet to be seen. However, Trofimov does find the Obama administration has a warmer attitude towards Russia compared to the Bush administration which was rather “confrontational.”



YT photo by Mohammed Bin Salim

Russia does help Yemen in facilitating agreements and supports Yemen's development through expertise and discounted deals for equipment, arms, medicines and so forth

About the Russian Federation

The democratic federative republic of Russia was formed as independent on 24 August 1991 from the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic of Soviet Union. It is divided into 21 autonomous republics, 10 autonomous okrugs, 6 krais, 2 federal cities (Moscow and St. Petersburg), 1 autonomous oblast and 49 oblasts. The national capital is Moscow.

Russia is the largest country in the world with the total area 17 075 400 square kilometers (over 6.5 million square miles), that is about 1.8 times the size of the USA. Total population is about 144.7 mln people, with about 72.9% urban population. Most of the population are Russians (81.5%), with more than 100 other nationalities (Tatar 3.8%, Ukrainian 3%, Chuvash 1.2%, Bashkir 0.9%).

The official language is Russian. Every autonomous republic uses its own language as the second official language. Religions: Russian Orthodox, Muslim, Judaic and others.

Russia is potentially one of the wealthiest countries with its natural resources, a well-educated population (99.6% adult literacy; 64% tertiary education enrollment rate), and a diverse industrial base. Nevertheless, its economic situation has deteriorated since the beginning of Perestroika in 1985, which announced moving from centrally planned economy to a market economy. August 1998 brought a new serious crisis. The exchange rate of US

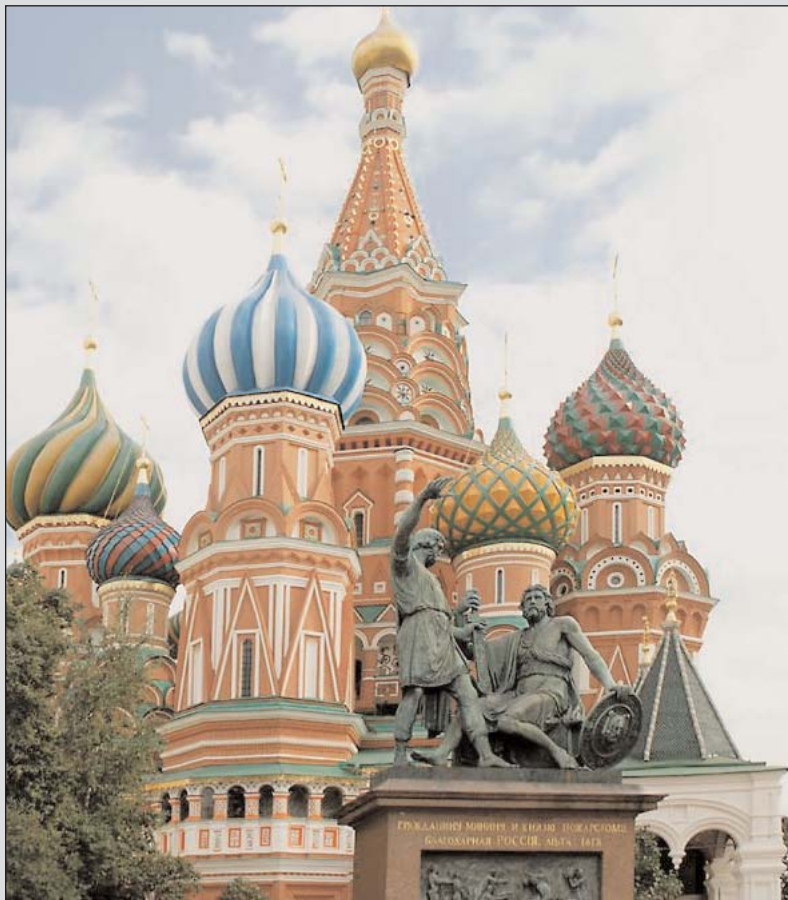
Dollar flew up from 6 to 24 rubles in less than 6 weeks. Small businesses were almost devastated. Prices for consumer goods increased in 4-5 times with the salaries increased only on 20-

30%. However, the crisis gave a boost to the development of national industries, which could not compete with foreign goods with the low dollar rate. Now, years after the crisis, the results

become visible with reviving the industrial enterprises, particularly in production of consumer goods and food processing.

The main industries include a complete range of mining and extractive industries producing coal, oil, gas, chemicals, and metals; all forms of machine building from rolling mills to high-performance aircraft and space vehicles; shipbuilding; road and rail transportation equipment; communications equipment; agricultural machinery, tractors, and construction equipment; electric power generating and transmitting equipment; medical and scientific instruments; consumer durables, textiles, foodstuffs, handicrafts.

Tourism in Russia has been growing rapidly in the years following the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1991. Most of the tourism is centered on the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, since these cities are the sites of some of the most famous attractions of Russia, such as the Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, the Kremlin in Moscow, the Peter and Paul Fortress, the State Hermitage Museum and the Church of the Savior on Blood in St. Petersburg, which recently celebrated the tricentennial of its founding in 2003. Tourists are attracted by the very rich cultural heritage and rather tumultuous history of Russia, and this is reflected in the popularity of Russia's most famous attractions.



St. Basil's Cathedral at sunset, Moscow, Russia

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Interos is currently opening an office and implementing programme in the capital town of Sana'a. Interos is seeking candidates for the follow position:

1. Safe-Home Coordinator (only female candidates)
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3. Livelihood Officer
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5. Translators from Somali and/or Oromo to English
6. Children animators
7. Psychosocial counsellors
8. Administrator/Logistician
9. Data-Entry Clerks

In Aden, Interos is looking for candidates for the following positions:

1. Drop-in center coordinator in Kharaz camp (Preferably women, Somali, Arabic and English speaker)
2. Logistic officer (Arabic and English speaker)
3. Animator/ Teacher for pre-school education

The full details of the above mentioned vacancies may be found at Interos Office, Villa n1481, white city Al Salvador Street, Khormaksar, Aden or at Interos Office in Al Jazarat Street, Diplomatic Area, Sana'a. Or a mail can be sent to the following address: interos_yemen@hotmail.it

Interested candidates are asked to submit their applications only in English (including a hand writing cover letter, copies of certificates and CV) to the Interos Office, or via e-mail at interos_yemen@hotmail.it

The deadline for receiving applications is the 30th July, 2009.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Very important: Specify the position you are applying to, otherwise your application will not be processed.

Interos promote equal gender opportunities
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The Class System – a sign of failure

By: Hameed Hussein Al-Awdi
auditechno@yahoo.com

One of the most sensitive and important issues brought up in the Yemen Times – namely issue no. 1268 of Monday, June 15, 2009 – was from the editor-in-chief, titled "The Class System in Yemen." The article exposed some of the negative consequences of this racist system which has severely damaged the principles of equity, equality and humanity in general.

I think this system is incredibly destructive because it damages the structure of society by applying improper standards when making judgments about people's acts and achievements. This system is not a characteristic of our society alone, but it arguably prevails and permeates here in Yemen more than in many other societies.

The fact that we as human beings all descend from the same origin in Adam and Eve has been destroyed, or at least distorted, because of this class system. The system has no grounds to stand on whatsoever when dealing with individuals or groups. Whatever you accomplish, whatever you achieve, how distinguished you are: none of it has any significance if you are not of a high-class origin.

Actually, the people who subscribe to this racist system consider human beings as if they were little more than goods. For instance, a product's certificate of origin tells that it has been manufactured by this or that well-known company, indicating that the product will no doubt be the best, or at least better than many others. Famous brands, as we all know, mean good quality products.

For civilized and good-mannered people, this notion can never be applicable to human beings. Good deeds should be the only standard of preference here. As for those who believe in and support such a class system, there must be something wrong with their characters. They clearly lack something inside themselves, and thus try to take advantage of being a descendent of somewhere or someone important to fill the gap between what they really

are and what they want to be. They do not realize that social status should be gained by what they do, and not inherited as real estate or other property.

Of course, one should be proud of his parents and forefathers, and their family in general, but this should be built on their achievements, good deeds, ethics and so forth, and not on their social class. Unless this is the standard, the support for class systems will be used to hide the weaknesses, shortcomings and possibly evil interests behind such a racist classification.

There is certainly a connection between this discriminating class system and failure, and needs no great effort to be made obvious. Let us take a simple look at some individuals in a classroom, street, or any other gathering who all descend from different social classes. When a problem of any kind rises among them, whatever the cause behind the problem, the people from the higher class will immediately tend to remind their opponents about their low-class origins, even though the problem has nothing to do with that. If it were a classless society, then they would discuss, face and/or tackle any dispute without resorting to degrading others. In fact, we can see many examples similar to this one in different places and situations around us.

This is as far as individuals and groups are concerned. Taking a broader perspective, we can look at this system in terms of societies and states in general. Simply put, individuals and groups make up the society and then the state, as any society or state reflects the belief patterns of individuals and groups. Once those who believe in such a racist class system become prominent figures in their society, they will try to spread their ideas and make use of them to gain personal interests. When they become leaders, they will do their best, along with their fellows, to exploit this class notion in order to preserve their posts by any means whatsoever.

When reviewing the conduct of a state, we can find out that when it fails and becomes unable to run the affairs of its people, those involved

tend to be the people who caused the state to overlook and ignore its own faults instead of facing up to them. Those who oppose the regime or individual ruler are often subject to harassment through different means, one of which may be degrading them by using the class system to the ruling regime's advantage. According to many historians and researchers, this is exactly what took place in Yemen, leading to the current class system.

Following the decay of the Islamic State run by the caliphs, small states spread here and there with each trying to hold a strong grasp and control over a part of the decaying state and its people. Many conflicts broke out among those states which subsequently became weaker and weaker, with the rulers doing their best to protect their regimes. After a short review of the situation, we find out that the class system often entered and prevailed within the weak or failed states in order to consolidate control. Such states' rulers tended to implant differences and discrimination among people. They divided, and then subdivided, their own people into separate classes with different names according to the interest of the regimes and its fellows. In strong states and societies we rarely find this kind of class system. Instead, we find societies based on socio-economics or other kinds of systems.

This poor conduct of creating a class system continued to develop throughout history by inventing new forms of classifications, since different times require new ideas and new names. Any regime throughout history could easily find suitable terms for its class levels, and if good names were not found, then new words were introduced into the language. All this negative creation occurred just because of a failure to face difficulties, failure to deal with different issues and failure to tackle problems. If we go back a few centuries, a few decades, or even up till today, we can see how different regimes and rulers along with interested parties have been classifying people according to their evil interests. This is applicable to societies, groups and individuals – all because of a failure to do well.

Welcome to the life of a bona fide refugee

By: Mohammed Ramzi

20th June is the world refugee day, and is a day the world is supposed to honor refugees and their day to day struggles. But what is it like to be a refugee besides the stereotypical images of refugees huddling in hot, remote, and wind-swept camps covered with tents that are often being beamed to our living rooms? The reality is that behind the scene, there are extraordinary stories that are worth celebrating.

Contrary to what many people believe, refugees do not choose to be refugees. They are obliged to cross borders because they run from persecution.

To put it into perspective, imagine yourself herding your camel which is your only pride, wealth and joy on earth in the barrel land of Ogaden in Eastern Ethiopia. Except for constant dry spells, you lead an idyllic and untroubled life under the acacia trees.

You live in your own world, and can not even fathom the difference between America and Britain let alone having a grasp of Yemen, the European Commission, the World Food Program or the UNHCR which would later be your lifesavers as an asylum seeker.

You hear through word of mouth about the brutality of the army that is fighting rebels in your arid land, but you are not much perturbed as a nomad pastoralist. "Furthermore, who cares about an itinerant pastoralist?" you wonder.

Then, again through word of mouth, you hear the Ethiopian army killed your relative in the bushes. You shed tears and your only brother takes the gun to defend the valleys, the trees, the wells and the hills that you all believed you were the rightful owners.

Your brother fights to the bitter end and gets killed in the second battle of engagement having locked horns with one of the strongest armies in Africa.

The following day, they storm your home; torch your hut and peeper your

camel with bullets. You are accused of being a rebel sympathizer. Thanks heavens you escape into the thicket by the grace of God.

Now the journey begins—a journey of despair and nightmares. You encounter lions, hyenas and snakes, but you choose the wild animals over your fellow human beings. But worse, your journey is your destination.

You cross the border to Somalia and manage to get to Bossaso in central Somalia, where you join your fellow Ogaden nomads who also escaped the military wanton carnage and cheated death. They all call home a congested refugee camp in the outskirts of the city.

In Ogaden people would call you the herder, and you were proud of being one. However, in Bossaso they call you Qohoti (the refugee). You are irritated when you are referred to as the refugee, but you are either too timid or afraid to resist the refugee thing.

Life in Bossaso is never a bed of roses. You endure sleepless nights thinking round-the-clock about your beautiful wife, your daughter, two sons, your only sister, your aging mother, the charm of your native land and your camel. You don't even know if your family has pulled through the military attack!

Within a month in Bossaso, a relative helps you to pay US\$50 to smugglers, and you embark on a new journey on a small fishing boat through the red sea to the Yemen.

You feel sea sick, but above all you are shocked to see people stabbed and thrown overboard by heartless smugglers. You wonder when you will be the next fish food!

In the face of horror, you stare up at the azure sky and call to mind the teacher who taught you the Quran with wood stakes and advised you to pray to Allah at times of trials and tribulations; you raise your hands up to the almighty.

Fortunately, you pray your way to the shores of Yemen in the dead of night, and not having eaten for three consecutive days in the waters you feel hungry and haggard.

You have taken the perilous voyage

with children, women and men. You all curl up while the children cry for food. Now you realize that your vulnerability and despair is a paragon of real people with real needs.

The scene up on the sky seems to reveal closeness to your land of heritage, and hence sources some solace to your soul. The Milky Way and the Plough appear with a pinpoint clarity in a starry sky that reveals constellations that you used to see while lying at the ravines of Ogaden.

The morning breaks and, with your companions, you walk to the nearest Yemeni village, Maifa'a, where you get food and a temporary accommodation from the UNHCR. Within two days in Maifa, you start hitchhiking hundreds of kilometers to Sana'a—it is a ten-day trek.

While in Sana'a you hear agonizing stories about your family. Your young daughter has died of malnutrition. Your octogenarian mother, your wife and your two sons are in a refugee camp in Hargaisa, Somalia. Your sister was gang raped and shot dead by the army.

You try everything possible to get a job so you may remit some money to your beloved family. Yes, you were once a man of pride, but now you are pushed to the limit and you have to take any job even if it is a degrading job that puts you below the welfare line. The only thing you can do, though, is to pick, push or pack.

Unlike when you were the stockman, now you know you need protection and assistance from the Yemen, the UNHCR, the European Commission, The World Food Program and the rest of the world.

As an asylum seeker, you lead a life you have never seen in your mind's eye as a herder. Yet, against all odds, you try to start from zero to something and measure up to the living standard of the mainstream citizens of your host country.

Welcome to the life of a bona fide refugee!

This article came first place in the UNHCR-Yemen writing competition on the occasion of World Refugee Day sponsored by WFP and EU.

A New Generation

By: Marion Patrick T. Lavilla, R.N.
Al Salam Hospital at Sa'ada

Reading the newspaper twice weekly, its pages is filled with harrowing experiences and statistics about refugees who travel far and wide from African Horn countries to the coastline of Yemen to flee. These asylum seekers are not threatened by the legendary monsters that lie deep in the Red Sea: They are being killed by the very people who offer them assistance for a small payment of 50 USD to 120 USD – a very large sum for most Somali's. In the middle of the trip or a few meters away from the coastline, they are being thrown to the sea to escape the probing eyes of the patrollers. For the past few years, the coastline of Yemen has been a graveyard for both the dead and living Somali and Ethiopian refugees who wanted to seek asylum. Upon getting to the shores, they face more challenges other than loosing a family member, coping or earning a living: Persecution is the definite fate of those who enter a foreign country. The UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP) and European Commission have committed to provide support, the influx of refugees and lack of manpower have

continued to slow down the progress of their operations. These refugees are real people with real needs. Their presence in Yemen has always been thought as an economic liability. Their increasing numbers pose a threat to the goals of the Government to alleviate poverty and unemployment. In a report, over 150,000 refugees have been registered through Kharaz in Lahj Province but according to the government of Yemen, the total numbers have increased up to 800,000. The wide coastline of Yemen makes the detection difficult, up to now, the statistics vary.

Their exodus to the unknown is wrought with suffering as they have to face suffocation from the crowded vessels they ride on. When they arrive on the shores, they are drenched and horrified. Adrift, they are taken to the main encampment in Kharaz and undergo medical and psychological treatment. These services are offered by international agencies such as Doctors Without Borders. The passage of the 21st century has paved the way to globalization: There is no place for people regarded as asylum seekers or refugees; this time, a new generation will emerge. With the aide of UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP) and European Commission, their refugees will be able to cope

upon their reintroduction to society. The support from the international organizations has always been helpful in the survival of these asylum seekers but the root of this problem should be solved to end this humanitarian crisis. Even though only a few of them are being catered by these agencies, they have been given hope. According to the UNHCR, over 21,660 people have fled from Somalia from the start of the year to the coastline of Yemen to escape from the lawlessness that has plagued their country for years. The Government of Yemen cannot do it alone; the country is also facing a lot of tribulations: An insurgency in the south, the threats of another Sa'ada war and the global crisis. A dialogue to end the conflicts in the African Horn countries is the only solution. Compromise is no longer an option but an obligation.

I call upon the world leaders to unite, big and small. Our brothers and sisters need our help. Listen to their voices: Dead or Alive. It's time to take action. A new generation is budding from this exodus; people with hope, people who cares for the future.

This article came second place in the UNHCR-Yemen writing competition on the occasion of World Refugee Day sponsored by WFP and EU.

SKETCHED OPINION



By Hamid

YEMEN TIMES

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The Arab World Turns East

For the first time, China has surpassed the U.S. in exports to the Arab world. Jane Meikle heads to the largest Chinese products fair in the Middle East and investigates.

By: Jane Meikle
The Media Line News Agency

The average V.I.P. 'majlis,' or parlour in the Gulf features elegant bowls of sticky dates, elaborately carved wooden furniture and crowds of onlookers waiting for dignitaries who inevitably turn up fashionably late.

But the ambience at the majlis in Dubai's World Trade Centre has been different this week. Polite, flowery pleasantries have been replaced by rapid-fire Chinese; the bowls beside the dates are filled with rice snacks, and instead of Arabic incense the room is decorated with the heady scent of recently unpacked consumer goods from Yuwi and Shanghai. High-level trade delegates from all over the People's Republic sip amber-colored Arabic coffee served by a man in a white dishdash, as they wait for the ribbon-cutting to begin.

Welcome to what is being hailed by many as the New Silk Route.

At this week's sold-out 2009 China Sourcing Fairs in Dubai, billed as the 'largest China-Products Exhibition in the Middle East,' six halls are packed with everything from flatware to frying pans as more than 1,100 exhibitors tout electronics, fashion accessories, gifts and home products to buyers from all over the Middle East.

2009 was the first year in which China surpassed the United States as the largest exporter to the Arab world,

and the colossal fair is a manifestation of a changing current in the Arab world away from Western imports and towards Eastern suppliers.

"Economic powers like the U.S., Europe and to some extent Japan went so far toward industrialization to the degree that they have reached what we would call a post-industrial society," Dr. Mohammed Aboelenein, Chairman of the Department of Sociology at the United Arab Emirates University and author of a paper on globalization and consumption patterns in the UAE, told The Media Line. "Traditional industries were left to 'the tigers': rising powers like China, India, Brazil to some extent, South Korea... China was the most successful."

The growth in Chinese exports to the Arab world dates back to the 1990s, when the Chinese began approaching oil-rich Gulf States to try to secure sources of petroleum for their energy-hungry industries. During the process, the People's Republic discovered an incredibly rich market for Chinese exports.

Across numerous sectors, trade between China and Arab countries jumped by almost 100 billion U.S. dollars between 2004 and 2008. Iraqi-owned North Oil has signed a \$3.5 billion contract with CNPC, a Chinese state-owned oil corporation; Jordan has signed a civil nuclear cooperation deal with China to supply nearly a third of the country's energy requirements by 2030, and the China State Construction Engineering

Corporation is building the Skycourts development in UAE's Dubailand under a \$409 million contract.

"Stability in the region, strong economies compared to the rest of the world, and an expanding middle class help sustain demand in the Middle East and North Africa region," said Bill Janeri, Middle East General Manager for the fair's organizer, Global Sources

While Middle Eastern consumer goods have not been as badly affected as the rest of the world, regional trading analysts said the cheaper Chinese products help Middle Eastern importers maximize their margins.

In a survey of Middle Eastern companies attending the elaborate trade fair, Global Sources found that over half of the buyers plan to incorporate cheaper Chinese goods in their product mixes by more than 30 per cent in the next year. While exhibition organizers said consumer electronics were the best represented sector, state and market analysts said interest in industrial machinery has recently boomed.

"Chinese companies are interested in oil and electronics is strong. The new sector is industrial equipment," said Gao Youzhen, the Chinese Consul General in Dubai, highlighting that consumer goods are not the only sector to be swept by a wave of Middle Eastern demand for trade with China.

Efforts are underway to formalize the relationship: current talks aim to propose a Free Trade Agreement between China and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a bloc comprised of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

Gulf insiders say the flow of capital is a widening two-way street. "On the

road to recovery from the crisis, exporters can capitalize on rebounding growth in China to escape sluggish markets in other parts of the world," Dr. Belaid Rettab, Senior Executive Director of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry said of the export opportunities for Dubai. "While China is one of the fastest growing markets, Dubai's exports to China still remain at modest levels and have a huge potential for increase."

Dubai's total exports to China stood at 1.28 billion in 2007, and included everything from vehicles, aircraft and vessels to base metals, electronics and transport machinery.

Petrochemicals, however, take the cake for GCC investment in China. Gulf Finance House of Bahrain invested \$650 million in a 2008 Energy City project in China and the Saudi oil giant Aramco is poised to build a second crude refinery in Qingdao to complement the \$3.6 billion dollar facility it built in Fujian in 2005. According to the World Bank, although the U.S. is still the main destination for GCC capital, Asia has received 11 per cent of total GCC capital outflow in the last five years.

Meandering through the dog-shaped jewellery boxes, frosted glass dinner ware, and blu-ray DVD players at the China products exhibition, the cultural elements of building business relationships between Middle Eastern and Chinese traders do not seem as disparate as one may think.

"They are both Eastern," said Katie Weng, the Dubai-based Director of Sales and Marketing at Asia Business Television. "In business, you have to have a relationship. In the West, you do business first and then maybe you will become friends. In China, it's friends first, and then business."

"There's a term in China, guanxi, which basically means the equivalent of, 'I scratch your back, you scratch mine,'" said a high-level sales manager who holds cultural education sessions for businesspeople throughout China and the Middle East. The manager, who declined to be named to protect his clients, explained that similarities between China and the Middle East can also present hurdles along the way. Ego management is essential in both areas of the world and big bosses in China and the Middle East demand to be approached in formal, often inexpedient ways. "They say, how do you start a relationship? I say, how do you start dating?"

"In China you have to drink," said the sales manager-cum-cultural liaison. "When you're drunk you can sign a contract. If you're not drunk, you don't sign," he said, explaining that Chinese businessmen bond by drinking each other to oblivion, with the guest too polite to refuse cup after cup of strong rice wine.

The increase in trade and investment, however, does not appear to correlate with an increase in jobs or to the transfer or technology. In a region where 60 per cent of the population is under 25, and with youth unemployment reaching endemic levels, analysts said that Middle Eastern nations such as Egypt and Tunisia needed to boost the competitiveness of their workforces, as trade with the East was unlikely to bring new jobs to the region.

According to a World Bank report entitled "Strengthening MENA's Trade and Investments with China and India", labor service cooperation between China and selected Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries is growing, but the report

pointed out that Middle Eastern countries could strengthen service provision to stay competitive.

"Emiratis mainly work for government organizations, whereas the private sector employees are expats to a great degree," said Dr Aboelenein, considering the dire prospects for young people. "Is it going to make the picture any worse?" he asked, referring to the increase in Chinese imports. "The picture is not good." Dr Aboelenein argued that competition in the Gulf was likely to be between Chinese and other expatriate groups, rather than competition between Chinese and Gulf nationals.

As for competition between Chinese and American businesses in the Middle East, John Lancia, Executive Vice President of the American Business Council in Dubai and the Northern Emirates maintained that the U.S. was still competitive, particularly in non-manufacturing, knowledge-based sectors. "We will continue to do what the U.S. does best," he said, "bringing world-class technology and world-class know-how to the region."

As the Chinese government policy of encouraging businesses to 'Go Global' continues to stimulate trade increases between the Middle East and China, traditional trade partners like the U.S. will have to identify their niche to compete with cheaper Chinese goods.

"I think they have played the game very well," said Dr. Aboelenein. "They studied the opportunity here and they took it."

If this week's China Sourcing Fair is any indication, the opportunities for China to take on America in the Middle East will keep growing, as the New Silk Route opens for business.

Learning to Lead

By: Joseph S. Nye

Public-opinion polls show that citizens in many democracies are unhappy with their leaders. This is particularly true in Great Britain, where a number of members of Parliament have used their housing allowances to enhance their income, sometimes legally and sometimes not. Some analysts predict that only half of Britain's MPs will be returned in next year's election.

But, whatever the failures of particular British legislators, the issues go further than merely allowing voters to "throw the rascals out." There is also a question of how successful leadership is taught and learned in a democracy. A successful democracy requires leadership to be widespread throughout government and civil society. Citizens who express concern about leadership need to learn not only how to judge it, but how to practice it themselves.

Many observers say that leadership is an art rather than a science. Good leadership is situational. In my book *The Powers to Lead*, I call this skill "contextual intelligence." The ability to mobilize a group effectively is certainly an art rather than a predictive science, and varies with situations, but that does not mean that it cannot be profitably studied and learned.

Music and painting are based in part on innate skills, but also on training and practice. And artists can benefit not merely from studio courses, but also from art appreciation lessons that introduce them to the full repertoires and pallets of past masters.

Learning leadership occurs in a variety of ways. Learning from experience is the most common and most powerful. It produces the tacit knowledge that is crucial in a crisis. But experience and intuition can be supplemented by analytics, which is the purpose of my book. As Mark Twain once observed, a cat that sits on a hot stove

will not sit on a hot stove again, but it won't sit on a cold one, either.

Consequently, learning to analyze situations and contexts is an important leadership skill. The United States Army categorizes leadership learning under three words: "be, know, do." "Be" refers to the shaping of character and values, and it comes partly from training and partly from experience. "Know" refers to analysis and skills, which can be trained. "Do" refers to action and requires both training and fieldwork. Most important, however, is experience and the emphasis on learning from mistakes and a continuous process that results from what the military calls "after-action reviews."

Learning can also occur in the classroom, whether through case studies, historical and analytic approaches, or experiential teaching that simulates situations that train students to increase self-awareness, distinguish their roles from their selves, and use their selves as a barometer for under-

standing a larger group. Similarly, students can learn from the results of scientific studies, limited though they may be, and by studying the range of behaviors and contexts that historical episodes can illuminate.

In practice, of course, few people occupy top positions in groups or organizations. Most people "lead from the middle." Effective leadership from the middle often requires attracting and persuading those above, below, and beside you.

Indeed, leaders in the middle frequently find themselves in a policy vacuum, with few clear directives from the top. A passive follower keeps his head down, shuns risk, and avoids criticism. An opportunist uses the slack to feather his own nest rather than help the leader or the public.

Bureaucratic entrepreneurs, on the other hand, take advantage of such opportunities to adjust and promote policies. The key moral question is whether, and at what point, their entre-

preneurial activity exceed the bounds of policies set from the top. Since they lack the legitimate authority of elected or high-level appointed officials, bureaucratic entrepreneurs must remain cognizant of the need to balance initiative with loyalty.

Leaders should encourage such entrepreneurship among their followers as a means of increasing their effectiveness. After all, the key to successful leadership is to surround oneself with good people, empower them by delegating authority, and then claim credit for their accomplishments.

To make this formula work, however, requires a good deal of soft power. Without the soft power that produces attraction and loyalty to the leader's goals, entrepreneurs run off in all directions and dissipate a group's energies. With soft power, however, the energy of empowered followers strengthens leaders.

Leadership is broadly distributed throughout healthy democracies, and

all citizens need to learn more about what makes good and bad leaders. Potential leaders, in turn, can learn more about the sources and limits of the soft-power skills of emotional IQ, vision, and communication, as well as hard-power political and organizational skills.

They must also better understand the nature of the contextual intelligence they will need to educate their hunches and sustain strategies of smart power. Most important, in today's age of globalization, revolutionary information technology, and broadened participation, citizens in democracies must learn more about the nature and limits of the new demands on leadership.

Joseph S. Nye, Jr. is University Distinguished Service Professor at Harvard and author of The Powers to Lead.

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Lebanon Goes West

By: Paul Salem

Lebanon's voters have handed a clear defeat to the Hezbollah-led March 8 alliance. In a smoothly run and peaceful election, the pro-Western March 14 alliance emerged with a clear majority of 71 seats, compared to 58 seats for its rivals. The results elicited a nearly audible sigh of relief from Arab capitals, as well as from leaders in Europe and North America.

The fear that the pro-Syrian and pro-Iranian March 8 alliance might secure a victory was palpable prior to the vote. Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had eagerly and publicly anticipated such an outcome.

The March 14 Alliance's victory is good news for Lebanon and the region, ensuring good relations with Lebanon's Arab and Western friends, and constituting a quiet triumph for moderation and pragmatism over

extremism and confrontation. It is also good news for the Obama administration, which had feared a regional setback soon after Obama's historic address in Cairo on June 4.

The election also brings a much needed measure of stability and legitimacy to the governing March 14 coalition, which comprises the mainly Sunni Future movement, led by Saad Hariri (son of slain former Prime Minister Rafik al Hariri), the Socialist party, led by Druze leader Walid Junblat, and a number of Christian parties. Although the March 14 coalition already controlled Parliament, its majority had been repeatedly attacked as the result of a severely skewed election law.

Although the March 8 alliance lost the election, not all of its members were equally distressed by the results. Aside from Hezbollah, March 8 includes the more secular Shiite Amal movement and the Free Patriotic Movement, a large Christian group led

by General Michel Aoun. Whereas Hezbollah and Amal swept the Shiite districts in the South and the Beqaa Valley, confirming their dominant position among Lebanon's Shiites, Aoun delivered less than half the Christian votes.

Hezbollah may be quite comfortable with the returns. Winning would have placed Hezbollah in a challenging position. Arab and international governments would have reacted negatively, and investor confidence in Lebanon would have been undermined, jeopardizing Lebanon's political and economic relations. A victory for the March 8 alliance also would have strengthened Israel's argument that Hezbollah dominates Lebanon, leaving the country more exposed to attack.

Moreover, if the March 8 coalition had won, it would have largely been on the back of Christian voters delivered by Aoun, who might have then demanded the Lebanese presidency,

which is reserved for a Christian. Neither Hezbollah nor Amal wanted this. With a March 14 victory, Hezbollah is more secure vis-à-vis Israeli attack or international isolation, can worry less about managing Lebanon's economy and finances, and can maintain its alliance with Aoun without delivering him the Moon.

Moving forward, the immediate challenge will be to form the next government. The March 14 alliance has said that it would welcome a national unity government with the March 8 coalition, but without the veto power that the opposition has been demanding. This wrangling is likely to take weeks, but is unlikely to come to blows or to reach a complete impasse. Neither side is interested in escalation or a breakdown. Their patrons in the region and internationally - Saudi Arabia, the United States, Syria, and Iran - are also more interested in negotiation than escalation at this point.

On matters of national sovereignty, the new government must continue to build up the national army and police forces, negotiate with Hezbollah over the integration of its militia into the state security structure, and push for regional peace, which would strongly benefit Lebanon.

With regard to economic and social policy, the government must manage the national debt while encouraging investment and employment and strengthening public education and health programs.

The government must also move forward on further electoral reform, expand administrative decentralization, hold local elections in 2010, and come up with a credible program to combat rampant corruption.

None of these challenges will be easy.

Lebanon has undergone much in the past four years: the withdrawal of Syrian forces, a string of painful

assassinations, a devastating 2006 war with Israel, a difficult battle between the Lebanese army and an entrenched terrorist group called Fateh al-Islam, a year and a half of institutional paralysis between late 2006 and early 2008, and a brief civil war in the streets of Beirut in May 2008. However, since then, Lebanon has put together a coalition government, regained security and stability, weathered the global economic crisis, and now organized a largely free and fair election.

Much of this has been achieved through regional and international assistance, but on June 7 the Lebanese people, through the ballot box, proved that they hold ultimate decision-making power over the country's precarious but potentially promising future.

Paul Salem is the Director of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2009. www.project-syndicate.org

Saudi-born Yemenis at university in Yemen

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Many Yemenis are born in Saudi Arabia, where they are brought up and spend their childhood. As they grow up and finish high school, the only contact they have with their homeland is through the stories their parents tell them, or sometimes through television. Saudi Arabia is their home.

But once they are ready to go to university, they are hard hit by the reality that they are not allowed to pursue higher studies in Saudi Arabia. They have two options.

While some decide to venture into business without a degree or even resign themselves to working as salesmen, families who can afford it let their children leave the kingdom in the pursuit of a university degree so that they can return better qualified to work for large companies and higher salaries.

Badr Farhan, 24, Yemeni engineer at Axis Design in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, earns about SR 5500 (US 1375). He graduated from Sana'a University in 2007.

"When you have a university degree you receive more respect and appreciation from your employer and a salary increase," confirms Farhan, who worked as a receptionist in an insurance company for much less before he came to study at the University of Sana'a in Yemen.

Based on the family's financial situation, how much they trust their children and their perception of the social life in a particular country, the student is sent to Egypt, Jordan, India, Yemen or even Europe.

Most students are sent to Yemen because its universities have the cheapest fees, and its society is more conservative than other countries. Many of them say that their parents

prefer Yemen because they worry about the influence a more liberal society would have on their children. The presence of relatives also helps to allay parents' fears and the anxiety of separation.

Choosing a degree

Most of those who come to Yemen to study choose a degree in engineering, computer sciences and medicine. When they go back to Saudi Arabia, they would have an average salary of SR 5000-8000 (USD 1,250-2,000) in comparison to the SR1,500 -2,000 (US 375-500) they would make in jobs without a university degree.

"We study the job market in the kingdom to expand our chances of employment," said Mazin Al-Ashraaf, 24, who studies telecommunication engineering at the private Science and Technology University in Sana'a. "I know people who studied in Yemen and now work in the kingdom in positions with good salaries - some even for the government."

Abdulmageed Al-Amodi, 20, was born in Saudi Arabia and studies mechanical engineering at the University of Sana'a. Like many other students in the parallel system, he pays USD 1,500 in fees to attend the university, because his high school grades were not good enough to be accepted to study for free.

Although Al-Amodi is optimistic about his employability when he finishes, he knows that, even with a degree, finding a job back in Saudi Arabia is not always guaranteed.

His brother graduated from Yemen with a degree in computer programming, but he can't work with his certificate from Saba University because the Saudi authorities withdrew their accreditation to the university inside the kingdom.

It's my first time to come to Yemen: I wanted it to study because it's cheap and is my country," said Al-



Most of those who come to Yemen to study choose a degree in engineering, computer sciences and medicine

Amodi, explaining that he chose the University of Sana'a because it is the only university in Yemen to teach mechanical engineering.

Although Al-Amodi's could only afford to study in Yemen, he would have liked to study in Egypt, Sudan or any European country because universities there give more attention to practical study: "At the University of Sana'a, practical study is very weak, so when you start a job, you have to work hard to prove that you studied at university," he said.

"My father is a retired teacher and he pays for my brother and me to study in Yemen," said Al-Amodi. "During my summer vacation, I go to Saudi and I work there in order to help my father to cover my study expenses."

Al-Amodi has sisters but the idea of sending them outside Saudi Arabia to study is not negotiable. After high school, Saudi-born Yemeni girls usually don't think of university study. Only a lucky few are awarded a scholarship to a Saudi university, and most of them marry after high school.

professors, "We are lost in between. Professors have a misconception that we are spoiled and have a lot of money, and they are not fair with us in evaluation."

Al-Ashraaf wasted about three years after high school fighting to go to Egypt where his two of his brothers are enrolled in universities. But when he first came to Yemen one year ago, although it was his last choice, he liked the weather and found people to be kind-hearted.

"The way we dress or talk makes people think we are Saudis and have a lot of money," said Al-Ashraaf.

Another telecommunication engineering undergraduate, Mohammad Al-Hamali also grew up in Saudi Arabia. Before enrolling in a Yemeni university, he had previously worked a salesman in a textile shop, a runner in a bank and clearance agent in airport customs.

"I want to make my father rest after more than 48 years working," said Al-Hamali, "I will do this by completing my studies and finding a good job."

Mohammad Al-Hatami, 24, student in his final year of computer programming at Saba University, studies supported by his father, a librarian, and his three brothers who

work to help him with university fees.

Accredited certificates

Although Al-Hatami has finished his studies, his university certificate is still not accredited by the Saudi embassy. He hopes by the times he receives his certificate from Saba University it will be accepted in Saudi Arabia.

"Saba University and the Ministry of Higher Education are negotiating with the Saudis to re-accredit our university certificates," said Dr. Ahmad Al-Shami, head of Saba University. "We will soon provide them with information about our university - it is only a matter of time."

Yemeni students that grow up in Saudi Arabia are not only faced with the dilemma of whether or not to leave their families in the kingdom to go Yemen in the pursuit of a university degree, but they are also served a double whammy after they complete their degrees and rejoin their families in Saudi Arabia.

Their hopes are dashed when they return to find out that their Yemeni degrees will get them nowhere because they are not accredited by the Saudi Arabian institutions.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following office position



1-Programme Associate (Governance)

Main Responsibilities:

- ✦ Ensures effective delivery of the Country Office programme by entering and managing data and supporting programme implementation consistent with UNDP rules and regulations;
- ✦ Works in close collaboration with the operations, programme and project staff in the office and UNDP HQs as required for resolving complex finance-related issues and exchange of information;
- ✦ Supports formulation of programme strategies and implementation of the Country Programme Action Plan and provides administrative support to the management of the CO programme;
- ✦ Keeps abreast of sectoral socio-economic conditions and changes, assess their impact on the Governance portfolio, collect and maintain relevant data and identify linkage opportunities.
- ✦ Draft appropriate sections of project documents, maintain a pipeline of proposals, arrange for appraisal processes and ensure linkages with other country and regional initiatives.
- ✦ Secure and review work plans for the portfolio, ensure their regular updating and consistency with expected programme objectives and recommend adjustments when required.
- ✦ Maintain close relationships with programme/project personnel and counterparts and monitor progress and highlight need for corrective actions and policy implications. Liaise with the Operations Unit for the Mobilization of inputs.
- ✦ Processes mandatory and budgetary revisions,
- ✦ Maintain records, documents and work plans for the monitoring of project implementation; organizes data and information for easy follow-up.

Qualification Requirements:

- ✦ University degree in Business or Public Administration, Economics or Social Sciences
- ✦ 3 to 5 years experience in programme/project management at the national or international level.
- ✦ Excellent knowledge of computer and Internet use including mastery of word processing
- ✦ Excellent Arabic and English drafting and communication skills

2-Finance Assistant

Main Responsibilities:

- ✦ Implements the operational strategies focusing on full compliance of financial process and financial records in accordance with UN/UNDP rules, regulations and policies
- ✦ Provides financial services ensuring high quality, accuracy and consistency of work.
- ✦ Promotes a client-oriented approach consistent with UNDP accounting and administrative support to the Finance Unit.
- ✦ Ensures the implementation of operational strategies;
- ✦ Ensures functioning of the optimal cost-recovery system focusing on preparation of cost-recovery bills for the services provided;
- ✦ Ensures proper cash management system functioning and manages cash receipts and petty cash
- ✦ Maintains proper filing system for finance records and documents;
- ✦ Proper control of the supporting documents for payments and financial reports for NEX projects; preparation of all types of vouchers for projects and on-behalf of UN Agencies; PO vouchers; Pay Cycle and payment execution.
- ✦ Provides inputs for preparation of cost-recovery bills for the services provided by UNDP and follow up on cost recovery;
- ✦ Maintain internal expenditures control system which ensures that vouchers processed are matched and completed, transactions are correctly recorded and other entitlements are duly processed;
- ✦ Timely corrective actions on un-posted vouchers, including the vouchers with budget check errors, match exceptions, unapproved vouchers.

Qualification Requirements

- ✦ University degree in Accounts/Finance or Business/ Public Administration;
- ✦ 2 to 4 years of relevant finance experience at the national or international level is required;
- ✦ Experience in the usage of computer and office software packages and experience in handling web based management.
- ✦ High proficiency in English and Arabic Languages
- ✦ Excellent Arabic and English drafting and communication skills

3-Programme Support Unit Associate

Main Responsibilities:

- ✦ Ensure donor contribution installments are received according to agreed payment schedules, properly and timely reported/posted in relevant corporate systems;
- ✦ Alert Senior Management and relevant staff in advance on critical timeframes and deadlines and prepare the financial components of the donor-required progress reports.
- ✦ Monitor extra budgetary (XB) income in cooperation with Finance Unit and provide updated information to Senior Management.
- ✦ Provide information, advice, recommendations and training on resource mobilization and programme finance matters such as new policies, new project formulation and reporting formats etc.,
- ✦ Act as focal point for country Office, National Execution (NEX) and Direct Execution (DEX) audit preparation and follow-up
- ✦ Assist Senior Management in monitoring the implementation of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Internal Control Framework
- ✦ Provides support to CO programme management, ensures the optimal cost recovery;
- ✦ Manage the timely planning of available programme financial resources through the establishment and monitoring of basic and interim financial target frameworks;
- ✦ Identify problems in programme build up and implementation;
- ✦ Revise the Resource Planning Framework.
- ✦ Analyze and monitor overall programme financial situation;
- ✦ Identify and monitor resources availability for programme activities and resources planning, report on status of project financial expenditure and alert Programme staff/management on possible shortfalls and over-expenditures.
- ✦ Prepare quarterly managerial reports on programme resources to provide a reliable tool on which decisions and strategies related to the achievement of country office objectives are based.
- ✦ Synthesize financial information for the entire programme through the compilation and integration of the required periodic status reports and forecasts;
- ✦ In consultation with the Policy Support Unit, prepare periodic presentations for periodic distribution to current and potential donors and clients for resource mobilization and advocacy purposes.
- ✦ Monitors programme/project implementation status and activities and maintains a follow-up and reporting mechanism on the implementation progress of their recommendations (best practice Saudi Arabia and Panama).
- ✦ Brief/update programme, office staff, project management and partners on changes in the financial rules, procedures and policies governing execution and management arrangements for projects as required.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/E-mail: (hr.ye@undp.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is Monday, 06 July 2009.

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

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the project "Strengthening Socotra's Policy and regulatory framework for mainstreaming Biodiversity".

1- Post Title: Administrative and Financial Assistant

Duration: 1 years

Duty Station: Sana'a

Main Responsibilities:

- ✦ Setup and manage a financial system in accordance with (UNDP) regulation;
- ✦ Control the expenditure and ensure accuracy of computation and completeness of supporting documentation; prepare cheques and bank transfer letters;
- ✦ Supervise the accountant based in Socotra in the day-to-day financial and administrative activities of the project;
- ✦ Prepare procurement, progress and financial records as and when required;
- ✦ Prepare requests for advances and financial reports according to the UNDP System;
- ✦ Initiate correspondence to verify data, answers queries and obtain additional information on accounts and financial transactions as required;
- ✦ Advise management on project financial and administrative issues;
- ✦ Liaise with the accountant based in Socotra on a daily basis
- ✦ Carry out the preparation and follow up arrangements for project related workshops and meetings;

Qualification:

- ✦ University degree in accounts/finance; specialized training in accounting.
- ✦ Minimum of seven years experience in finance and accounting field; full proficiency in computerized accounting systems;
- ✦ Good knowledge of internal accounting procedures and reporting systems;
- ✦ Computer skills in both Arabic and English Languages;
- ✦ Clerical and administrative experience.
- ✦ Good knowledge of Arabic and English Languages.

2- Post Title: Accountant

Duration: 1 year

Duty Station: Socotra

Main Responsibilities:

- ✦ Setup a reporting system to the Administrative and Financial Assistant based in Sana'a on a monthly basis;
- ✦ Disbursement of funds to the project at the Socotra Branch;
- ✦ Control the expenditure and ensure accuracy of computation and completeness of supporting documentation; prepare cheques and bank transfer letters;
- ✦ Assist the Administrative and Financial Assistant in the preparation of the financial reports according to the UNDP System;
- ✦ Initiate correspondence to verify data, answers queries and obtain additional information on accounts and financial transactions as required;
- ✦ Carry out the preparation and follow up arrangements for project related workshops and meetings;
- ✦ Support the Administrative and Financial Assistant in arranging all necessary for consultants' missions

Qualification:


- ✦ Diploma degree in administration/accounts with minimum six years of relevant experience or University Degree with minimum five years of relevant experience in finance and accounting field; proficiency in computerized accounting systems;
- ✦ Computer skills in both Arabic and English Languages;
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- ✦ Good knowledge of Arabic and English Languages.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.


UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/E-mail: (hr.ye@undp.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is Monday, 06 July 2009.

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



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Yes. There is love for the sake of love

By: Budoor Saleh AL-Aya'an

The reality of love is not experienced by saying lovely words or by promises we give to the other person. It is revealed by the actions we take to express our love to the other party. The other party could be your parents, children, people you know, or your wife or husband.

No one can deny that wherever you look you will find love. Even if we are we cannot see it, we can feel it. In the article written by Maged Al-Kholidy "Is there love for the sake of love?" the author sites examples to prove his point of view. In his mind, love for the sake of love is not available among a fiancé and fiancée, or a husband and a wife. What he calls the connection between partners "personal interests."

But personal interests are also known as human needs and the only way to fulfill them is by marriage. Our True Religion emphasizes this in order for individuals to avoid falling into something shameful.

Love can even take place after marriage, and that is love for the sake of love. There are a lot of couples who got married without falling in love first, and have successful marriages. They live their love story by discovering each other's qualities together. Marriage cannot be banished just because it fulfills personal interests. If every

one looked at marriage in this negative light, no one would be willing to get married and families would not be established. As a result, this life would not continue.

On the other hand, in the example he mentioned to prove how love for the sake of love takes place, the love is one sided and sooner or later must disappear. But I wonder, why did Mr. Al-Kholidy use a woman as an example to prove his point about how love for the sake of love may take place? The idea of love is to find someone with whom you share feelings of respect, passion and the desire to live together in order to start a family.

However, I do agree with Mr. Al-Kholidy on one point. There is a category of people who use love as a means to achieve their personal interests such as business. Business love is a trick of one to use another. It always fails and the damages are great, especially if the party who was cheated was honest about his or her feelings.

If you really seek love for the sake of love, you should ask Allah to send you the right person because He is the only one who knows people well. It is said that hearts are gathered in heaven before they are meant to meet on earth.

Look in your heart and prepare yourself to believe in love, and to show your loyalty and respect to another person. If you do, you will guarantee his or her love for the sake of love forever.

Who's to blame?

By: Najj Gazali
naji734@gmail.com

I listened to our government leaders, especially those in the executive branch or their advisers, diagnosing the current political and financial abyss that we are in.

They refuse to take any responsibility, apologize or promise to rectify the situation. Rather, they use their media outlets to write about the current situation and ponder a remedy. They never acknowledge their role as the instigators.

Some state newspapers publish violations of government agencies, and we even saw presidential advisor, Mr. Al-Aryani speaking in behalf of the public, saying "Yemen is heading toward poverty," yet failing short of saying that the country is heading toward becoming a failed state like Somalia.

He asserts that economic catastrophe is about to sweep the country, but always points to outsiders for solutions. He cautions of the worst possible consequence, terrorism, hoping that international donors will feel obligated to stabilize our economy.

I tried to see the logic behind his assertion that if poverty prevails, terrorism will follow and I wish Mr. Al-Aryani would advise his boss, rather than the rest of the world! Moreover, what credibility does he still have to claim such prophecy?

He is among the people that should have prevented this from happening.

Yemen deserves better than that of Al-Alyrani no sense sickening comments. Yemen will continue to strive to be a successful state by the will of its people and if this government fails, it will fail by itself.

We ordinary Yemenis will rise once again and claim our future and prosperity away from those so-called leaders and advisers who proved to us for 30 years that they are nothing but a parasite feeding on our own destruction.

It is true that our country is going doing a steep slope. In fact, a recent study that was done at Sana'a University said young men are unable to get married due to their financial situation.

Yet we see that our so-called leaders own at least 10 cars, 20 villas here and abroad, and bank accounts here and abroad.

Speaking of presidential palaces, if we eliminated just the outside cement barricade and security monitoring, the savings would probably feed 2000 Yemenis for as long as the security was to be used.

Also, I bet you if 120 government big shots decided to sell their unused new car and donate the proceeds it to marry 1000 poor single Yemenis, such sale would cover the expenses of their wedding. It would probably cover the tips for the bride's relatives too.

later.

In this life, the train of age takes you everywhere, and when it reach the place where your age has run out, you die.

But while you living, you are on a bus going from station to station. Imagine now you are a passenger and are eating a sandwich and some chips. You wanted to go to specific place but while you are looking through the glass window you see a friend. You tell the driver to stop swiftly in order to catch your friend. After that, you get

Friendship is seldom lasting but between equals

By: Mofeed Al-Gaad

Friendship is a strong emotional relationship, build between two people of the same sex. Love is emotional relationship between two people of different sexes.

It is well known that human beings are social in nature. Men and women need friends to talk to about their problems.

Friendship demands understanding, the ability to appreciate others' views, tolerance, and an element of sacrifice and genuine interest in the other person's wellbeing. A successful and permanent friendship can only hold between people who are socially, emotionally and financially equal.

As a matter of fact, people in today's world do prefer building their friendships with those who are equal to them financially. People of high class have their own items, clothes, entertainment, and so on. Consequently, a person from high class prefers his or social equal.

Likewise, people of low class prefer building their friendships within the

circle of their own social status. Poor people may make friendship with high and middle class people, but building friendship with their own people is much better because low class people have their own simple desires, hopes and dreams which distinguish them from the other sections of society.

For example, poor young people spend most of their time talking about the difficult circumstances that face them in their daily life. Their attention, time and efforts are spent to improve themselves and provide for their families.

Young men of high class, on the other hand, spend most of their time entertaining themselves, enjoying their luxurious lives and talking about purchasing fashionable clothes that attract pretty girls' attention.

Unlike poor young people, they have no domestic responsibilities to bear, so their attention is turned towards satisfying their personal desires.

It is difficult for one class of people to understand appreciate the problems within other sections of society. A king that leads a luxurious life might advise his poor friends to start taking

biscuits if they can't get bread, ignoring the miserable circumstances poor people encounter daily.

Friendship can only be constant between those friends who view life in the same manner because equal peers can joke with each other and have fun. For example, building a perfect friendship between a person who views the world in a romantic way, and a person who views the world in a classical way is impossible.

The romanticist considers nature as a source of inspiration, and believes that love can connect people of different cultures. The romanticist also believes that "a thing of beauty is joy forever."

A classicist, on the other hand, considers ancient notions to be a source of inspiration for his thoughts. He is practical, and he does not believe that humans respond to emotions and sentiments.

Rather he believes that reasons come through the mature mind. Romanticism and classicism are widespread among today's young people and their differences keep them from forming lasting friendships.

Age also plays a crucial role in building permanent friendships as people need friends that are the same age. Children in primary school enjoy their innocent friendships, spending most of their time together playing, studying and so on.

They may not accept an older friend because that person is in a different phase of life. Likewise, high school and college students build friendships with peers that are in similar stages of their lives.

True and equal friendship is regarded as a strong relationship between two different people. It is planted in the bottom of their hearts and it includes a sense of love and cooperation. We have to be careful about selecting friends who are equal and faithful to us. It is said that, if you want to know a person you have to know his friends first.

Hence, we should select friends who are well-mannered, sincere, rational and humble. We also should appreciate our duty towards our friends and be patient when they have troubles. We ought to help our friends when they are in need of us, because friend in need, is a friend indeed.

My Small Bird

By: Mayasa Ali
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I left the house, quickly shutting the door behind me. I want to escape from myself as well as my grief and sorrow. I'm fed up with all the problems that surrounded me.

"I can't ... just I can't bear this life anymore" my mind, soul, and heart repeated in unison, as if they were a call for help.

Something was oppressing on my chest, it made me unable to breath. I walked and walked aimlessly, hoping that I could forget my grief and get some clean air, but nothing happened. So, I decided to go to a very high place

where I might find some rest and fresh air to help me get better.

I settled on the top of a high mountain outside the city, on a rocky stone. I sat with myself and thoughts, and a question slipped into my mind, "Why don't I finish my sad life by one jump from here?"

Then everything would finish, everything. In fact, I liked the idea a lot, and while it was ripening in my mind, I gave myself a chance to go around the place to find a memory to keep it in my mind before leaving this world.

A small bird was jumping here and there seeking food, and whenever he found anything he took it to his babies and returned to seek something else. I

admired his activity and decided to watch him.

Suddenly a big and hungry falcon flew wildly towards the small bird to eat him. My heart was about to jump from my chest from fear for him. The falcon was fast and strong, but God's mercy was faster. He helped my small bird to fly away and return to his nest safely.

Happy to see the bird again with his babies, and thanking God for helping, I returned to my place.

I was sure the bird would stay home after that fierce pursuit.

The falcon went away disappointed, leaving me with my thoughts again.

The bird left his nest again to seek food as if nothing happened, as if he

didn't face death just minutes before. I stood up and said unwillingly, "Oh my God, what does he do, what sort of courage is in his little heart?"

Then I cried, because this very small bird defeated me by his power and patience. I yielded to problems easily, and was about to end my life because of them. Instead of facing my problems I escaped away from everything, even my life. While, despite of being too small and weak, he defied death for the sake of his babies and duty.

I watched him again with eyes full of tears and respect; I bowed to him admirably, and then returned to face those silly things that I call problems, to continue my life. This time, I'll try to be as brave as my small bird.

Elections vs. royal regimes

By: Mubeen Esam
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In this article, I will speculate about the main reason for the problems, the chaos and the disparities among Arab nations. I'll let you guess for yourselves the solution to these issues, which will probably be clear after you finish reading this article.

First of all, let me divide the Arab nation into two parts. On the one side, there are the countries that have elections to choose the president, to create the ruling regime and to form the constitution. On the other hand, there are the countries that fall under royal rule in which the king or the prince gains leadership of the land by heredity from father to son or from brother to another.

Now let's see which part, in my opinion, has many issues and problematic factions that make the country itself fragile and without the ability to design the brilliant future that every child wishes. In my way of thinking, the countries that hold elections have bigger unsolved problems.

Now, let me explain - again, in my opinion - the main reason why I expect an election system to have more problems; it is because it's not an Islamic

habit. Rather, it is a foreign design which came to the Arab nations through America under a pretext called democracy. However, this democracy serves the US by damaging these Arab nations and their noble traditions because the system is counterfeit. It is a fact that America is very smart because it enabled to instill destructive and unfair democracies in wise Arab nations like Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Sudan, Iraq, and Mauritania. Consequently, we find many problems in these countries that cannot be solved with ease, and as a result, these countries have no time for thinking about the problems of one another, like independence for Iraq and Palestine.

Moreover, because of election costs in any of the abovementioned countries, most of the banks are empty because the expenses of elections are too high and political campaigns need many millions of dollars. After the elections finish, any leftover campaign money is pocketed or left towards pointless and selfish aims.

Meanwhile, the poor people who are in need of such funding to help them improve their livelihoods are left without welfare. This is one of the perilous aims of America's democracy.

On the other hand, we see the countries that fall under royal rule have no exhausting problems. Certainly problems exist for these countries, but they are only a few and can be solved with ease. Why? Because the people of such countries are generally satisfied with their rulers and there are no harmful critical oppositions that spend their time thinking about how to affect their homeland negatively. On the contrary, these citizens are aware, offering helpful and advisable oppositions that encourage their rulers to build and improve the nation appropriately. Such states include Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, and Kuwait. Each one of these countries follows a heredity regime which I think is suitable for Arab nations nowadays to

follow in order to conquer the US and its intentions.

In this context, I find that the reason why Arabs are still separated is because the concepts and the principles of the election-nations are opposite of those found in the royal-regime nations. Do you know why the Arabs themselves dislike unification? Because if they are going to be unified, they will inevitably be confused and in permanent conflict about which regime will be predominant. Will all nations be able to agree about a commonplace regime internally, or will a regime be forced on them from the outside, causing problems?

In the end, I'd like to ask our elite Arab politicians the following questions: Why do you see any western idea as the best one? Why do you believe in American politicians even though they delude us and always lie? Why don't you have faith in Allah's speech that said, "You are the best nation that has come out of the world"?

This letter is in response to the articles covering the election crisis in Iran

By: Joe Bialek
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As a citizen of and believer in democracy, I applaud the efforts of Mir Hossein Mousavi. His efforts are similar to what former vice-president Al Gore should have done during the controversy surrounding the United States presidential election of 2000. Gore should have continued to protest regardless of the political risks until all the votes were counted in Florida. Instead, former president George W. Bush was appointed by the United States Supreme Court to effectively overturn the will of the people. As a result, just look at what has happened to the United States in the last eight years.

Believe it or not, one thing that trumps capitalism and political correctness in the United States is the right to have one's vote counted. This is the foundation of which our democracy is built on.

Mousavi should continue to defy Iran's powerful security forces so that Iranian democracy can be preserved. It is not the reformist movement that is attempting to seize power but rather it is those currently in power who have engaged in fraud to prevent the will of the people from being heard.

Why else would they stoop to such underhanded tactics to block various means of communication among the citizens of Iran? Why is the government in power utilizing such political strong-arm tactics such as the use of violence and false arrests? Why are international journalists being

told they should prepare to leave the country? Why would Mahmoud Ahmadinejad leave the country enroute to Russia a day earlier than expected? The world knows he can run but he can't hide from the truth.

The United Nations must be allowed into Iran to monitor the election process, up to and including holding new elections.

During the new elections, let the call go forth among all citizens of Iran that your brothers and sisters of democracy from all over the world are with you during every trial and tribulation you may encounter during this crisis.

To the people of Iran, the trumpet of freedom beckons you to rise in protest and ensure your vote to preserve your sacred heritage, promote your children's future and obtain the blessings of liberty we all cherish.

A metaphor for life

By: Mubeen Esam
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Everyone in this world has the right live their life as they wish. William Shakespeare saw the world like a stage and all the things and the creatures in the world as the characters and decorations on this stage. This is Shakespeare's metaphor. What's yours?

I see life as a bus, taking us from a zone to another. You will see why it

off the bus without planning. Likewise you do not know when you will die, and you cannot plan for it. It is an unknown fate.

After you get off the bus, the passengers you have left behind miss you. They may, perhaps, never see you again. And if they liked you, they will pray for you. In this metaphor, as in real life, people who know kind and lovely people pray that Allah will take them to paradise when they die.

This is my metaphor for life. Have you your own, good or bad?

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سفنريات

النسيم للسفنريات ت: ٣٧-٧٥٠
 العالمية للسفنريات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١١٥٨٩/٣٠

مطاعم

مطعم وخيخانة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
 تلفون: ٢٦٦٢٧٥ - ٥٠٥٢٩٠ - فاكس: ٣٧٦٦١٩

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Road trip Yemen Times

By: Heather Murdock

It is a bright and breezy Monday morning, and we are driving out of Taiz. The city, once the capital of Yemen, is built up from the base of mountains so close that businesses and homes grow up their sides. The roads wind up steep slopes and clouds hide the buildings at the top.

The center of town is packed with motorcycles, minibuses and pedestrians, all heading towards some pressing business. At the center of the intersection, two men in ma'wah chat with a traffic officer. On the sidewalk, three women in niqab and yellow plastic water containers on their heads wait to cross the road.

We left Sana'a for a short holiday in Aden last Wednesday and there are almost 15 Yemen Times staff members on this trip. I am the newcomer, having only arrived in Yemen at the beginning of June.

We planned to go back on Saturday, in time to work on the Monday paper in the office with the rest of the staff. But because of a mishap in Aden and the sheer delight of sightseeing in Yemen, it is taking us a while to find our way home.

The drive to Aden took about seven hours, including a long stop for kebabs and salads at a restaurant overlooking Ibb. The views from the two-lane roads that wrap up and down the mountains were spectacular. My breath was literally taken away more than once by sharp corners at dizzying altitudes.

plished ancient Rome, but it was the British who discovered the pools in the 1850s, hidden under centuries of debris.

Regarding the original construction of which nothing is accurately known, reads a stone placard near the largest tank.

On Thursday night we visited the Sira Fish Market. It is an open pavilion with a damp floor and fluorescent lights, and the fishermen who work there park their boats in the harbor below. There are no hard-sales at this market and the men socialized and rearranged their catches for wandering buyers.

Hani Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times accountant, held open a shark's mouth for a picture, while other men shopped for our dinner. One fisherman produced a shining brown cuttlefish from a bucket that he thought would make an attractive model, and another flipped over half his display to reveal the white side of his dark grey catch.

Seven Moses sole fish were packed in red plastic bags, and we trooped across the street to the restaurant, where we sat outside at wooden picnic tables. The fish was cooked in stone basins with spices, and we scooped it up eagerly with doughy ratab bread.

After dinner we found a steamy beach, crowded with families. A teenage boy sat in the single empty parking spot and beckoned us in. We parked, and he and his companion raced to set up tables for us by the edge of the sand.

Teens in the parking lot played music and small children splashed in the dark shallow water while their parents lounged on blankets by



Once the home of Queen Arwa bin Ahmed Al-Sulahi who ruled Yemen for 50 years, Jibla now hosts museums, treasures, and a castle said to have enough bedrooms for the queen to move every night.

game of cards. On Friday night, we drove to a less-crowded beach, and Khair Aldin Al Nsour, the paper's CEO, rented four-wheeled sandbikes. We took turns racing up and down the dark sand until Ali turned too fast and wiped out. With a face full of sand and a sharp pain in his collar, Ali was taken to the hospital and then to the airport. He went back to Sana'a, where he is still recovering.

Most of the group did not sleep that night, so rather than making the long trip with sleepy drivers, we found an Internet cafe to work on the Monday edition of the paper. Once stories were submitted and copyedited, we sent them back to Sana'a by e-mail, delighted to have one more night of vacation.

We left Aden the next morning, planning to return to Sana'a. After stopping to buy sweets on the outskirts of town, the concrete city faded and the sand crept farther onto the roads. Hotels were replaced by dunes and mango stands and the mountains loomed ahead.

A few hours later we had lunch in Taiz. After we ate, I was surprised when our cars began climbing the famous Saber Mountain, one of the highest in Yemen.

The view of the city gave way to farming plateaus and quaint, medieval looking villages. The only reminders of the 21st Century were minibuses, motorcycles and the blue and red plastic bags tucked under bushes, caught in fences and growing from knarled tree branches.

Clouds covered the city below as we neared the top, and an orderly green farming community emerged from the mists, over 3 km high. Even the bags had thinned and were hidden under the shrubbery.

At the top, we piled out of the cars, took pictures and explored the rocky paths around the parking lot. Khair Aldin, clearly planning to cause mischief, asked me if I have a sense of humor. I told him that I do, and wondered if that was a mistake.

We never made it out of Taiz that night. Khair Aldin's prank was to take us to a hotel in the hills for one last night of vacation. Alice Hackman, journalist and copyeditor told Khair Aldin that if this was his idea of a practical joke, her sense of humor was limitless.

So today we have one more day to explore Yemen before returning to our lives and our work. And after we make a quick stop in Jibla, an ancient town west of Ibb, we will definitely go back to Sana'a.

We are driving through hills in a residential neighborhood reminiscent of old Europe. I suspect we are in Jibla.

The town is built on a hillside and the streets are narrow, steep and bumpy. Children herd packs of small goats, and men in motorcycles whip up and down the cobblestone paths. It is raining large sparse plops, and the air is cool.

Just below our parked cars is a thousand-year-old mosque polished white with a barely visible Star of David of one of the ornaments. We can't quite see the star, so a local man gently tosses a perfectly-aimed stone to point it out. He tells us it is a remnant from the mosque's past life as a Jewish temple.

At the museum, our group is separated by eager tour guides who take us up winding stairs and through the treasures of Queen Arwa, who ruled Yemen for 50 years from her castle in Jibla beginning in the middle of the 11th Century. An hour later, we arrive at the Arwa Mosque in groups of two and three.

Inside the Imam greets us, and the four or five local children that have joined us along the



Tourists are drawn to the port city of Aden for its beaches and ancient sights. Left to Right: Noman Al-Khadmi, Basem Khodshi, Bassam Al-Saqqaf, Yaseen Al-Asbahi, Khaled Al-Hilaly, Nassir Al-Saqqaf, Jamal Al-Najjar, Hani Al-Saqqaf, Ali Saeed.



Once part of the British Empire, and later the capital of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Aden is built on the shore of a natural harbor and now home to about 800,000 people. Ali Saeed, Bassam Al-Saqqaf, Yaseen Al-Asbahi (left to right).

It was dark by the time we approached the south coast. The heat sucked up the mountain breezes, and the temperature rose steadily.

At first glance, Aden swaggers like a Western movie. Wide streets rise up out of the sand, and rows of fancy hotels - and hotels that were once fancy - loom next to half constructed abandoned buildings.

Small groups of men loitered or strolled along the wide streets. Most chewed qat and appeared disinterested in rowdy tourists from Sana'a.

Even the Gulf of Aden seemed tough and languid. The water was flat and warm like a bathtub, and the shadows of grey mountains dwarfed the barely-lapping waves.

Aden is built on a natural harbor but, like most of Yemen, the city still struggles for water. But in the gardens around the Saharej, or the Tanks of Aden, we got a reminder of a time when water was abundant.

The tanks are a group of pools carved into jagged stone hills that together can hold more than 20 million gallons of water. They are empty now, but walls are smooth and shine like they were full for centuries. The dark grey rocks above have black gashes where water once poured into the tanks.

What was once a vast supply of water is now preserved in a park. It was dry and cool compared to the humidity of downtown Aden, and journalist Ali Saeed, who grew up in Al Mahwait, bounded up the nearly vertical side of a rocky hill like a mountain goat. Another reporter, Khaled Al-Hilaly, climbed the stone platforms and squatted in corners to take pictures.

Nobody knows who built the stairs and piping that made these pools accessible for water collection, or how many generations of people benefited from their largess. The pipes look like miniature versions of the aqueducts that sup-

plied the shore. A crowd of admirers gathered around one group of teenage boys who stood proudly over their sand sculptures, while the Yemen Times staff ordered tea and shisha and started a

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